

Faith-based Hope
Skip Bell, April 20, 2005

2 Kings 6:9-17

EGW Manuscript 8, 218

Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish...

Certainty in this quotation.

Prayer and faith will do what no power upon earth can accomplish. We need not be so anxious and troubled. The human agent cannot go everywhere, and do everything that needs to be done. Often imperfections manifest themselves in the work, but if we show unwavering trust in God, not depending upon the ability or talent of men, the truth will advance. Let us place all things in God's hands, leaving Him to do the work in His own way, according to His own will, through whomsoever He may choose. Those who seem to be weak God will use, if they are humble. Human wisdom, unless daily controlled by the Holy Spirit, will prove foolishness. We must have more faith and trust in God. He will carry His work out with success. Earnest prayer and faith will do for us what our own devising cannot do. . . . {8MR 218.2}¹

God will work miracles for His church.

The Narrative

Skip was a young pastor, in ND.

After 2 years the conference invited us to move to Grand Forks, ND

Airbase, 17000 air corp man

University with lot of students.

One of the coldest place on earth in the Red River Valley.

One of those little white churches with a baptistery carved into the floor.

Parking had 5 spaces and then off-street parking.

“We should have a new church.”

Started a Building Plans Committee.

¹*Manuscript Releases, Volume 8 [Nos. 526-663, 1977-1978];MR8. 1993;2002 . Ellen G. White Estate*

Found a beautiful Lutheran church in upstate ND the committee liked it.

Contacted the architect to make a set of plans and model.

Had a Land Search Committee in a nice residential area.

Bought 3 acres and paid for.

Had plans and land, but needed money.

Now, the finance committee went and visited everybody.

The policy in the conference was to have 50% money in hand before you start the building process.

About \$40,000 short

Now when you're compelled by this vision that God wants this to happen, where do you go?

The building committee drove down to Jamestown to meet with the officers of the conference.

Laid the plans on the table: discussed the model, the evangelism, and then Skip made the appeal to the conference brethren.

If the conference can come thru in the excellent rather than a normal way, we can move forward.

Conference president looked at me and said, "We'll pray for you."

Skip went back to the conference office and made the appeal again like the death-bed call for conversion.

What did Skip want to hear?

January came and the church was ready to go. Skip drove by the property and prayed along with members.

There was a pastors' conference in Jamestown, ND—met at their new church.

There was a morning and they went out to have breakfast together at the Country Kitchen.

Skip saw the treasurer there with his check book and calls for a short meeting.

Made a one-minute appeal and said how the church was hoping for when the thaw came, they could start the process.

We're small church! Won't you just help us?

Looked at Skip in the eye and said, "You are small, aren't you?" Then, turned and walked away.

Skip talked to the elders and described the experience. A young elder said, "I don't appreciate that!"

But you know, that may have been the finest lesson I ever received in the ministry.

We've done everything we could and it's not enough! If it's going to happen, we have no place to turn but prayer.

Some of the most important experiences come from the struggle.

They prayed and paid off the church in 3 years.

You are small, aren't you?

Am I small? Yes, compared to the universe and its power.

The president knew Skip well enough to say that.

There's a point where you must realize the power of faith, dependence upon God.

A leader needs the miracle claiming faith of a servant, not a hero.

I journeyed with a pastor who struggled with power problems with God...Power!

God does not I believe change our hearts by demonstrations of His power.

I think God's greatest power is His love.

The servant model is user-friendly for God's power.

Jesus did not come down from the cross.

He shunned any position or garment that suggests He wanted that power.

Skip believes that God does His miracle-working power on his schedule.

Ever been in a place that you were in a position in ministry that was miserable.

When submission occurred, then release.

Our hope for the church is based upon what He'll do and not so much our power/cooperation.

It's a difficult thing to do.

Faith-based hope is not possibility thinking.

Not saying that if you're committed enough it will happen.

Just total confidence in God.

Truly saying "We want God's will to occur!"

Leaders have tremendous hope...

It's a hope that is sure and certain.

Faith-based hope provides growth-centered thinking

Eddie Robinson, pastor dying of cancer, who was trusting whatever God's will was.

Skip was angry with God over this situation.

But he brought more people to the Lord during this struggle than his whole ministry.

Skip slipped out of bed at night, God how could you let Eddie Robinson die?

Skip heard God's voice—not a Samuel thing—God spoke and said, All right, I will heal Eddie and take his illness and put it upon you.

Skip felt fear and began to sweat and shut up.

If you are quiet and still it can seem like a long time—God spoke and said, "See, that's what I have done for Eddie. I have taken His illness upon myself."

Eddie knew that his life wasn't about healing from this physical death.

He died in peace.

The greatest leader outside Jesus that I can imagine outside Jesus, If they must perish, I too must perish!

That's courage! Help us to see and have eyes to see!

