

THE LANGUAGE OF DEFEAT - II

Heb.13:5-7

INTRODUCTION:

If we could just calmly accept the Lord's assurance of His always-abiding presence with us, there'd not be anything we'd ever have to face that would weaken or disrupt our faith. It's when we get the idea that we're all alone, that the Lord is not with us or that He just doesn't CARE, that we start to feel weak and weary and even defeated! [Text] Heb 13:5-7 *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" 7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct."*

Last week we considered how some thru the ages had used the of Language of Defeat, thereby allying themselves with Satan as HIS fellowworkers. Talked of Hebrew children in Egypt & also in the Wilderness; of Job's wife; the One Talent man and finally about Felix. A study of this kind is not really complete without a more thorough consideration of the examples God also gives us of the POSITIVE ATTITUDES shown by some of His most faithful servants. **IT IS ONLY WHEN WE CAN IDENTIFY THOSE ATTRIBUTES WHICH ARE PLEASING TO GOD THAT WE CAN MOST READILY EXEMPLIFY THEM IN OUR OWN LIVES!**

I. ABRAHAM WAS NOT HINDERED BY A DEFEATIST ATTITUDE.

Rom.4:19-22- *"And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."*

A. We usually haven't been **defeated**, nor spoken the defeatist's language, **because we COULD NOT DO a particular thing**, but because **WE JUST DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH FAITH** and **WOULDN'T SACRIFICE OUR OWN DESIRES** in order to get the job done!

1. Have you ever wondered why **ABRAHAM** was called the *"father of the faithful"*?

2. It's precisely because of his attitude proclaimed in the words of verse 20: *"He did not waver through unbelief... at the promise of God"*!

B. The promise of God may have **seemed impossible**, and **contrary to all nature** for Abraham to have an heir at his and Sarah's ages, *but God doesn't make impossible promises!*

C. Brethren, we need to **BELIEVE GOD MORE --** and stop allowing DOUBT and the defeatist's attitude to *frustrate our efforts*, with such words as *"I just don't see how we can do it" ... or, "I don't know how we can ever grow or get more people in this area!"*

1. Every time the words start being sounded, we need to **GET AWAY FROM THE LANGUAGE OF DEFEAT** and just **SET ABOUT DOING GOD'S WILL!**

2. And we can do this, God willing, if we can just overcome this *momentary lapse of faith!*

a) Have you ever been working with some loved one/ relative/ friend, who seemed a little slow in accepting the Truth, which caused you to think/speak the language of defeat: *"I don't believe they'll ever come to church" or "They'll never obey the gospel"?*

b) Listen to God's promise: **Isa.55:8-11-***"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water*

the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 **So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**"

- c) That's a promise of God! DO YOU BELIEVE IT? If you do, then you'll teach His word and trust HIM to cause the increase! **1 Cor.3:6** "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."

II. JOSHUA & CALEB WERE AGGRESSIVE FOR THE LORD! Num.13:

- A. Their attitude was: "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it!" **v.30**.
1. Their **great faith in God** manifested itself in a **STRONG TRUST** in **HIS** ability to help them!
 2. We need to also put our trust in God and realize that we're NOT in this fight against Satan alone.
- B. Contrast the attitude of Joshua and Caleb with the defeatist language of the other ten spies: "**WE** are not able to go up against this people...".
1. They seemed to forget that this was **GOD'S** leadership and fight! **Num.14:6-9**- "But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 "If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' 9 "Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."
 2. Some of US seem to also underestimate God at times, don't we? **Rom.8:31**-"**IF GOD is for us, who can be against us?**"

III. THE APOSTLES OF CHRIST WERE NOT DEFEATISTS! Acts 1:8- "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES** to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- A. Do you get the picture? Can you see the great scope of their work? Twelve relatively uneducated men "**you're to be orators to the whole world!**" **Matt.28:19-20; Mk.16:15-16.**
- B. The commission Jesus gave these apostles would seem to be *utterly impossible*, but **THEY DID NOT QUESTION THIS ASSIGNMENT NOR THE GREAT ORDEAL OF ITS FULFILLMENT!**
- C. What if **WE** had been there? Would Jesus then have heard the **words of defeat** from **OUR** lips? Would **WE** have **FRETTE**d with words like: "**But, Lord, all the WORLD???**"
1. Or, how many obstacles and difficulties could we call to mind that we'd like HIM to address for us? viz. Persecutions; being forbidden to speak; cast into jail; beatings; et al. **Acts 4:19-20** "But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." **Acts 5:29** "But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."
 2. And just look at the results of the efforts of these **POSITIVE PREACHING PEOPLE of the Lord's**: in 30-35 years the gospel was preached to the entire world! **Col.1:23**- "if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister."

IV. LOOK AT THE EVIL EFFECTS OF THE DEFEATIST'S ATTITUDE:

- A. First, consider the Hebrews who left Egypt: **Num.14:22-23, 34-35**- "because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, 23 "they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it..... 34 'According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection. 35 'I the LORD have spoken this; I will surely do so to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.'"
1. They wandered for 40 years in the wilderness until all those over 20 who left Egypt were dead, except for Joshua and Caleb.
 2. NONE was allowed to enter into Canaan [which was a type of "heaven" for us] who had a defeatist's attitude!
- B. One other quick reference is to the One-Talent-Man.
1. The **RESULT** of his defeatist attitude: "Cast into outer darkness..."
 2. God will not tolerate NOR ACCEPT a man with a defeatist attitude, like those Hebrew children or the 1-talent-man. ALL SUCH will be punished by God!

V. ON THE OTHER HAND, SEE THE RESULTS OF TRUSTING IN GOD!

- A. If we truly TRUST GOD, we'll have the attitude that WE CAN DO ALL THINGS, because we'll have the confidence that God is with us and that HE IS ABLE to help us!
1. **Phil.4:13**- "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
 2. **Neh.4:20**- "'Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.'"
 3. **Neh.2:18**- "And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to *this* good work."
 4. **1 Cor.15:57**- "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- B. NO ONE can come to trust in God except by their own desire and efforts!

CONCLUSION:

If your work for the Lord has dropped off appreciably, or is at a standstill, and you're not actively engaged with brethren who are pressing the fight for God, *one of two things is perhaps true:*

- 1) Either you're not willing to give up the enjoyments of this life for the cause of Christ [*Whether it's perceived as being too hard, or too aggressive, or too inconvenient, or costs too much!*], **OR**-
- 2) You have a DEFEATIST'S ATTITUDE! Like those who have just "given up" ... "We just can't do it"!! Maybe you're just sitting back like Elijah and waiting for death to take you!

THE ONLY WAY we might overcome the defeatist attitude is by have a POSITIVE OUTLOOK that we can do everything God expects of us, and then by relying on Him to help us! Jesus the Christ left His heavenly abode, lived without a home here, was rejected by His own people, was mocked and ridiculed, then falsely accused, and, without a fair trial, was condemned to die --- yet, HIS WAS A LIFE OF TRIUMPH!

We can be triumphant too, if we'll just devote and dedicate ourselves to letting Christ live in us! *ARE YOU AN AMBITIOUS, AGGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN?* If not, you're a subject of the Lord's invitation tonight!