

Does Faith Give Life? Or Feed Life?

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I. There are some natural blessings wherein God deals with all the same

A. God gives natural rain and the blessing of food the same to all

Mat 5:45 ...he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Job 38:26 To cause it to rain on the earth, *where* no man *is*; *on* the wilderness, wherein *there is* no man;

Act 14:17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Psa 65:9 Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, *which* is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

B. God also gives the blessing of breath to all who breathe

Job 12:10 In whose hand *is* the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

Job 34:14 If he set his heart upon man, *if* he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath;

Job 34:15 All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.

Psa 104:29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

Isa 42:5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

Eze 37:4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

Eze 37:5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

C. There is a significant difference between God's blessing of food & of breath

1. The breath is the life—It is spirit—It is automatic—(Even if you hold your breath)

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

2. The food supports the life (Men don't help with life, but with what supports life)

Gen 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden **to dress it and to keep it.**

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden **thou mayest freely eat:**

Gen 3:17 ...cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it...

Gen 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee...

Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread...

Exo 16:16 This *is* the thing which the LORD hath commanded, **Gather** of it (*manna*) every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, *according to* the number of your persons; take ye every man for *them* which *are* in his tents...

Exo 16:23 ...**bake** *that* which ye will bake...and **seethe** that ye will seethe...

2Th 3:10 ...this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

II. Though God sends rain to all—He does not deal with all the same in all ways

A. God dealt with Abraham different from how He dealt with the nations

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Gen 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee...

B. God dealt with Isaac different from Ishmael

Rom 9:7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Rom 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

C. God dealt with Jacob different from Esau

Rom 9:11 (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) ...
Rom 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

D. God dealt with Israel different from all other nations

Deu 20:16 But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee *for* an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:

Deu 20:17 But thou shalt utterly destroy them; *namely*, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:

Deu 20:18 That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God.

E. God will deal with His children different from how he will deal with others

Rom 9:22 *What* if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

Rom 9:23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

Rom 9:24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

III. Is God's love like His rain (He gives it to all)? —Or by His choice (He loved Jacob)?

A. Does God love everybody? —And then save only some?

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Joh 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me

1Jn 2:15 Love not the world...

B. Or does God love whom He chooses? —And save all He loves?

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Rom 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

IV. What if God breathes the breath of spiritual life & faith/gospel support the life?

Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth...so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Rom 1:17 ...as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (*Habakkuk*)

Luk 8:48 ...Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

V. Why does it matter? —The focus of preaching depends on which view you take

A. Most preaching is on how you get life—Instead of how to feed the thirst of life

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

B. About eternal life, Paul preached not what you need to do, but what Jesus did do

1Co 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1Co 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

1Co 1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

1Co 4:7 For who maketh thee to differ *from another*? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*?

VI. Who does heaven focus on?

Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

Rev 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

VII. What if preachers understood that the spiritual breath of life is automatic —And faith in the gospel feeds that spiritual life?

A. —More sermons would be preached:

—On what Jesus did— Instead of what you need to do

—On Jesus making the difference— Instead of you making the difference

—That focus on Jesus and giving Him all the glory

B. —More ‘how-to-live-life’ sermons would be preached:

- On how faith in Jesus goes past believing in Jesus to believing Jesus
- On how faith in Jesus will help you live life and face the troubles of life with peace
- On how faith in Jesus will help you live life with a focus on giving glory to Jesus

C. —Men would cease to boast in themselves and very much boast in Jesus

D. —The earth of right now would be more like the heaven to come