

I HAD FAINTED UNLESS I HAD BELIEVED (PSALM 27:13)

By Don Krider

Just recently I woke up with a thought that refreshed my heart: going through in 2002. I'm not saying it was from the Lord, but there is something going on. There is an excitement going on everywhere that I have been in this country. It is not what I would like to see yet, but I am sure that it is going to happen. I'm sure there is going to be a renewing of the Spirit of God in people's lives. There is going to be a re-evaluating as we see things in the natural begin to fall apart, I believe the Church is going to focus again on that which is stable and that which is Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Rev 1:3 tells us that blessed is the man who hears the word and reads the word, so we are a people who are blessed going out and coming in. Christians have no right to complain, grumble, or gripe. We are the only people in the world who have a future. We are the only people in the world who can say, "I have a certain future. I know where I am going. I am on my way. Even though I don't know when I will arrive, it could just be any day."

The world doesn't have much hope. They are afraid, fearful, and full of doubt; but the Church should be full of faith. The Church should be expecting great and powerful things every day of their lives. Let's look at Psalm 27:11-14 and see what David's heart was like.

*Ps. 27:11 Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. (12) Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. (13) **I HAD FAINTED, UNLESS I HAD BELIEVED TO SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.** (14) Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*

David said, "I would have given up. I would have quit. There would have been no hope for me and I had fainted unless I BELIEVED." I want to tell you how important it is that we believe, because as a man believeth in his heart, so is he. As he thinketh in his heart, so is he (Prov. 23:7). As your faith is, so be it unto you (Matt. 9:29). David was believing. David was not going to give up and quit.

When you are facing a problem, don't give up. Don't quit. Don't turn away from it. Face it head on, and expect God to be in the midst of that situation. God said He would be with us in trouble and deliver us (Ex. 3:7-8; Acts 7:34). Sometimes we need a deliverer. There are times we can't deliver ourselves. The best thing to do is give up right away. Give up on trying to figure a way out, and call upon the name of the Lord.

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They who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13). That does not just apply to salvation, but saved out of every situation we are in, whether we got ourselves in there, or whether circumstances came upon us. It makes no difference how we got in there, we need to call upon the name of the Lord, and then expect God to be faithful to His word. It is not just calling on the name. You have to BELIEVE.

David said, "...unless I had believed." It wouldn't have done him any good if he had not believed. God is going to do some great things in these last days, but it is going to be to those who believe, to those who are expecting great things. You get what you believe. You get what you hope for. Haven't you

heard someone say, "I knew it was going to turn out bad? I expected it. Nothing ever works out good in my life." They are like the little cartoon guy who walks around with a cloud over him all the time, and the rain drops on him. He expects bad things and nothing is ever good for him.

We are taken snare by the words of our mouth (Prov. 6:2). We need to speak words of liberty. We need to speak words of greatness. We need to speak words that will loose the hand and the power of God. God cannot move beyond your faith in your life. Israel limited God (Psalms 78:40-41). They had great promises. They were shown great things, and they had a tremendous future ahead of them, but they didn't believe it. They limited God and turned back on God.

We can limit God. We can limit the blessings in our lives. There may be a pile of blessings stacked up there for you, but the only way you can get them is to believe they are there, and that you believe God for His word. David said he would have fainted had he not believed and expected. Do you expect something good in your life; is your heart really believing good things? There is a difference between just saying something and living it.

In Matt 23:1-7 Jesus told the disciples and those around Him that whatever the scribes and Pharisees bid them to observe, they should observe and do, but do not do after their works, because they say and do not. They did their works to be seen by men. They didn't expect the blessing of God in their lives. They were going to walk their own way. When Christians start thanking God that His word is true and expecting good things, they will begin to happen.

David said, "I would have fainted unless I had believed to SEE..." The manifestation. I don't want to just talk about the blessing of God. I want to walk in it. I don't want to talk about the abundance of God. I want to walk in it. I don't want to talk about the river of God. I want to swim in it. I want to be a participant in this life in the things of God, not waiting until I get there.

That is going to be wonderful. There is no way we can describe what it will be like there. There is no way we can describe those golden streets. There is no way we can describe the walls of jasper or the gates of pearl. We can make an image in our minds, but until we see it, we will really never understand what it is like, because in the midst of it there is one who shines brighter than the sun. Hallelujah! There will be no need for the sun, for Christ shall be the light, the Lamb of God.

Rev 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

I expect to see Him, but I also expect to see Him in my life now. I expect that when I am in trouble, He will be there with me. We spend so much time trying to get out of the pickle we put ourselves in, and we never see anything done. We should just throw up our hands, and say, "I give up. I am going

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to cast all my cares upon Him, because He cares for me" (1 Peter 5:7).

I expect Him to take care of it for me. It is not that we are beggars; that is what He wants to do. It honors Him when we take Him at His word, and say, "Lord, your word says...." Isn't that what Jesus did to Satan. He took God's word, his Father's word, and He said, "Listen, it is written. It is written. It is written," and Satan had to leave Him for a season. He expected something to happen when He spoke the word.

When the centurion came to Him, He expected Jesus to speak a word, and that word would have the power to heal his sick servant. It did, didn't it? (Matt 8:5-13) The Syro-Phoenician woman came to

Jesus, and she expected Him to do something for her daughter. Even when He said the crumbs that fall from the table are for the dogs, she said, "That is right, Lord. That is true, but you can do something about this. I didn't come here to argue religion with you. I came here to get something from you" and she did (Mark 7:25-30).

We sit around with the Lord, debating religion with Him. Then we tell Him about all of our unbelief. We should come **BOLDLY**, humbly, but boldly to the throne of grace. God wants some people who have some boldness about them, approaching Him boldly.

The early Church prayed for boldness that they might boldly declare the works of God (Acts 4:29-31; Eph 6:19-20). When we pray we should expect God to be there. We should expect God to hear us, and we should expect that God wants to do it.

David said, "I would have fainted. I would have quit and given up, if I had not believed to see the goodness, not the badness or wrath, or outpouring of ugliness, but the goodness of the Lord." In the land of the living, right where I am today, I need to see the hand of God moving on my behalf. I need to see the power of God moving on my behalf. I need to see the Holy Ghost living and moving in my life, strengthening, renewing, refreshing me each day of my life. I need to expect that, and accept that, not just talk about it and reject it.

Over the years I finally came to that point in my heart and in my mind, in this land. It is not that I am getting older, because compared to eternity I am young. I have a future, and it is in the land of the living. I shall live and not die, and I believe that. You can say the same thing, but you can't do much with it unless you believe it in your heart.

Whenever a situation is facing you, just tell the devil and everybody else, "I believe to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living in this situation today. I may be in trouble, but He is in there with me. I may have gotten myself in there, but He said that when I am in trouble, He will be with me. I expect His presence."

He loves to show up when you are in trouble, because sometimes that is the only time He can talk to you. When the going is good, we don't expect to see anything, so we let down our expectancy; then we run into a wall, and we start working on our expectancy again. "Oh God, I don't know how I got here," and God will say, "It doesn't make any difference. Do you want to get out of there?" "I know I had it coming. I am the one who drove the car into the wall. I expect judgment on this one." God said, "I would have mercy if you expected it."

You have to expect to see the goodness and the mercy of the Lord in the land of the living. You have

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to expect to see the goodness of His grace, the goodness of His healing power, the goodness of His miracle power, the goodness of His financial capability. I don't have to work on any of my capabilities. I work on His capability. He is way more able to supply ALL of my needs according to His riches in glory, than I am to supply any of them (Phil 4:19). He doesn't even have to work at it.

David said, "I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." That is where the Church needs to expect to see good things. The world needs to be able to look at the Church and expect to see good things, and receive a good and ready answer for the hope that lies within them (1 Peter 3:15). Our God is able.

The three Hebrew children facing the fiery furnace had a ready answer. They were expecting God to show up (Dan chap. 3). They were expecting the Holy Spirit. They were expecting something to be done from heaven, from headquarters. They had stood up for Him, and now it was time for Him to stand up for them. They said, "Our God is able." I love that!

They were expecting to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living, whether they went to the furnace and were consumed, it didn't make any difference to them, because they were going to be delivered out of the hand of the King that day, and they made their boast in the Lord.

It doesn't make any difference how you got into the situation you are in, just give up. David was always in some kind of situation but he called on the Lord, and the Lord heard him out of His holy mountain (Psalm 3:4). We have to expect more than a lot of trouble. I hear people everywhere saying that we have to watch out for the terrorists. We have somebody bigger than the terrorists.

If the Church really expected God to take care of this nation, there wouldn't be any more fear in the Church. There wouldn't be any more worrying about it. I hate it when people come along and say, "Well, your lifestyle is changed forever." Not my lifestyle. I have lived like this ever since I got saved, and I am going to keep living like this until Jesus comes. And nothing, terrorism or anything else, can change that, because I expect the Lord to walk with me and keep me, and be with me all the days of my life, and then I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Hallelujah!

The world is looking for someone who is expecting something good. You turn on the television and everybody is expecting something bad. "They might blow up this, and they might blow up that, and they might destroy this or that," and the Church joins in and says, "Yeah, you might be right. We have to be careful." We should be bold as lions. We should tell our neighbors, "You should move over into the kingdom that I live in. I have a heavenly Father who cares about me. He has already made provision for all of my footsteps as long as I live here."

The footsteps of the righteous are ordered by the Lord. (Psalm 37:23-24) He has already blessed me with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Eph 1:3), and He has already given me all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). What more can I get or need. I just need to use what I already have, but the way to release that is to believe that God wants me to use that. Believing that God wants to do something in my life. Believing that I can get up any day anywhere I am, and I can sing and make melody in my heart to the Lord, rejoicing in Him, believing that He is pleased.

I believe it pleases God when we take His word, and say, "God, Your word says..." Not like a trial lawyer, demanding something from God that He has to do it. His children that expect it don't have to do anything except to love the Lord, and be obedient to Him and do what He says. When the need

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arises, the answer will be there before the need ever comes. The supply will be there before the crisis ever comes. The answer will be there.

Don't worry about how you got into the mess, just give up, and expect to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living in the situation. Just quit fighting for yourself and your rights. Quit fighting everybody to try to get them to believe or to try to get them to do something for me. Just love God and be obedient to Him.

He is the heavenly Father who loves you. He loves us like no earthly Father ever loved us. I had a good Father who always saw that I had my needs met, and I also had a good Mother, but after I got

introduced to my heavenly Father, nobody can compare to Him. When He said, "I love you," it turned all my buttons on, and I mean that. You sense His love, His caring for you.

It is scriptures like this that build faith in your heart. If David could believe this, I can believe this. If David could expect this, I can expect this. God is not a respecter of persons.

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: (35) But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

David was just full of zeal for God. He was like Paul, and made his boast in the Lord.

Ps. 34:2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

Gal 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory (base akin to that of aucheo (to boast), save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

It wasn't what great things they could produce; it was simply that they boasted in God's ability.

When I was raising my son, he got into a fight with a neighborhood kid, and he came home and said, "I showed him, Dad. I told him that my Dad could whip his Dad. You had better get him over here." He expected me to let his Dad have it. We should be like that about God. When we have had a bad round, and it seems like we have lost everything, we should just snuggle into Jesus, and expect to see the goodness of the Lord today in the land of the living. That is what we need to do as little children.

God is saying here, "Look, this is David speaking these words, but he has an unction here. He has a revelation of truth." You can go anywhere in the word of God and there is revelation truth that has never been exhausted and will never be exhausted. As you sit and study, not only reading the Bible, but meditating on it day and night, soon your faith begins to expect things.

2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

That is why He told Joshua, "Meditate on this word day and night, because you are going to be a deliverer and need to be strong and of a good courage. The way that is going to happen is that you meditate on it and do not let it depart out of your mouth. Keep it as your whole life, your whole being,

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and then you shall be strong and then you shall do exploits, for you shall know your God" (Joshua chap 1).

I expect to be stronger tomorrow than I am today. I expect to do exploits for the Lord. I expect to see the Church moving in great power. I expect the Church to finally wake itself up and get up and put on the whole armor of God. I am going to put on everything that God has issued me. I want to go to war. I expect to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Eph 6:10-19 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the

wiles of the devil. (12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (18) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (19) And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Many have seen the goodness of the Lord. Any kind of promotion comes from the Lord. Promotion in pay, promotion in health, promotion in anything comes from the Lord, but that is not the end. More can come as you boast in Him. As long as you don't start touching the glory, God doesn't mind you boasting in Him.

You have to come to a place where you are dealing with this for yourself, not dealing with this for your husband, or your wife, or your children, or any of your relatives, but for yourself. If it is not working for me, there is no need for me to try to give it to you.

So as simply as he could say it, David said, "I would have fainted unless I had believed." Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). You can talk about it, but until you believe it and it becomes your life and you live it, it is not faith. It is when you step in it, when you take it and begin to put it into action in your own life, that it becomes faith. Other than that, it becomes theory even though it is truth. Unless you use it, it is theory to you.

We have had a lot of theory Christians. They can quote a lot of scriptures, they can talk about the greatness and power and their life is a mess, because they did not believe. They did not practice it; they did not live what they were talking about.

I am excited because I feel the Church is going to go through in '02'. The Church is going to move through all the doubt and unbelief and fear, and all the frustration and all those things that have hindered our walk with God. We are going to come into a new realm with God. The Lord is not coming for a defeated Church. He is not coming for a Church that is crying in the corner and hiding in the bushes. He is coming for a Church without spot, blemish, or wrinkle (Eph 5:7). He is coming for a people who have made themselves ready.

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I would have fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord today, here in the land of the living. When you lay down at night, don't expect to have nightmares. Expect to have good dreams, because the word of God says that sweet is the sleep of the saints (Prov. 3:24). I expect that to be a reality. I am not going to lie there and toss and tumble. I am simply going to say, "Thank You, Lord, because Your word declares that when I lie down, my sleep will be sweet."

You may have to practice it a few times until it finally becomes real faith to you. When you first start walking, you start walking a little. When you start practicing faith, it is the same way, but pretty soon you can be a long distance runner. Pretty soon you can win the prize.

David was a great warrior, a great man of God, a man who had slain a lion and a bear, and took care of a guy named Goliath, yet he said, "I had fainted if I had not believed." It has to be personal. You can't ride in on someone else's faith. You can't live your life on someone else's faith. You have to believe for yourself. I had fainted unless I had believed to see the manifestation of it, the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

I want to end this with **Psalm 27:1-6** in the Amplified Bible:

(1) "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear or dread? The Lord is the refuge and stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (2) When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. (3) Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, (even then) in this will I be confident. (4) One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after, inquire for and (insistently) require, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord (in His presence) all the days of my life, to behold and gaze upon the beauty (the sweet attractiveness and the delightful loveliness) of the Lord, and to meditate, consider and inquire in His temple. (5) For in the day of trouble He will hide me in His shelter; in the secret place of His tent will He hide me; He will set me high upon a rock. (6) And now shall my head be lifted up above my enemies round about me; in His tent I will offer sacrifices and shouting of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

Do you feel like God is speaking to your heart? I want to pray for you.

Father, in the wonderful name of Jesus, I thank You. I pray for these who have studied this, for those who are saying that this is a place where they want to live. David found himself in a situation that was not pleasing, yet he understood that no matter how everything was going against him, his hope was not in his ability to deliver himself, his hope was not in his ability to buy his way out or talk his way out, but Lord, it was Your ability he was trusting in.

Help us to begin to trust in Your ability. Lord, if you are for us, no one can be against us. No matter who they are, terrorists, or anyone else, You are on our side. Lord, we believe that YOU ARE ON OUR SIDE. Help us to begin to press into new places in our walk with You, more exciting than we have ever had before. Help us to begin to be a people of expectation. Help us to be a people of receiving ability in Christ.

Father, for these studying this, I ask you to bless their lives. Whatever they have need of, that it is going to come to pass. Lord, give them new strength, and zeal, and health and life in their bodies.

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Lord, financial needs are being ministered to even as we pray. Now Lord, I thank you for the miracle power of Christ. Give us that great excitement about serving You. That great expectation of seeing the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Lord, we have been filled with Your Spirit. We have been saved and washed in the blood of the Lamb, born of Your Spirit. Father, we should be an excited people, full of zeal and joyful. Thanksgiving should be a trademark in our hearts, because we above all people can expect good things. We can expect great things, Lord.

We don't have to have a great army or great weapons. We have the greatest weapons that are not carnal, but mighty through God to the tearing down of strongholds. We expect to be using those weapons in the days to come, to tear down strongholds and set captives free. And to bring a blessing to others. Bless my brothers and sisters in Christ.

2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (4) (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) (5) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (6) And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

In Jesus Mighty Name,
Amen!