

From Faith to Faith—Even NOW!

By Barbara L. Klika, MSW
Undershepherd; Personal Life Coach
& Janell I. Schroeder, BBA, Elder
www.Set-Apart-Ministries.org
November-December 2020

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. **For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith:** as it is written, The just shall live by faith. Romans 1:16-17 KJV*

The phrase “**from faith to faith**” caught my attention some years back. After some word study and exploration of commentaries, a picture began to form for me.

*...For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed, **both springing from faith and leading to faith [disclosed in a way that awakens more faith].** ... Romans 1:16-17 AMP*

I began to see a stairway of our faith development, with each step having been attained through an expression of faith and confidence in Messiah and thus being a springboard leading to the next step of maturing faith, part of our sanctification.

In the beginning, I began to see a picture of a sea in which people flounder around through life without faith. **Yam** is the Hebrew word for sea. It has connotations of both confusion/chaos and people/nations. I didn't know this when I first considered this picture! You might say they are “in the soup.”

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV

Our Elohim seeks us out and draws us to Himself out of the sea of unbelief and confusion. It is bad enough under “normal” times but oh, so much worse in the days we are living now! How thankful we are for already having a foothold on faith, and how concerned we are for those who are just now beginning to see their need!

The first step out of the soup onto faith reveals the righteousness of our God through our Messiah's work on our behalf, somehow made personal for each, and starting us onto the way of “disclosing Himself in a way that awakens more faith.” I see that this gift of our God is also relational. Over time, He walks **with** us through all the circumstances of our lives, and as we grow more confident of Him, and receive what He offers, our faith leads to increased faith. It is not “faith given” on the proverbial silver platter, but worked out

in and through our lives as we walk with Him. Truth be told, we often find that it grows more in difficult times than in times of ease. How awesome if we could learn early on to simply trust and keep moving straight up!

Unfortunately, for many of us, at the next sign of trouble, rather than standing firm on the faith that our God will answer our need, we fall or JUMP back into the sea of unbelief. We wait for Him to prove Himself to us once again, going back into confusion with the nations of lost people. When He graciously does so, we move back to the first step. How many times do we go through this, waiting for Him to prove Himself again, before we can STAND firmly in faith and confidence that since He responded before, He will again? Each of us who has been on this walk knows! Sometimes, we have even progressed several steps upward in faith, but when a particularly challenging event occurs, we may fall or jump all the way back down to the soup once again.

Our View (Figure 1)

We see the different physical/emotional or flesh struggles we have going from faith to faith. Walking, falling backwards to a lower level, carrying a burden we need exposed and released, sometimes crawling because it seems so hard, until we reach Him, but needing always to keep our eyes fixed on the goal in faith, Messiah! This is a good physical picture of how it looks to us as we struggle to overcome all, and we certainly do want to celebrate as we see we are doing better! Yet, there are also times that this focus is more about celebrating our own achievement, thinking it is our own victory. Maybe, congratulating ourselves for having held on, and still moving forward as we view it. *Yay! I made it!! I have overcome!* We may want to take credit for our perseverance!

YHWH's View (Figure 2)

It seems to me that the spiritual posture of the New Believer and the Mature Believer can be depicted here, too. Near the sea of unbelief and the first steps of faith, we are in our own "spotlight," perhaps standing, as it was for me, hands on hips, looking up to Him: *I believe in You, but You have to understand that I have things going on in my life and I can't take as much time to be with You as You seem to ask of me.* Through the trials of sanctification, faith to faith, we experience sorrow and joy, and learn of His faithfulness, and our weaknesses and faithlessness. Gradually, we realize that it isn't our strength that sustains us, but His. It is the breaking of the outer man, as Watchman Need called it. As we are nearer to the mature spectrum of faith, the typical posture is more likely one of kneeling and bowing low, saying: *Your will not mine. I yield to You alone.*

The figure 2 stair way "faith to faith" shows the spiritual picture of change from self-sufficiency to humility; a drastic change from the self-sufficient standing one in the early stages, but not what humans often want to see. It doesn't tickle ears! It is not really our personal victory alone, but Yah's victory! Through our experiences, He demonstrates that He alone is sufficient. As we yield to Him, we realize that in ourselves we can do nothing. The way up is down.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. James 4:10 KJV

We can't just drum up faith within ourselves by trying harder...It is a gift of Yah that none should boast. We need to humble ourselves and **ask Him for the gift of faith, an overcoming faith.....**and He gives us that gift through being in relationship with Him....working it out through the circumstances of our lives, allowing us to

experience His Presence and work on our behalf. That experience is what allows us to stand in faith, disclosed in such a way as to lead to more faith.

We are going through this very deeply disturbing and challenging time. Very bad things have happened and will likely continue to happen. By the time you read this, we will know the outcome of the US elections. We may or may not have yet another reprieve. No matter how it goes, we understand that major widespread violence is planned by some.

Do we turn and jump back into unbelief, and wait for our Abba to prove Himself to us once again? He can't work through us very easily if we fall back! Do we have such a track record with Him that we can remain yielded to Him, listening for His direction, no matter what we see happening around us? Our spiritually mature view of world events is to be through His eyes and His expectations, not through the eyes of men. In good economic times, the challenge to our faith is complacency. In difficult times it is fear. In the time nearing Messiah's return, our time, Daniel wrote that eventually even the set apart people will be shattered and it will appear as though evil has won. It isn't an easy time for anyone to grow in their faith but surely an important time to be able to stand in faith. In similar times described in Exodus and Ezekiel, the people who "sighed and cried" over their bondage and abominations, were remembered by our Covenant keeping God, and protected through it all. We sigh and cry when we realize how far wickedness has overcome His ways, as we continue to yield to Him.

Abba, Father please give Your people an overcoming faith! Right in the presence of our enemies, strengthen us whatever step we are on! Give us YOUR mark for those who sigh and cry over the abominations afoot! (Ezekiel 9:1-6) May it be so, in Yeshua's Name!

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. Luke 21:36 KJV

You may be interested in an email series of devotional studies on "Watch and Pray" found at our website:

<https://www.set-apart-ministries.org/watchandpray.html> In celebration of our 20 years of ministry, we are hosting an open house and want to offer our Introductory Booklet about all YHWH has been doing in and through us in Set Apart Ministries. Please contact us at info@set-apart-ministries.org!