

From Impossible to Possible

Tonight, I want to challenge us to break with the commonplace, the mediocre, & the mundane, and trust God's amazing grace to flow into every area of our lives as we step out to do His will! I'm going to begin where we left off last week. I spoke then about "Divine Healing for Today - Pt. 11", and finished by speaking about faith, miracles and the fullness of Holy Spirit in the life of believers. We left off with this comment:

"Each generation needs signs, wonders & miracles to confirm the preaching of a religion which claims to be supernatural in its origin and results. For those who have faith in God, every age is an age of miracles! "ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE" is what faith says."

Grace Overcomes the Impossible

In **Matt. 19:16-22 TPT** Jesus encounters a rich young man who claimed to have done all that the law commands so that he might have eternal life (vv. 16 & 20). However, in **v. 17**, Jesus begins to show the man that, because of our sinful natures, it is **impossible** for anyone to keep the commandments perfectly. The young man answers back in **v. 20** that he has kept all of the commandments from his youth. But **v. 21 TPT** is the "**dagger statement**", if you will, where Jesus uncovers the man's hypocrisy: "*Jesus said to him, "If you really want to be **perfect** (or "fully developed morally," "mature"), go now and sell everything you own. Give your money to the poor and your treasure will be transferred into heaven. Then come back and follow Me for the rest of your life."* **V. 22 TPT** "*When the young man heard these words, he walked away sad (Heb. "angry"), for he had great wealth.*" **SFLB note:** "Jesus issues a stern challenge designed to show the man that he has not observed the spirit of the commandments, in spite of his claim (v. 20). In fact, his selfish

attitude in **making an idol of wealth** reveals that he had broken the very first commandment (**Ex. 20:3** “*You shall have no other gods before Me.*”). **Note:** “God’s character inspires and demands loyalty. The believer demonstrates loyalty by worshiping the only one, true God.”

Jesus then uses an exaggeration to show to His disciples that it is impossible for a person who trusts in riches above God to enter heaven: **Matt. 19:23-26 TPT** “*Then Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “Listen. Do you understand how difficult it is for the rich to enter into heaven’s kingdom realm? 24. In fact, it’s easier to stuff a **heavy rope** (Gk. “camel”) through the eye of a needle than it is for the wealthy to enter into God’s kingdom realm!”*

25. *Stunned and bewildered, His disciples asked, “Then who in the world can possibly be saved?” **SFLB note:** “Supposedly, wealth was an evidence of God’s favor. Jesus shows the fallacy of such a view by stating that it may be a hindrance to receiving God’s favor.”*

26. *Looking into their eyes, Jesus replied, “Humanly speaking, no one, because no one can save himself. **But what seems impossible to you is never impossible to God!**”*

Jumping ahead 5 chapters, after Jesus’ crucifixion & resurrection, He did not want them (or us) to reckon on their own abilities to do the following assignment: **Matt. 24:18-20 TPT** “*Then Jesus came close to them and said, “All authority of the universe has been given to Me. (**Aramaic** adds: “As My Father has sent Me, so I send you.”) Now wherever you go, make disciples of all nations (ethnos – ethnic groups), baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. 20. And teach them to **faithfully follow*** all that I have commanded you. And never forget that I am with you every day, even to the completion of this age.”*

***TPT note:** “The Aramaic is “keep” or “*guard*” [a fortress].” We have been called through every generation to be “defenders of the faith” committed to us through Jesus’s Apostles. This past Pentecost Sunday saw such an awakening & stirring in our souls that we have to act on what He’s saying to do next with passion and much grace!

Luke 24:47-49 TPT is written to us as well: “*Now you must go into all the nations and preach repentance* (Aramaic reads “*grace*” or “*conversion*”) *and forgiveness of sins so that they will turn to Me. Start right here in Jerusalem 48. for you are my witnesses and have seen for yourselves all that has transpired. 49. I will send the fulfillment of the Father’s promise* to you, so stay here in the city until you are clothed with the mighty power of heaven.*”

***TPT note:** “The Aramaic reads “*the kingdom*” or “*rule.*” The Father’s promise would be the coming of the Holy Spirit to live in them and empower them (**Acts 2:1-12**).”

-
SFLB note: “Jesus not only commissions them as **witnesses**, but promises the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to carry out the task (**Acts 1:8**). They are not to begin their mission until they receive **the Promise**.” And receive the Promise they did! Wow!!

-
But Where Are We At in the Body of Christ Today?

Are we daring to believe God for the impossible to happen? Are we keeping the light of God’s love on in our hearts for those we encounter? Are we being filled with the Holy Spirit as Paul said in **Eph. 5:18 TPT**, “*And don’t get drunk with wine, which is rebellion; instead be filled continually with the Holy Spirit (or “be inebriated in the Spirit’s fullness.”).*”

Selwyn Hughes had this to say about the second half of **John 10:10 HCSB**, “*I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance.*” It’s entitled “**Life to its Fullest**”.

“A nest which God seeks to overturn in our lives is spiritual complacency. Many Christians are content to live at a level far below the best. It might be comfortable in the nest, but it is far better to expand one’s wings, launch out in the clear, blue sky, and live life to its fullest potential. God’s desire is to get you out of the nest and up into the air.

“I am thinking particularly of those Christians who, although soundly saved and fully committed to Jesus Christ, have never experienced all the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Although every Christian has the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3), the Holy Spirit does not have every Christian. When you surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit came in to regenerate you, give you a new birth, but now you need to experience another encounter with the Spirit that lifts you clean out of the nest and up into the air.

“The text before us today claims that Jesus came not merely to give us life but to give it – abundantly. One writer says of this verse, “At conversion, Christ gives us life, but when we experience the fullness of the Spirit, we encounter not merely life, but life that is abundant. In conversion, God’s life is imparted to us. In the fullness of the Spirit, God’s life inundates (overflows or over-whelms) us.” A sign over a shop [in England] reads “Life Ltd.” A sign could be put over our individual and collective lives: “Life Ltd.” And yet Jesus said that the purpose of His coming was to give life more abundantly.”

Prayer

“O Father, take me from life limited to Life Unlimited. I have lived far too long in the nest. Now I want to get up into the air. Amen.”

N.T. examples of impossible situations becoming possible by faith in the grace of God & fullness of the Holy Spirit:

1) Peter, who denied Christ three times at His trial, gets forgiven by Jesus in John 21:15-19. He goes from coward to Day of

Pentecost's preacher and that day about 3,000 people believed, were baptized and continued on with Christ (Acts 2:14-47).

2) Peter & John go up to the temple at the hour of prayer (3 p.m.). Acts 3:4-8 TPT *“Peter and John, looking straight into the eyes of the crippled man, said, “Look at us!”* **5.** *Expecting a gift, he readily gave them his attention.* **6.** *The Peter said, “I don’t have money, but I’ll give you this – by the power of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk!”* **(NKJV: “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”** **7.** *Peter held out his right hand to the crippled man. As he pulled the man to his feet, suddenly power surged into his crippled feet and ankles. The man jumped up, stood there for a moment stunned, and then began to walk around! As he went into the temple courts with Peter and John, he leapt for joy and shouted praises to God.”*

Then Peter preaches again & who knows how many get saved!

3) Acts 4 Peter & John Arrested; the Name of Jesus forbidden; sharing all things.

Acts 4:33 NKJV *“And with great **power** (dunamis) the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.”*

4) Acts 5 Lying to the Holy Spirit takes out Ananias & Saphira.

5) Acts 5:12-16 TPT Continuing power in the Church: *“The apostles performed many signs, wonders, and miracles among the people. **13.** And the believers were wonderfully united as they met regularly in the temple courts in the area known as Solomon’s Porch. No one dared harm them, for everyone held them in high regard. **14.** Continually more and more people believed in the Lord and were added to their number – great crowds of both men*

and women. **15.** In fact, when people knew Peter was going to walk by, they carried the sick out to the streets and laid them down on cots and mats, knowing the incredible power emanating from him would overshadow them and heal them. **16.** Great numbers of people swarmed into Jerusalem from the nearby villages. They brought with them the sick and those troubled by demons – and everyone was healed.” The Apostles are persecuted - imprisoned apostles freed by an angel (vv. 17-21)!

6) Apostles on trial again for teaching in the Name of Jesus. **Peter** defends the faith in **5:29-32 TPT**: “Peter and the apostles replied, “We must listen to and obey God more than pleasing religious leaders. **30.** You had Jesus arrested and killed by crucifixion, but the God of our forefathers has raised him up. **31.** He’s the One God has exalted and seated at His right hand as our Savior and Champion. He is **the provider of grace** as Redeemer of Israel (**TPT note**: “The Greek is “He gives repentance and removal of sins to Israel.”). **32.** We are witnesses of these **things** (or “words”. Greek word “rhema”), and so is the Holy Spirit, Whom God freely gives to all who believe in Him (Gk. is “to those who hear and obey Him”).”

Be Completely Filled with God as Christ’s Fullness Overflows

Tonight, let’s purpose to pursue Holy Spirit fullness. As **Col. 2:9 TPT** says, “For He (the Christ – the Anointed One) is the complete fullness of deity living in human form. **10.** And our own completeness is now found in Him. We are completely filled with God as Christ’s fullness overflows within us. He is the Head (or “Source”) of every kingdom and authority in the universe!”