

FAITH IS A SHIELD

I was puttering around in the kitchen, after praying for the Holy Spirit to show me what I was to be studying – meditating on – etc., and all of a sudden thoughts started pouring into me about how when we are walking and speaking out our ***active faith in God’s character, His Word, and His provision, it becomes a living thing that puts up a shield against the negative forces in the spirit world.***

We are all aware of the scripture in Eph 6:16 KJV that says:
“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”

This is an important and vital part of our armor, and yet somehow, is it possible, that we see this shield being put into place, only when we say the words: “I take the shield of faith to quench this fiery dart of the enemy.” Have we really understood, that when we are walking through our day, abiding in the Lord, being led by the Spirit, and ***ACTIVELY VOICING OUR FAITH IN GOD, BY SPEAKING WHAT THE WORD OF GOD SAYS ABOUT OUR SITUATION***, that this does indeed put up a shield that quenches the fiery darts of the enemy. It may be unseen and even unknown to us, but it is not unseen or unknown to the devil.

How many of his attacks have been stopped, diminished, or turned away, because of a faith that is active and spoken out – confessed, through the words of our mouth.

In Rev 12:11 this is one of the ways that we are given, whereby we overcome our enemy - “by the word of our testimony.” These words of faith become a shield against the fiery darts – the flaming missiles of our enemy. It is like those defensive weapons that were used in Israel when Iraq was firing scud missiles at them. I believe these defensive weapons were called “Patriot Missiles.” They were intercepting and destroying the deadly fiery missiles, while they were still in the air and short of their target. The enemy of Israel, had a target that they were trying to seek out and destroy, but the Patriot Missiles became a defensive shield of faith, and when the fiery missiles sent against God’s people, were hit by the Patriot Missile, they were dissolved and destroyed, and their mission of death and destruction was undone. The

enemy's weapons could not prosper, because they were intercepted and caused to fall powerless against them. This protection was effective, because there was something being actively done to deter the intended missile from its destination and destructive intent.

Have we considered that actively walking and talking our faith, is a form of fulfilling the admonition of the Lord in, James 4:7. It is faith that is evidenced by the works of the "words of our testimony." As we believe, abide in faith, and speak the words of faith in regard to our situation, we are: in a very real sense submitting to the Lord and resisting the devil, so that God is activating the angels that are sent out to minister to/for the heirs of salvation, and the angels of the Lord, that do excel in strength, are now released to hearken to the voice of God's Word, and when God arises, and sends forth the Lord's angelic host, the enemy is scattered. We are submitted to God and His Word, we believe the Word in our heart, confess it with our mouth, and the enemy begins to flee, because we have been promised that the Word will not return void.

I believe it is like a heat seeking missile, and it goes after the fiery darts of the enemy, to shoot them down, before they have had time to start a fire at our house/household. We are putting faith into action, as we submit to God, resist the devil, and believe and confess that he will have to flee.

In Psalm 35, David is submitting to God and pleading his case, and he is asking the Lord to send in the angels in his behalf.

Psa 35 v. 1 Plead my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me KJV Amplified: Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against them who fight against me. v.3 Draw out also the spear and javelin and close up the way of those who pursue and persecute me. Say to me, I AM YOUR DELIVERANCE (KJV I AM YOUR SALVATION). v. 4 KJV Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt. v. 5 Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the Lord chase them. v. 6 Let their way be dark and slippery, and let the angel of the Lord persecute them. (Amp with the angel of the Lord pursuing and afflicting them). v. 8 Let destruction befall [my foe] unawares; let the net he hid for me catch him; let him fall into that very

destruction. v. 23 Stir up Thyself, and awake to the justice due me, even to my cause, my God and my Lord. v. 24 Judge and vindicate me, O Lord my God, according to Your righteousness (Your rightness and justice), and **LET [my foes] NOT REJOICE OVER ME!** v. 26 Let them be put to shame and brought to confusion together who rejoice over my hurt. Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor, who magnify and exalt themselves over me! v. 27.....Let the Lord be magnified, Who takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.

These verses from Psa 35 paint a powerful picture of David, who was actively and verbally asking and believing for God's intervention against his enemies. He believed that if He asked and sought the Lord, that the Lord would contend with those who were contending with him - striving against him. He was asking for the Lord to send out angels to pursue his enemies to dark and slippery places, until they were scattered and blown away, like chaff before the wind.

Another place where David speaks of the Lord driving His enemies away is in: Psa 68: Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away, as WAX MELTS BEFORE FIRE.....

Do we realize that there is more to resisting the devil than just saying: "satan, I resist you in Jesus name." Are we not also resisting the devil when we stand steadfast in our faith?

1 Pet 5:9 KJV "**Whom resist steadfast in the faith.....**"

Amplified: "**Withstand him; be firm in faith, [against his onset - rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined],.....**"

So we see, that those of us who are sober and vigilant in our faith, will have to stand firm in that faith, if we are to resist the enemy - the devil, - the roaring lions in our lives. It doesn't mean that when the attack comes, and we are on the ground - bleeding and ripped apart, we are to grab hold of the Word of God as our sword and reach for our faith as a shield, so that we can somehow rise out of the jaws of defeat and into the victory that is ours in Christ.

WE NEED TO ACTIVELY WALK AND TALK OUR FAITH, REALIZING THAT NOT ONLY IS IT PLEASING TO GOD, AND BRINGS FORTH THE FRUIT THAT HE HAS PROMISED, BUT IT IS A SHIELD OF PROTECTION AGAINST THE SCHEMES AND PLOTS OF THE EVIL ONE. IT IS LIKE

THE INVISIBLE SHIELD THAT WE GET WHEN WE SPRAY ON INSECT REPELLENT. IT DOESN'T STOP MOSQUITOS FROM AIMING AT US AS THEIR DESTINATION FOR ATTACK, BUT IT DOES KEEP THEM FROM LANDING AND DOING THEIR DAMAGE. OUR FAITH IS THE SAME WAY. ONCE IT IS ACTIVATED BY WORD AND DEED, IT BECOMES A SHIELD AGAINST THE FIERY AND DESTRUCTIVE DARTS OF THE ENEMY.

We need to recognize that we are in a ***SPIRITUAL ARENA, WITH A LION, WHO IS WANTING TO KILL US & OUR HOUSEHOLD, STEAL FROM US, AND DESTROY US AT ALL TIMES.*** Our very shield against that destruction is a walk of faith, that is acted upon by words of faith. When we step out of faith, and when we speak words of doubt, fear, unbelief, hopelessness, defeat, failure, etc., we have left ourselves wide open for the lion to charge us. The shield that would stop him from getting to us, has been laid down, by our lack of faith and the words that spring from that position of doubt and unbelief.

We know that when the attack is raging, we must get the sword of God's Word, so that we can begin to fight, and we must begin to act on our faith and get it out there in ***word and deed***, but maybe we would have prevented a great amount of damage, to ourselves, our families, our church, and our nation, if we had remained always vigilant and steadfast in our faith, with a confession of faith that matches what we desire and are believing God to faithfully provide. Is it that we have not, because we ask not, declare not, confess not, resist not?

We have been told by Jesus that there is a thief that will try to kill, steal, and destroy, but we have also been told that He came to give us life abundantly, and to be of good cheer, for He had overcome the world. He also overcame the devil and all the hosts of hell. He was given all authority over heaven and earth, and a name above every name. He was raised up and seated at the right hand of God above every principality, and power, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in the world to come, and hath put all things under his feet. Eph 1:20-22 Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name. That at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. Phil 2:9-10

Not only that, He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere, [by

virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus. Eph 2:6

To be in Christ, is to actively take our abiding place, and to remain fixed and immovable, in a continuous state of faith in Christ and in our position in Him as a child of God. This abiding place, is in the heavens, and it is being seated with Christ at the right hand of God. In that position, we are under the shadow/defense/and refuge of the Almighty. His wings are covering us with protection. Because we say: "The Lord is my refuge and my fortress." I abide under the shadow of His wings, therefore He is a shield and buckler – a strong high tower – my defender and my kinsman Redeemer.

It is God that girded me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. He hath enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord grasps his hand in support and upholds him. Psa 18:32&36 37:23-24 For You have delivered my life from death, yes, and my feet from falling. Psa 56:13 For You have delivered my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling and falling. Ps 116:8

As we grow older, we see the statistics of elderly people who fall and break their bones are very high. I recently went through this with my mother. She has confessed the healing and redemption of her eyes, ears, heart, lungs, kidneys, etc. for years, and God had faithfully preserved and protected her in those areas. Her surgeon laughed before he did her hip replacement and said that her vitals were better than anyone he had operated on all day. He said, he wished his were so good.

So, while she was with me this week, I was thinking about her bones being broken, and I asked her if she had ever spoken protection over her bones. She thought for a minute, and then she said, "No I don't believe I ever have."

She will be 98 in less than two months, and she has remained in very good health, except for stumbling and falling. Who can know this side of heaven what would have happened, if she had been confessing the scriptures above and putting them out in front of her, as a SHIELD OF FAITH AGAINST STUMBLING AND FALLING.

Again, **FAITH ACTS AS A SHIELD, a place where the enemy meets resistance.** We submit to God, receive His Word and actively set ourselves to **TRUST THE LORD and THE WORD**, and in the spirit realm, it becomes a resistance against the enemy, when he comes to kill, steal, and destroy – by his lies, accusations, fear, confusion, doubt, unbelief, hopelessness, etc.

Faith not only protects us with a spiritual shield, it also opens the door for guidance, wisdom, revelation, and entering in to all that God has for us.

Rom 5:1 says that we are righteous/justified by faith, so our breast-plate of righteousness won't be there to cover our heart and prevent the entrance of lies, hurts, excessive sorrow, unbelief, and other works of the enemy, unless we are walking in faith.

Without a knowledge of the Word, there will not be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Without the light of God's Word, how can we help but stumble and fall, and if you have hidden God's Word in your heart, but never confess or speak it forth, could it be like a light that is not turned on. When we walk in dark places, if we don't turn on the light, we can stumble and fall, but no matter how dark it gets, if we turn on the light, it is a lamp for our feet and a light on our path that keeps us from falling. Psa 119:105 The entrance of God's Words giveth light, their unfolding gives understanding (discernment and comprehension) to the simple [naïve]. Psa 119:130

Some might think, well if God intended us to be protected from evil why didn't He say so? He did in Eph 6:10-18 Jam 4:7 1 Pet 5:8-9

Jesus said, "Pray, then, in this way: Our Father Who art in heaven..... And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Our faith needs to be active, if it is to be effective as a shield against the enemy's fiery darts. Let's hold fast our profession of faith. Our confidence in God's Word is a well placed shield, so let's hold fast our confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward Heb 10:35

One of those rewards is the quenching of satan's fiery darts, and the protection of us and our household.

"SHIELD" ONE OF THE LORD'S NAMES

Spoken when the Lord came to make covenant with Abram:
Gen 15:1 "The Word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, FEAR NOT, Abram, **I AM THY SHIELD, AND THY EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD**".

Later, in verse 18, the Lord made a covenant with Abram that would provide him and his seed with the promised land that was set aside as their inheritance.

Deut 33:29 Happy are thou, O Israel; who is like unto thee? O people saved by the Lord, **THE SHIELD OF YOUR HELP, THE SWORD THAT EXALTS YOU**. And thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

2 Sam 22:1-3 And David spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day when the Lord delivered Him from the hands of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said: "**The Lord is my Rock, and my Fortress, and my Deliverer; The God of my rock: in Him will I trust. HE IS MY SHIELD, AND THE HORN OF MY SALVATION; my SAVIOR, YOU SAVE ME FROM VIOLENCE.**"

Psa 3:3 (A Psalm of David) **But THOU, O LORD, ARE A SHIELD FOR me, my GLORY, AND THE LIFTER OF my head.**

Psa 18:35 You have also given me **THE SHIELD OF THY SALVATION, and THY RIGHT HAND HATH HELD me up...**(Psalm of David)

Psa 28:7 (Psalm of David) **The LORD IS my STRENGTH AND MY SHIELD. My heart trusted in HIM, and I am HELPED.....**

Psa 33:20 Our inner selves wait [earnestly] for the **LORD; HE IS OUR HELP and our SHIELD.**

Psa 59:11 (Psalm of David, when Saul watched the house to kill him). **Slay them not, lest my people forget, scatter them by THY POWER; and bring them down, O LORD OUR SHIELD.**

Psa 84:11 (Psalm of the sons of Korah) **For the LORD IS A SUN and a SHIELD. THE LORD WILL GIVE GRACE AND GLORY. NO GOOD THING WILL HE WITHHOLD from them THAT WALK UPRIGHTLY.**

(Question? How do we walk uprightly? The just or upright shall walk by FAITH). When we walk by Faith, the Lord becomes a SUN and a SHIELD unto us. He gives us grace and glory, and He will withhold no good thing from us. 2 Cor 5:7 (Rom 1:17 the righteous lives by FAITH). Rom 5:1 By faith we are justified/righteous/upright & right w/God.

Psa 91:4HIS TRUTH AND HIS FAITHFULNESS SHALL BE THY SHIELD & BUCKLER

Psa 115:9 O Israel, TRUST IN THE LORD; HE IS THEIR HELP AND THEIR SHIELD. V. 10 O HOUSE OF Aaron, TRUST IN THE LORD; HE IS THEIR SHIELD. V. 11 Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord, HE IS YOUR HELP AND SHIELD.

Psa 119:114 YOU ARE MY HIDING PLACE AND MY SHIELD; I HOPE IN YOUR WORD.

Psa 144:1-2 Blessed be the Lord, my Rock and my Strength, Who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight. My Steadfast Love and my Fortress, my High Tower and my Deliverer, MY SHIELD and HE IN WHOM I TRUST and take refuge.

Pro 30:5 Every Word of God is tried and purified; HE IS A SHIELD to those who trust and take refuge in HIM.

When one goes into battle, they need armor and a shield. When we walk through life, with an enemy, who is trying to kill us, steal from us, and destroy us, we need armor, and ABOVE ALL WE NEED A SHIELD THAT CANNOT BE PIERCED, BY THE FIERY DARTS OF THE ENEMY. If you put on your armor, but don't walk and talk your faith, you are in the midst of a battle with NO SHIELD TO PROTECT YOU. Flaming missiles will be flying all around you, and if you don't have a SHIELD OF FAITH, THEY WILL NOT BE QUENCHED. Some of them will find their target.

WHEN WE MAKE A JUDGMENT IN OUR HEART TO BELIEVE GOD, against all odds, against common sense, against soulish teachings, and against what we see, hear, and feel, WE ARE PUTTING HIS TRUTH BEFORE US AS A SHIELD OF OUR FAITH IN HIM. (see also Psa 91: 14 What God will do, because we have known HIS NAME. He is our SHIELD OF FAITH).

When we do this, we are looking away from all that would distract us to steal our faith, and instill in us fear – doubt – and unbelief.

Heb 12:2 Looking away [from all that would distract] to JESUS, WHO IS THE LEADER and the SOURCE OF OUR FAITH – THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH- [bringing it to maturity and perfection].

When we trust in Him, believe in Him and in what He has promised, **HE BECOMES OUR SHIELD OF FAITH. Think about this: HE IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER,** (Heb 13:8) **so our shield does not get bigger, because we have great, deep, mature faith. OUR SHIELD OF FAITH IS JESUS, AND BECAUSE HE NEVER CHANGES, HE IS SHIELDING US WITH HIMSELF,** while our faith is growing and maturing on the inside. **People with childlike faith, baby Christians, have the same shield as Kenneth Hagin or John G. Lake. THE SHIELD OF FAITH DOESN'T CHANGE, based on our level of faith. IF WE BELIEVE AND TRUST HIM, AND IF WE LOOK away from all that would distract, and look to HIM with childlike faith, HE BECOMES OUR SHIELD OF FAITH. We call on JESUS IN FAITH, HE STEPS IN FRONT OF US. When we have lifted up HIS NAME, we have lifted THE SHIELD OF FAITH. WHEN WE ARE WALKING IN FAITH, WE ARE IN FACT resisting the devil. 1 Pet 5:9 resist him STEADFAST IN THE FAITH.....Rom 10:6-10 tells us to believe in our heart and speak FAITH WORDS with our mouth. Rev 12:11 We overcome by the BLOOD OF THE LAMB, and by the word of our testimony. (Our testimony must be one of faith, if we are to walk in victory and if we are to be covered with A SHIELD OF FAITH).**

Our example for speaking to begin the work of God, is given to us in Genesis chapter one. God spoke the world into existence. God said, and whatever He spoke was created by the **words that HE spoke.**

Psa 33:6 By the **WORD OF THE LORD,** the heavens were made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Heb 11:3 Through faith, we understand that the worlds were framed by the **Word of God,** so that things which are seen, were not made of things which are visible.

Jn 1:1 In the beginning **was the WORD,** and the **WORD** was with God, and the **WORD WAS GOD. v. 3** All things were made by **HIM;** and without Him was not any thing made that was made. v. 4 In **HIM** was **LIFE** and the **LIFE** was the **LIGHT** of men.

Psa 119:130 The entrance of God's WORD GIVETH LIGHT.....

Jn 1:14 And the **WORD** was made flesh and dwelt among us.....

While **JESUS, THE WORD,** was with us, He spoke to the storm, and calmed the winds, as He said, "Peace, be still". Mk 4:39 He spoke to the fig tree and it withered from the roots up, Mark 11:14 & 20. They brought HIM many that were possessed with devils; and he cast out the spirits **WITH HIS WORD,** and healed all that were sick. Matt 8:16

A centurion sent someone to **JESUS, THE WORD,** and asked **HIM** to speak a **WORD,** (KJV "**say in a WORD**"), and his servant would be healed. Jesus marveled at him, and said he had not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. Lu 7:7 & 9

In Mark 11:23, He told his disciples to speak to the mountain, and it would be removed and cast into the sea.

Faith Confessions is not just about what we don't say, it is about **MAKING A PURPOSEFUL CONFESSION OF FAITH. ACTIVELY SPEAKING OUT ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO HAPPEN AND WHAT YOU DON'T WANT TO HAPPEN, WITH FAITH, ACCORDING TO AND USING GOD'S WORD AS A GUIDELINE.**

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD. SOMETIMES "THE WORKS" PART IS JUST SPEAKING WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART. OUT OF THE ABUNDANCE OF OUR HEART, WE MUST SPEAK THE WORD THAT WE HAVE HIDDEN THERE.

Rom 10:10 Believe in our heart (after revelation) & confess with our mouth to initiate the results of what we are believing for: the answer to a promise we are standing on, - the defeat of our enemy – or protection and deliverance from the evil one.

Definitions:

SHIELD Heb 4043 = a shield, a protector, also the scaly hide of a crocodile: armed, buckler, defense, ruler, scale, shield.

SHIELD Heb 6793 = a hook, as if pointed, also a shield (as if guarding by prickliness); also cold (as piercing) buckler, cold, hook, shield, target.

This is the word used in Psa 91:4 His truth shall be your shield and buckler, as in:6793

BUCKLER is also used as 6793, but in Psa 91:4, BUCKLER IS: BUCKLER 5507 Heb = Something surrounding the person. It is taken from the word 5508 that is: for laying borders with. (as black marble)

New Testament Eph 6:16

SHIELD Grk 2375 = a large shield (as door shaped). Taken from the root word 2374 "door" a portal or entrance (the opening or closure), literally or figuratively: door or gate.

BREASTPLATE Grk 2382 = spelled **thorax**, by implication, a corslet: a breastplate. As used in Eph 6:14 & 1 Thess 5:8

It says in Rev 9:4, that there are men who have the seal of God on their foreheads. It was their protection from torment of a beast, during the tribulation.

Détente is a French word from the root EASY. It means a relaxing or easing of tension between rivals – to reduce tension w/negotiations. It seems to me, that many of us in the church have just had an unspoken detente with the devil. We may not have said that we are compromising, but **our silence about what we believe speaks volumes**, and gives the clear message, that we are **not** holding **our Shield of faith**. Unspoken words, don't declare what is in our heart.

Word Without Spirit & Faith Will Profit Us Nothing

We have been studying how the **Word of the Lord, spoken in faith, can become a Shield of Faith** to us and those that we are interceding for, however; let's consider the following instruction from the Word of God, lest we initiate a lifeless tradition, that will bear no fruit.

This is a Biblical truth, worthy of deep and personal consideration: If we only speak the Word of God as a method, or a way to get the results that we desire, and it is not a Word that comes from **the heart of the Father, a genuine faith – that springs from a personal and deep heart felt belief - and a desire to bring the Lordship of Jesus Christ** into any circumstance that we are addressing, there will be no **Heaven sent life** and power in it, and therefore, no benefit to us, others, and the kingdom. This kind of faith and power is born not just from need and information, but must come from **RELATIONSHIP, TRUST, COMMITMENT, TOTAL DEPENDENCE, REVELATION, AND INSPIRATION.**

That is a sobering statement, but I believe that it is born out, in the Word of God and is evidenced and confirmed in the lack of fruit from some of our "learned prayers and confessions," that have unintentionally become soulish rituals.

Soulish repetitions, become vain repetitions, and they do not become **Swords in the Spirit, nor Shields of Faith.**

If we **religiously** spend our time saying memorized confessions and prayers, that are void of spiritual life, they will fall powerless in the spiritual realm, without producing the desired result. They will become dead works, rather than fruit in the kingdom, that is born of the Spirit.

Spiritual life, and fruit that remains, can only flow from, a deep and abiding relationship with our Father, our Savior, and in communion with the Holy Spirit. Abiding in the Living Vine, will always result in the outflow of spiritual inspiration and faith. This will prepare us to have the Holy Spirit and the Word conceive in us that which was sent from the heart of the Father. That conception will give birth to the works that we were created for. Those God breathed things, that were prepared ahead of time, that we should walk in. These divinely inspired works

are brought forth in our lives, by the inner working of the Holy Spirit, as we abide in Christ and walk by faith. They are **NOT DEPENDENT** on what we say or do, independent of God, but in our total trust born of our relationship with God, and in believing, receiving, and obeying, what He speaks to our heart, through His Word and by His Spirit. (Eph 2:10)

Prayers that are coming **only** from a "trained soul," that is seeking a desired end, will be lifeless. Yet, the same prayer that is inspired and breathed on by the Holy Spirit, will have spiritual power and be alive and effectual. It is not the words that we speak, but the source of the words that are spoken. Memorized phrases coming from a soul that is seeking to get a desired end, will not bring the same results as the prayers that flow from listening to, leaning on, and being inspired by the Holy Spirit. Give Him your ear, before you begin. Acknowledge your need of His wisdom, direction, inspiration, ability, and power. In other words, make a place for the Holy Spirit. Don't try to do spiritual things without Him. There is no spiritual power that emanates from us, without it being the outflow of the Holy Spirit within us.

If our prayers or confessions come from the memory bank of our soul, without the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, even if they are based on scripture, these soulish/religious confessions have no life in them. The difference is the difference between leaning on the arm of the flesh or trusting in and being led by the Spirit of the Lord.

Jer 2:13 For my people have committed two evils: they have **forsaken ME, the Fountain of Living Waters**, and they have hewn for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, which cannot hold water.

Jn 7:38 He who believes on Me (Jesus), as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'

v. 39 This He spoke of **THE SPIRIT**, whom those who believed in Him were to receive.....

So, in **Jer 2:13**, we see that the reference to the **Fountain of Living Waters**, was a reference to forsaking the **SPIRIT OF THE LORD**.

When we fail to give place to the Holy Spirit and acknowledging our need for Him, we are leaning on the arm of the flesh. I wonder if we will ever know this side of heaven how many things have failed to produce fruit in the kingdom and in our personal lives, because we initiated

it in our soul, carried it out in the flesh, by leaning on our own abilities and strengths, and it was like a broken cistern, that held no water. Any thing that is living and life giving that comes from us, will have to be initiated in the heart of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and carried out in His strength, anointing, and direction. Jesus said it was that way for Him, and as He was sent into the world by the Father, He said, so send I you. He was sent to hear and do what the Father said, and we are sent in the same way. We hear from the Father, and we speak and work in the power of the Holy Spirit. That brings fruit that will remain. **Jn 15:16 & 20:21**

Jer 17:5 Thus says the Lord: Cursed [with great evil] is the strong man who trusts in and relies on frail man, making weak [human] flesh his arm, and whose mind and heart turn aside from the Lord.

v.6 For he shall be like a shrub or a person naked and destitute in the desert; and he shall not see when good cometh, but shall dwell in the parched places, in the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

v.7 [Most] blessed is the man who believes in, trusts in, and relies on the Lord, and whose hope and confidence the Lord is.

v.8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters that spreads out its roots by the river; and it shall not see and fear when heat comes; but its leaf shall be green. It shall not be anxious and full of care in the year of drought, nor shall it **cease yielding fruit.**

This is a graphic picture of those who depend on themselves and what they can do, and those who trust in, lean on, and rely completely in the Lord. One is without the desired fruit, and the other never ceases to yield fruit.

Jn 15:4 Abide in Me, and I will abide in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you]. Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself, without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me.

v. 5 I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him, bears much fruit. However, **apart from Me** [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.

Abiding in Christ is a choice, and it is a faith position. Walking in the Spirit is a choice, and to walk in the Spirit, we must walk in faith. I once saw abiding in Christ like a two pronged plug that we use to plug in electrical appliances. One of the prongs was **"we choose,"**

and the other prong was “**our faith.**” If we didn’t have both of those things plugged in and activated, we weren’t really effectively abiding in Christ. It is not some difficult and mystical thing that can only be achieved by a few super spiritual people. It is what we choose and Who we put our faith in.

I believe it was Neil Anderson that said on a video, that I once watched, “Faith is choosing to believe that what God said is true.”

So, we have choices. We have a free will to examine the choices, and select or **choose** what we believe, and how to respond to that belief.

If we choose to lean on our own abilities and what man had passed on to us, instead of abiding in Christ and leaning totally on the Holy Spirit for instruction, wisdom, truth, direction, and ability, we will be as one who lives in a desert, producing no fruit.

Deut 30:19 gave the children of Israel a choice, and what they chose was recorded in the heavenlies and on the earth.

“I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live.” Amplified

To have choices, there must be two or more things to choose from. Once we select one above the other, we have made a decision.

Decide means: To cut off, End, Determine, To terminate,

Choose Heb = To try, i.e. select: choose, choice.

(select by preference)

Commit Grk 4100 = to have faith in, on, or in respect to, a person or thing; by implication: to entrust (especially one’s spiritual well-being to Christ: believe, believer, commit (to trust) put in trust with.

We **decide**, and we have made our selection, thereby cutting off the other choices, we have made a determination, based on what we chose. The results of how we follow up on the **decision** or determination that we have made, will be based on the depth of our personal **commitment** to abide, stand firmly, fixed, and immovable, with what we have chosen.

If this choice, decision, and commitment, is for us to take a spiritual position, that is based on the Word of God, we will have to decide whether or not we will believe what He says and follow through with that decision. Whether we finish our chosen course, will depend on how much we are personally willing to trust in the **ONE** that we are **committed** to.

If our decision is, to be led by the Spirit, and do only what He leads us to do and say only what He leads us to say, then **each word that we speak** and **work that we do**, must always be in agreement with the Word of God. This will dramatically and permanently affect how we pray and what we confess, especially if we really take to heart what Jesus said in **Mat 12:33-37**. In a nutshell: our words come from what is deposited in our heart, for good or for evil, and by those words, we are either justified or we are condemned.

Rom 8:26 tells us: So too the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf, making intercession for us, with groanings and yearnings too deep for utterance. v.27 And He that searches the hearts of men, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession (and pleads before God on behalf of the saints) according to and in harmony with the will of God.

Jn 6:63 Confirms this truth: "It is **The SPIRIT Who gives life [He is the life-giver]**; the flesh conveys no benefit whatever [there is no profit in it]. The **WORDS (truths)** that I have been speaking to you are **SPIRIT AND LIFE**."

Because of this, we cannot depend on memorized prayers and other's suggested confessions of the Word, but we must always be in communion with the Holy Spirit and have a listening ear and a willing and humble heart that agrees with God, that: we don't know what to say or do apart from the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said that the Spirit of Truth would guide us into all truth, and that He would be our Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby. He would teach us all things, and He would cause us to recall, remind us, and bring to our remembrance everything that we have been told.

Once the Lord gives us a revelation of the truth of His Word, it is Spirit and Life to us. But now, we are told that we must mix that Word that is in our heart and mind, with faith, in order for it to please God, and bring the accomplishment and fruitfulness of that Word into our lives and into the kingdom.

Heb 4:2 For indeed we have had the glad tidings [Gospel of God] proclaimed to us just as truly as they [the Israelites of old did, when the good new of deliverance from bondage came to them]; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because it was not mixed with faith (with the leaning of the entire personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) by those who heard it; *neither were they united in faith with the ones [Joshua and Caleb] who heard and did believe*). *Amplified version*

Those two scriptures speak volumes to us about why the Word of God comes **ALIVE** and is powerful and sharper than a two edged Sword, as it is declared to be in **Heb 4:12**. **Jn 6:63** Makes it clear that the flesh can not bring life to anything, and there is no benefit or profit to anything that is born of the flesh. **Heb 4:2** Declares, that even the glad tidings of the gospel, will not be of any profit or benefit to a man, who does not mix it with faith.

When the Word of God is spiritually alive in us, it will be evidenced by the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit. If we are praying prayers and making "supposed faith confessions," that are coming from nothing deeper than soulish training, there is no Spirit in them, therefore; there is no life in them. We can know that that which is born of the flesh will profit or benefit nothing and no one. It is as wood, hay, and stubble in the kingdom, and the spirit realm will never be influenced or moved by it.

Jn 6:63 and Heb 4:2 are confirming and amplifying the truth in Jn 4:24. God is a SPIRIT, and those who worship Him must worship Him in SPIRIT and in truth....and that the truth that we receive as revelation from the Holy Spirit, must be mixed with faith and ministered in the power of the Spirit, if it is to bring forth what God intended.

Paul gives us an example of the difference in ministry that is done in the power, anointing, and ability, of the Holy Spirit, and that which is

done in the strength of the law, ministered through the ability of man, and apart from power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Cor 3:5-6 Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) of ourselves to form personal judgments or to claim or count anything as coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from God. [It is He] Who has qualified us [making us fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a New Covenant [of salvation through Christ], not [ministers] of the letter (of legally written code) but of **THE SPIRIT**; for the code [of the law] kills, but **the Holy Spirit makes alive.**

Another reference to man's ministry of the Word – law - tradition and doctrine of man, making the Word ineffectual is in: (Mk 7:7-13)

Mk 7:7 In vain (fruitlessly and without profit) do they worship Me, ... **v.13.** Thus you are nullifying and making void and of no effect [the authority of] the Word of God, through your tradition, which you [in turn] hand on, and many things of this kind are you doing.

We might say, what does that have to do with my confession of the Word of God, which can become as a **SHIELD OF FAITH** to me and those that I am praying for? It can and will affect us, when we operate out of our soul and not from the spirit. Let me explain.

There is a difference between a Christian, whose soul has received a transmission and recommendation of precepts, and therefore has in his soul just a Biblical teaching, that has not become revelation and truth in his inner man. A spiritual revelation is received not just as a logical concept, that can be given mental assent, but as a revelation that enlightens the spirit of a man.

When there is only mental assent, the information, that is not revelation, becomes just a method for the soul to initiate, in order to get a desired result.

This is different from a soul that has been transformed, by the renewing of the mind, and therefore has become a soul whose thinking and responding is in accordance to the Word of God. This will be a soul that has come into agreement with his born again spirit, that is in union with the Spirit of the Lord. This believer's transformed soul and born again

spirit, are abiding in Christ, operating with the mind of Christ, and the Spirit of God can use the Words sent from the heart of the Father, to conceive and bring forth that which is Spirit and life.