

THE CELESTIAL RAILROAD

May 26th, 2019 – The Celestial Railroad
Part 16 – Doubting Castle and Giant Despair

Our adversary, the devil, tries to create a clever smoke show by insinuating that doubt and despair no longer exist on the pilgrimage to the Celestial City and that appealing entertainment now replaces the Doubting Castle. Please [click on this link](#) and read ‘Doubting Castle and Giant Despair’. If you’d like to review this part in Pilgrim’s Progress, please [click on this link](#) and read Chapter 25.

We read in the Celestial Railroad; *"This was formerly the castle of the formidable Giant Despair," observed Mr. Smooth-it-away; "but, since his death, Mr. Flimsy-faith has repaired it, and now keeps an excellent house of entertainment here. It is one of our stopping places."*

The reality is, Giant Despair is relentless in trying to take down whoever comes across his path. Christian in Pilgrim’s Progress escaped from his clutches and Christiana and her family killed him in Christiana’s Progress, but the demonic spirit of despair still is in existence and will be until the very end when Jesus ultimately conquers him in the end. This giant will always be killing, stealing and destroying whomever it can, regardless of the cover-up that Mr. Smooth-it-away deviously suggests.

It appears that Mr. Smooth-it-away is once again trying to smooth away the existence of Giant Despair with a House of Entertainment built by Mr. Flimsy-Faith. When you’re not born again, your faith is flimsy, you have faith to believe in Jesus, but when it comes to receiving his Lordship in your life and being born again of His Spirit, faith is replaced with fear and fear gives way to despair.

Those on the Celestial Railroad are not born again, so the House of Entertainment built by Flimsy-faith, appears to be a smoke show designed to create an atmosphere of Bible believing faith that will sustain the illusion that believing in the Bible is alone sufficient for salvation. But it appears that the author riding the train is seeing through this contemporary Christian House of Entertainment, that it is nothing more than a House of Cards on the verge of collapse.

We read in the Celestial Railroad; *"It seems but slightly put together," remarked I, looking at the frail, yet ponderous walls. "I do not envy Mr. Flimsy-faith his habitation. Some day it will thunder down upon the heads of the occupants. We shall escape, at all events," said Mr. Smooth-it-away; "for Apollyon is putting on the steam again."*

At these words, Mr. Smooth-it-away sees that the author is not convinced of the charade and has Apollyon put the pedal to the metal to leave as soon as possible so as expose the smoke show that it actually is.

To read more about how Christian and Hopeful were caught by Giant Despair, go to BunyanMinistries.org to see the tactics of this giant and how to be on guard for him. Despair and fear are fruits of the devils work. It’s not the fruit of the born again Christian. We’re not saying that you won’t have powers, principalities and rulers of the dark spirit realm try to affect your life in one way, shape or the other, but we know that you and I have the authority in the name of Jesus to bind and cast out the spirits of fear and despair when they raise their ugly heads.

In **Ephesians 2:19-22**, we read about Christ being our cornerstone; *"19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."*

THE CELESTIAL RAILROAD

This is our position today; we're not in the dungeon of despair but we have the mind of Christ. How many churches today have become nothing more than entertainment centers that are not preaching repentance and the need to be born again as a prerequisite to inherit salvation? Without the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, living inside of you by being born again, you're always going to be over taken by the spirit fear and despair. Why? Because you only 'believe' in Jesus but do not repent of your sins and do not receive His Holy Spirit in you; and this will ultimately lead to being eternally separated from Jesus.

That does not sound like a good deal, does it? Why? Because you'll be tormented by the spirit of fear that will lead to despair which in turn can lead to suicide or some mental illness of depression, and on top of that, it will affect your eternal life by not going to heaven. It doesn't matter how good your life looks like in the 'natural', the end result is a person walking in fear, doubt and unbelief.

Even a savvy business person or lawyer with a rational and logistical mind will tell you that's not a good deal! They'd tell you to go for the born again life and run with it – you won't fail now or for eternity. To some it may look foolish by the worlds standards, but it's the better deal! But how many on the road to destruction and despair, being hood winked by the devil?

Romans 8:14-16 says; *“14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”*

2 Timothy 1:6-7 also says; *“6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* This is what everyone today wants, but can't get if they're not born again.

So long as the Holy Spirit is replaced with entertainment, then the gifts of the Spirit can not operate and without the Holy Spirit you don't have power, love or a sound mind, and ultimately are given over to a spirit of fear which leads to despair – which leads to many destructive roads.

We read what Jesus says in **John 14:15-18** about the promised Helper; *“15 If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”*

Mr. Smooth-it-away wants you to stay on the easy believing train and will always make provision for the flesh to be entertained with enough Christian Contemporary seeker friendly fellowship, to keep you believing without repenting of your sins and receiving Jesus' Lordship in your life.

Acts 2:38 says; *“38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

That is so clear! Repent, be baptized in Jesus name, and receive the Holy Spirit! With the Holy Spirit, you have comfort, power, love and a sound mind.

Acts 3:19 says something similar; *“19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,”*

Again; repent, be converted, your sins will be removed and you'll be refreshed! You don't loose with salvation. Will the devil still try to buffet you with despair and fear, of course, by you have the power in Jesus name to take authority over him and not stay in that place and dungeon of despair.

THE CELESTIAL RAILROAD

By only believing in the Jesus without repenting of your sins and receiving his Holy Spirit, is like building your house on a foundation of sand.

In **Matthew 7:24-27** Jesus says this; *“24Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”*

It's not rocket science, Jesus made this very easy to understand. It's foolish to build your life on sand that shifts and changes continually, but Jesus is the solid rock on whom you can build your life and faith.

Are you a Bible believer being entertained in churches that are built by Mr. Flimsy-faith? Are you experiencing more despair and you don't have a sound mind? Well, it's a clear indicator that you need to repent of your sins, be born again of the Holy Spirit, leave that House of Entertainment and get off the Celestial Railroad once and for all. Keep in mind that hell has no fire exit.

The good deal is being born again. The passing pleasures of this world, sin for a season, plus fear, despair, doubt and unbelief do not sound enticing at the cost of loosing eternal life with Jesus in The Celestial City. Persecutions will come for those who follow Jesus, but they're temporal and are nothing compared to the eternal prize of heaven. It's not a hard decision to choose today which is the better road. Your decision time is today as you're not promised tomorrow. Your decision will affect you for eternity, whether you spend it in heaven or hell. God is not willing that any perish but He's given you a free will to choose Him or deny Him. By denying Him, you've made the decision for hell. If you're not born again right now and you deny Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you've lost the best deal and the Lord will remind you of it at the time of judgement. It's your choice.

The Apostle Peter says this about the enduring Word in **1 Peter 1:22-25**; *“22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because “All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”*

Jesus is the Word and He will abide forever, whether you believe it or not or whether you receive it or not. It will abide forever. The Word – Jesus – is not seasonal, appearing in Spring and disappearing in Autumn, it's not sporadic or like a yoyo. The Word – Jesus – will not conform Himself to something new, contemporary and appealing to the flesh. He is the same today, yesterday and forever. **Malachi 3:6** says; *“For I am the Lord, I do not change;”*

The same God who was with Abraham, Moses, King David, Jeremiah, Meshach, Shadrach, Abed-Nego, all the Patriarchs, all the Apostles and all the Disciples, as He was with them, he's with you – if you know Him as Saviour and Lord. God didn't go down and come back up, He didn't fade away and come back – He does not change.

If you grasp this today, you'll walk in a lot more peace and joy. How can you pass on the deal of the one who created you and spoke you into existence, that is promising you eternal life in heaven through salvation in Him, that promises your life here on earth to be filled with love, peace, joy, happiness and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The choice is yours. Choose to be born again.