

## Success and His Successor

Does it surprise you that the word success does not occur in the New Testament at all, and neither does any of its derivatives or associated words, whether by grammar, tense, noun or adverb format? In truth, it should not surprise any of us, except we have been so loaded down with doubt concerning the magnitude and the ability of Jesus and the truth of His word, that we would pray that God grant us success!

The truth is: **Jesus is SUCCESS.** He has succeeded, and being the Heir, **He is the Successor.** And if you are in Christ, then you are in the Successor and the One who succeeded; and if His words abide in you, then success also abides in you, for they are the words of He who succeeded and who personifies Success Himself overcoming all odds and gaining His goal, as well as being the first to do so, which is why **He is the Firstfruit.**

As Paul put it - **Christ, the firstfruits**<sup>1</sup> - not the firstfruit but the plural **firstfruits**, alluding to the twelve fruits of the Tree of Life that He is. As such, Jesus has the firstfruits, which are the signs of success, for you do not know if a tree is good until you taste of its fruits...

The object of all adventures, be it in the political, military, financial or scientific arena, is success. So likewise, the object of all faith is to successfully obtain that which you believe for. As such, for you and me, it is not a matter of whether you have faith or no faith or how much faith, but it is a question of where you have placed your faith, as Jesus asked the disciples, **"Where is your faith?"**<sup>2</sup>

'Where' speaks of location. **If your faith is located in Jesus, then your faith is located in Success Himself,** and when you are practising His words, you are practising success, not practising to be successful or hoping that you will succeed in your practice, but you are practising success, and as such, **the fruit of our practice can only be success.**

The location of our faith also includes which particular phrase or words of Jesus you believe in and put into practise, and as such, each person will have a varying degree of success based on which teachings of Jesus they can tolerate. Those who can tolerate the hard teachings of Jesus will be able to practise the hard and harder things, finally coming to the hardest things.

As Gale taught, Jesus asked the Pharisees who were entertaining evil thoughts in their hearts, **"Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?'"**<sup>3</sup> Since forgiveness of sins for them was impossible because they had no Ark of the Covenant upon which the blood could be sprinkled on the Mercy Seat anymore, then saying, **"Get up and walk"** was easier, and in their days, they did have a form of spiritual power by which signs and wonders were already being performed. As Jesus said, **"And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out?"**<sup>4</sup> there must have been counterfeit deliverance ministries back then already, as is mentioned in Acts 8:9 there were men like Simon the Sorcerer.

If "Which is easier?" was the question for the Pharisees whose thoughts of their hearts were evil, then surely, **you should expect the Lord to ask you and me, "Which is harder: to say, 'Yours sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk' to a cripple?"**

Because of Jesus, the forgiveness of sins is easier than to cause a cripple to walk because He said to the disciples, **"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."**<sup>5</sup> Yet rarely do we say this to each other before we practise using the power for miracles.

One area where Jesus' success is rarely acknowledged, because men seek holiness unto God in order to justify themselves, is that Jesus succeeded in allowing the Father to fulfil His gracious promise to mankind, which He made through the prophet Joel: **In the last days, God says, 'I will pour out My Spirit on all people.'**<sup>6</sup> As such, **all flesh has received the Holy Spirit to forgive sins, but not the power to be witnesses of Jesus.** It is now easier to forgive sins than to do miracles, whereas in the days before the Holy Spirit was poured out, it was easier to do miracles than to forgive sins.

<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:23

<sup>2</sup> Luke 8:25

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 9:5

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 12:27

<sup>5</sup> John 20:22

<sup>6</sup> Joel 2:28

It is time to bring out the harder teachings so that we can go onto the hardest teachings, for it is those teachings that can bring you up to full power. Now, you will watch the Lord sort out the harvest of His words based upon those who have endured the hard teachings and have not deserted Him. Jesus said to John's disciples, "Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of Me."<sup>7</sup> And many did, for as I have taught you, many of His disciples deserted Him and left Him in John 6:66 because of the hard teaching of the drinking of His blood and the eating of His flesh. That was only the hard teachings, but what of the harder teachings and what ears could bear to hear the hardest of teachings?

Do you remember the promise of Jesus, "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth."<sup>8</sup> With the advent of these harder teachings, you will find that just like Moses, others will say to you, "...but do not have God speak to us."<sup>9</sup> Or they will say to you, "Stop speaking of such things," and they will question your authority. Like Jesus, you will need the power to prove that you have the authority to speak such things, so that the foundation is set for the False Prophet to make his appearance through a resurrection of power to back up his authority to speak the blasphemous things that he will speak in order that the prophecy concerning him is fulfilled, as it is written: "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods."<sup>10</sup>

Unlike him, you will speak of unheard-of things **for** the God of gods. And when he and the Beast demonstrate the power they have been given to back up their authority – power to call fire down from Heaven in the sight of men, power to raise the dead, heal the sick, stop famines and end droughts – so you will move up the ante and prove your authority by the fire that comes out of your mouth and stop the rain whilst prophesying and turn water to blood and strike the earth with plagues as often as you wish.

The harder teachings are to make the easier teachings more attractive, and those who have not placed their faith in the Lord to come to know Him at all costs will be deluded to stay in the easier teachings, so that refinement will continue to the end. The advent of the harder teachings and the hardest teachings are not to make things difficult for people for the sake of making things difficult for them. No, God is not cruel. God is kind, but He is also the God who seeks glory and right now, God is seeking to glorify His Name again... except this time, it is the Name of God, the Holy Spirit.

As I have taught you, God the Father gave His only Son to save us. God the Son gave up His only life so that not only those who believe would be saved, but all will be made new again by His resurrection. So God the Holy Spirit gave up His holiness by being poured out on all flesh. The Holy Spirit has made it possible for the Covenant written in the blood of Jesus to be exalted above all other previous Covenants of God.

But now, as surely as God the Father has received His Son back, who is alive and seated at His right hand, and Jesus has been raised back to life by the power of His resurrection, so now, it is time for the Spirit of God to have His holiness resurrected in order that the power He powered out will manifest the glory held in the Resurrection for Himself - the Spirit of Holiness. This is being done through the resurrection now of one and ones who are called to be the elect of the Holy Spirit.

So that when the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way for the Lawless One to be manifested, the days when the Spirit of God was poured out on selected chosen ones as in the days of Israel will be resurrected. Resurrected and not restored, because now the Holy Spirit is not poured on certain chosen ones in power like He was with Samson or Elijah, but now the Holy Spirit will remain **in** and not on His elect, even as the rest of mankind will experience a resurrection of the days of distress when the Holy Spirit would not contend with man anymore. A resurrection of the days of Noah is to be manifested, as these days of distress will be unequalled since the foundations of the Earth.<sup>11</sup>

Instead of rain to flood the Earth, there will be no rain. Instead of the fish being the ones spared, all fish will die. Instead of the Earth imploding under the weight of the water, the Earth will now explode outwards as it is restored to its former size and the oceans are poured back into the springs of the deep. These are a sequence of events that will lead to earthquakes and drought with famines and plagues during which one-third of mankind will perish. It would be in keeping with the Justice of God, that those who were the lazy servants would pay the price, lazy in where they placed their faith. Those who buried their faith for fear of losing it will pay the price, but only those who put their faith to work in the words of Jesus will remain now.

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 11:6; Luke 7:23

<sup>8</sup> John 16:12-13

<sup>9</sup> Exodus 20:19

<sup>10</sup> Daniel 11:36

<sup>11</sup> Mark 13:19

Now through His elect, the Holy Spirit will experience His resurrection of His holiness, so that together with those who will return in the first resurrection, He will once more declare with power, as the Spirit of Holiness, those who are the sons and daughters of God, fit to reign with the One who first **succeeded**, and who will become fellow successors to the throne of the Father. Each one then accorded his own reward by the Father, according to what they had done with the talents and minas God had given them.

Thus, that which we are working toward, to meet with Jesus in the clouds above Jerusalem, will be a display of glory for the Spirit of Holiness in His resurrection. This is something that Jesus was, is and is now working towards, and because He is the very **personification of success**, then we will also succeed as He as succeeded and will continue to success.

So, for you, the question is not, "What is easier?" but, "What is the harder thing to do?" Success Himself awaits us in the harder things of God.

So, be alert and stay awake even as the commandment to listen to Jesus is being restored to the church, we are not living in the restoration, but in the Resurrection. As such, we are to live in the Resurrection of the command: "Listen to Him!"<sup>12</sup>

Everything now must be seen in the **Light of the Resurrection**. Even the glory that Jesus gave us to be one as He is One, even that perfect unity must be a resurrection of the unity He gave us the glory for... and because He succeeded, so will we. AMEN

God is **full of success**, and from the fullness of success, God did say, "Let there be light."<sup>13</sup> As there is no darkness in God, there is no failure in God. Now, once more, God is calling to His sons, "Where are you?" for in Christ, you have success already.

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<sup>12</sup> Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35

<sup>13</sup> Genesis 1:3