

Trusting God to be the Difference Maker

Dennis Williams – Updated October 2018

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt you could only do so much, or that you were really powerless to make any major difference? God spoke very clearly to my heart awhile back when I was going through one of those times, and encouraged me to trust Him to be “the difference maker”. He reminded me of the story in Mark 14 when a woman anointed Jesus’ head with expensive ointment two days before His crucifixion. There were some at the table who were indignant with the woman. But Jesus rebuked them and said, “Leave her alone, she has done what she could.” (Mark 14:8) God took what she did and turned it into something very beautiful that has been proclaimed wherever the gospel has been preached down through history (Mark 14:9). That is “the God factor” – she did what she could, God greatly multiplied it beyond her wildest imagination.

God is the difference maker, the multiplier, the unseen factor that turns the ordinary into the miraculous, the natural into the supernatural. He is the One who can take that for which He leads us to trust Him, and by His grace, multiply it beyond all we could ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). He is the one who can take five loaves and two fishes and turn them into enough food to feed 5000 people (Matthew 14:17-21). He is the one who took 300 of Gideon’s men and defeated an army whose multitudes numbered like the sand on the seashore (Judges 7:12). He alone is the One who is able to bring to life things that are dead (Colossians 2:13), turn a desert into springs of water (Psalm 107:35), call into existence things that do not exist (Romans 4:17), and create anything and everything He wants out of nothing by His power (Hebrews 11:3). All things are from Him and through Him (1 Corinthians 8:6).

God wants us to trust Him! He is pleased by and rewards those who walk by faith in Him (Hebrews 11:6). We are never called to do things for God, but to do things with God, to be fellow workers with Him (1 Corinthians 3:9). He creates, then invites us to be co-creators with Him (Genesis 1:28; John 15:16). He is the one who gives the fruit as we abide and trust in Him (John 15:5, Hosea 14:8) and multiplies what is done for His glory. Nothing is too hard or impossible for Him (Jeremiah 32:17). Step out in faith, pray, listen to His Spirit as He guides you, do not fear, and see what God will do. I wonder if fear is a tool the enemy often uses to keep us from trusting God and seeing Him work on our behalf in amazing ways, miracles beyond what is humanly possible. We may feel very weak in a situation, but He is able to raise in power what is sown in weakness (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). He invites us to ask, so ask big. Decide to have “God-sized” faith (Matthew 7:7-11). I heard a missionary once say, “I’ve found that you get what you trust God for, and not a whole lot more.” I think he’s right.

Theologian J.B. Philips wrote a book in 1961 entitled *Your God is Too Small*. You can find a PDF copy on the web (http://thecommonlife.com/files/books/Your_God_is_Too_Small.pdf). His contention in the book is that if we don’t see God for who He really is, and understand what He is doing and able to do, we will not trust Him, or will trust Him for things that are far too small for who He is and what He’s doing.

Take time to get to know God. Grow in your understanding of His awesome power, and what He is doing in the world today. Ask Him what it is for which He wants you to trust Him. It will enable you to trust Him for things way beyond you, for “God-sized” prayer requests and miracles.

Below are some passages from the Bible that encourage us to make God “the difference-maker” in our lives. Take some time to look them over and use them to cross-reference to other verses if you’d like. Walking by faith, trusting God for more than we could ever dream, is a wonderful adventure – join in! He is faithful.

=====

Matthew 14:6-8

But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you will, you can do good to them; but you will not always have me. **She has done what she could**; she has anointed my body beforehand for burying."

Isaiah 60:22

The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who by the power at work within us **is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think**, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Mark 4:26-32

And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how. The earth produces of itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is **the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs**, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. **It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power**. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me.

1 Corinthians 3:4-7

For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apol'los," are you not merely men? What then is Apol'los? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apol'los watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, **to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us**.

1 Corinthians 1:26-27

For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

John 15:5-7

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, **for apart from me you can do nothing**. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, **ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you**.

Colossians 2:13

And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses...

Romans 4:16-19

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants -- not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, for he is the father of us all, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations" -- in the presence of the God in whom he believed, **who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist**. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations; as he had been told, "So shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was **as good as dead** because he was about a hundred years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

Hebrews 11:11-12

Therefore from one man, and him **as good as dead**, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

Matthew 14:17-21

They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish **he looked up to heaven, and blessed**, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Hebrews 11:32-34

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- **who through faith** conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.

Jeremiah 32:17

Ah Lord GOD! It is thou who hast made the heavens and the earth by thy great power and by thy outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for thee,

Matthew 7:7-11

Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Matthew 18:19

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show his might in behalf of those whose heart is blameless toward him.

Matthew 19:26

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but **with God all things are possible.**"

1 Corinthians 8:6

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Psalms 107:35

He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

John 15:16

You did not choose me, **but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.