

Faith vs. Unbelief: Trusting God When Things Seem Impossible

In 2 Kings 7, Samaria was under siege, and the people were in absolute desperation. They were starving—so much so that they resorted to horrific acts just to survive. Then, Elisha the prophet declared a word from the Lord:

'Tomorrow about this time a seah [measure] of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs [measure] of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.' "

This was an outrageous claim. The economy was in shambles, and people were paying exorbitant prices for things no one would normally eat. So how could food suddenly become so abundant overnight?

A high-ranking officer, the king's right-hand man, scoffed at the idea. He said, *"Even if the Lord opened the windows of heaven, could this really happen?"*

Elisha responded, *"You will see it with your own eyes, but you won't get to enjoy any of it."*

Trying to Figure Out God's Ways

This man's response reflects how many of us react to God's promises. We hear that God will provide, that He is our source, that He is able—but if we can't see *how* it's possible, we struggle to believe it.

We often do the same thing when we have financial struggles, health crises, or personal hardships. Philippians 4:19 says, *"My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* Yet, when bills are due, when the medical report is bad, or when we face impossible odds, we start asking, *"But how?"*

Rather than trusting God, we try to figure out how He will do it. And when we can't make sense of it, doubt creeps in.

But here's the truth: *God doesn't need our strategies; He just needs our faith.* His resources are beyond our imagination, and His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9).

A Desperate Decision Leads to a Miracle

Meanwhile, four leprous men sat outside the city, starving like everyone else. They had nothing to lose, so they made a decision:

"Why sit here until we die? Let's go to the Syrian camp. If they kill us, we were going to die anyway. But maybe they'll spare us and give us food."

When they arrived at the Syrian camp, they were shocked—*the entire army was gone!* God had supernaturally caused the Syrians to hear the sound of an approaching army, and in their panic, they fled, leaving behind all their supplies—food, drink, gold, silver, everything.

These four outcasts went from starving to having an abundance of food, wealth, and provisions. At first, they began hoarding it, but then they had a realization:

"This isn't right. We have good news, and if we keep it to ourselves, we will be guilty. We must go tell the city!"

The Good News Must Be Shared

Here's an important lesson: *When God blesses us, it's not just for us.* These lepers could have kept their discovery to themselves, but they realized they had a responsibility to share the good news.

As believers, we have been given the greatest news of all—salvation through Jesus Christ. But sometimes, we act like these lepers at first. We receive God's blessings, His love, and His grace, but we keep it to ourselves.

God calls us to share what He has done, just like these men ran back to tell the city that salvation had come.

Unbelief Can Keep You from God's Blessings

When the news reached Samaria, the king was skeptical. He assumed it was a trap.

Even though God had miraculously provided just as He had promised, the king's unbelief nearly prevented the people from receiving it.

Unbelief is dangerous. It blinds us to what God is doing. Even when the truth is right in front of us, doubt can keep us from stepping into His promises.

When the city finally rushed out to get the food, the king's officer—the same man who scoffed at God's promise—was assigned to oversee the gates. The hungry crowd was so desperate that they trampled him to death.

Just as Elisha had prophesied, the man saw the miracle happen, but he never got to partake in it.

Practical Lessons from This Story

1. God's promises don't require our understanding—just our faith.
We may not always see *how* God will provide, but we can trust that He will.
2. Faith takes action.
The lepers didn't just sit and wait; they moved forward. Sometimes, we must step out in faith, even when we don't see the full picture.
3. God's provision is often beyond what we can imagine.
The people of Samaria couldn't have predicted that God would scare off the entire Syrian army overnight—but He did. God has resources beyond our comprehension.
4. When God blesses us, we must share it.
These lepers could have kept the food to themselves, but they knew others were in need. When God works in our lives, we are called to share His goodness with others.

5. Unbelief can rob us of God's blessings.

The king's officer saw the miracle happen but never experienced it himself. Doubt can keep us from fully stepping into what God has for us.

Final Challenge

Are you trusting God, even when things look impossible? Or are you allowing doubt to keep you from receiving His blessings?

God is faithful. He has already made a way, even if you don't see it yet. Trust Him, step forward in faith, and be ready to share His goodness with others.