

Personal Prophecy is subject to Faith—It's not Fate

“... but the word which they heard did not profit
them, not being mixed with faith”

Hebrews 4:2

A Greek Tragedy

We've all seen movies or plays where there is some kind of prophecy used as a plot device. You learn this when you study Greek Drama, but it is also common in Shakespeare and modern movies, even in Tolkien.

But the way prophecy actually works is not shown correctly in I think any of these stories. First they don't understand prophecy because they simply just don't understand God. **God's character and nature affect how prophecy actually works since it is a way people have direct interaction with Him** and it is how he reveals himself to them. So instead of teaching how things really work with prophecy these worldly

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storytellers teach people a false narrative, giving them false expectations and display false dynamics of fate, free will, God's character, Man's condition and the outcomes of their actions.

The World does not see things as they really are, especially concerning God's existence, his character and his relationship with Mankind—which basically affects every human endeavor, relationship, society, civilization and situation you can name—**so their world view of life creates a perverted reality but one which they also actively teach you to believe in.** Don't watch worldly media because it always teaches you to live a life of bondage to the world of darkness, sin and death.

These Greek-inspired thespians therefore actively create and promote many false doctrines and openly display a great many errors in their thinking. Worldly or carnally-minded Christians unknowingly then carry these same misconceptions over into their church doctrines until they mature and these lies are exposed and purged, but this takes time. And until they are corrected this is how they think and this tends to create a community of like-minded believers who may be true saints saved by grace through faith in Jesus, **but who may live on a much lower level of blessings** than Jesus demonstrated and taught us to live in, in the Kingdom he provided for us, **only due to their worldly thinking.** I call this community the 'Church of Man' or 'Man's Church' but which is very different in nature and experience from what we should now recognize and correctly call 'God's Kingdom.'

Both groups are 'Christians' and people in both flocks may be saved, washed pure, have Bibles as lamps unto their feet, but only one group have extra oil and will attend the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. The others may still be saved but it will be as through a fire.

Natural, Carnal Reasoning of the Scriptures

For example, what makes sense to carnal man are things from the natural world. Spiritual things make no sense to them since they have no experience with those things. So when Jesus peached about the unseen eternal spiritual world he often had to use examples from the natural, earthly, carnal lives of the people he was reaching out to. He talked about sowing and reaping for example, and a person who focuses on earthly thinking will seize on this idea and so will often preach things like Sowing and Reaping as a LAW of God. This is inevitably used to teach that you MUST give your money (to him) to get money back from God! This is a LAW! But this is not true. This interpretation is carnal. Deeply flawed. A scheme of man.

You can in fact 'sow' your money to needy people directly and bypass that preacher and still reap a full harvest from God. Did you know that? You can sow to God directly, even in kind and not in cash,

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as he guides you day by day and reap an even bigger reward. You should support your church—absolutely!—and support your ministers who have a duty to God to watch over your souls!—certainly! But if it is done as under a LAW there is actually no reward for doing it since you are REQUIRED to obey a law; **it is not accounted to you as a gift to be rewarded if you do it, but as an obligation that carries a punishment if you don't!** God is testing the heart actually. I am praying God accepts their tithing as a gift and rewards them in full as they teach, but when they are compelled and act as a 'legal duty' to give money there is no reward for doing it, only a punishment for not! Read your Bibles, people!

Tithing being taught or acted on as a law hinders the real blessings for obeying it in fact. But if people give with a cheerful heart, in love, in compassion THAT is what triggers a full reward. God mostly rewards faith, love, and sacrifice, etc., so yes, there are blessings in acting in willing obedience, and special blessings for tithers, but again God is testing the heart, not only the act. So give, give cheerfully, give from a pure heart, don't hold back—but don't fall back into bondage under anything or anyone. Do you see the difference?

Instead of using threats to get money try inviting people to please help support your pastor and church, they work hard to serve you, they have bills to pay, please just think about it! But people would give less! Maybe, but they would give from a pure heart of love and reap a HUGE reward for themselves, and anyway the pastor knows God is his source, not the people, doesn't he? Isn't it better that he models real faith himself? God can provide in a million, zillion ways if you trust him. Why make the people your source? There is a curse on people who trust in Man; woe unto them! And you said it yourself, pastor, you reap what you sow.

So 'sowing and reaping' is real, and it affects us in many ways, more than only in our finances, however, there are other "LAWS" at work as well than just 'sowing and reaping.' For example, there is also the LAW of the FAITH of the SPARROWS. For the sparrows and the ravens **neither sow nor reap but the Father feeds them.** Why aren't they teaching you this? How did Jesus pay his taxes, by 'sowing and reaping'? Well God IS the God of the Harvest, and EVERY ACT of faith is sowing a seed, every answer to prayer a harvest. So it's not always or only about you giving money. Actually the work of God is to Believe—but yes, our actions follow our beliefs. Faith without words is dead. But the Great Works are of God, especially of Him Providing—and that is far above the actions of people sharing their money which men are so eager to manipulate.

So no, I can't go into every error people teach or every wrong idea from the world that seeps into Christian teaching, but concerning personal prophecy we have a very interesting kind of dichotomy or 'contrary thinking' that we do need to become more aware of if we want to prosper in God's Kingdom.

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If we can simply shine a light on these two opposing world views in our midst, the 'Greek Drama' view of prophecy verses the 'Kingdom of God' view of it, then we will be able to see with better enlightenment the errors being taught regarding how personal prophecy functions which will certainly set us free!

Greek Dramas ... are Fatal

The Greeks said three evil witches which they called the Fates ruled human affairs. Sometimes portrayed as flying diaper-babies but as their names suggest they 'spun the web' of your 'destiny,' and 'alloted' your 'portion' in life which was 'inflexible.' You could never change your fate or your lot in life. But you see, we are not extras in a Greek play, **we are living in the Kingdom of God, and this is a universe that operates by faith, not the Fates.** We are not subject only to fate but choose our own destiny in one way of saying it. You choose whom you shall serve, and you become like the thing that you choose to worship, and this is what actually determines your eternal destination and much of your journey along the way. But I bet you already knew that!

So God speaks personal prophecy to us so we know what HIS HEART and WILL are for us, and if we choose to believe him and obey and choose to act in accordance with his word spoken over us, then we will inherit and lay hold of his intended blessings revealed in his personal prophecy to us for our good.

And yes, while some things he foretells are going to happen no matter what, **when he gives a *personal promise* is it *always affected by our response to it*.** We choose whom we shall serve and our character (nature) is transformed into the image that we are beholding: be it either the God of Glorious Lights ... or any number of lifeless Idols of sin, darkness, lust, greed, pride, etc. **Personal prophecy is therefore ALWAYS conditional.**

So note the 'Greek Drama' view of prophecy is under the control of inflexible FATE: it is unavoidable, inescapable, impersonal and it will happen to you no matter what you do about it. It's a 'You can run, but you can't hide,' kind of thing.

Also note: their world view is one of weak humans at the mercy of arbitrary, uncaring and capricious supernatural powers who toy with humans with cruelty and depravity—they're not benevolent but despotic: they kill, steal, destroy, rape, torture and lie. **And so their idea of prophecy reflects this perverted word-view.** And oddly the natural mind accepts this without question and so **naturally embraces a similar carnal view of prophecy very easily, almost instinctively.** This is because in their world view maybe it is true—they are under the dominion of Darkness and that is what Satan does to people under his control.

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But once we pass into the Kingdom of Light this is no longer our reality, even if it once was. So this firstly means we must be diligent to unlearn and become un-trained in the ways of Man and the Flesh, especially as I am talking about in our little chat here now, especially with regards to personal prophecy—you'll certainly be glad that you did.

In Greek Dramas prophecy is usually like a doom that hangs over your head that you can do nothing to change in any way. And so often every 'good' blessing has within it a 'curse' just waiting to sneak up on you and—*GOTCHA!* The 'Pet Cemetery' or 'Monkey's Paw' version of prayer being answered is always going to bite you in the end! These fears and suspicions are so devious because they pollute our view of who God is, what He is like and ruin our relationship with a truly Good God because **it makes people distrust God and his promises to them.** There is ALWAYS a catch! they fear. No one is giving away free stuff 'just because.' Well even carnal parents do that for their kids, don't they? Why is it so hard to believe God would do that too for people who trust in him? Why is it so scary to trust that God is just trying to lead you into his green pastures of comfort and provision just because he loves you? Why is it so hard to believe? **Why? Because they've been indoctrinated by the Greek View of fate since they were toddlers watching their very first Disney movies. That's why!**

This world-view is demonic, satanic and no, I'm not being overly-dramatic about it. This has to be purged from our subconscious thinking, the mind needs to be renewed but the carnal mind remains an enemy of all God is and does for us. How God makes promises for our blessings, why he does it this way, how we receive them and what obstacles are likely to come in our way which we need to overcome first, etc., are all foreign concepts to people raised on a diet of sugary cartoon nonsense.

This is why I stress that we are now living in the Kingdom of God, we are NOT living in a Greek Drama! Our future is not 'set in stone'—no, it is not! Our choices affect the outcome. Faith matters.

What about God's Foreknowledge? Predestination?

I just *KNEW* you were going to ask that! The reality of Prophecy, Fate, Destiny and all that prognostication is certainly confusing in light of our free will when you really consider God's Omniscience and that He knows what we will choose and what we will do even before we do it—and that he knew this before we were even born—knowing it even before he made the Earth for us to begin life on. This raises a difficult matter of God's foreknowledge that does not seem to gel with our free-will being intact. And I guess that's why they used to fight over topics such as Predestination, God's Foreknowledge, God's Election versus Free-Will, the open offer to *Whosoever*, and things like that.

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We'll see this play out in a few pages over King Saul. **But personal prophecy is an offer of Destiny more than a statement of Fate. God rewards faith**, he's not merely being an invisible weatherman in the sky. Personal prophecy is meant to draw us into a closer walk with him, to draw us towards a relationship with him. It's not just about telling people random future events in advance. Even when God tells you things like that there is always a higher or deeper underlying purpose, which is at least to teach us to learn to trust in the God who sees and cares about us.

And God is omniscient and can't help but see the End from the Beginning. He's right now standing there at the End watching us cross the fishing line at the very same time He's also standing at our bedside as we are being born, while he is also brooding over the waters watching Light dawn on a *tóhu wâ-vóhu* chaotic mess in the Beginning. He is outside of Time and can't help but know the future—the Future is also his Present, as is our Past.

However, he knows our limitations so while he is nurturing and trying to mature us **he has to talk to us in a way we can understand during our journey. He is trying to make us learn to think like him, knowing that right now we just don't.** So he gives us offers of destiny, saying things like, "IF you do THIS, I will give you THAT. But IF you do THAT I will give this THIS." It's confusing since he knows what we will choose already. Then why even give me a choice? It's really because while he knows who we are, we don't, and also as he told me, he can't reward us until we do something about it ... Confusing! Oh, don't get me started! But this is enough to talk about today to help you understand how personal prophecy in the Kingdom is not like a play from Shakespeare!

And someone will have to mention the 'vessels of wrath' like Pharaoh and such whom God intentionally creates as well, just to display his power and even his wrath, but I'm sorry but I will have to passover that topic for now.

So 'Letting God Be GOD' on his end, on *our* end our choices still matter. Paul said it this way in Philippians 3:12, that he did not consider himself to already have attained his full reward or already be 'perfected'—which are natural responses to having a firm belief in some kind of fate dictating our lives. Paul did not sit back, relax and have a cold one on his veranda overlooking the Mediterranean ... no! What did he say he did instead? **"But I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me."**

He pressed on, exerted his will power, a lot of effort he says just to lay hold of the calling, the reward and to be further perfected—which was why God took hold of him in the first place. He was not sitting by letting 'whatever will be, will be.' The possible future was in fact his to see, so where is there room now for all that 'Que Sera, Sera' nonsense?—Whatever will be, will be? Are you sure? That's not what I see!

‘Que Sera, Sera’? Hogwash!!

This belief is like the filth from a dirty pig!

The Kingdom advances by force (or violence), and the forceful lay hold of it. It is not human force or violence that does this Jesus told me, **“It is the force of a faith that won’t be denied!”**—Jesus actually told me that!

God rewards us according to what we do in our time here on the Earth—Romans 2:6-8 says this very plainly. As does 2 Corinthians 5:10. This is the clear idea behind the rewards and loss of the talents in Matthew 25!

And note: each person’s judgment is personal James 2:13 says: for to those who showed no mercy will have a judgment without mercy, etc. Some are beaten with a few stripes, some with many. There is therefore a great reward for perseverance as many verses also state. So let God be GOD on his end of things but YOU need to learn to be willing and obedient on your end of things if you want to eat the best of the land.

So our reward and destiny is not out of our control as the Greek Dramatists preach, nor is it somehow already ‘set in stone’ arbitrarily by an uncaring, inscrutable God, as many still believe even within the Church. No, the Judgment will be to reward everyone for what they have done while in the body with what God has given them, in the situations they found themselves in, and with both the limitations and resources they had to work with and within.

So EVERY DAY you can shine, no matter what the evil day brings. So Rejoice in the Day God has Made! Press on, keep going! Be glad and rejoice!

Our judgment is personal, you do very much reap what you sow, the measure you use will be used against you, etc. So it is based on what we do, how we act, less on what we believe but more on what we do about it. Is it noteworthy that the one-talent loser of Matthew 25 even said he believed God was a harsh man, like he was both insulting and trying to flatter God with his own beliefs, yet his own actions were in direct opposition to this claim. He feared God so much he hid his money, insulted him and still expected to be rewarded? Really? People don’t always know their own hearts, and can even deceive themselves sometimes!

So God’s judgment and our rewards are according to our choices and actions—it is not by some arbitrary or inscrutable Fate. **So Faith really does matter.** And yes, that means you can really mess things up! **Don’t mess this up!!** Walk in faith, walk in repentance, be sober-minded, walk circumspectly Paul said. Choose to be holy as He is holy—purify your hearts for the pure in heart will see God—purify yourself and you can become a vessel of honor fit for the Master’s use—walk humbly

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before our God and he will be pleased because he really does resist those who are proud, stubborn and mean-spirited. Walk in love even when it's seemingly impossible, for by doing so you reap the greatest rewards—not just heaps of gold and diamonds, but personal intimacy with God, being transformed into his image which we are beholding in our trials, thus becoming more like him in nature! HE is our reward, don't you know? But I bet you already knew that!

These rewards are all laid hold of by your choices and actions and so IF this is how God interacts with Mankind THEN this is therefore also the basis of the fulfillment of God's personal prophecy to us. Simply put: **God's character, goals and purposes directly affect the operation of personal prophecy.** So we then understand that our **faith is therefore an essential condition on ALL personal prophecy**—if we are willing and obedient we will eat the best—the fat—of the land! But if we refuse such a great salvation or blessings that are being offered to us, well, that is not God's heart or will for us actually, but he will still allow it and so honor our choices. He wants ALL to be saved and be blessed and come to Know Him AS HE IS—but we have freedom of choice. We have free will. He won't force us. And we are going to be judged (for reward or otherwise) for what we do while in the flesh. **This affects the operation of personal prophecy more than people dare to think, say, teach or even believe.**

Personal Prophecy is ALWAYS Conditional

So yes, what God told me is that I can say that **Personal Prophecy is ALWAYS Conditional.** There are even unspoken conditions. This means the same thing ultimately, and that is why I keep saying this: **Faith matters.** It really does! This therefore also means Perseverance under pressure really pays off! And as I heard Bobby Connor say our best response that brings the best outcome and blessings is '**swift and complete obedience.**' Humility is therefore a great strength and real Sacrifice would be the doorway into substantial earthly as well as heavenly prosperity alike.

Wow, I can't talk about all those things in one short chapter on prophecy, or can I? Well, no, I'll have to leave most of that on the table for now, but I want to focus in on the main relationship between a personal prophecy and the faith that makes it come to pass. Let's see some examples in the Bible first.

Hebrew 4: Destiny is on Offer—it's not FATE

Personal prophecy is not a matter of fate. Everyone is given many offers of destiny but only those who exercise faith in them will receive them. This is clearly laid out in Hebrews 4 and also in the dreaded or greatly misunderstood Romans 11.

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But first Hebrews 4 is fairly lucent and so we can ostensibly be cogent without any need for prevaricating equivocation.

¹ “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; **but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.**”

The gospel was preached to the people who never received the promised blessings because THEY did not put their faith and trust into it. **The prophesied promises did not fail—the people did.** We’ll see this again in Romans 11, that the Jewish people were called, they still are, but many will refuse that calling and end up missing the Promised Land, the eternal one I mean. The promises are still valid, the promises were not withdrawn, but those people refused them and they *personally* lost out. **The promises didn’t fail, their faith did.** It will be more clear in a few pages when we talk about Romans 11, I hope. The Lord asked me not to do a Bible study on Chapter 11 but the thorny verse people get stuck on is right in the middle of that passage. Can people lose their calling? Yes, they certainly can! But we’ll get there in a bit.

SO AGAIN—Beware the Mighty ‘IF!’

So according to Hebrews 4 God offered the people a blessing but there was a condition they failed to meet. So often God is able to talk to us plainly and He tells us things in personal prophecy such as, **“If you stop dating Janet, the girl you are dating, I have instead a chosen woman for you, a chosen vessel, who you will marry and have a happy life with.”** So if the person begins to wind-down things with Janet, fewer coffee dates, fewer flirty text messages, fewer cute plush toy gifts delivered to her workplace during lunch break ... but instead sets his heart on what God has offered, **he will position himself to receive the prophesied blessing. He is acting on his faith,** not replying to Janet’s frequent texts as often, drawing back, canceling his scheduled Amazon plush toy delivery celebrating two months since they first met, speaking kindly but curtly and *not leading her on* if they do talk ... **these are his works of faith.**

But won’t Janet be angry?! You bet! Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned! People talk a lot about overcoming the Fear of Man—but what about the Fear of Woman! But both of these obstacles must be overcome to receive our reward!

BUT WHAT IF INSTEAD he figures, ‘I’ll play this out with Janet for as long as I can and when the new girl *finally* shows up (assuming he would even be able to recognize her when she does) THEN I’ll break things off with Janet, cold turkey.’ Oh, you chicken! The fact is even if you would

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somehow on your own be able to discern the woman of God's dreams when you do meet her, what have you done in the meantime that now has to be undone? Or worse? Have you taken things too far? Have you been joined as 'one body' to her even when God said he has someone else in mind you should have kept yourself for? You reap what you sow, you said it yourself! There is a slippery slope, as we say, in personal matters of the heart and people try to hide their true intentions, desires and motives ... but all is open to God's penetrating view to see as plain as day.

So at some point if you keep things going with Janet you may even hear God say, "OK, you've made your choice. Enjoy yourselves you two little love birds!" But what of the prophesied mystery woman? "Oh, she just got married and shared her massive lottery winnings with the faithful man I sent her after you rejected her. She even had to quit being a fashion magazine cover model to deal with all her global travel!" "No, God! I want that money! She's mine! You promised!" God is most likely not even going to honor your outburst with an explanation! You made your choice. Or maybe He will but only later—much, *much* later. Most of God's dealings with us, for reward or otherwise, the fruit of the seeds we planted, will only be revealed to us once we are in heaven, he told me. You should have listened. You should have obeyed!

And oh, how valuable can a word on a Mate or a Date be!

How much depends on this One, Tiny Word—IF!

I so often hear people accuse God or his prophets or the prophetic word when things don't work out according to what they expected. **This can simply be because of a mistake in what they expected.** It can be because they simply weren't listening. And so often it is simply because he told them, "I want to do this for you IF you obey me." Or, "It is my will to give you this when you are ready, so IF you keep seeking me, keep closing the doors to your past you can receive it. However if you return to your old ways you won't be able to carry this blessing." Or, "If your break up with Stanley I'll protect you. Do it now. If not you'll be implicated in his crimes. He's been stealing from his company and is about to be arrested. Leave! ... Leave NOW!" These words all have clear conditions in them—clear if you have eyes to see, ears to hear.

But sometimes people just don't listen. Sometimes they just don't take his words to heart! And really so often when a word "fails" with even a casual look into what God actually said you can quickly discover that tiny, pesky little word, such an insignificant word right in the middle of all God was saying—IF!

So try to be mature, have an open mind. **Don't be so fast to accuse God or prophet when a word seemingly fails. Not every true prophecy should come to pass.** Did you know that? A warning of judgment should

never come to pass since people should repent before it does. A personal blessing should always come to pass, as people should act in faith to lay hold of it. But if people are careless or unfaithful or ungrateful even, it certainly might not—or at least be very well delayed or reduced because of their lack of diligence and obedience to stand in faith and act in accordance with the word of promise. **So I say a warning should never come to pass, a promise of blessing always should—but so often the opposite is true.** That's not God's fault!

Did God's Promises Fail? No, but King Saul Did!

This is a sad, cautionary tale if ever there was one. What God promised, the conditions given, what behavior was recorded and what outcome resulted—tragic. And not in the Greek Drama sense of that word either but in it's true meaning—*tragic!*

In 1 Samuel 15 the instructions prophet Samuel gave Saul included an express description of what to do: destroy the Amalekites and everything that belonged to them—**but there was no explanation of the consequences for disobedience.** Also, God did not explain to him why this was so important other than saying that many hundreds of years ago they attacked Israel coming out of Egypt. There was not even any explanation of why they acted so evil towards God's people back in the day. He just said to do it; it's important.

When Saul spared the life of king Agag and all the best spoil I doubt he had any other than purely natural or carnal reasons for doing this. The king is a trophy and to have him bound in Saul's personal dungeon for years would exalt himself as a true conqueror. The value of thousands of livestock is easy to equate.

And I still don't know what God's reasoning was behind this direction other than as a lesson or test to expose Saul's heart, or maybe for him to be an instrument to act out God's vengeance? Vengeance is Mine says the Lord, and he can judge as he pleases.

But I always wonder if there's more to it. What I think about is the spiritual pollution of child-sacrificing devil worshipers and I think EVERYTHING that belonged to them was somehow infected with demons. And as a worst-case-scenario to spare their KING, the head over this demonic culture, would be to preserve the very anchor of this evil principality over the land ensuring it's evil reign would continue and probably infect the military conquerors, the Israelites, as well.

Paul told us about a thousand years later that we wrestle not against "flesh and blood" but against "principalities and powers" which other versions call "rulers and authorities" and other terms, but is the same words *arche*, *exousia* and *dynamis*.

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EPHESIANS 6:12—“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

These words refer to the supernatural cosmic demonic governmental powers in Satan’s world-holding kingdom of darkness over the Earth. The term ‘arch-angel’ simply means one of these ruler-beings in an ‘arche’ position of rulership. When Gabriel, also an arch-angel, wanted to give a prophetic message to Daniel the ‘prince of Persia’ (an *arche* or *exousia* demonic fallen angel that ruled over Persia obviously) was what resisted him and he could not enter the territory until Michael (the *arche* over Israel) came to help him. He was told later the Prince of Greece (the *arche* or *exousia* of Greece obviously) would come, and in reality this actually happened as the Greek Empire conquered Persia. This is the exact same thing going on that Paul talked about in Ephesians. There are demonic world-holding powers the Bible calls Rulers, Authorities, Princes, Powers, Dominions, etc. —*arche*, *exousia* and *dynamis*.

But I doubt King Saul had any idea there were such supernatural ‘rulers and authorities’ behind the scenes in the spiritual realm—but wait, Joshua and Caleb probably did and said so when they gave their report as spies in Canaan, **“their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us.”** (Numbers 14:9) This is mentioned several times in the book of Ephesians by the way, and again in Colossians. But I think King Saul had a very short-sighted view and carnal understanding of what he was doing and why. That’s surely why he really failed. The carnal mind in an enemy of God; to follow its ways is death.

But looking back at the prophecy from Samuel, does God really need to say all this and explain how demonic powers rule and how they are defeated and what God’s master plan is for the region and so on and so forth? Did you ever have a 5-year-old see a trigonometric function and ask you what it means? Can you explain the Pythagorean Theorem to a five year old? You can try! It’s better not to!

Obey in Trust, even when it makes *No Sense*

So when God gives people instructions isn’t it sometimes better to just do as you are told? To trust him and obey? People ask for conformation before obeying and that’s fine Jesus told me. But He may very well simply repeat his instructions! He told me **it’s OK to ask for confirmation, but at some point you need to just obey.** God owes us no explanation or justification for what he asks us to do. He also even asks us to do things that simply make so sense to us and which we just do not understand. I think he does this on purpose! He does like to tell us why

and how and all those things usually, if we can understand it, if there is time, if he knows we are anyway willing and obedient, sure he will. But sometimes we can't understand, and there isn't time and he may want to show us our bad attitude(s). So would you prefer God NOT speak to you? Or isn't it better to just trust him and do what he asks, even when it's confusing and simply makes no sense?

My friend was driving his car in Ireland down a divided highway and God simply said, "**Pull over.**" There was no urgency in his voice, no sense of alarm or danger. So he just pulled over and as he did he calmly asked God, "**OK, why?**" Just that second a giant cargo truck, a lorry, or what we in the US may call a 10-wheeler and it was **on the wrong ride of the divided road** and was going FULL SPEED in the wrong direction in his lane. He was driving one of those tiny Irish microcars I think and he would have been given early release to go to heaven that very day if he had not obeyed! But he obeyed instantly and without arguing or fighting God about his schedule being late or demanding an explanation first or why are you always bossing me around! People actually think these things! Much more than you realize! Instead of hesitating or arguing or resisting he just ... pulled over and lived to tell the tale.

I think it was Lance Wallnau who said a similar thing happened to him. He was just lounging poolside and God said, "**Sit up.**" He did just as he heard God say ... and then there was a GREAT C-R-A-S-H as a massive tree limb fell and smashed his lounge chair just where his head was resting only a moment before. It pays to obey. Swift and Complete obedience brings God's blessings the fastest!

On a much less dramatic note, one time I was praying for healing for a lady with a heart issue during a training activation session and God said, "**OK, tell her to bend her knees.**" I hesitated but obeyed and she bent her knees. "**OK, now tell her to straighten up.**" I did and she did. She needed prayer for her heart, why ask her to bend her knees and then straighten back up? God then said, "**Sometimes I will ask you to do things that make no sense to you. Will you still obey?**" A few seconds later he healed her of her heart condition. Why the bending of the knees?? I really think it was just to test our obedience—mine especially.

Strike Two

So in King Saul's case God asked Saul to destroy the Amalekites and Saul disobeyed. But this was the second time he did this. Previously in Chapter 13 he was told to wait for Samuel to offer sacrifices before starting their war but he seemed to be late and people began going home. Saul panicked and he, a king, not a priest and not the prophet, offered the sacrifices to God ... and then Samuel showed up. *Ooops!*

This first failure to follow God's word was confirmed in his second

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act of disobedience, but was God just giving him a second chance dealing with the Amelkites? I think it was more than that.

The real lesson may be about the character of Saul, which clearly models, is the pattern of and plainly represents the mind of man, those who operate according to the fear of men, the carnal flesh ... showing us the consequences of the natural course of their behavior in God's service.

The Carnally Minded Man will always fail in the service of God. Paul told us, again a thousand years later, that the mind of the flesh is the enemy of God, it can't even be made to obey the ways of God and cannot please him.

Romans 8:5-9—⁵ “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.** ⁸ So then, **those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

⁹ “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.** Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

So if Saul was doomed to fail to teach us that all who operate in the mind of flesh are likewise doomed to fail, then that is a very important lesson! I guess it also means obedience matters, flowing with the Spirit matters and again having faith really does matter!

He can only Reward or Punish us once we Act

Now this leads me to share something Jesus told me.

God said Saul would be king, but He made him a promise that I am sure he didn't even understand. His kingdom would endure forever which referred to the Kingdom of Christ who would have been his descendant. When his kingdom was taken from him and given to 'someone better than him' what David actually received was a role in the lineage of Christ, head of an eternal kingdom. We call Jesus 'Son of David' for this reason. Otherwise he would be famously known as 'Son of Saul.'

Anyway, Saul disobeyed and the Lord rejected him as king, his family dynasty would not endure, and his future role in the Kingdom of God under Jesus was passed to someone else. But was he set up to fail? If God knew he was going to fail, why offer him the opportunity to begin with? Did God not see that coming?

First, what I can share is that Jesus told me that **God will not reward or punish us until we act.** He KNOWS what we will do

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beforehand but he is not able he said to reward or punish us until we prove TO OURSELVES who we are. He said, he already knows who we are and what we will do, but he cannot judge us good or bad until we act out and do it.

In Saul's case he was a type of carnal man, a man who walks in the flesh and has no real heart for God. His foil or opposite is David, who was known as a man after God's own heart. He wasn't perfect, but God accepted him, flaws and all. This is as important a reflection of God's kindness as the lesson of faith is in my mind. **God is perfect but he is not a perfectionist.** Anyway they both needed to be given the chance to show us and themselves who they were, and these lessons have served countless generations a profound warning and encouragement ever since.

Anyway God said Saul would be king, chose him ... and then rejected him. How would Saul know so much was at stake fighting pagan terrorists or killing and offering simple livestock as a sacrifice? Were the consequences of his actions made clear to him? "Do this and that and you'll be blessed, or Do that and the other thing and you'll lose the eternal kingship" —I say no, this was not spelled out clearly to him. But God still judged him on it!

So what can we learn? Clearly that personal prophecy has conditions. In fact I am bold to say as the Lord told me I can tell people that **Personal Prophecy ALWAYS has conditions.**

The example that gives me the most caution is from a 'bad' king of Israel whom God pronounced judgment on for his sin and because "he should have known" better. **Just like with Saul even unspoken conditions sometimes exist!**

This unfortunately leads us to ... Romans 11

In Matthew 25 three people were given 'talents' of gold, meaning large sums of money and in accordance with their varying abilities. I think you cannot overlook the obvious double meaning of 'talent of gold' and the modern usage of the word 'talent' meaning a gift or skill or ability. One person was given 5, and another 2, and then lastly a man received 1. That's an odd number sequence; it's not linear, it's exponential. The people are exponentially increasing in faithfulness and capabilities over the previous level it seems. And then God doubled that!

Anyway the last guy only had one thing to do! Or rather one 'talent' to do it with, and when he was evaluated, it was taken away from him. Can God give you a talent? Can God take it away? The clear answer is Yes, to both. And if it can happen to One then it can happen to Any One.

King Saul failed and the promises were given to someone better than him. I heard God say that about a man's marriage when his wife backslid and left and despite waiting three years for her she later even

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denounced ever being called to even minister with him—when it was her who previously prophesied it herself! God said he would take her calling which was being left undone, part of it being her marriage to that faithful man, and give it to ‘someone better than her.’ Ouch! I also have to mention a certain disciple but actually I don’t like him and won’t mention him by name, but he too was called, equipped, but was unfaithful and had his position and calling given to someone else.

So this is what God told me about gifts and callings but people misread Romans 11:29 and protest. God asked me not to do a Bible study on the whole chapter of Romans 11 but to share what he told me.

So briefly, Israel lost their position, and so many individuals in Israel who were once in the Olive Tree were ‘broken off’ for lack of faith, so the Gentiles who had faith could be ‘grafted in.’ This was to make the called Jews jealous as they watched us do their job for them in God’s Kingdom! What a statement!

God’s original plan is SO FAR from what actually happened! Do you see it? The ENTIRE 2000 Year spread of the Church Age of Christianity was supposed to be spearheaded by the Jewish nation and be a Messianic Age with Jewish national leadership right up until the end of this Age. **They were originally called as a nation of priests and prophets of the Kingdom and they should have led the world into revival over these last many centuries**, and not be persecuted, dispersed, hated, hunted and certainly not to have the pagan gentiles fulfill their holy calling for them instead! Talk about things being turned upside down! When a blessing gets reversed what do you call that? Yes, a curse.

The Jewish nation is still ‘called’ this chapter says clearly, but most *individuals* will sadly not receive this blessing, only a remnant he says will receive the promised blessings.

What of the disobedient who were called but refused their calling and got ‘cut off’ as Moses warned? Isn’t their calling irrevocable? Permanent or whatever?

This is what raises a thorny issue—I’m going to have to say a VERY thorny issue. **Can you lose a gift or ministry calling for disobedience? And as unpopular as it is, the answer is YES! Most people quote Romans 11:29 only, and funny, their conclusion is directly in opposition to the main idea of the rest of the whole Chapter 11.** But people don’t always see it that way.

It says the Jewish nation is CALLED, but will they answer that call? For some yes, but for most, no. Only a REMNANT will be saved. But the OFFER stands Un-Revoked. It gets much worse when Paul starts to tell of the secret purposes of God for their rebellion in giving the Gentile world an Era within which to be saved, to make the Jewish nation jealous, to put everyone under mercy (since now EVERYONE has failed to walk in their callings and fell from their original purpose)—so to humble EVERYONE,

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and also to allow those who were once ‘not a people’ to now ‘be a people’ and be used by God as his glorious ministers in the place of their Jewish exemplars—but which Age will all come to an end, a glorious end, a bloody end—but the Jewish nation will nevertheless endure. That’s all what I won’t talk about now. But the chapter so far deals with the issue of salvation primarily, and a national calling to minister, and that not deserved or earned but all for the sake of promises made to the Patriarchs long ago!

You can see why God asked me NOT to do a Bible study on Chapter 11 right now! However, there are a few other statements in this chapter that you do need to read and be clear on, the main point is illustrated with the issue of the Branches: a key summary is probably verses 19-22:

¹⁹ “You will say then, **‘Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.’** ²⁰ **Well said.** Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, **He may not spare you either.** ²² Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. **Otherwise you also will be cut off.”**

And there is that pesky little word again—‘IF’—“if you continue in His goodness.”

And this is also what Jesus said to the Jewish nation:

MATTHEW 21:43—“Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken away from you, and shall be given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.”

So if they are CUT OFF, the Kingdom taken away from them, are they still ‘called’? If you are grafted in, you are being allowed to partake of the calling for the blessings which they rejected. But if God did not spare the natural branches, Take heed! YOU TOO could also be cut off. That’s painful but also painfully clear!

The Bugaboo of Chapter 11—Verse 29!

Romans 11 deals with the nation of Israel as a whole, and it is primarily dealing with their Salvation and not an individual person having a personal gift or calling. But it does deal with individuals ministering, and so the principles must therefore be the same.

But when we come to verse 29 and the language is hard to grasp, and different versions render it in very different ways, we end up with a doctrine that is often directly opposed to the general sense of Chapter 11.

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The King James Version was the basis for many other English language versions and being a pillar of English Civilization for four hundred years their word choice holds a great deal of sway over other versions. The original reading of this verse however was, **“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”**

It’s impossible to understand that clearly since people repent when they turn from their sin—gifts and callings are not people and don’t. Why are gifts ‘without repentance’ unless it means this has something to do with ‘callings’ being given sovereignly by God without regard to the receiver’s current walk with the Lord—it is **chosen apart from the state of their repentance**. This is much of what people say about having a gift at birth, or being ‘predestined’ to be saved and serve God as a minister in some way BEFORE their will is engaged to choose it. So people have callings from birth, before we ‘repent’ and are ‘saved’—yes, but God also responds to our actions, choices and prayers by *whosoever*.

But the real issue this odd wording mixed with carnal thinking causes is that **it makes people think you can be in ‘gross sin’ and still be a prophet or ‘healing evangelist’ or pastor** because the gift and therefore their ministry is not linked to their *ongoing* repentance or current walk of faith with the Lord. They say it means God won’t take the gift away, the gift of prophecy or healing they mean, when they fall into sin and walk away from the Lord. I do not know what people think this verse means with regard to salvation exactly, but they say if God gifted you in prophecy and you turn from God you can somehow still prophesy. I’m not sure how they would know that. It seems dubious and like a largely theoretical conclusion to come to, and based on a poorly worded verse! It has the feel of carnal wisdom to me. But that is what many people very emphatically teach.

You have to ask them, Did God tell you that interpretation? And don’t be surprised if they say, “No, God no longer speaks to people nowadays.” Well, then how can you be so sure this is the right meaning? And they say, “I just know.”

Other modern Bible versions render this phrase in verse 29 as, **“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”** And this word choice accounts for many or even most English versions. God called you to be saved, or called you to be a prophet, priest or king and that’s it. He won’t change his mind or revoke his *calling*.

And what of King Saul? Judas Iscariot? Or the one-talent loser in Matthew 25 who lost his ‘talent’ and ended up being thrown into where there is ‘weeping and gnashing of teeth’? Or the cut-off branches of Romans 11 who are thrown into the fire?

Is the answer simply the difference between the offer of a calling and the personal acceptance (or rejection) of it? It is the word ‘calling’ after all, not ‘acceptance’ or ‘final reward,’ etc.

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And what about the others mentioned in Romans 11 itself who were called, most of whom rejected the calling and so will not even be saved—as only a remnant are? So the OFFER of salvation may very well be irrevocable but if people *reject the offer* they still lose out and end up in Hell. God won't force them to get saved or serve him either—**but the 'offer' still stands.**

Elijah quit. God accepted his resignation and appointed Elisha in his place to carry on the exact same mantle, ministry and purpose Elijah began with. Yes, doubled—but Elijah still quit. The Bible does clearly say King Saul's position was taken from him and given to someone better than him. The same as Judas. This is hard to fit neatly together with v29 read as 'irrevocable.' Unless again he just means the 'offer' remains open, which is not a guarantee of their acceptance of it, or of it being 'forced on them' to complete the work they were originally called to.

And how this can be reconciled with the previous section in Romans about the branches being cut off for their lack of faith? How is the calling (so yes maybe not the acceptance or fulfillment of it) is "without repentance" is even more difficult to decipher at face value.

The Dread Pirate Roberts of Romans Chapter 11!

For many people this verse does not mean what they think it means. Still other Bible versions on this verse are equally opaque and here are a few more:

AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION: "For the gifts and the calling of God are not repented of."

J.B. PHILLIPS NEW TESTAMENT: "For once they are made, God does not withdraw his gifts of his calling."

WYCLIFFE BIBLE: "And the gifts and the calling of God be without repenting. [Soothly the gifts and calling of God be without repenting.]"

YOUNG'S LITERAL TRANSLATION: "for unrepented of [are] the gifts and the calling of God;"

And finally ROTHERHAM: "For, not to be regretted, are the gifts and the calling of God:"

It's no wonder this verse is so murky, and so **we ought to be equally cautious about making firm doctrines based upon it alone!**

Other Biblical Statements are Fairly Clear

So trying to piece this all together we have at least five other Biblical ideas that bear on the issue of v. 29 directly:

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> What people have **can be taken away**. Matthew 13:12, 12:18, 21:43!, 25:14-30, Mark 4:25, Luke 8:18, Luke 19:26 and maybe other verses as well. Quite a clear precedent I say!

> What God offers **can be rejected and lost**. Hebrews 4, etc.

> The open offer to the whole Jewish nation is **only laid hold of by a remnant and I think it means a small remnant**. Romans 11 clearly. (This is also what Jesus said in Matthew 21:43!)

> Many are called, **but few are chosen**. Matthew 22:14-16.

> And who would forget he who had the one talent and was unfaithful with it and **had it taken away from him** (and he himself was cast out), again Matthew 25:29-30.

Fleeing Their Habitations—Abandoning their Gifts and Callings—The Great Falling Away

But God also spoke to me on this topic and I'll share what he said now only after showing you the sometimes and somewhat murky Biblical background.

First was the dream I publish with a conversation with Jesus to interpret it that I call *Fleeing Their Habitations*. I shared much of this above in Chapter One. I saw people leaving the dormitories and apartments God had prepared for them (habitations prepared for them to live and be trained in his Kingdom) when they heard 'news from a foreign land' that made them panic and flee from Him. And they left empty-handed but it looked like their old apartments had been ransacked! God said when people choose to leave him they do not do so in a right frame of mind but have many unanswered questions which if they come back, as many (but not all) of them will, they will have to face. But at least it will be with new insights to help them deal with the mess of the unanswered questions they fled from and left behind.

What first struck me was all the things they left behind, which God said were: **"Gifts, mantles, callings that are now being left undone. They will be given to the faithful few, a redistribution of wealth!"** We were going through them and taking whatever we liked and I asked if it was wrong but he said: **"No, it is in my word. Those who have much will get more, those who have little will lose what little they have. Look it up!"**

I did and found several references to this 'wealth re-distribution' at that time and quoted Matthew 13:11-12 and of course, Matthew 25:28-30 when I wrote it up.

MATTHEW 13:11-12—¹¹ "He answered and said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of

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heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; **but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.**’ ”

MATTHEW 25:28-30—²⁹ “For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; **but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.** ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

He said he was showing me The Great Falling Away already breaking upon the Body—it is an Exile of Christians in a way of thinking about it—which had already begun by that time, adding, **“As a man thinks in his heart, so IS he. They are far from me since their hearts are cold towards me.”** He said they will, many of them, still refer to themselves as believers, Christians, what have you, **“but their hearts have left and are far from me.”**

So I understand it this way. Gifts and callings are given to us to serve God and his people and if we refuse, or if we are proven to be unfaithful for whatever reason, he will take those things away and the gifts and opportunities to serve (and their rewards) will be given to other people who are more faithful than us who will get the job done! I then realized MANY PEOPLE have fallen away and they may still attend church and identify as faithful Christians and even ministers, but that does not mean they are so, or that their ‘service’ such as it is, is still ‘building the Kingdom in people’s hearts’ anymore. **It therefore means there are MANY JOB OPENINGS right now in the service of the Kingdom,** although I dislike calling serving God a ‘job’ but yes, there are many ministry opportunities available right now—God is recruiting! The laborers are really so few!

It is a similar reason we saw in Matthew 21:43 and Romans 11 that the called Jews refused the Gospel and so God offered their position and this Kingdom to the Gentiles. But now these same called Gentiles are also refusing to serve him **so he is now calling out on the highways and byways to anyone who will respond to serve him and his people in this crucial season.**

But then Jesus openly spoke to me more to explain this idea of gifts and callings and said this:

“People think they cannot LOSE a gift or a mantle or a calling, but I say this is not so. **You can lose anything I give you if**

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you are disobedient, stubborn or unwilling to carry out the task you are assigned to. People say the gifts and callings of God are beyond repentance but search and see what this really means, that these things are not what you earn by your good deeds, maturity or your own spiritual strength.

“They are things I CHOOSE for you to do, regardless of your standing with me. I mean I choose them before you were born, before you know me, or before you walked with me. I can take them away just as easily if you prove to be unfaithful to yourself—since I already know what you will be and what you are—but I give you the chance to prove yourself. I won’t judge you for what you do not yet do, either to punish or reward you for your calling, only until it becomes a present reality in your walk with Me do I have the ability to decide if you are faithful or disobedient, even though I know whether you will be or not before it happens.

“So these gifts are given not as a question of your right standing, but as a decision of my grace to empower you to serve me in one way or another. **THEN you start the walk of repentance and learn how to serve me and how to operate in the gifts and callings of the Kingdom—if you choose to—and that is the substance of the reward of your service to Me.** People who unrighteously want to STEAL from Me, and claim an inheritance I have not approved or given them say these things that the gifts and callings of God are beyond repentance so they can continue to walk in them even if they are in gross sin, but this is not true. They only look at the gifts and talents on the surface, as man sees the results of their fame as it brings in the crowds, the music albums they can create, the books they sell as a ‘best-selling author’ or engagement fees they can command when they speak on the international preachers’ circuit ... **but these are not the true measure of the gifts and callings of God, since the substance of what you build is in the hearts of man, not in the numbers of people who come to an event in your name ... You can be famous in man’s world because of the gifts I gave you even when you cease to operate in my Kingdom and stop building the lives of the saints in reality** Just leave such people behind ... they are blind guides, clouds without rain, leave the dead to be buried by the dead ...”

I know, maybe next time lead with that, right!? But I think you needed a foundation before I sprang it on you or you would probably just not believe me anyway.

But relax—it's just so rare for this to happen, right?

And if people want to argue, don't. They may also say this problem is at best very rare, with hundreds of cases of people in faith and only three who failed. So what's the harm in teaching that it can never happen at all? Right? Because if it is by faith we overcome, which is a kind of confidence, and if the real truth just wrecks their confidence, isn't it better to just *lie a little* or *omit certain truths* so people's faith can take root?—a 'fake it until you make it' kind of ministry philosophy?—No, I don't think this way but people do and OK, let's just consider this view for a minute.

OK, minute's up. Moving on.

So is it really so rare? Are there only three cases of faithless people falling away from God's promises in the Bible? King Saul, Judas and the One-talent loser in Matthew?

Oh, there's also Hymenaeus and Alexander too, but beyond that I don't recall any. Except Ananias and Sapphira. And well, yes, also counting the Exile to Babylon of course. Oh, I mean also the entire faithless generation of people under Moses who left Egypt—they didn't fare so well, did they? And Psalm 76 mentions the tribe of Ephraim who were trained and equipped yet turned away in the day of battle—don't expect a lot of fruitful rewards in their case! And in John 15:6 Jesus talked about the branches that did not abide in the Vine who are withered, cut off and cast into the fire. Oh, I forgot about that! And who can forget the rejection of the Gospel by the rulers of the First-Century Jewish nation that we talked about in all those verses above. And don't forget the Great Falling Away among the modern day faithless Gentiles which is right now upon us.

Yes, so besides those few hundreds of millions of cases, is there anyone else? I mean is that all?

Yes, I can see what you mean. A very rare scenario. It's only a few hundreds of millions of times, give or take a few ten millions.

But if God had not openly told me, I too would not be able to comment on this issue, but the text in Matthew 25 is clear:

²⁸ “So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ... ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The END of the Law is FAITH

And so what all this finally leads us to ... again ... is Faith. If conditions exist, faith will fulfill them. If obedience is at issue, faith is the

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strength behind our obedience. Faith produces works of the Spirit. If an open offer stands, we just have to respond to it to receive the promised blessings—which we do in, by and with Faith!

But what is faith? How do we get it? What does it do? This actually should be the meat of this chapter, but people have so many misconceptions I needed to spend a lot of time, ink and paper to clear all that out of the way first. So now let's get to the real meat in this pot roast!

Now Faith IS

Jesus taught me a few things about faith itself and it's hard not to quote the whole conversation. I'm still growing and learning to walk in it, but the three main things he said have to do with **1. How we get faith**, in that it comes from hearing him speak to us. **2. What Faith causes us to do.** This has to do with the 'works' or actions inspired by faith. And **3. The effect of walking in faith.** He said Faith always carries us towards him and into his purposes. Faith can never lead us away from him he said.

But yes, there's still timing and testing and obstacles and delays and warfare and recompense and all that ... yes, but all that is just ... *details*. So it is FAITH that moves the Mountains. It's Faith that causes us to act in line with his word and Will and which pleases Him and so it's faith that triggers a personal prophecy to come to pass. That's why I've been saying all along: Faith matters!

Faith Comes by Hearing

So first, faith comes from God when he tells us what he is going to do. Yes, you can just read Scripture on your own and from the Holy Spirit's inspiration discern God's will and know what he will do for you based on that alone. **But you cannot only operate on a hunch or merely by guessing.** You need to have *real* confidence that this is *actually* God's will for you, that you heard him right, that you didn't make this up, and so there is unshakable confidence that he will *absolutely* do what you say he will—you need faith before you step out and risk your comfort, job, reputation, family or life on it! You can't fake faith, Jesus told me.

Faith comes by hearing as it says in Romans 10:17 and people try all sorts of ways to make this dark and mystical but it really is quite clear and simple. This is what Jesus taught us. How do you claim a promise from God?—

“Faith is how you claim the promise from God. Take a step out in faith and boldly do something because you know for a fact that the promise exists. God prepares you bit by bit and you practice with smaller things then go bigger and bigger, but you are always called to higher levels of faith—it's what the secular

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world calls ‘taking a risk.’ You do it according to God’s leading and the guidance of the Holy Spirit—you can’t pretend it, you can’t pretend your faith exists, you can’t fake it. You can’t have a ‘let’s give it a try, I’ll give it my best shot’ attitude. You pray for it, you ask for it, you dwell on my promise and you allow your faith to just grow and it bubbles over and your heart just overflows with confidence that nothing and no one will shake. And you make a decision and take a step out in faith because you know 100% that you will see the promise come to pass. **There is no doubt when you take a step in faith, there is no fear when you take step in faith, most of all, you know with bold confidence that THERE IS NO RISK when you take a step in faith.** Again I say you can’t fake faith, you can’t force it, you can’t pretend it—faith just is.

“And it grows in you as you grow in Me, and when you dream big as I ask you, parallel to your dream will be a rise in your faith. Faith is how you claim and faith is how you get the promise—it can’t be taught—it’s a **natural consequence of opening your heart to Me.**

“A declaration of faith is a declaration of a truth that is in the future. You can’t pretend it’s true—you KNOW it’s true. **This kind of faith comes through prayer and asking. I will teach you, I will guide you.** All you do is seek it and listen when I teach. It is how all the disciples learnt and eventually operated in the same faith as Jesus.”

He also said that when we ‘dream’ with God, imagining what we want to do with Him, he said:

“Your dream should be based on who your Father is, what he has told you that you can accomplish, and he said that if you have faith as small as a mustard seed you can move mountains, regardless of what the world says about you. He said, “The fact is, every believer has this ability. I can use each believer to move mountains but they have to exercise that faith and that comes from believing and knowing in their heart that I am their God!! I am their Father!!!” AMEN!!

So sharing personal prophecy CREATES faith in the hearers that God will do what he just said. Prayer helps, dwelling on the promises he made and Scriptures that back your promises up helps. Asking for help helps. As we grow in HIM faith grows in US. So absolutely Romans 10:17 means what it says, Faith comes by Hearing. So listen!

Faith Produces the Works of the Spirit

Then if a person is walking, standing, even crawling in faith it causes them to do things differently than before. He said, 'Take a step out in faith and boldly do something' which produces a kind of 'work' that is birthed from the Spirit of God. A work that is inspired by faith is a work of the Spirit, a 'work of faith.' This is what he told me:

"Faith will produce works of my Spirit, My Kingdom, My Father—not works of the flesh—it is not outwardly seen but by a few people who have eyes to see—Do YOU see? That is the eyes of faith operating in you, my son.

"Faith without works is dead—so man without faith just 'works'—he is condemned in a way to work, labor, strive at his own initiatives, according to his own will, to work at his own plans and schemes devoid of the work of My Presence—yes, I can be called to come into the world of man, and asked to build the works of man, and all who avail themselves of Me earn My Peace, BUT I WILL NOT BUILD THAT WORK WHICH IS CRUMBLING DOWN IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THOSE OF MY BELOVED WHO LABOR AND TOIL AMONG THOSE NOT SAVED BY GRACE, BY FAITH, BY THE WORKS OF ME, OF MY SPIRIT ON THEIR BEHALF ... Come I say, come and let us reason together."

I love to quote that: **"Faith without works is dead, so man without faith just works."** That is just so classic 'Jesus.'

Faith Draws us TOWARDS GOD

In that same conversation describing his meaning of the *Mountain Valley Vision* to me he said Faith always draws us towards Him. It cannot lead us away.

So while we may call on God in any earthly situation, he will come down to help us find a way out and also to understand him better. But know this, and he said it a few times, he is not interested in strengthening the World system of Mammon and Babylon's control over us. He said:

"Faith carries you up into my purposes.

"I may train you while you are within the world and subject to the pull of its ways ... but faith will not carry you further away from Me.

"... So I may start your basic training from within the world

Chapter 4: Personal Prophecy is Subject to Faith—not Fate

system, meaning while you are still subject to its realm of carnal, human, ordinary wants and needs ... Faith, walking, standing even crawling, yes, being in faith will not carry you away from Me.

“Faith cannot do this—**it only produces righteousness in my sight**, behavior that is attuned by and to my Holy Spirit at work within you to draw you and bring you to myself.”

So really, the goal of a personal prophecy is not just to find a difficult way to give you stuff. **It is train you to live by faith, which is what pleases him and draws you towards him. It makes you righteous in his sight** as we develop a more dynamic relationship with him! Faith cannot lead us away from God! **We can therefore say that the real goal of personal prophecy is righteousness for us, and intimacy with Him.** Wow!

So simply hearing God speak personal prophecy to us creates faith in us to believe what God said, and also faith grows in us as we grow in Him; it grows through prayer and asking and as he teaches and guides us. We ask, seek, knock and then listen and obey as he opens, speaks more and guides us in his ways. This ‘naturally’ leads us to act in accordance with the faith we have in this word of personal promise now dwelling within us. We act on it and this produces the noble works of the Spirit in accordance with our faith. These are the works of faith, works of the Spirit, works birthed from the Father! Acts of Faith make us righteous in his sight and all this is to draw us near to him into a vibrant interactive relationship where we really get to know each other. Amazing! There is just so much going on in that teaching! It’s just wonderful being taught by God!

It is FAITH that Moves the Mountains

So being grounded in the reality of the Kingdom we know it is FAITH that triggers a prophecy to be fulfilled. It is the FAITH that MOVES the MOUNTAINS. It is not only a matter of time, immutable fate or little babies flying around in diapers that does this. God responds to our FAITH.

We now understand this better, that God responds to people with faith, nothing doubting, not because they are ‘special’ or merely ‘chosen to be blessed’ and have their prayers answered better while the rest of us suffer in silence. Don’t get me wrong, some people do get their prayers answered much more than others, but it is not because they are a chosen class above the other Christians. People actually think this!

It is simply because people without faith don’t receive as much from Him, sometimes nothing at all. I like to give an example of **two identical twins with identical promises and identical hairstyles but who may have very different outcomes of a personal prophecy based only on the differences in how they stand in faith**, their maturity level

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(again, their faith or trust), the depth of their relationship with God—how well they know Him in reality, how much time they spend with him in Spirit and in truth, how much they listen and obey. **Again, this is simply about how well they stand in faith and will directly affect what they receive from Him as well.**

That's why I like to say a warning prophecy should never come to pass, a promise of blessing always should. But so often the opposite is true. Now maybe you can see why I say this.

So Fight the Good Fight of Faith

If this is so, and it is, then we ought to take to heart what Paul said to Timothy.

1 TIMOTHY 1:18-19—¹⁸ “This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, **according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,** ¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck”

We fight in faith according to the personal prophecy that we have received. We act in faith, producing the works of faith. THIS is how you see a personal prophecy come to pass. No flying-diaper-babies required.

But still others are given personal prophecy and do not walk in faith—and they suffer shipwreck! Tragedy!

Satan therefore must hate our Faith and must be fighting against us acquiring it all the time! So, heads-up! Guard your heart! Guard your mouth! Protect your faith!

Faith is always required so a personal prophecy is always conditional. Faith means God responds to us, we have a say in our future—it is not all ‘set in stone.’ Yes, and if that's true it also means we can really mess things up! Don't mess things up! But actually God does not want us to fear, not even fear messing everything up! Why? Because anyway knowing this is so, we will not rely on ourselves, or lean on our own understanding or trust in Man, even when that Man is us. We know the danger and the consequences so we draw near to Him and trust Him and put our faith in Him! And if we do ... everything is going to be A-OK!

So we are now citizens of Heaven, members of His Body, Dwelling within the Kingdom of Light—we are no longer bound by the bondage of the dark rules of Fate so common in the world's media and Greek drama—IF we continue in His goodness.

We are so blessed beyond what we deserve to now be living in the Kingdom of God—so Trust in God—protect your faith because Faith Matters—we are not living in a Greek Tragedy!