

Burning The Bridge Behind Us

WORDS TO LIVE WITH by Pastor Ambrose Clark

In ancient history we read of a general who crossed a river into the enemy's territory to give them battle on their soil and after crossing the bridge he burned it, so that his troops would not be able to retreat, but they would have to either win or lose their lives. As far as we can learn they won a great victory.

While we do not use this illustration to endorse the killing of his enemies by this general, yet it is a splendid illustration of what we must do when we leave our ways, plans and doings, and cross over to God's side and accept His ways and plans for our deliverance and blessing. If we would have the full and perfect victory over sin and Satan and all his works, we will have to burn our bridge behind us; in other words, we will have to settle it that we must win out in God's way and by God's power, instead of going back to any other way or plan of deliverance.

So many try to experiment with God: they try God's plan just to see how it works and if it does not work as quickly and fully as their finite minds expect, they reserve the right to go back and try some other plan. This will always prove disastrous in our dealings with God. We can experiment with each other, but when it comes to God we cannot experiment with Him.

If we come to Him for deliverance, we must accept His plan just as it is, finally and forever and burn every bridge behind us, and then God can manifest His glorious power and bring us to quick deliverance through the Power of the Holy Spirit Who dwells in us.

While we leave a plank on the bridge, His Power is completely shut off, for He tells us in James 1:6,7, that "he who wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. Let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." The plank on the bridge will also enable Satan to come over after us and to fill us with his doubts, fears and discouragements, spiritually, and also make things much worse than in what we have decided to trust Lord Jesus Christ. But when we have burned our bridge and placed our case and cause into God's Hands to leave it there, regardless of consequences, then Satan's power, our doubts and fears are broken at once and quietness and confidence takes possession of us, which will enable us to trust God for a full deliverance.

Furthermore, God's Power will be manifested in delivering us from every power and work of Satan immediately. This thought is brought out clearly in Hebrews 11:6, where we are taught that "without faith it is impossible to please God."

It means this quality of faith in Christ that is determined to go through in God's Way. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." The word "diligently" in this case would mean in our English language, to have a determination to seek Him until He is found and never turn back. Many have wondered why they have such a difficult time to receive deliverance from the power of sin, to be healed of their diseases, to receive peace in their homes, or victory over some circumstance of life.

The plank on the bridge is the secret of the difficulty and it is the real reason why God is unable to manifest His Power in a quick and perfect deliverance.

It is no use to expect a full victory in our own personal lives for the peace, control, management and salvation of our families, in the healing and protection of our bodies, or victory in anything else until we have placed these things in God's Hands, with a complete determination to leave them there, and have finally and fully determined to have God's deliverance and no other kind. This means burning our bridge behind us.

We have a striking example of this in the third chapter of Daniel, where God's Power was manifested in quenching the violence of fire. It was the attitude that these Hebrew children took in burning their bridge behind them that brought this manifestation of God's Power in their protection and deliverance. By simply bending their backs, they could have apparently saved their lives, but to have bowed down to the golden image in Babylon would have been a direct disobedience of God's Word. They had settled it to do God's Will regardless of consequences, and they had burned their bridge behind them, for when the king gave them another opportunity to obey him, they plainly told him that the God they served was able to deliver them and would deliver them, BUT IF NOT – these three words reveal their heart's attitude and clearly show that there was not a plank left on their bridge. We all know the final result. The Son of God entered the furnace with them as they came forth without the smell of fire. The only thing burned were the cords which bound them.

It is just the same today; when we take the same attitude, we will discover the same manifestations of God's Power, because He has never CHANGED, neither is He any respecter of persons. We have many families here who are present-day examples of how important it is to burn our bridges behind us. From the beginning of their Christian lives, they determined to go through with God, spiritually, in divine healing and in financial matters; and their victory over sin, satan, disease and financial affairs has proven again that the God the Bible reveals is the same, loving Father today and that we can receive the same blessings that anyone received in Bible times, when we look unto Him with a single eye (Matthew 6:22), "The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is sound, your entire body will be full of light." We must trust Him with our whole heart (2nd Chronicles 16:9a) "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose heart is blameless toward Him."

May the happy experience of these many families prove an encouragement to many precious souls to enter in and enjoy their inheritance in Jesus Christ! Amen. These families stand victorious over sin, sorrow and disease, and their firm stand to go through with God has enabled Him to shower down blessings from Heaven above and also to give them blessings of the earth beneath.

We thank and praise God for His Tender Love and Great Mercy to us, the children of men.

We are always glad to give Scriptural advice and counsel to those who desire to write us about their problems, and to remember their requests for prayer in our services.

In addition, we publish sermons on other subjects, which take up in detail teaching on how to deal with God successfully and be delivered from the power of sin and Satan; the fullness of the Holy Spirit and obedience to the Word of GOD as written in The Holy Bible; healing and protection of the body through dependence upon GOD alone, God's financial plan and the pre-millennial coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Sent Free to all who request.

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