The next reason why we often miss it (healings or promised blessings) is that we shift every responsibility to God. We fail to do our part, thus we do not have actions that often take forms of material with which God works. We embrace the philosophy that if it is the will of God for our healing, or other promises, we are expecting God will just do it without involving us. We often reinforce this philosophy with the statement “God is in total control” and we forget too quickly that God being in control does not deny our own responsibility of responding to God’s promises. James 2:17-20: 17Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

The fact that God has chosen to work often with our responses, strengthens the statement that He is in control. In this way, He works with us often, governing His actions. Example: When God asked Moses to use his rod on the sea and part it, God needed the response of Moses for a miracle. He has the power to do it without involving Moses, but His love attribute always compels Him to share His work with us just as love will compel us sharing with those we are in deep love with. You see, once Moses responded, an east wind was released by God for a miracle. Exodus 14:16, 21, 22: 16But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. 21And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Had Moses reasoned how the little rod in his hand could part the sea, he would have been tempted not to respond just as some of us could be tempted not to respond to the healing promise which has been made available to us for two thousand plus years ago. In the same way, Moses let the rod in his hand loose by letting it strike the sea. If we in the same way let our faith loose on God’s promises, then in the same way the east wind was loose for parting of the sea, the atmosphere of miracle will be created for that expected miracle.

Our response should not be based on the symptoms but on the promise! If God says it, let us receive it. As we receive those promises in our hearts, let us keep on holding them even when we do not feel it. Just like Sarah, the wife of Abraham, who responded positively to God’s promise for a child. Even though nature was not in harmony with God’s promise for her, however, she judged God faithful to keep His promise Hebrew 11:11: Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.
The result of her confidence in God’s promises impacted her physical body to receive strength to defy the biological law. Just like Sarah, let us let loose our faith on those promises of God made to us in His Word. Let us not only talk about them, but in addition, let us do them! Let us not say tomorrow, let us do it now with confidence that He will do as He promises! Hebrew 10:23, 35: *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 35Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.*

Our failure to respond positively to God’s promises or a specific message of God incapacitates the ministering angels of God who delight in carrying out God’s orders on our behalf. Secondly, it leaves the Holy Spirit with nothing to work on a miracle for us.

When God says “the just shall live by his faith”; it can also be interpreted “if a Christian could respond positively to God’s promise, he shall live”. To live in this term means to experience what was promised. That means, if we have sickness in our body and we are prayed for, or we pray for ourself, and we believe in those prayers and act as if it is so which it is, then we will experience our healing. It may not come sudden, but it has no choice. They must be fulfilled as long as they are within the context of the Word of God because the Word of God cannot be held down by anything. Let’s remember *Isaiah 55:11: 11So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

Maybe we are not sick but we have other needs. We can as well release our faith and start acting as it is so. These corresponding actions, in harmony to our expectations, becomes material with which God will work. Just like God took dust from the earth and formed man and breathed life in him, in the same way God will take those responses and He breathes in life to them, and the result will be a miracle. But the question is “are you going to continue to do your own part” in supplying God actions for that expected miracle?

Note: We will definitely have a battle in our mind as we try to step out in faith, trying to believe God, especially when we still have symptoms, when the doctor’s report is still fresh in our memories. Or when we are laid off and our monthly pay is almost due, and there is no money coming in. At this point we may hear our voice, or that of the enemy, trying to reason us out of the Word of God. We may hear it say, “it is not working; these things are not really, do not pay attention to them”. Those thoughts could further say “poor you, now you are in real trouble”!
The enemy may further whisper in our mind, “if God is love why does He allows you to suffer?” He may say, “God is not interested in you, your life does not count”. When we are not careful at this point, we begin to allow those thoughts to replay and replay, thus our physical strength is drained and our excitement is too. For the Word of God and His promises are choked by the cares produced by those unscriptural allowed thoughts.

When we stop responding to God by shifting all responsibility to Him, we stop His acting on our behalf. Just as He said “draw closer to me and I will draw close to you”, let’s come closer to Him by acting on what He promised us (James 4:4: Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.). How do we draw closer to God if not responding to His words and to Promises? When He draws closer to us, the results are quite clear: more love and desire for God, favors, miracles, healings, provisions, etc.

Conclusion

Let us arise and shine by responding to God’s promises in the form of doing our part. Our response can be in healing promises, fruitfulness, provisions, protections, creative miracles, etc. Whatever it may be, let us fix our gaze on His word and not stop holding on till we experience the promise. In the upcoming message, we will look into how some scriptural characters did their part (by not shifting all responsibility to God), thus activating the promises made to them.