

Episode 20 (Exposé 28): Faith Does Not Move God

Anchor Lady: Hello viewers this is Anchor Lady and this is Peter, you are onto this Exposé 247. I want to assure you, you've just done the right thing now by watching this program, because at the moment on the spot I couldn't think of any better thing to invest your time and data on than the things that pertain to this present life and eternity. So you are welcome once again to explore this Prodigal Father Series.

On good authority I just want to say that we are very close to the end of this series, let's say like the last bus stop, the last phase and so we might be delightfully close to answering the questions that this brother has been asking us, "why then should we do good, if the younger brother would still be accepted in the house despite all what he has done, if the fattest cow would still be killed for him, so why?" What's the motivation? Is there any point in being dutiful? Is there any point being obedient? Is there any point...? So today we want to kick start to that and see how far we go today. Over to you.

Peter: Erm, viewers all over the world, thank you for joining us today on Exposé 247 on the Prodigal Father Series. Uh, now we've actually been going on this Prodigal Father Series journey with the younger brother and the elder brother and we've actually seen a lot of things that Jesus wanted us to see through this parable. But so far so good, we've established the fact that the goodness of the father, the graciousness of the father, the decision of the father to give has nothing to do with his father's nature. But today, we have to explore something further, if it is true that the father is that good, and that he gives without finding fault, what was the reason why the younger son was not able to ask us that goodness and he had to leave home?—Secondly, we have to find out what's the reason why the elder son towards the end of this parable up to v.32 in this parable, we noticed that the elder son was still left outside up to the end of this parable, which means he never went inside to enjoy the father's goodness beyond the father's decision to bless the world without the world qualifying for the father's blessing. It means there's still one more thing that is to happen before people can access or receive what the father has given graciously on his own terms and on his basis. And that is what we start exploring beyond this stage on exposé. Which means what do we do with the father's goodness? Why is it that the younger son in the first place left home without the Father's goodness so much enthroned to him to make him stay to receive it? You see he went out and he was eating with the pigs, so that's what we will be exploring because it is not enough to be talking about the father, the father is so good to give. It is enough to talk about how do we receive what the father has given. And today we'll start to explore from James chapter 1. We have lots of scriptures to look into and if you are a Christian and you are a believer in Christ Jesus, you'd want to listen to this: "God is good, but the goodness of the father is irrelevant to you, if you are not able to respond or to receive what has been given". Now if I decide to give you a thousand pounds and tell you there's a cheque of a thousand pounds in your name, and I write it in your name unless you are able to pick up that cheque and cash that cheque and get the money into your hands, my giving of the cheque is irrelevant to

you, even though it's in your name. Giving doesn't make any sense if the person to whom it is given is not receiving that which is given, and I think the reason why so many Christians get stuck in this old understanding of that 'God is good' is not because we don't know God is good. In fact, have we noticed that we sing so many songs, our praise songs, our worship songs, all of them, most of them exalt the mightiness of God. People say God can do all things, they say God is mighty, they say God is great, they say God is powerful. Listen there is nothing special about that understanding. James tells us in the book of James, it says "you believe there's a God", he says the demons believe the same and they shake, so it is not enough that we sing of the goodness of God in giving, about the mightiness of God or that God can do all things. Satan tremble, Satan doesn't shake just because we declare that God is mighty and God is great, what really terrifies the devil is for you to know not just for the fact that God is good and God is great but that God who is good and great has given you something that you are able to receive, it is not that God is mighty, it's that you are receiving from a God who is mighty, that is what makes the devil to shake. So we need to go beyond singing songs and talking all the time about "God can do all things" and go beyond "God can do all things" to I am receiving from the God who can do all things and that is more important, and that is what we are actually exploring on this series.

Now, look at James Chapter 1, so the church needs to go beyond, you know, erm deifying songs about the greatness and goodness of God and talk about how do we walk in these things. Now James chapter 1, now I read erm from verse 5. Now if u look at this, it says that, "*if any of you lacks wisdom*", now looking at this particular verse '*if any of you lacks wisdom...*' It's a bit strange that James would talk about *if anybody lacks wisdom* in the church. I'd tell you the reason because the Bible tells us in the book of Corinthians, he said, "*Christ has been made to us the wisdom*", —now watch that, Christ has been made to us the wisdom and the power of God. It means if you have Christ, if Christ is in you... the wisdom of God is in you, the power of God is in you, so it's amazing that in the book of James, James the apostle will speak to his people and tell them if any of you lack wisdom, now the question is— how can he say any of you has wisdom if they have the spirit if Christ in them. The bible says, *if anybody does not have the spirit of Christ in them, they don't belong to Christ*—that's book of Romans. So if you have the spirit of Christ in you and you belong to Christ it means you have the wisdom and the power of God in you according to the scriptures, because Christ is made to us the wisdom and the power of God, how come it is possible then that people still lack what wisdom, the reason for that is the wisdom and the power of God which is Christ is in our Spirit man, but wisdom is not just needed in our Spirit man, you need wisdom to make daily decisions. The book of Ecclesiastes says, wisdom is profitable to direct, I need wisdom in my daily decisions physically. I need— I need wisdom in my daily eh decisions, in my uh mind, in my thinking, in my reasoning not just locked up in my what— in my spirit, so what James is simply saying is if any of you had Christ in you, the wisdom of God in you. But you noticed that actively in your daily decisions making, physically speaking, wisdom is not what— manifest, now it means something is wrong, there's a disconnect somewhere, it means you are not receiving what the Father has what— given, can

you see that, so y-you have Christ in you who is the wisdom and power of what — of God. But it is obvious in your daily decisions, wisdom is not manifest, wisdom is not applied, you can see there is a lack of wisdom, so James is going to tell us how to make the connect in the disconnect. Now.

Anchor Lady: Connect in the disconnect

Peter: Ya, how to connect (chuckles) I mean you have Christ in you, the wisdom and power of God, how then do you... H-h-how come you lack wisdom in daily...practical, daily....I mean daily in living and decisions, so James would help us by revelations to make to that connect to receive what God already, uh-uh gave. Now let me say this viewers before we carry on, in the book of James chapter 1, please when we say receive, be very careful, we are not talking about raising up your hands and saying Father send it down from heaven. Now if you are born of God and you are born again, you need to know that all you need for life and godliness is yours already. In 1st Corinthians 3, the apostle Paul told the Corinthian Judge, he said all things are yours. I know it's a bit uh- redundant to say, if you please that's redundant, how can you want to receive what is yours.

Anchor Lady: What is yours

Peter: Yea, yea it's possible, it's possible because, I-I-I mean, it's to your neighbours, to your bankers, to people on your job they don't, it-it's immaterial to them what's in your spirit. Hello, now you are a physical person, you have a body and by your body you relate to people physically, by your mind you relate to people psychologically, so what is more relevant to this current generation. To people around you, your physical body and your mind that's what the world can understand, the world cannot understand or connect with your spirit. So when the Bible says we need to receive, it means it's saying what? Stop that thing just lurking up in your spirit; you need to draw it out to be physically and psychologically relevant to your current environment. You know, it's very possible. A story comes to mind with what we go through in James chapter 1 again. When Jesus was in the boat with the disciples, that is a classical example of what we are talking about. You see, Jesus told them, *Let's go over to the other side*. It's amazing that Jesus was in the boat and think about it—the boat was able to turn upside down and capsize, even though Jesus was in the boat; it is very possible that Christ is in you—the Hope of Glory—it is very possible that you are alive and yet, there can be confusion, there can be turmoil... the boat was about to what? Capsize... So we are simply saying that the reason we need to learn how to receive from God is not because God has not given us—Christ is in the boat! Jesus is in the boat. He's right in there, but yet, we are talking about what is relevant to our generation is, are you able to draw out from what is in there.

Now, before we read this James chapter one, I need us to read one place in James 1 which is different from the Wisdom part before we come back to the wisdom issue. Now, see, there's a place... it says that in James chapter 1 verse 21, it says, *Wherefore, lay apart filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive...* Watch this word, *receive...* Receive what?

Anchor Lady: *with meekness...*

Peter: *with meekness the engrafted word...* Again, we come across this word again. How can we receive the word that is 'engrafted'? It said EN-grafted not EX-grafted. Not OUT-grafted, not outside; not raising your hand and saying *God, rain it down from heaven*. No. It didn't say that; it said, *the word is engrafted...* but it said, see, it's EN-grafted. But what is the use of Christ in your boat when your boat is about to sink? If the Christ in the boat cannot overshadow the boat, it's simply saying the Word of God that is engrafted in your Spirit, but it's saying you still need to receive what is EN-grafted. You see, every child of God needs to understand that we need to learn to receive what is in you. That's why I said that's a bit redundant thing to say. That's what the scripture tells us. It's not tautology; it's not repetition of words; it simply means, it's not enough that Christ is in our Spirit, it's not enough that Christ is in our boat; we need to receive...we need to give flesh to... we need to give materi—I mean, we need to materialise what is in our spirit. That's why the Bible tells us to put on Christ. Can you see that? It says *Put on the new man*. It didn't simply say it's all there. It says *Put ON the new man*. It didn't say *Put IN the new man*—can you see that? It says *Put ON the new man*—*put it on*. It means the new man is in you. Christ is in you—He's the new man. The Bible says *Put Him on, give Him flesh, let Him materialise*. The Bible says, *Great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh—IN the flesh*—can you see that? God was fleshed out in moving into the neighbourhood, He was materialised. Now, this is what receiving means. To receive simply means to give flesh to what is in your spirit. So, please, when we say receiving, didn't think we are saying, raise up your hand and just tell the Father to send it down. We've just used the scriptures to establish that reality.

Back to James chapter 1. So let's see the practical... I mean wisdom that James actually gives us on how to receive, on how to receive from the Lord. Now, this is actually what happened to the younger son. In fact, both the younger son in Luke chapter 15 and the elder son, they fell prey to this problem. Have you noticed, though the Father was constantly good in Luke 15 from verse 1, I mean, down to the last verse in verse 32, the Father was constantly good; He wasn't changing like shifting shadows, but yet the elder son missed out because he couldn't what? Receive it... The elder son missed out because all through the parable, the elder son was locked out. Look at James chapter 1, now see what it says in verse 5. *If any of you lacks wisdom...* So we know what that means now... *Let him ask of God*. Now, *Let him ask of God...* Now, *the God that gives to all men liberally*. Now, the word 'liberally' means He's not stingy. It means this God is so good; He just releases... We...we... that's why we titled this series 'The Prodigal Father' series... a God Who is reckless; a God Who doesn't quantify or measure; a God Who is not careful with His giving; a God Who is very careless when He gives; He gives without **pani-for-liberal**... That's what He is. He said so when you are asking the Father, make sure you know that the Father you are asking is a liberal giver. Now, it is important that in the place of prayer or in the place of seeking the Father, it is important that you know that the God you are asking is a God Whose depth of riches, Whose depth of abundance knows no limit. Now, if you are asking a God Who you think is limited in resources, you are asking a 'wrong God'. That's

why the Apostle Paul said in Philippians, he said, *My God—watch that—shall supply all your needs*. But he didn't stop there, he said, *in accordance...according to His riches in what? In glory*. He wants you to know there's no point you asking God for supplying your needs if you don't know that the God you are asking has got riches in glory that is far beyond your reasoning. Now watch this, he said *Let him ask from God that gives what? liberally to all men*. There's no limit; He will give to any man. Now, see what it says... *And upbraids not...* upbraid... it means, He doesn't find fault; He doesn't say this is why you don't qualify... Now, we actually talked about this on this episode; we're not gonna go back to that again. We've... if you've missed this, please go back in our series and check where we've actually clarified why it is true that He doesn't find fault, so we're not gonna do that again. So, the next thing says *And it shall be given him*. Can you see that? Now, it means there's no qualification; it said He gives without finding fault. Now, our focus today is on the sixth verse—that's what we are exploring.

But... can you see that? It said, *But...* That's the word. There's always a 'but'. Now, if there's a 'but' to something, you want to pause and listen to the 'but'. Now, that's why some people ran off. I mean, some people, in the process of teaching grace, they ran off at verse 5 and they ran... say, *well, God gives to all... it doesn't matter what you do; it doesn't matter how you react; it is irrelevant. Just know that God gives to all men, it doesn't matter...* and they close their bibles. Listen, that doesn't stop there; that's half of the truth. You cannot close your bible on James chapter one verse 5. You cannot teach God's grace so much that you end up on James 1:5. You have to go beyond James 1:5 and go on to James 1:6 to get the full dose of the teaching on grace. Now, it says *But...* there's always but. Now it says, *But let him ask in faith...* He must have a disposition when he's asking. He must have... eh... there's a way the person needs to act. He must ask in faith; nothing wavering. It means not moving here and there... *for he is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind...* Now, *if anybody wavers, if anybody doubts...* some version says *if anybody doubt, he is like the wave of the sea—inconsistent*. Now, this is where we have to clarify this. You see, what happens is this... if you are asking anything of the Lord, even though, God gives liberally to all men, there must be something that needs to happen in you for you to receive from the God Who gives liberally to all men. The giving of God is not enough; you need to what? Receive. And for you to receive, you must have a... the right disposition. That's what we have come to maintain. This is what happened to the younger son. Even though the Father was given, even though the Father was constantly faithful to both the elder son and the younger son, but we know the reason why the younger son first missed out before he came back again, he missed out on the Father's goodness because he had a wrong what? Disposition. You see? It was not relevant that the Father was good, but he missed out because he had a wrong disposition. Now, we did say the elder son in verse 32 missed out... Now if you read Luke 15, you would notice that Jesus ended the parable with the elder son being outside. He missed it because he had a wrong disposition. Can you see? The Father is good but these two men—the younger son and the elder son—the younger son missed it in the first place while the elder son missed it in the second place because they had a wrong what? Disposition. Now, this 'disposition' is what we want to look into. Now, let us look at this. See

what it says. It says, *And...for he that wavers is like the waves of the sea*—I'm reading verse 6 again—*driven by the wind and tossed here and there...* Look at verse 7; *let not that man...* Have you noticed? Look at the switch of words... in verse 5 of James chapter 1, it said *The God Who gives to all men...* Now, it's come down to *Let not that man...* Now, before, it was for everyone. But now, he's talking about what? You need to qualify to receive. You don't need to qualify to be given. Now listen, You don't need to qualify to be given.

Anchor Lady: You might need to take that again.

Peter: Yeah. You don't need to qualify to be given, but you need to have the right disposition to be able to receive. Now, this is making the connect in the disconnect. Now, you don't need to qualify to be given, so that's why we say there's nothing you can do... you cannot make God do something. That's why people talk about 'Faith Moves God'—that's not true. It doesn't move God. Faith moves YOU. Have you noticed that in verse...in verse 6, it says *Let that person ask in faith, not being wavering...* Let's...let's break that down. It's simply saying *If you ask in faith, you will not be wavering.* It means, if you're asking in faith, it affects your disposition.

Anchor Lady: Yeah... I understand.

Peter: So, so...it means somebody not asking in faith will be wavering. So we are simply saying is, the subject of 'Faith'... people have talked about so much faith ... the 'Faith Movement'. Faith doesn't... it only affects you, your walk with God

Anchor Lady: It doesn't affect God.

Peter: It means you have faith, you wouldn't waver; you don't have faith, you waver. So, faith is for you; faith is not for God. Faith is for you—you are the one that needs faith; not God. So how come you can claim that faith is moving God? It never moves God because God already moved. He's done everything He would do before the foundation of the earth. Even when it comes to the crucifixion of Jesus, the Bible says that *Jesus was slain from the foundation of the earth.* That's amazing! It means it's got nothing to do with you and I. So what faith does, it moves us... it affects our disposition. So that's why if you're not walking in faith, you begin to waver. It shakes you. So, now, this is where the subject of God's faith comes in. Faith is on God's side, faith is on man's side and this is the connect that James was trying to make for us to understand. So now you know, now you know the reason why the younger son walked away from the Father's grace and the Father's goodness in Luke 15 was because he wasn't in what? He wasn't in faith so he wavered. I mean he moved here and there...and that's it.

Anchor Lady: That verse says *Let not that man...* I can't remember—

Peter: Now, verse 7 says, *Let not that man...* Can you see that? ...*think...* Can you see that? ...*that he will receive anything from the Lord.* This is actually going to attack lots of wrong theology. Some theologies in some Christian circles that actually teach people that you know what? If your prayers are not being answered or you are not getting results, what you need to do is, gather prayer meetings...and gather people, let them pray and mount pressure on God. If

they can put enough pressure on God, you can make God to do it. And in... I mean, a times people say that *I'm not feeling fine, I'm going to call 10 people, 15 people, 25 people...* we gather in a stadium and we can even make it a national day of prayer so that we can now... NO! The Bible says...

Anchor Lady: make Him do something...

Peter: the issue about faith is about you. It said *If you are not in faith, you will waver; if you are in faith, you will not waver*. Faith is for you; faith is not for God. It doesn't matter whether you gather 5 people, 10 people, 25 people... you cannot mount pressure on God to do what God has done, and that's it. That's why so many Christians have so many weights and pressure on them. It means you have to force... you have to propel... you have to push God. And may I say this: the 'Faith Movement' of the 1970s and the 1980s, that was the problem with the Faith Movement. Because the 'Faith Movement' thought the more we can do this, the more we can declare, the more we can speak, the more we can claim it, the more we can...erm, confess it, we can make God do something. We cannot make God do anything. God already did what He would do. James chapter 1 verse 6, we'll emphasize this so that our viewers can understand this; James chapter 1 verse 6 says *If you are in faith, it will only ensure that you don't waver...* It's for you. Faith is for you—it only helps you not to waver. You see, for example, you can only give somebody something and the person keeps moving from here to there, it's hard for them to access and receive... If you noticed in Romans chapter 4, from verse 18, 19... it speaks about Abraham. It said, *Abraham believed God* and it says *Abraham did not stagger...* see that word? *Did not stagger here and there—did not waver—at the promise of God through unbelief*. That's Romans 4:18. It means it's simply saying, when we have unbelief, it makes us to waver. We stagger... or when we are in faith, we don't stagger. Now, again, Romans 4:18 still exerts the fact that faith is for us, again. Now, we need to get this into our spirit; Faith is for you. You are in unbelief? You will stagger; you are in faith? You will be stable. So faith only affects you and it's got nothing to do on God, and that's why we need to understand that.

Now...this is the point we're gonna stop today because there are so many points we need to unravel in this James chapter 1 verse 7 but we are gonna continue on that in the next episode.

Anchor Lady: I hope with this episode, we are able to resolve the divide between the giving and the receiving and what happens in-between—between the end of giving and the end of receiving. And lest you forget, that when you mention in the time...that you have always been on this side of the...that we are talking about the goodness of God, singing about it, we know that too well... so let's come to living the reality and translating it from the point of knowing about it, talking about it, we are being confident about to it...to living it out

Peter: like we said...

Anchor Lady: You know this verse in today's... into this discussion, about that Luke 1:35 that says *All things...all things are possible with God...* You know, *All things are possible*

Peter: hmmm

Anchor Lady: But you will now see in the latter part of the scripture, it says *To Him that believes...*

Peter: *All things are possible.* Like you said, we sing so many songs about *God can do all things*, that's irrelevant...irrelevant if you are not able to access the God that can do all things. And like you said, there's a scripture that *All things are possible with God* and Luke 9:23 says *To him that believes, all things are possible...*

Anchor Lady: so the responsibility...

Peter: goes back to us!

Anchor Lady: ...from God, we need to move away from that.

Peter: Faith isn't about us

Anchor Lady: All our singing about God...

Peter: that's it

Anchor Lady: yes, we know about that and that is true. But now, let's... let it materialise

Peter: that is it

Anchor Lady: We flesh it out

Peter: that is it

Anchor Lady: that which was given. So we must not be lost in translation, lost in the vibe. So all the blessings, all the things He has given us for life and godliness must not be lost in translation, so we need to flesh it out. We must know how to receive and we need that faith for ourselves so that we can stand firm, no wavering... We don't want to go to those places of Galatia that said *Still standing firm...* We don't want to go to Ephesians because that's wavering, too. We need the faith for stability and which is...

Peter: Faith is for stability; it's for yourself, it's not for God

Anchor Lady: And which is mentioned in those Ephesians... it was talking of *Standing firm...firm...firm...against wavering, against staggering.*

Peter: hmmm

Anchor Lady: So we can't say (chuckles)...we can go on and go on and go on about this but we are just going to draw the curtain on it for today and hopefully, next week, Saturday and Sunday, 7pm, we are going to continue. I actually thought you were going to get to the motivation for righteousness...

Peter: Well, we're still gonna explore that as we go on...

Anchor Lady: We still got lots... Only God knows when we will get to this point. So we will hope to see you to join us next week, and for those who are with us today on the live transmission where we ministered about faith, you know, if you are not there, you might want to go back; we talked about faith again...so till we see you next week, keep sharing and keep living this truth. So byeee

Peter: byeee.