



“Faith liberates! By acting in obedience to the Word of God – the will of God – we can be set free from feelings. We can even do more by faith – we can take charge of feelings!”

Now how do you feel? **If there is anything we know about feelings, it is that feelings cannot always be trusted!** Do you remember your eighth grade love life?

“Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Heb 11:6). Faith is not “believing something no matter what the evidence.” Faith is

“obeying God no matter what the cost!” Faith is the action of obedience lived out in the face of opposition. Faith can no more be separated from action than can heat be separated from warmth.

Feelings lie! Did you ever feel like doing your homework, cleaning your house, or doing your taxes?

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Never in Checkmate!

When playing chess the final move places the defeated foe in “*Checkmate.*” No move is left, no retreat, no defense. As a Christian, you are never in “*Checkmate.*” There is a move you can always make, a maneuver that always assures you victory. We can still “castle,” we simply swap places - the King and Rook (the Castle). We surrender our-

selves, our positions in life, and our conditions to the King. We surrender our will to His will. We surrender our response to the teaching of His Word – the Bible. We surrender our weakness and take up His strength. We release our ignorance and lay claim to His wisdom. We let go of our immediate goal in order to receive His ultimate goal. We accept that character counts more in life than circumstance, and we become transformed by the very experience we thought would triumph over us. Isn’t this what Paul meant when God inspired him to write, “*We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose*” (Romans 8:28)?

Don’t look behind you at yesterday.

Don’t look about you at others.

Don’t look beyond you to tomorrow.

Look above you! Look to the LORD.

There is always one thing you can do when it seems like there is nothing you can do!



What to Do When There’s Nothing I Can Do

There he stands, Pharaoh clutching a death warrant in his hand, his face ablaze with the countenance of contempt. There they are, the fortified cities surrounded by impregnable walls guarded by soldiers so large you feel like a grasshopper in their presence. There it is, the Red Sea and later the Jordan River, both impassable, yet both are cast before you as the only avenues of advance. It is amazing how the stories of the Bible so vividly reflect the realities of modern life. We often come to be convinced there is absolutely nothing we can do, no way out, no way through the nightmare that seems to surround us.

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“Regardless of the reason, you are neither the first nor the last to be assaulted by the lie, *“There is nothing I can do!”*”

Have you confronted such an inescapable difficulty, or such an insurmountable problem in your life? Are you face to face with such a terrifying and tyrannizing threat today? ***Do you feel like there is nothing you can do?***

Possibly, your nightmare has come dressed in a physician’s lab jacket or the

ring and the “Dear John” letter left on the counter. Maybe the crisis that has you by the throat is financial or emotional. Regardless of the reason, you are neither the first nor the last to be assaulted by the lie, *“There is nothing I can do!”* Every person, Christian and non-Christian alike, will face times of overwhelming challenge. However, for the Christian there is never a situation in which there is nothing that can be done. **A Christian need never be a victim of circumstance.**

Avoid Tempting Traps...

When surrounded, when overwhelmed, we often have to deal with deceptive traps that lure us to destruction:

- ***It’s all up to him/her!***
- ***If only I had...***
- ***Well, maybe it will...***

We are often seduced into thinking that the destinies of our lives are dependent upon the whims of others, the pains of the past, or the

fate of the future. These are all deceptive traps that prevent us from acting in faith by enticing us to react in fear.

When the people of God were carried into captivity by the oppressive army of Babylon, God spoke through His prophet Jeremiah, *“For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope”* (Jer. 29:11). However, in order for His purpose of blessing to be realized, **they were going to have to learn to live in the here and now.** They could not retreat into the “*Whys?*” or “*Why-nots?*” of the past. They could not flee to “*What ifs?*” of the future. They could not hide behind the excuses and accusations of blaming “*him*” or “*her.*” They had to learn to say, *“LORD, what would you have me do TODAY?”*

Let the Walls Come Down!

Before the walls ahead us can come down, the walls above us – the walls that limit our relationship with God – must first be removed. How can God guide us if we will not listen? How can He lead us if we will not follow?

On another occasion when the people of God faced defeat and felt despair, the real issue was a spiritual battle. The Israelites had tasted an unimaginable victory at Jericho

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only to be trounced by a small band of men from a village called Ai. Why? We humans have the self-defeating habit of ruling our own lives, feeding our own appetites, and puffing our own pride. In such a circumstance, God prescribes one remedy, “The LORD said to Joshua, *“Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face? Israel has sinned, . . . ”* (Joshua 7:10-11a).

When you are down and defeated, you need intimacy with the LORD more than ever before. In order to experience the direction, power, and joy of His presence, you must first remove any and all known barriers from your relationship with God. **God cannot lead us to face and defeat the enemy until we first let Him lead us to face and defeat the grip of self-centered living and self-absorbed control of our lives.**

Feelings Are FICKLE!

Have you ever noticed how quickly your feelings can change? Imagine you have just gone to the mailbox to find ... yes, its you, you have won the Publishers Clearinghouse Sweepstakes! How do you feel? What happens if in the next moment you unfold the front page of the paper to find that the Publisher’s Clearinghouse has gone bankrupt as a result of another executive

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