

Where the Rubber Meets the Road!

Part 3: "Deep Well!"

By Cere Muscarella

So Far... Our faith must "touch down" and give us traction on the roadway of life! *Nothing says "faith" to the world like us putting money in its place!* A servant, not master! *Being able to bear disappointments without becoming a disappointment!* What does it look like when we quit? *Forgiveness is a true work of faith!* "Increase our faith!" *And a life of faith is a life of restoration!* All from the little leaflet of Philemon!

So Far... From the life of Paul, the aged, we saw... *The "tag" changing transformation from Saul, the dead religionist...* To Paul, the beloved champion of the faith he persecuted/prosecuted! On the "reveal" of how wrong he was! *His settledness with "godly suffering!"* He was willing to spend and be spent for the sake of Jesus! *His dedication to work for the restoration of others!*

"No one gets thru a broken world unbroken..." –Ed Stetzer

Today... Must learn to settle into high compression living! The intervals of difficult circumstances, events and people, have shortened! Sometimes one 'wave' overcoming the one in front of it, 'doubled up force!' Nothing worse for a testimony of faith in Christ than failing under pressure! Not only the immediate response of running... (with 'exclamations?') But the slide and the distance that can follow before we realize it happened! Faith is for pressured/'lionized' times!

"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth! For the devil is come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time." Rev 12.12

Whether it's the 'end of the age...' or... To end your growth... he wants your faith to fail!
cp Luke 22.32

"If you faint in the day of adversity your strength is narrow!" Proverbs 24.10

1Timothy 1.4-20 (abr) "By sound doctrine and following good patterns of lifestyle we are called to wage a good warfare; holding faith and a good conscience, which some having put away concerning their faith *have made themselves a shipwreck, of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexandros* (bad press) whom I have *delivered over to Satan* (hard knocks for restoration) *that they may learn not to blaspheme* (big slide, but Satan's end game)!"

2Timothy 4.1-10 (abr) "I charge you before Jesus to preach the word, be ready all the time, do your job, be willing to suffer, because the time is coming when people will only hear what they want to hear. Stay alert! Endure afflictions! Get people saved! Make full proof of your ministry. I have fought my good fight and am ready to receive the crown laid up for all who keep the faith. *Demas is gone, forsaking me, loving this present world!*"

1John 2.15-19 (abr) "Don't love the world or the things in the world. If you do, you show that the love of the Father is not in you! The lusts (lists) of the flesh and eyes and the pride of life is not of the Father but of the world – and it is passing away with its lusts! But he that does the will of God never passes away! *This is the time of the antichrists*, and they went out from us so that it might be evident they were not of us who continue ahead!

Our Pattern... “After thronging Him for the healing and deliverance miracles He did... the multitude came together again, thronging them with so many needs that they couldn’t even eat. And when His friends heard it they went out to lay hold of Him to bring Him in because they said, ‘He is beside Himself!’ Adding to the weight of the moment, the scribes tried to discourage the people with negative things to say about Jesus. They said He was a devil casting out devils! **Mark 3.7-30**

Critical Mass... *Look at the ingredients for a negative chain reaction:* Momentarily tired and hungry... Pressed upon... tugged on... called on... So many people, overwhelming needs... And these religious nuts; blind, jealous, impotent, self-important, slanderous of God... All while He’s just trying to live the life God has laid out before Him... And be a model for others to follow! **WHAT COULD GO WRONG?**

For Others to Follow! He lived a supernaturally compressed life! The struggles He was having on earth were nothing compared to the warfare in the spiritual realm! From the beginning Satan was His personal adversary! **Matthew 4** Even the Gadarene Legionnaire didn’t have that to deal with! **Mark 5.9** Devils at work to bring an end to His life and influence on earth! **1Corinthians 2.8** He wasn’t wrestling with flesh and blood alone... **Ephesians 6.12**

Little to no space between demands for His attention and affection! How much can one person take? **That depends on who’s resources you are drawing from!** His supply was infinite, because God was His source! **If we are running out it only speaks to whose resources we are using!**
When He speaks, we know...

He was drawing from a supernatural well!

Listen to the clarity... And He called them and said, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself it cannot stand! And if Satan is rising up against himself and he is divided he cannot stand, he is coming to an end! No one enters a strong mans house and spoils it unless he first binds the strong man! Watch yourselves because all sins will be forgiven except blasphemy of the Holy Spirit by whom I do the work!” **Mark 3.23-30**

The End of the Story! “*They said He was beside Himself...*” **but He didn’t! He wasn’t!** He was standing still, quiet, in the midst of great needs; ready to go to the next level! “But that’s Jesus! Sure He responds that way! But I’m not Him!” But He called us to be like Him! The Apostle Paul, one of us, a simple follower of Jesus... says “WE CAN!”

“In whatsoever state I am in... I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!” Phil 4.11-13

Listen to the clarity... “We have the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in Christ parked as treasure in our earthen bodies so that the excellency and supremacy of our power is shown to be God and not us! Troubled, we are not distressed; perplexed we are not in despair; persecuted but we are not abandoned; cast down we are not destroyed – we don’t faint even if our outward man is perishing because the inward one is being renewed every day! And our light afflictions, which are only for a moment, work in us an exceeding and eternal weight of glory as we look at the eternal things unseen! **2Corinthians 4.6-18**

The End of the Story! At the first signs of running out of power for living...

If we can run to God instead of running for cover...

If we can pray instead of complain...

If we can read and study the Word, instead of sitting in wonder...

IF WE CAN DRAW FROM THE SUPERNATURAL WELL OF GOD IN US...

We can live successful in these times of compression! *And that is faith that gives us traction to keep moving forward...*