

## How Am I Interpreting God? (Part 2)

By Mary Bernice

Let us now consider a different Faith scenario. In Matthew 8:7, when the Centurion came to Jesus asking for healing for his servant who was home, paralyzed, tossed on the bed, and in great pain, Jesus responded, "And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." A side note here. I wondered how someone could have pain if he was paralyzed. It seems that there is neuropathic pain that the brain would register coming from the legs even though the legs are paralyzed. Not a problem with Jesus. Jesus said I would come and heal him. Wow!! Not just pray for him but I will come and heal him. And He Did (Matthew 8:13).

I recently noticed that I often think of the Gospels in the past tense. That is when Jesus taught and ministered to the sick; as in the case of the paralyzed servant, it is now past tense, done. Praise God for Jesus. So the picture of them being ill eluded me; the fact is that until Jesus healed them, He was facing them as sick people. Fully ill, whether blind, lame, deaf-mute, palsied, Parkinson's, polio, whichever, Jesus faced them while they were in that condition.

So then, yes, the storms were around, similar to storms of life, but every storm is subject to Jesus in you. In Luke 11:21-22, Jesus informs us what has happened, confirming that the adversary's armor has been taken. "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armor wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils." Paul shares the following in Colossians 2:15 "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he (Jesus) made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." God is Almighty, as demonstrated in Jesus. God created the physical body and knew it intimately.

Jesus' life exemplified the fact that He knew this information, whether displayed in His superseding the raging storms at sea or His opposing the right of sickness to afflict a body, Jesus knew something, and that is what He taught those who believe in Him as the Son of God.

That is what we read of the Father God in John 14:9-12. "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believeest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you

I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake." Again I pose the question, do I recognize God for all that He is, as demonstrated for us in the example of Jesus Christ? I am beginning to see it.

Jesus goes further in that pericope in John 14 to say: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he also do; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." God is still YHWH Ropheka. The God who heals you. Don't stop using the faith of God (Mark 11:22).

One might be tempted to say, "I have heard this before." So had Peter when he walked on water to Jesus. But, he still had room for hearing the Word of God build his faith to get back to the boat. He needed more of the Words of Jesus. Which he got, and by the time of Acts 5:15-16, we read of Peter "Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There also came a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one."

Let us recap when faced with what would seem to be an insurmountable storm, Jesus bids you come for the round-trip. Facing the storm and rendering it defenseless, to its calm. Or facing the sickness and bringing it under subjection to God's healing power. The same Jesus dwells in us. 1 John 3:2 informs the believer, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God" When Jesus taught the multitude to pray, the first thing He gave us to say was "Our FATHER" (Matthew 6:9). Jesus wanted us to know that we are sons of God Almighty. Not only that, but also that Jesus abides in us who believe in Him: "At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you" (John 14:20). God our shepherd, like David who had no fear because God was with him, also lives in us by way of Jesus Christ. Who also encouraged us with Matthew 28:20b "and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." We have to treat any illness with faith as healed and thus an opportunity to walk back to the boat on the boisterous water with Jesus.

Peter spent time learning Jesus' Words, and he did not stop because Jesus had pointed out his little faith. Nor did he turn his back on God in defeat. I will note here that the mountain moving, storm calming, body healing faith of God comes from God through His Word: Romans 10:17 states, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Jesus told Philip that the words that I speak unto you, "I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me..." Describing His Words, Jesus teaches that "It is the spirit that quickeneth; ... the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and

they are life” (John 6:63). Jesus confirmed Proverbs 4:20-22, which also speaks of God’s Word being life. “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh”. It behooves the believer to take the entrance (Greek: an opening, unfolding) of God’s Word as in-the-present and as a daily priority in life in order to allow God to BE the Almighty God that HE IS; thus supplanting the “little faith” mindset generated by human-default when God’s Word has not been attended to.

A key question that one must answer for yourself then is:  
Is there anything too hard for the Lord?