

Catching His Wind: Living By Faith

Faith allows us to go in God's powerful flow, to victory!

How many of you are willing to admit that you'd like to have better thoughts? Every thought that goes through our heads isn't good, and our lives can rise no higher than our thoughts. You'll know the condition of your thoughts by the words that leave your mouth.

Higher Thoughts, Higher Life

Luke 6:44-49 New Living Translation

44 A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. 45 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart. 46 "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? 47 I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. 48 It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. 49 But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."

- Unless we store God's words and thoughts in our hearts, our lives will collapse into a heap of ruins.
- Why?
- **Proverbs 14:12 New King James Version**
There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
- So what must we do?

Isaiah 55:6-9 New King James Version

6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.
7 Let the [a]wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,

Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Our hearts are the place where our thoughts are stored, and none of us is capable of having a life that is good/godly without a pure heart.

Proverbs 4:20-27 New Living Translation

20 My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words.
21 Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart,
22 for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.
23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.
24 Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. 25 Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. 26 Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. 27 Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

Repentance & Renewal

David's Prayer

Psalm 51:6-11 New King James Version

6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. 9 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Our Call to Action

To catch His wind means to live by His Spirit, which is only possible when we've aligned ourselves with His thoughts, and are determined to live by faith in His words.

Romans 12:1-3 New Living Translation

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b]
2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think/ (by renewing your mind). Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
3 Because of the privilege and authority[c] God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.[d]

“I will give my body to God because of all he has done for me. I will let it be a living and holy sacrifice, the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. I will not copy the behavior and customs of this world, but I will let God transform me into a new person by changing the way I think and renewing my mind. Then I will learn to know God's will for me, which is good, pleasing, and perfect. Because of the privilege and authority God gave the Apostle Paul, I receive this warning. I won't think I am better than I really am. I will be honest in my evaluation of myself, measuring myself by the faith God has given me.”

The Airflow of Faith

When God speaks, His power is released to bring His word to a glorious conclusion. His word never falters or fails. So we must be willing and obedient and not have unbelieving hearts. Faith is the power that brings us to the conclusion God has planned!

Jeremiah 29:11 New Living Translation

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

- God wants to bring us to His desired end, but it takes our faith in Him to do it.
- Is there anything that turns God's blessings away from us?
- Mark 6:4-6 New Living Translation
4 Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.” 5 And

because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Mark 9:23-24 New King James Version

23 Jesus said to him, "If[a] you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

- **"Lord I believe, help my unbelief, may nothing that opposes you be found in my heart. Fill me with your Spirit, lead me in truth. Let my life be true worship."**

Inner Turbulence

We must recognize when His word, will, and wind are blowing in our lives but we are immovable, or slow to move in faith! It truly disappoints God when His people fail to believe Him. Why? Because He desires to reward those who diligently seek after Him!

Exodus 3:1-17 New Living Translation

3 One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro,[a] the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai,[b] the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. 3 "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it." 4 When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied.

- We all need to recognize that we're here because God called us to Himself! We weren't looking for Him, He came looking for us.
- We are here because He has a purpose for us to fulfill.
- **" God, here I am, do what you want with my life!"**

5 “Do not come any closer,” the Lord warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. 6 I am the God of your father[c]—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

- If we want our lives to take flight by catching His wind, word, and will, there’s something we must say!
- As the young prophet Samuel said, “**Speak Lord, your servant is listening.**”
- In verse 7 God releases His wind, word, will, and way.
- God operates only on earth through men and women, the holders of his dominion and authority. So it would be helpful if we believe Him when He speaks!

7 Then the Lord told him, “I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. 9 Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. 10 Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.” 11 But Moses protested to God, “Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?”

- The most faithless thought we can have when God speaks is “Who am I”? In the very presence of His wind!
- What was God’s response when Moses asked, “Who am I?”, or even when we think it?

12 God answered, “I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain.”

- We will know it is God that has sent us when the moment comes full circle back to worship. Our faith will allow His word to carry us from where he

spoke to us when it was undone, forward to the finish, concluding in worship!

13 But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?” 14 God replied to Moses, “I am who I am.^[d] Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you.” 15 God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh,^[e] the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations. 16 “Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, “I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. 17 I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.””

Exodus 4:1-14 New Living Translation

4 But Moses protested again, “What if they won’t believe me or listen to me? What if they say, ‘The Lord never appeared to you’?” 2 Then the Lord asked him, “What is that in your hand?” “A shepherd’s staff,” Moses replied. 3 “Throw it down on the ground,” the Lord told him. So Moses threw down the staff, and it turned into a snake! Moses jumped back. 4 Then the Lord told him, “Reach out and grab its tail.” So Moses reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a shepherd’s staff in his hand. 5 “Perform this sign,” the Lord told him. “Then they will believe that the Lord, the God of their ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—really has appeared to you.” 6 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out again, his hand was white as snow with a severe skin disease.^[a] 7 “Now put your hand back into your cloak,” the Lord said. So Moses put his hand back in, and when he took it out again, it was as healthy as the rest of his body. 8 The Lord said to Moses, “If they do not believe you and are not convinced by the first miraculous sign, they will be convinced by the second sign. 9 And if they don’t believe you or listen to you even after these two signs, then take some water from the Nile River and pour it out on the dry ground. When you do, the water from the Nile will turn to blood on the ground.”

Moses presents his resume

10 But Moses pleaded with the Lord, “O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.”

God presents His resume

11 Then the Lord asked Moses, “Who makes a person’s mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.”

13 But Moses again pleaded, “Lord, please! Send anyone else.”

- God gets glory in your weakness. He planned on using His resume when He chose you, not yours!
- Don’t allow unbelief to make you miss the fact that God chose you to do the awesome thing He wanted done first!

14 Then the Lord became angry with Moses. “All right,” he said. “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you.

Anchors Up!

Has fear caused you to drop an anchor, making you incapable of being moved in faith by God’s wind? Are you lodged on the rocks of unbelief and doubt? A boat can still travel with an anchor on board, but not when it’s dropped.

Anchors up and off! He’s the only anchor we need!

Acts 27:39-40 New Living Translation

39 When morning dawned, they didn’t recognize the coastline, but they saw a bay with a beach and wondered if they could get to shore by running the ship

aground. 40 So they cut off the anchors and left them in the sea. Then they lowered the rudders, raised the foresail, and headed toward shore.

Hebrews 6:18-20 New Living Translation

18 So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. 19 This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. 20 Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.