

LORD, I BELIEVE! **LORD, I RECEIVE!**

By
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It was early one morning when I heard a question prompted by the Spirit of God: “*Son, do you believe everything I have said in MY WORD to be true?*” The question stunned me! I hesitated to answer because I have been living this life of believing in the Almighty for more than four decades and never ever stopped believing in Him. While I paused and hesitated for a moment, the answer came speedily from my mouth: “*Yes Lord, I believe everything You have said in Your WORD to be true! I believe all of it, every bit of it.*” The next question from the Spirit of God was immediate: “*Are you willing to receive everything I have offered you from My WORD?*” I did not hesitate for even a split second: “*Yes, Lord! I want to receive everything You have offered me from Your Holy WORD!*”

Mark 4:35-41 tells us that the disciples of Jesus were confronted with a frightening situation as the Sea of Galilee assaulted their small boat. “*And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, ‘Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?’ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm*” (Mark 4:37-39).

The disciples were believers; they also lived with Jesus and had front seats to all His wonders and miracles; they saw the glory of God; they heard the thundering voice of the Heavenly Father acknowledging Jesus as His beloved Son; they heard the explanation of all the parables. Even prior to this trip on the boat, there was this simple but firm command of Jesus to His disciples: “*On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, ‘**Let us cross over to the other side**’*” (Mark 4:35). But when the panic hit the disciples, they not only forgot the instruction of Jesus prior to the journey they also forgot that He was very much with them in the boat resting!

What happened to the disciples could easily happen to you and me. While you may be a staunch believer in God and His word and rely very much upon His presence and power to guide you daily, you may be easily caught up in a similar situation where all your belief and confidence in God may have evaporated because of turmoil, chaos, confusion, a storm or shaking and you may be crying out for God’s help through your unbelief, not your belief. On such occasion, the Spirit of God comes to you and whispers in your ears: “*Son, do you believe everything I have said in MY WORD is true?*”

Let us take a journey in the Scriptures and look at the places where believing in Jesus in the most desperate situations made all the difference in the world! From death to life, condemnation to salvation, uncleanness to wholeness and storm to calm!

“Be not Afraid, Only Believe!”

Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, was heartbroken because his little girl was at the point of death. He came to Jesus and requested him to come to his place to heal his 12-year old daughter: *“My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live”* (Mark 5:23). Jesus was on His way to Jairus’ home but was stopped by the faith of a woman with an issue of blood for 12 years. This woman’s illness must have begun at the same time when Jairus’ daughter was born. For twelve long years the woman had seen many physicians and spent all that she had to no avail. She grew worse and worse! Finally, when she heard that Jesus was passing by, she mustered all her strength, pressed through the crowd and touched the hem of Jesus’ garment! The power of God went out of Jesus and she was miraculously healed! She saw something different about Jesus than what the multitude saw. She was not on Jesus’ agenda but Jesus was on her agenda. While she confessed that it was she that touched Jesus for her own healing, Jesus was delayed going to Jairus’ home. In the mean time the news came to Jairus from his home that his daughter was dead. Jesus overheard the news and comforted Jairus with these words: *“Be not afraid, only believe”* (Mark 5:36).

Even after death had set in, Jesus reassured Jairus not to be afraid but only to believe. Jesus then went on to Jairus’ home and raised his daughter from the dead. You see, the matter of Jairus’ daughter’s healing was settled as soon as it was brought to Jesus’ attention. A delayed response from God is not a negative response but an appropriate one that we all need in times of crisis. The miracle finally happened and the prayer of Jairus was answered! His daughter was made whole! A twelve yearlong problem with a frail woman was alleviated and a twelve year old girl was raised from the dead!

What grips your heart today? Have you approached God on a specific matter where you desperately need Him? Has there been a delay? Has the delay resulted in the death of a situation where you have lost all your hope? Listen to the comforting words of Jesus even after you think that all is lost and there is no chance for any restoration: ***“Be not afraid, only believe.”***

Jairus approached Jesus with his faith but there came a time when his faith was tested and all hope was lost with the death of his daughter. From the time you approach God on a specific matter with your faith to the time you receive an answer from Him, it is important that you stay the course of believing everything God has said to you from His WORD and ***not listen*** to the devil that sows seeds of doubt into your heart. Your faith will be tested and tried but know that the Holy Spirit is travailing on your behalf to help you receive your answer. You must, on your part, shut out the naysayers, doubters who question God’s word and detractors of faith and focus on God only and His uncompromising word. Your prayer with faith must be, ***“Lord, I believe! Lord, I receive!”***

“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

Sometimes it may not be unbelief in God but a disappointment or an offense caused by someone that may have taken you from believing in God totally for your answer. Several years ago, a mother brought her daughter into our home to ask me to pray for her. Her husband was sterile and the medical determination on his condition was that there was one in 4 million chances that he could father a child. They had gone to several meetings to receive prayer. They had particularly described their last experience where they had to wait through a long line of people for their prayer and when the time came, they were sent home without any hope or prayer. As I listened to their story, I recalled a remarkable healing report from Jesus’ ministry found in Mark 9:14-29. A father approached Jesus with the request that He heal his son possessed by a dumb spirit that His disciples could not. Jesus answered with a question: *“O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me”* (Mark 9:19).

Jesus then touched the very core of the father with this question: *“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes”* (Mark 9:23). It was not the question of who prayed for the son but a matter of what the father believed in. When Jesus touched on the man’s belief, this was the response of the father to Jesus: *“Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief’”* (Mark 9:24)! A true confession cleansed the soul of the father and immediately, his son was delivered from a deaf and dumb spirit by Jesus!

In the situation with a mother and daughter I had described earlier, I sensed while the mother and the daughter were believers, Satan was exploiting them with disappointments they had experienced in some of their religious circles. Such disappointments can cause unbelief in a believer’s heart. While they had begun their journey in believing in God’s miracle touch for their healing, a root of offense or bitterness at people or circumstances might have prevented them from receiving their healing. It is not disbelief in God but disbelief in people that prevents some from receiving their miracle answer to their prayers. All through the time while this mother and daughter were describing their disappointment, I was not focused on their medical problem but more on relieving them from carrying that specific offense they had collected in the previous place. Once we came into an agreement to release that particular offense and prayed for the miracle, the miracle manifested within three months. The couple went on to receiving not just one child but three beautiful children from the blessed hand of God!

My dearly beloved, you may be a believer in God but have been clouded in your believing and receiving from God due to an offense you may be carrying against someone who may have betrayed your trust. The church world is filled with roots of offenses that Satan has exploited in believers so as to delay their miracle answers from God. Your prayer must be along the lines of these words: *“Lord, forgive me for my*

offense I have carried against this individual. In holding that offense, I had departed from fully believing in a miracle-providing God and receiving that miracle. Lord, please help my unbelief as I release this offense and forgive those who wronged me. Lord, I believe every Word You have said to be true; I receive every word, every miracle, every provision, every answer You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen!"

"Lord, I Believe You Are the Messiah!"

There comes a moment in every believer's life when God transcends beyond being a Provider to become the Awesome Great "I AM" – the Living, Breathing, Self-Existing Eternal Creator who is the Ruler of all things and whose breath transforms the very core of one's being! Surprisingly, this revelation may not come in the midst of all comforts and happiness but in the valley of the shadow of death itself!

I recall the moment I saw Jesus as a teenager while I was given up to die by the doctors. In those last moments I saw the Brilliant Light of God invading my room! From the middle of the heavenly light, I saw the eyes of Jesus piercing through me! I could not hide from Him! I was transparent before Him! I had no words to speak! I was shaken by the awesomeness of God's majesty, glory and power! My body was literally shaking! From the middle of that heavenly light, Jesus spoke powerfully: *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25).*

Those words *"I am the resurrection and the life"* were loudly reverberating over and over in my mind. The words, *"I AM, I AM, I AM, I AM"* were booming louder and louder into my being. Suddenly, my frail body stopped trembling and the revelation took hold of me...Jesus is indeed the "Awesome and the Great I AM!" It was as though the resurrection life of Jesus was emptied into my dying body and I was made whole! I was healed by the resurrection power of Jesus!

Let me take you back to John 11 from which Jesus spoke to my personal need. In that chapter, we read of Lazarus' death. Four days after Lazarus' death, Jesus visited Lazarus' home in Bethany. Martha, Mary and Lazarus' home was a very special to Jesus in that He would find a few moments of comfort and rest there. Lazarus' was a personal friend. Martha and Mary were devastated by the fact that their brother had died and Jesus did not come in time to heal him. As soon as Jesus came near Lazarus' home, Martha rushed out to meet Him. Here's the exchange between Martha and Jesus:

"Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to Him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world’ (John 11:20-27).

Jesus had to face the same question from Mary as well. Following the conversations with Martha and Mary, it is mentioned three times that Jesus either groaned in His spirit or wept: *“Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to Him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, ‘See how He loved him!’... Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it” (John 11:33-36,38).*

You know the rest of the story. A miracle happened and Lazarus was raised from the dead! In both accounts – Lazarus’ and mine – Jesus appeared in the power of His resurrection before those who travailed in their pain and suffering. In my case, I was in the last moments of my life; Lazarus, however, was dead and his family was in turmoil. The weaker I was, the stronger and more powerful Jesus was in His stature. In the exchange between Martha and Jesus, once the revelation was set within Martha’s heart that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, her burden was lifted! From then on, it was Jesus who carried the burden and groaned in His spirit to bring life into a dead body!

Have you ever experienced trusting someone the way a child trusts their parents with their need as they go to sleep with total confidence that their need will be fully met by their parents? The moment you had trusted your parents and passed your burden on to them, it became their burden. They will do all they can to fulfill the promise they have given you. **Likewise, when you trust Jesus as the Messiah, the Ruler of all things and the Lord over your life and commit all that you are and all that you have into His hands, it becomes Jesus’ responsibility to carry you over to your destination.** Remember Jesus’ words: *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).*

When the resurrection power of Jesus flows through your mortal bodies, every cell of your being will be charged up with the newness of God’s life! After revealing Himself to Martha, Jesus asked her, *“Do you believe this?”* My question to you is, *“Do you believe? Do you receive?”*

“Be of Good Cheer, I Believe God!”

The Apostle Paul had to be in good spirits as he firmly believed in God through the storm that devastated the ship that was taking him to Rome. His comforting words to the sailors: *“Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me” (Acts 27:25).* The Apostle Paul was not just believing because he had a good “feeling” about things to come but his belief was based on what God had told him

earlier. Here are the three accounts of God speaking to him concerning his journey to Rome:

- 1) *“Then (the Lord) said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles’” (Acts 22:21).*
- 2) *“But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, ‘Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome’” (Acts 23:11).*
- 3) *“For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you’” (Acts 27:23-24).*

The first word from the Lord was a command! The second word was a comfort! The third word was a confirmation! That’s all it took for the Apostle Paul’s faith to lift him above his circumstances and stand firmly through his storm! Faith comes by listening and firmly holding on to what the Messiah Himself has revealed to you! In the midst of the storms, turmoil, perplexities and pain, there was a man named Paul who was calm because he knew that he would reach his destination. With his calm assurance he strengthened those surrounding him. Paul believed God who spoke to him; Paul relied on God to fulfill what He had promised him; Paul was composed and calm while everyone around him was hopeless and in despair! The word Paul believed in carried him and his passengers to safety.

The world is in turmoil. The chaos in this world deepens every day. There is hopelessness written all over the faces of the multitudes. Every day is passing by and people are wandering without a glimmer of hope. A storm of cataclysmic proportion is raging all around you. At this very critical hour, it takes a man or woman, boy or girl, who has heard from God to rise to the level above the storms and hopelessness and bring hope and comfort to those who are lost. Joseph brought hope to Pharaoh; Esther and Mordecai defeated the enemy’s onslaught with prayer and fasting; Daniel became such a mentor to Nebuchadnezzar that the King named him after his own god. These were a small part of God’s remnant throughout history that brought hope to the hopeless, strength to the weak and life to those who were dying around them.

The more you believe what God has spoken to you the stronger you are in facing the enemy and overcoming your unbelief in the midst of the storm. Remember what you have heard from God. Rehearse what you have been commanded to do. Relive the moments of intimacies where God has imparted that special word that cannot be taken away from you. Every time you recall, concentrate on and believe the promises of God, you grow stronger and stronger. On the other hand, every time you yield to the enemy he will cause a spiritual amnesia of God’s spoken word to you and that will make you become weaker and weaker. Don’t let that happen to you. Be strong in the name of the Lord; be settled in the power of His might; for the Lord thy God is with you wherever He

has commanded you to go because He will never fail you, nor will He ever forsake you! Pray this prayer: ***“Lord, I believe what You have told me. I will follow through to do what You have asked me to do. I will receive Your strength, guidance, protection and favor to reach my destination. I will stand in the midst of my storms because You are with me!”***

All Things are Possible!

*“Lord, I believe; Lord, I believe
All things are possible, Lord, I believe!
Lord, I believe; Lord, I believe
All things are possible, Lord, I believe!”*

*Lord, I receive; Lord, I receive
All things are possible, Lord, I receive!
Lord, I receive; Lord, I receive
All things are possible, Lord, I receive!”*

It has been a progressive journey over 40 years that has taken me from the place of bondage, sins and iniquities to believing that every word God has said is true and every promise God has given, He will fulfill for His glory, honor and praise! I would rather believe in Him and His word than trust or believe fables, stories, opinions or the promises of men. There is no opinion that can alter God’s word however good it may sound. There is no belief contrary to who God is and what He is all about. There is no wisdom or counsel against the Lord. What God said He would do, He will!

These are not universal facts but I could hardly forget the stages God has brought me through to totally believing in Him and receiving from Him. The stages are parallel to that of a seed sown on the ground and watching it becoming a fruit-bearing tree:

- **Miracle Seed of God’s Word:** It is the stage in which one comes to know God through His powerful and potent word that delivers them from their bondage and sin. I Peter 1:23: *“...Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”* As I wrote in the third section of this article, my very first introduction to my Jesus was through the miracle seed of His word that I had to believe in to receive my miracle healing and deliverance.
- **Miracle Growth in God’s Word:** *“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious” (I Peter 2:1-3).* It is natural for newborn babies to thirst for milk that makes them grow. This is also true for a believer who has been brought from death to life, from bondage to promise, from darkness to light and from condemnation to new life. God’s word was and is the milk of life, the water in the

desert for me then and now. There is nothing more powerful and fulfilling than God's word. There is nothing more transforming than God's word. There is a prerequisite to consuming God's word – thirst for God Himself. For a three year old baby, mommy means "food!" For a newborn believer, God means "food" and the "food" is His "word!" In this stage, the seed has taken root and become a plant!

- **Stability in God's Word:** Life is full of challenges, trials, tests and storms. When a growing tree faces storms and winds, it spreads its roots down into the soil. The deeper and wider its roots are the stronger it stands against the storm. So it is with a believer who faces challenges in life who thirsts after God and His presence through His holy word. The disciples forgot Jesus' words given to them before the storm: ***"Let us cross over to the other side"*** (Mark 4:35). And they were tormented. The Apostle Paul remembered what Jesus told him: *"Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome"* (Acts 23:11). Paul not only survived the storm but also saved all those around him. The promise of God comes ahead of the storm.

Several years ago while I was praying and waiting on God's specific promise that He would open the continent of Africa to us to share His word with the souls on that great continent. After our arrival in Africa, on the eve of our first crusade when the promise was about to be fulfilled, I found myself fighting with the devil who attacked our daughter with the worst case of malaria. I prayed as my child was lying faint in my arms, *"Lord, You have not brought me here for the devil to defeat me. I have been walking with Your promise and waiting for years for this precious moment of being a blessing to this continent and I will not be defeated now. In the name of Jesus, my Lord, whom I serve, I believe and receive the miracle healing for Elizabeth!"* The devil disappeared and my daughter was healed! Since that day, Africa has been opened to us to share the good news! Glory to God!

- **Wisdom through God's Word:** The more I grow in the Lord, I find myself worshipping Him in His attributes – God is wise, righteous, holy, just, true, kind, merciful, gracious, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, forgiving, gentle, kind, longsuffering, good, loving, restoring and jealous for His children. God's attributes are God's characteristics. The more we are filled with the admiration, respect, adoration and worship of our Heavenly Father, the more we are filled with the "knowledge of the Holy." *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding"* (Proverbs 9:10). The knowledge of a holy God brings understanding and wisdom to discern the differences in times, seasons, man, woman, culture and children. **Wisdom is the applied knowledge of God's holy word in all situations, circumstances and relationships. As a believer believes, trusts and receives God's word in respect, admiration and adoration, they will grow in wisdom!**

- **Fruitful Stage:** The stage every believer is waiting for is the stage where they yield fruit in all seasons. A tree that has weathered the storms, been watered and nurtured, is a tree sure to yield much fruit! *“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit”* (Jeremiah 17:7-8). A believer that trusts and hopes in the Lord is likened to a tree that spreads out its roots by the rivers of living water. They will not see drought or famine and will never cease from yielding fruit. What a great promise in God’s word! This is where I want to be year after year by the strength, grace and favor of the Almighty! **It is a promise to all those who will believe and receive from God!**

Please pray with me: ***“Heavenly Father, I thank you for Your Holy Word. I desire to grow in You nurtured by the pure milk of Your word. As I grow, feed me with the meat of Your word. Help me to appreciate You with admiration, adoration and worship. I thank You for leading me and guiding me through the many trials and storms. I praise You for Your wisdom, knowledge and understanding. I desire, O Lord, to be a fruitful tree for your glory, honor and praise. Lord, I believe! Lord, I receive! In the most precious name of my Lord Jesus, I pray, Amen!”***