**THE GIFT OF GIVING FAITH**

***SALVATION BEGINS WITH GIVING FAITH***

Today we want to begin our prayer time with a discussion of modern Ukraine and how to apply faith in this new world, for without faith it simply is *impossible* to please God.

**1a. There is a NEW Ukraine now!!!**

*This requires a completely new approach to evangelism.*

Our grandmothers were deeply steeped in all kinds of superstition/forms of false faith.

Our young people however are not buying into this superstition.

Mostly our young people are simply absorbed by self. Without any consideration of God at all.

This self-absorption is clearly demonstrated with the term –‘selfie-generation’.

In reality this means that our youth do not know what faith is.

They are simply faithless; not anti-God, but simply not connected to anything in a dependent relationship. Basically our poor youth are going from day to day simply empty.

To a generation without a ‘faith concept’ the *evangelist must first of all bring faith*.

Only after he has brought faith can he proceed to ask for a response.

A sad misunderstanding has become prevalent amongst our evangelists.

The idea that simply telling unbelievers “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved” will bring them to their knees.

This Biblical concept needs a much deeper understanding on the part of those doing evangelism.

This Biblical concept carries a great responsibility for evangelists.

Would you like to share some comments in this regard?

**1b. Now let us as a group pray together about these comments and new insights.**

We will let each person who contributed lead our group by praying for the concept he shared.

**1c. Let us have different brothers each bring one of the points below in prayer**

Ask the Lord and ask the Holy spirit for insight and revelation as to how to apply this to our precious land.

1. Unbelievers do NOT know what true faith/TRUST is.

Pray for God to open their concept of faith.

1. Unbelievers live by fear NOT faith. Fear of failing; fear of the future.

They were afraid to miss one god. Act 17:23. Pray for a new perspective.

(Fear & Faith are the same: One expects a bad future, the other a good future.)

1. Unbelievers believe God is bad – angry – out to punish them – wanting hell for them.

To them God is negative and this means you can only trust in and take care of yourself.

Pray that the concept of the true God who is good and *who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think* will overwhelmingly entice them. Ph. 3:20

1. Unbelievers focus on selfish desires – what is in it for me?

We need rain, so forgive us and make it rain,

– or we need sunshine, so forgive us and give us sunshine.

 Pray for them to discover that joy comes by making others successful.

1. Unbelievers do NOT know how to respect/love/revere others above themselves,
* Note this as a base/example in divorce.

Pray for the discovery of true love; true respect; true reverence for others within their personal lives.

**2a. The Bible teaches that FAITH is a GIFT**

This means that there needs to be a GIVER!

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; it is the gift of God:*Eph. 2:8

Jesus claimed that HE would make HIS followers successful.

HE said *“I will make you fishers of MEN”.*

He did not say “I will help you to fish for MEN.

No, rather Jesus guaranteed success.

As is extremely clear throughout the New Testament we are God’s REPRESENTATIVES/AMBASSADORS.

*Our evangelists then are the ones who have to first of all give the GIFT of FAITH to unbelievers.*

Only after that can unbelievers begin to truly believe.

So the responsibility for bringing about Salvation – for enabling Rebirth, rests upon our evangelists. Like the work of a midwife; or a matchmaker seeking a “YES” response from the bride for the groom.

* ***- - The responsibility does not rest with unbelievers - -***

This changes evangelism from being an abstract activity to one where the evangelist becomes responsible for results. *Jer. 8:13  "I wanted to gather my people, as a farmer gathers a harvest”*

*See John 15:8 “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”*

These would not be true statements if the results depended upon the unbelievers.

How does this work?

Would you like to share some comments in this regard?

**2b. Oh Lord God give us insight into our responsibility to make a contribution to the unbelievers we meet.**

Help us Almighty God to realize that as a result of deep seated corruption trust is missing in our society. People do not trust their employer, they do not trust the church, they do not trust the government, they do not trust in marital fidelity.

Lord Jesus we need your power to bring the element of trust into the lives of unbelievers.

**3a. In Mark 1:14 Jesus began by going to Galilee and preached the GOOD NEWS from God.**

Mark 1:15  *"The right time has come," he said, "and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!"*

1. Thus at the moment an evangelist approaches an unbeliever *“the Kingdom has come near”* to the unbeliever.
2. Then item number 1 is for the evangelist to give faith to the unbeliever.

Illustration: A pastor asked me to talk to a brother who for years has been

constantly witnessing; but without results. I suggested to the brother that

he asks unbelievers to do what *James* tells us to do. “The devil has been

attacking you long enough. Are you tired of your problems; would you like

to reject the Devil so he will depart from you?”

Then I asked him; how might an unbeliever answer?

The brother’s response was: “They will say, no, I want to continue

carousing, drinking, sinning, etc.”.

Here is an evangelist who exhibits no personal faith. This brother

does not believe sinners want to go to heaven. This brother does

not believe that many, many people all over the world and

especially in Ukraine want something better. This brother does not

believe that most people want to go to heaven and not to hell.

Therefore this brother has nothing to give to those MEN he

witnesses too. Our brother is faithful; he is obedient

– but he exhibits no faith in his ministry.

He expects no results.

Unbelievers are not encouraged to accept his offer.

We may ask what is his offer then? Most certainly *it is not faith*.

Would you like to share some comments in this regard?

**3b. Let us pray for this brother and others like him who are good precious obedient evangelists**

But these brothers are evangelists without faith. Lord, many of our evangelists have lost the “***GOOD*** ***NEWS***” of Jesus Christ.

Open their eyes; restore these precious brothers. Lord, many of our evangelists are desperate for results, but they do not know how to harvest souls. Give our evangelists an overflowing faith to harvest souls.

**4a. How different the New Testament examples are.**

Jesus instilled faith – everyone wanted to meet HIM. Mar 3:7

No one in Turkey asked Paul to come, but he went,

* Later he stated everyone in Turkey has heard about Jesus. Acts 19:10 & 26
* Churches resulted everywhere; WHY?
* Because Paul brought FAITH.

Would you like to share some comments ABOUT HOW YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR EVANGELISTIC WORK?

**4b. Oh Eternal Father, help our spiritual workers who have lost the power of faith.**

If they do not have conviction to share their faith, nor knowledge of how to give faith to others, how shall we as leaders train them to harvest souls? How shall we give our faith, our prayers to our workers, so that our workers will become believers in the true sense of the word? Lord Jesus, help us as believers on the denominational level to instill faith in our workers, to believe that people want to go to heaven and not hell. Lord Jesus, somehow through your Divine glory we here in the consulariate must raise up a generation of workers who expect results, great results, miraculous results. Oh Holy Spirit, show us our obligation we pray. Have mercy on our denomination.

**5a. In Acts 3 we see an individual case of how John and Peter gave a GIFT.**

One day Peter and John went to the Temple, there was a man who had been lame all his life. When he saw Peter and John going in, he begged them to give him something. The man looked at them, expecting to get something from them. *But Peter said, "I have no money, but I give you what I have: in the name of Jesus Christ get up and walk!" At once the man's feet and ankles became strong;*

*Peter said, “It was the power of Jesus’ name that gave strength to this lame man. What you see was done by faith in his name; it was faith in Jesus that has made him well, as you can all see.*

The text clearly shows that the lame man did not expect what John and Peter had available for him.

It was John and Peter who had the faith and wanted *to share their faith as a gift* with this man.

Would you like to share some comments ABOUT BRINGING PRACTICAL HELP TO UNBELIEVERS?

**5b.**  **Giving the Gift of Faith**

1 Precious Lord Jesus, you have already prepared a place in Heaven waiting for many unbelievers. John 14:2.

2 Precious Lord Jesus, You told us to harvest these fish/souls.

3 Precious Lord Jesus, You expect us to fill these places that you have already prepared in heaven.

4 Precious Lord Jesus, we shamefully admit that we have greatly missed bringing in souls.

5 Precious Lord Jesus, nothing short of Your personal forgiveness, renewal and fresh power can restore our brothers and bring faith.

6 Precious Lord Jesus, only Your personal forgiveness, renewal, and fresh power can restore our denomination and bring faith to our beloved Ukraine.

7 Precious Lord Jesus You stated that You desire mercy; therefore we as denominational leaders have gathered here to pray/to beg You for mercy and souls.

**6a. Gracious Lord God we thank you that You are already giving SOULS eternal life**

Of your own initiative Jesus You have already begun to do in Ukraine what you and the apostles did in the Gospels and in the book of Acts.

**6b In Zhitomir MEN came and asked our Brother how they could find God**

In the central Mariupol church several times MEN entered the worship service and asked the pastor to help them to find God.

In Mariupol one man sought God for **3** weeks, but was confused by all the different messages on the radio. Finally he came in contact with Pastor Roman. Roman had a strong faith that God would bring MEN to him. Roman had prayed for **3** weeks. The man from Mariupol met him and recognized that Roman had a genuine trust in Jesus Christ. So the man asked Roman to make things clear to him and he was gloriously Born-Again.

Gracious Lord God, we praise and glorify you for this.

Gracious Lord God, we humbly ask You to extend this Divine favor to many more of our brothers.

We as Your denominational representatives worship You with great awe and overwhelming astonishment of these great acts of Your mercy upon us.

Like Jabez enlarge our tent we pray.

DO WE HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS OR DISCUSSION?