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Lucan: It's time to begin. Bro. David, will you please offer an opening prayer?

Zahakiel: Almighty Father in Heaven, We thank you for the great love that you have for your people, in blessing us these past days with many gifts, and for your love for the world, expressed through our service to others. We gather before you, rejoicing and resting in your perfect peace, and ask for your Spirit to rest upon us according to your many and precious promises. May each receive a particular blessing from this time of sacred fellowship, for we ask it in Yahshua's holy name. Amen.

Lucan: Amen

Adriel777: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

daphna dee: Amen

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Lucan: I was blessed to see the "many and precious promises" mentioned in our opening prayer, as our topic tonight deals with that very subject. I would like to begin with an unusual verse to lead into this subject:

"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." (Matthew 4:3)

There is much that may be drawn from this verse, and the encounter it comes from. Yahshua as the second Adam, when tempted with appetite, overcame just where the first Adam failed, under immeasurably harsher conditions. He further refused to exercise any power on His behalf that every man could not exercise, a complete rebuttal to the idea that Yahshua had a unique, Divine advantage over sin. He met the temptations of the accuser with "It is written," an example despite the writings being of His own words through the Spirit. Yet for all we may take from this, what I wish to focus on tonight are rather the words that were presented to Him as the foundation of temptation: "If thou be." This is not the only time this particular challenge was issued:

"And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in [their] hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." (Matthew 4:6)

Nor was it limited to the wilderness encounter with Satan:

"Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly." (John 10:24)

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Finally, on the cross, we find the same seeds of doubt offered:

“And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest [it] in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking [him], with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.” (Matthew 27:39-43)(LMK)

Zahakiel: Finished

Pastor Chick: F

Adriel777: F

Elyna: F

Marie joined the chat

daphna dee: F

Naraiel: F

Lucan: Whether from mockers and revilers, the spiritually deceived, or Satan himself, the spirit and even the words were the same.

Kim: F

Lucan: In our generation we may find that the words change, at least among those who are Biblically literate enough to know better. The spirit, however, is the same – “if thou be a son or daughter of God, prove it by this sign.” Some requested signs are less “miraculous” than others – while Yahshua was presented with the temptation to turn stones to bread in one place, He was challenged to “tell us plainly” whether He was the Messiah in another. Yet “when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonah the prophet.” (Luke 11:29)

The Christian has nothing to prove, only to reveal.

We may read Yahshua's response to this particular demand:

“Yahshua answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.” (John 10:25, 26)

“If thou be” the thing that Yahweh has said that you are, “then do this.” The deception in this may be subtle, yet we want to understand it clearly so that we will overcome it as Yahshua overcame.

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Contained in the words "if thou be" is the insinuation that you are not. The default state here is one of unbelief. A seed of doubt is in these words, and the "answer" offered alongside it – in other words, it is in question whether you are what Yahweh has said you are, but you can prove it by doing or saying such and so, as though Yahweh's word is not enough on its own. The spirit that challenges the Christian's testimony with seeds of doubt will often disguise it with a self-appointed test, so that the responsibility for their doubt may be blamed on the Christian, even as it was blamed on Christ:

We read again, "Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly." (John 10:24)

"How long do you make us to doubt," they asked. Had Yahshua made them to doubt in the first place, for any length of time? Had He given any evidence of falsehood, or reason to disbelieve His works and words? No, yet as Adam blamed Eve who blamed the serpent who blamed Yahweh, so it is again. This spirit is one that cannot be satisfied, as it loves sin. If they did not love sin, they would be free of it and blessed to see others in like freedom, or they would be seeking to be free of it and would respond with hope to the message of victory rather than attempting to dissuade others from it.

Satan will say to us, "If you can't commit sin, place yourself within the path of temptation and overcome it." The self-righteous will say to us, "If you are God's chosen people, win a debate about some point of doctrine." The worldly and self-serving will say to us, "If you have love, don't say anything that will make others feel negatively." The legalistic will say to us, "If you have the truth, affirm every word Ellen White penned without qualification." The spiritually blind will say to us, "If you have God's Spirit, speak and act just as I think God should." These are a small set of modern examples of the same type – "If thou be," meet this self-imposed test and "we will believe."

Yahshua would not parley with the temptation to doubt contained in these words, nor would He condescend to the presumed authority of the unbelieving. That example – as always – is for us as well. As we may see, "if" is a word with little place in matters of faith:

"But [as] God [is] true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. For the Son of God, Yahshua Christ, who was preached among you by us, [even] by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. For all the promises of God in him [are] yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." (2 Cor. 1:18-20)

We know that the Word of God creates that which is spoken, whether it be the earth itself or the heart made new.

Adriel777: Amen

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Lucan: We know this as those "in hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." (Titus 1:2) We are to be on guard against the first suggestion of doubt, as an accepted doubt will destroy the testimony of faith. Knowledge, intellect, and experience are great blessings in the service of Yahweh, yet none of them can form the basis of salvation.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Yahshua unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)

The sun, moon, and stars "walk in" the path that "God hath before ordained" for them, for they are His workmanship. Does the Christian do any less?

"Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Yahshua Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Yahshua Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:3-5)

It is faith that is unto salvation, and why? Because the promises of God offer to us every aspect of a righteous character, leaving nothing lacking. When these promises are accepted within and proclaimed without, we have a testimony of faith. When the testimony is attended by decided action, we have the testimony of the faith of Yahshua, and are "safe to save" through faith in the promises that make us such. As we read in a recent study:

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (2 Peter 1:3-4)

How many things that pertain unto life and godliness have we been given? It is not "all things except," or "all things but." No, it is "all things" by His divine power, and by that same power are given "exceeding great and precious promises," through which we are partakers of the divine nature.

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: By what power are we kept unto salvation? "By the power of God through faith." By what faith are we kept unto salvation?

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"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Yahshua Christ, even we have believed in Yahshua Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified... I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:16, 20)

And again: "Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Yahshua." (Revelation 14:12)

So it is the faith of the Son of God, the faith of Christ, the faith of Yahshua. And how have we acquired Yahshua's faith? And how have we acquired Yahshua's faith? Is it through studiousness in doctrine, through affirming right teachings?

"So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God... For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (Romans 10:17, 12:3)

Through faith we accept the word of God as the creative authority that it is. This extends even to the giving of faith to believe with, and at that, the faith of Yahshua Himself. By exercising that faith, we proclaim these promises to be true, not only in theory, but in daily application. The promises are not true "in general," but very specifically – Christ has promised me love, therefore I have love and will say so, not because of my actions but by His promise. Christ has promised me the Holy Spirit, therefore I have the Holy Spirit and speak and judge accordingly. Christ has said I am free from condemnation, therefore I am not condemned regardless of what man or emotion may say. Christ has promised me the mind of Christ, therefore I have the mind of Christ and will make no deprecating comments about it. Christ has promised me thankfulness, therefore I am thankful and offer praise.

Where Satan places an "if" to awaken doubt in the fulfillment of the promise followed by a challenge, Yahweh places a "because" followed by the sure fulfillment.

Because thou be a child of God, you cannot commit sin. (1 John 3:9)

Because thou be a child of God, you overcome the world. (1 John 5:4)

Because thou be a child of God, you love one another, and know God. (1 John 4:7)

Satan says "If thou be a child of God, prove you have the Holy Spirit."

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Yahshua says "BECAUSE ye are sons, God HATH sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." (Galatians 4:6-7)

Satan places the fulfillment of the promise in the future, and uncertainly.

Yahweh places the fulfillment of the promise at the moment it is spoken, offering us the opportunity to agree and actively cooperate with that which is already true. We do not make the word of Yahweh true; it is true whether we choose to agree with it or not.

The blood of Christ has been shed for every man, woman, and child; the infinite character of Christ is given freely to every sinner, however vile. When unbelief is surrendered and self is crucified with Christ, the heart is remade and truth is finally allowed to shine forth. The measure of faith granted to every man comes to light, as Christ is the light that lights every man that comes into the world. Rebellion is cut off at the root, and there is no resistance to the Word of Yahweh being fulfilled naturally and without possible failure.

Thus, in practical terms, the Christian cannot fail even as Christ cannot fail, for His Word cannot fail, being from "God, which cannot lie." It is our opportunity to show mankind the effects of agreeing with the word of Yahweh, and choosing to speak and live accordingly.

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: That is "faith that works," and though we have no open sin among us, we are to guard the avenues of our minds against that doubt which Satan sought so persistently to instill in our Savior both directly and through human agents.

Elyna: Amen

Lucan: We proclaim our testimony boldly, though it seem offensive to the unbelieving. We resist the very first insinuation of doubt in the plain fulfillment of Yah's promises, saying if need be "...Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." (Matthew 16:23)

We say and do these things "because ye be the children of God," of whom it is written that "they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." (Revelation 12:11)

And again, "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Yahshua Christ." (Revelation 12:17)

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The testimony of Yahshua does not deal in "ifs," but in "Yea" and "Amen" to the promises and power of Yahweh in His people.

What good trait does Christ lack? What flawed trait do we possess? "None" can be the only true answer, for it is promised that "...he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

And again, "But of him are ye in Christ Yahshua, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." (1 Corinthians 1:30)

Should we be shown an area in which there is more to Yahshua's character than we have thusfar known and applied, let us repent and stand in the newly revealed truth that is already given to us from the foundations of the earth. Let us hold fast our testimony in faith, nothing wavering; for "...my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Yahshua." (Philippians 4:19)

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:19, 20)

How much of the power of the enemy are we given power over? Let us rejoice indeed, having all power over serpents literal and spiritual, that our names are written in heaven by the One whose writing cannot be altered by another.

"Unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him [be] glory in the church by Christ Yahshua throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

It is Yahweh that does above all we can ask or think, through "the power that works in us," not a power far off in the heavens or written in ancient texts. Therefore, to him be glory "in the church," by Christ Yahshua through all ages.

As the church that stands at the cusp of the "world without end," may He be glorified in us by word and deed according to His promise; "because thou be" the children of God.

Are there any questions or comments?

Adriel777: Amen!

Zahakiel: C

Lucan: Go ahead

Zahakiel: Thank you for sharing this study with us. The idea of fearless rejection of doubt is most appropriate for this generation... All are told to question, to doubt, to be skeptical, and while these mindsets have their place in the world, and sometimes a necessary one, when it comes to faith in our Father, doubt is the very thing that prevents the world from seeing Him, and directly experiencing His blessings.

I am reminded once more of my conversation with the SDARM ministers a couple weeks ago... their words sounded very much like our own, to the degree that a casual observer, and I would say the average Adventist, would find little if any points of difference. And yet, while Giselle and I have "the testimony," that we have ceased from sin, that we please our Father always, that our faith is invincible, they could not make these statements. I invited them several times, "Can you say this? Can you confirm what you claim to believe with a testimony?" Although they did not say it, at least this way, they have been taught by modern theology, corrupted by centuries of Satan's work, to constantly ask, "What if?" What if I sin? This is the very same kind of question, "If you are truly the Christ," or more applicably to us, "If you are truly saved..." The "if" leaves the possibility that they are not, that they are still capable of sin, and as long as that mind is in them, or in anyone, as long as the possibility is entertained longer than it takes to rebuke the suggestion, true victory will lie outside the grasp. We may be encouraged by Yahshua's example, to meet every such temptation with, "It is written," and a sure promise of our Father.

Bro. Luke also mentioned debates, and the verse about treading on snakes and scorpions. That reminds me of a debate I once saw... I think it was on YouTube, between a Christian and a Muslim. At the end, one of the audience members, a Muslim man, held up a bag of liquid the he claimed contained deadly poison, and he said to the Christian speaker, "The Bible says you can drink deadly poison, and you will not be harmed. If your Bible is true, you should drink this, and let us see." Clearly, this is the same kind of test we've been studying tonight... I think the Christian speaker replied that the Bible also says we are not to presume on God's mercy, which is a good answer...it is certainly true, but I would think that a CSDA could give a more complete one. We should be believed because we speak the truth, confirmed by the Spirit working on the minds and consciences of those who hear us... because as it is written, and Bro. Luke quoted, faith comes by hearing. Those who hear us have faith presented to them. Whether they accept it or not, they are in the presence of Yahshua's faith, and on the basis of this testimony, there is no excuse for being disbelieved. This faith comes, not because we would win a debate, or pass a "test." Suppose the Christian had taken up the challenge, and drank the poison... If he survived, would a single soul be converted? Or... if he won the debate both on the material, and this supernatural test, would the person who brought the poison be born again? Questions on doctrine are good... for those already committed to righteousness, and wish to learn more about what that looks like, and what it means... but it is the testimony, it is the revelation of Yah's Word, and His love for us in that word, that reaches the heart. Regardless of what others believe, and teach... one can only really be an evangelist for Yahweh, in the power

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of His Gospel Angels, if - as Bro. Luke has indicated - he can openly, boldly, claim perfect righteousness by Yahshua's pure faith. That is the "inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled," that we have received because of His promises, and only await the visible revelation thereof. I could probably go on... but I will end there 😊

Lucan: Are there any other questions or comments? If not, I'll ask Pastor to offer a closing prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father. Thank You for reminding us daily of our faith. The invincible and eternal faith of Yahshua. Thank You for giving us Your mind to express in word and deed the perfect character of Yahshua. Keep us now in the power of Your might, as we rest in those precious promises of YAHWEH. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Barb: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

daphna dee: Amen

Adriel777: Amen!

Lucan: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen!