

## The Word Did Not Profit Them

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Hebrews 4:1-2**, "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."

The people spoken of in this scripture heard the truth. The Word given to them was from God and the people knew it. In **Exodus 20:19** they said, "Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die." As you read of the journey from Egypt unto the promised land, and for many years they heard God's message, but often failed to heed it. They didn't believe that God would give them victory when they could have entered the land of promise. **Numbers 14**. There was no faith in God, even after they had seen mira-

cles time and time again. They suffered for their lack of faith.

Today some folks hear the Word as the ministers of God preach it. Yet, it is sad to see so few who take it seriously and grow spiritually. The greatest medicine in the world will not help if a person will not take it. God's Word is the instruction that we need to live for the Lord. As wonderful, true, and blessed as it is, it will not help if we will not follow what God has told us to do. **Luke 6:46**, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

The one thing required for the Word of God to work for good in the life of a man is for it to be taken in faith. Without faith there is no relationship with God. **Hebrews 11:6**, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Faith, it makes the difference in a person's life. Two people can hear the same message and both say that they believe it. One may go on to walk according to God's Word and the other may not.

The devil has confused and blinded so many to the truth of God's Word. Some teach that all you have to do is to say that you believe. Sounds good doesn't it? No commitment, no pressure, just say it and that's all there is to it, or so they say. The big problem with it is that it is not what God says. For those who fall for such a doctrine there will be a major disappointment when they face God. Why, because they listened to man instead of God. Remember Adam and Eve in Genesis 3? They listened to another voice instead of what God had told them and their excuses didn't help them.

True faith in the Lord is to believe and to obey what he has told us to do. Anyone who says that they believe but don't obey are only fooling himself. To believe is to obey and to do, not as we or man think, but as God says. **James 2:18**, "For the word to help us it has to be believed and obeyed, there is no other way." If there is no faith in the scriptures then it won't help if we hear all of it. Faith, either we have it, or we don't.

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MY FOURTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE ARE ALMOST AT AN END.

THIS IS A DRAMATIZED VERSION OF FACTS TAKEN FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS INTENDING TO SHOW SOME OF THE CUSTOMS OF THESE ANCIENT AND TRADITIONAL TIMES.

**JACOB'S TOIL**

IN ORDER TO WIN RACHEL AS A WIFE, JACOB HAD TO ACCEPT LEAH AS A WIFE ALSO, AND SERVE LABAN FOR ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS DUE TO LABAN'S TRICKY BARGAINING, NOW...

I WILL ASK LABAN TO LET ME GO!

LET ME GO THAT I MAY TAKE MY WIVES AND MY CHILDREN TO MY OWN COUNTRY!

I PRAY THAT THOU WOULDST STAY WITH ME IN THIS COUNTRY.

BUT IF THOU MUST LEAVE, GO THOU MUST.

WHAT WAGES WILT THOU HAVE FOR THY SERVICE!

THOU KNOWEST HOW WELL THY CATTLE HAVE THRIVED UNDER MY CARE!

LET ME HAVE ALL THE BROWN SPECKLED AND SPOTTED CATTLE WHEN MY SERVICE IS ENDED AND THOU SHALT KEEP THOSE THAT HAVE NO BLEMISH!

AS THOU SAYEST IT, LET IT BE ACCORDING TO THY WORD.

AND JACOB STRAIGHTWAY BEGINS TO SEPARATE THE CATTLE...

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