

Under a Better Covenant—Part 3

By Mary Bernice

At this time we will visit another item regarding the prodigal son and his brother. I wondered if God's provision is connected to your line of work or profession in life. That is, if you are a physician, God can bless you a lot but not if you are an administrative professional (secretary) or if you are an oil baron versus a house keeper. The Lord mentioned that the prodigal had been feeding the swine and sharing their food. Yet, when he returned to His father, he was given the same access as his brother to the father's wealth. His place in life had been a lower (none) income status but being in submission to the father, brought him provision that he could access in the family. First John 5:1 tells the believer "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...."

I will expand on this here, a little:

Whoever (everyone who) believes that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah/ Saviour) is born (the emergence of a new individual from the body of its parent) of God.

And

Whoever loves the Father loves the born of Him.

I believe the angels of God love the Father...they also love the born of God; you dear believer, are wonderfully loved. Both the repentant prodigal and the son who remained faithful to the Father, were still children of the father and had been given access to all that their father had. Allow that to sink in for a minute. Let the Faith of God for your position in His Kingdom be in you. Speaking of Faith.

Romans 10:17 states it this way: So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Jesus, being the Son of God in flesh had to have faith. When God spoke from Heaven, His Word to Jesus is recorded in Matthew 3:17 "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." This Word from Heaven confirmed what Jesus had already read from the Words of God recorded in the Old Testament. Then in Matthew 4:1 we read "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."

Jesus got hungry after a 40-day fast. The Word that Jesus had from the Father confirmed the Sonship of Jesus before witnesses. The enemy tested that Word by attempting to deflect Jesus' attention. Aren't you afraid? You are starving. You will surely die? You are the Son of God? Do what you've got to do to stay alive. In other words, obey me, turn rocks into bread, because if you don't get any bread in you, you are going to die and then where will you be, Son of God? In Matthew, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3.

Jesus' faith in what the Father said was solid. God said Jesus is His beloved Son. The Scriptures had foretold that God's Messiah would come. Jesus being the Messiah, was convinced by the Word of God, therefore Jesus could not die of hunger anyway because he had not yet preached "the gospel to the poor; ... heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord". (Isaiah 61:1) Matthew 1:21 states: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins", which the latter part had not been accomplished at that time of the temptation of the devil. So then in Matthew 4:11 we find that Jesus was right to trust God's Word. He did not starve to death as the enemy was attempting to convince him that he would if he did not obey the enemy taunting him.

After this, in Luke 4:17-21 it states where Jesus' faith was, "And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.' And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 'And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.'"

Whether you relate with the prodigal son or the son that remained, if you believe that Jesus is the Christ, you are born of God. And 1 John 5:4 tells us that "Whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." (NIV)