

Further Answers to Questions

From Sermon June 21

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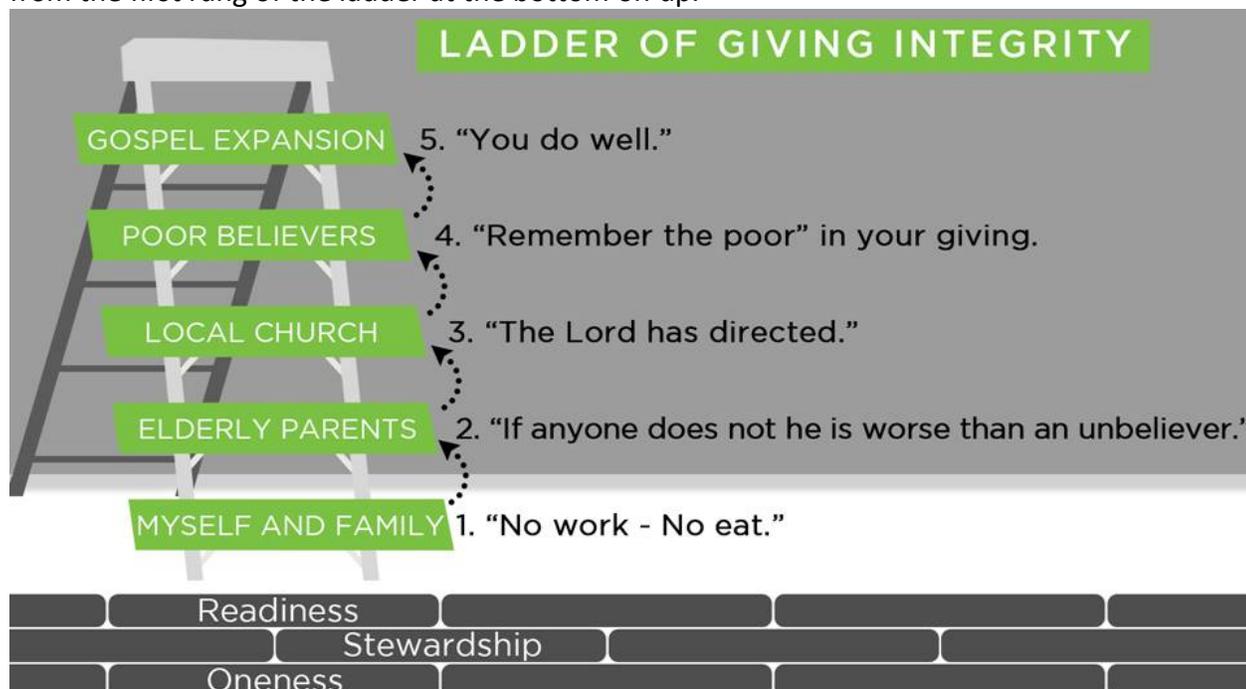
- **Our salvation is "Believing without Seeing" and we are all ok with that. Why can't we "believe without seeing" for healing?**

I am not sure I am understanding your question but will answer from what I think you're asking. You are right in defining faith from *Hebrews 11:1* "Faith is being sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not see." That would apply to any act of faith one may have, including healing.

When we are asking God for healing for ourselves or someone else, whether physical, spiritual, emotional, etc., we are asking God to heal when we cannot currently see the healing in reality. We simply acknowledge to God His ability to heal, ask Him to heal and trust Him to do the healing if it is His will. We are invited by Jesus in the parable of the persistent widow to repeat this kind of prayer as long as we sense He is leading us to. All of this is asking for something we cannot see.

- **Where do we draw the line between depending on ourselves and being prudent planners looking out for the needs of our family?**

We have taught on this subject before by using this "Giving Ladder". This shows from Scripture the priorities where we should direct our resources to others first before others and so forth. Read this starting from the first rung of the ladder at the bottom on up.



Expanding on the Scriptures quoted on this chart, one will find Ephesians 5 teaches husbands to love their wives to the point of death like Jesus, if needed. God has designed parents to take care of their children as a high priority as well. This applies to the first rung titled "Myself and Family". Then we hear God tell us in *1 Timothy 5:8* "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." This is the verse quoted in the 2nd rung titled "Elderly Parents".

Then you add the overall principle Jesus taught in *John 15:13* "There is no greater love than for one to lay down their life for their friend."

When we add all of these facts together among many other Scriptures, we can come to the conclusion that a parent is to provide first for their immediate family at extreme personal costs if needed. After that, the same for extended family (singles, you would start with your parents and siblings). After that, other brothers and sisters in Christ in their church. From there, give to advancement efforts of the Gospel and then give to one's neighbors, co-workers, etc. from what resources remain.

A good rule of thumb is in each situation, ask the Spirit if you've given enough to each of these groups in order of priority until you get to the need you are wondering about. If you sense the Spirit say "yes" to each, then you can give as the Spirit leads you to the need. If you sense a "no" on one category, ask the Spirit to show you who and how much to give so that you are taking care of the higher priority matters first. The Spirit has been given to guide us in situations like these because He loves to help us glorify the Father. One can also seek advice from godly people for each specific situation as Proverb 15:22 informs us.

- **What are two resources, outside of the Bible, you used in raising kids and leading your family?**

I'm sure this was directed to Doug who has grown children but since I've been asked to answer questions, I'll at least share a couple my wife and I have used through the last 13 years with our three children.

The Strong-Willed Child by Dr James Dobson

https://www.amazon.com/New-Strong-Willed-Child-James-Dobson/dp/141439134X/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=focus+on+the+family+strong+willed+child&qid=1593021953&sr=8-4

Godly Wisdom

We have asked various parents around us in the life of our church and our Small Group for tips when specific situations arose along the way. *Proverb 15:22* says, "Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed."

Paul Tripp Parenting Conference Resource

If you didn't catch it, a couple months ago we offered everyone in our Church these 2 free video studies:

1. The Marriage of Your Dreams
2. The Gospel Centered Family

To honor the terms of the license, we are only permitted to share these videos with CFC members and regular attenders. If you would like us to send you either of these resources, or both, please complete this form. [ACCESS FORM HERE](#)

- **Does the obedience of Sarah teach us about how to handle fear?**

Yes, in a way, her example does. I am sure you are referring to 1 Peter 3:5-6 which records *“For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.”*

The obedience Peter is referring to in this passage is her submission to Abram as her leader of her marriage and home. And the fear Peter is referring to is whatever fear a wife may face while trusting her husband to lead her. Fear of provision, protection, help, etc. No matter what fear a wife may have, she is called to trust God as she trusts her husband’s leadership. Even if her husband makes a mistake, the Lord is sovereignly superseding his decisions and will take care of His daughters.

- **Why did God change his disciples and Abraham’s names?**

It’s all in a name. That’s a cliché but there’s truth in it. Names can have meanings and can give someone a sense of their identity. Many times, when God changed people’s names in the Bible, it was because He was changing their identity. “Abram” means “high father” and “Abraham” means “father of multitudes”. God changed it to the latter after He had promised Abraham He would be the father of many nations through His promised son Isaac. Of course we know the most famous and important descendant of Abraham’s was Jesus Himself!

For Peter, Jesus changed His name from Simon to Peter, meaning “rock”, when Jesus first met him in John 1:42. Jesus was predicting a pivotal moment in the future recorded in Matthew 16, when Peter would be the first disciple to “get it”; to believe that Jesus is more than a prophet, but the Messiah who is Son of God. This core truth is one that everyone must believe in order to enter the Kingdom of God. It was like the foundational rock for all future believers to build upon.

So again, when God gives someone a new name, it’s an honor and act of love by our Father. With that said, God tells us that every believer who overcomes this world and follows Him to the end of their life will be given a new name written on a white stone once they arrive in Heaven. What each person’s name is not yet known but whatever it is, it will be extremely honorable and loving to receive it from our Creator God. We worship the God who gives us new identities in Him, no matter what the old was like!