

Receiving All Things Through Faith (Kannada)

by Zac Poonen

The sermon emphasizes the importance of every part in the body of Christ, humility, and honesty, and encourages listeners to develop a habit of sticking to Jesus for spiritual growth and guidance.

Duration: 1:01:35

Scripture: Proverbs 18:24, Jeremiah 32:17, Matthew 5:8, Matthew 6:33, Mark 9:23, John 1:12, James 1:6-7

Topics: "Faith And Trust", "Christian Living"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of faith, belief, and trust in Jesus Christ, highlighting the need to fully surrender our problems and desires to Him. It encourages seeking holiness and righteousness first, trusting that God will provide for all other needs. The speaker shares examples from the Bible to illustrate how faith and belief in Jesus can lead to miraculous solutions and blessings in our lives.

Transcript

Thank you very much. I believe you are clapping hands for Jesus Christ. All of us are nothing.

We are only different members of the body. God gives one gift to one person, another gift to another person. And you have also got a gift if you belong to the body of Jesus Christ.

And it's very important that you fulfill that gift. You know how terrible it is if your right hand gets paralyzed and it's not able to work? You can do many things with your left hand, but you have lost something important. It's only when you lose the use of some part of your body that you realize how valuable it is.

If you want to know what it is to be blind, just shut your eyes for 30 seconds. And imagine if you have to live your whole life like that, then you will realize the value of eyesight. And you know how if you have a stomach ache, how it causes you so much inconvenience? Think if you were dumb, just stop speaking for 3-4 hours and see what it is to be.

Then you realize that every part of your body is important. And so when the Bible says that we are the body of Jesus Christ, every part of Christ's body is important. The two great dangers that there can be in the body of Christ, one is feeling superior and the other is feeling inferior.

And we find both these problems in the body of Christ. So many examples of many brothers and sisters who feel, I am very important to the body of Christ. Because God has given them some gift.

But they don't realize that their gift functions because somebody else is supporting them. Nobody can feel superior in the body of Christ. You know very often we think somebody who stands up in the pulpit is very important.

We can say that a man who speaks in the pulpit is like the tongue in the body of Christ. It's ok, I stand here very often, so I am like the tongue in the body of Christ. But do you think the tongue can speak if the heart does not keep pumping all the time? That is impossible.

But who thinks of the heart? The only time people think of the heart is when they get a heart attack. But whole day and night the heart, even when you are sleeping it is working. Because it is working, the eyes can see and the tongue can speak and the ear can hear.

It's all because the heart is working. You know what is the heart in the body of Christ? It is those people who never stand in the pulpit, whom nobody sees. Just like you can't see the heart.

We are always praying. They pray for God's servants. I know there are many many people who pray for me.

Because they know that I have to speak in many places and they are like the heart. And if they stop pumping, I know I can't speak. That has actually happened to me.

Sometimes rarely it happens, but it has happened also. I go to some place and I stand up to speak and it's a big struggle to speak. And I struggle and struggle and struggle and struggle and struggle through the meeting.

And I wonder, what is the reason? Maybe somebody forgot to pray for me. And then I realize something. See I am the same person.

So why I couldn't speak there? Then God reminds me that you are only one member in the body of Christ. You stand there and you get the honor. But there are other people behind you who pray, who never get any honor.

But they will get a reward when Jesus comes again. So I believe if I am faithful, when Jesus comes again, He will call me forward to give me a reward. And then when the Lord calls me, He will say, Zach, I have to call 1000 more people also.

Don't forget. And then from so many places He will call. Then people were praying and I never knew them.

And that day the Lord will show how these members of the body of Christ did a fantastic ministry. The reason I am saying that is not just to ask you to pray for me. I am not saying something selfishly.

I am saying for your good. See the great problem with many people in the body of Christ, born again believers, is that they feel, oh I can't speak, so I am useless. That is feeling inferior.

You think only the tongue is useful in the body of Christ? Is your tongue the only useful thing in your body? So if you are not born again, then of course you are not part of the body of Christ. Then like I said yesterday, you must be born again. But if you are born again, then it is very important for you, whoever you are, to know you have a function in the body of Christ.

See, God has put you into the body of Jesus Christ where He is the head. And He wants to have a direct connection with you. Yeah, He wants you to work with other people in your local church.

See, God has got many, many little groups of local churches all over the world. And we should never think that our church is the only one that the Lord is with. No, that is not true.

Some stupid people think like that. That oh, God is only with our church. All the other churches are wrong.

We can say such people are blind. God has got many, many churches. In Karnataka, He has got many churches.

And I don't know all of them. God has given me a responsibility for a very small part of the body of Christ. And that very small part of the body of Christ that God has given me responsibility, I try to do my job faithfully.

But I know it is a very small part. But God has got many other servants also doing their work in different ways. Their gift is not the same as mine.

They have got different gifts. They do things I cannot do. And I do things that they cannot do.

Just like the ear does something which the eye cannot do, the eye does things which the ear cannot do. So, we must value one another in the body of Jesus Christ. But God also puts us in little teams, groups of people.

For example, these five fingers are part of this right arm. But these five fingers are not part of this right arm. This is part of another team.

And those toes in my leg are part of the left, and these toes are part of my right leg. So, when this arm is doing something, these right fingers don't have to do anything. These fingers work with this team.

And this works with this team. Sometimes they work together like when they are playing a piano or something. But God puts us in different groups like in the body of Christ.

The very important thing is never to despise somebody else. We may not agree with other people. I don't agree with many things that many Christians do.

Particularly the way they collect money. I don't agree with that at all. The way so many pastors frighten people to give money.

It's not only wrong, it is evil. See, I'll give you a little test, all of you young people. Whenever you hear a preacher, you always compare him with Jesus Christ.

And you ask yourself, would Jesus speak like that? Would Jesus do that? What subjects would Jesus speak about? Then you can find out whether that man is a Christ-like preacher or not. If you hear a preacher or a pastor always saying, come on, give your money, give your money, give your money, and then he takes money from the offering to support his family, that is all right. But a servant of the Lord can be supported by gifts.

Jesus also was supported by gifts. But he never asked anybody to give money. He never said, if you don't pay your tithe, God's curse will come upon you.

He never said, I have to travel so many places, please give me money. Never. He had a need, he would tell his heavenly father.

You say, oh, that was all first century. No, it's not true. I have served the Lord for 40 years.

I have never once in my life told a human being my needs. I have always told my heavenly father. And my father can take much better care of me than any human being.

I can say after 40 years that he has done that for me. So I am saying, always compare a person by asking, would Jesus talk like that? Now you see there are so many preachers on Christian television. So I see many of them.

And always my question is, would Jesus speak like that? Would Jesus ask for money like that? Then in my mind, I switch off. I say, if a man is doing things, saying things, which is like Jesus Christ, he may say many good things, but he is not my example. Good things so many people say.

Prime Minister of India also says many good things. President of India says many good things. We respect them.

So like that these preachers on TV also say many good things. But that is not like Jesus Christ. If you want to be protected from deception, always check.

Is that the way Jesus would speak? If Jesus was coming on television, would he speak like that? Would he tell people, come on, please give me your money? I will send you a book. One thousand rupees for a book? No, I don't want to judge them, but I don't want to follow them also. My brothers and sisters, because I have kept Jesus as my example for 45 years, I have been saved from so much deception.

Whether you listen to me or not, if you want to protect yourself from deception, keep Jesus in front of you. Be a close friend of His. That is my desire.

Every day to walk with Him, talk with Him. All the time. I want to show you a verse.

In Proverbs chapter 18 and verse 24. It says here, a man who has many friends can come to ruin or be broken to pieces, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. So, if you have too many friends, it says here, you can have problems.

Because some of them may not be good friends. It is good to have a few really good friends. Jesus had only 11.

He was a very wise person. He helped thousands, but He was very close with just 11 people. Why? It is not because He hated other people, but these were the ones who had a tremendous hunger for God.

And among those 11, He was very close, especially to 3. Because they had the greatest hunger for God. So, I also want to be like Jesus. And I say, Lord, I do not want too many friends.

I want to love everybody. But everybody in my church is not wholehearted and serious about following Jesus. So, I want to be close to those who are wholehearted, who want to go all out for Jesus.

And the others, we can talk and be friendly. Very close friendship with those who are wholehearted. And you can tell, Lord, Lord, if you are always only with these wholehearted people, what will the other people

do? They can also come into this circle if they want.

But they are more interested in so many other earthly things. They do not want to listen to words like, Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. They do not want to hear words like, Blessed are those who mourn, they will be comforted.

Or, Blessed are those who are persecuted, for my name's sake, because the kingdom of God is there. They do not want to hear all that. They want to say, Lord, how can we make a little more money and how can we build a better house? And they are all interested in those things.

So, why should those people come and waste time here? Let them go and listen to all those TV preachers. They will tell them all those things. But Jesus is interested in those who want to be pure in heart.

Jesus is interested in those who want to overcome sin. Jesus said, you shall know the truth and the truth will make you free. The people said, we are not slaves, we are free.

When you commit sin, you are a slave of sin. But it is very difficult for them to acknowledge they were slaves of sin. You know the reason why many people are not delivered from sin? Because just like those Jewish people, they were not honest enough to say, Lord, I am a slave of sin.

Many of you, you know why you are not free from sin in your life? Because you do not go to Jesus and say, Lord, I am a slave of sin. I was born again, baptized in water, but I was a slave of sin. For many years, I went to Jesus.

I said, Lord, I am born again, I know. I know the Bible, I am preaching, but I am a slave of sin. It is the truth.

Lord, set me free. I said, Lord, I love money. I am a slave of money.

Please set me free. Have you ever said that? You are too ashamed to say it. You know what happened to me when I said that? Everything I honestly confessed, He set me free.

God loves honest people. But you sit on your prestige and you say, I am okay. I remember telling one brother, I said, brother, I think your problem is you love money.

Many years ago, he said, no, brother, I am free from all that. I said, maybe you are better than me then because I am still fighting against it. And he was never free.

I saw what happened to him in the subsequent years. He went after money, money, money, money and left us. Why? Because he was not honest to say to Jesus, Lord, I love money.

You go to Jesus and say, Lord, I am supposed to be a believer, I am supposed to be a preacher, but I am lusting with my eyes. I am a slave to that. The Lord will help you.

How about you pretend you are a very holy man? You will live as a hypocrite all your life. That is the trouble with 99% of believers. Jesus would have delivered them long ago.

You know, there were two blind people who came to Jesus and they said, have mercy on me. That is a very holy prayer. Have mercy on me.

Jesus said, tell me specifically what do you want? Even I could have told Jesus what they wanted. If two blind people come to Jesus and say, have mercy on me, doesn't any stupid person know what they want? If I was there, I would have said, Lord, they want to open their eyes. That is all very clear.

Why did Jesus ask them, what do you want? Is it because he didn't know? He knew thoroughly. But he wanted them to humble themselves and say, Lord, I am blind. Please open my eyes.

When they said that, he only asked them, do you believe I can do this for you? And immediately their eyes were opened. Now you come to Jesus today like a holy man. You are a slave to lust.

You are a slave to the love of money. You are a slave to bitterness. Like a holy man, you say, Lord, have mercy on me.

You will be a slave for the rest of your life. You will be honest with him. The Lord says, tell me, what exactly do you want? You say, Lord, I have a lot of jealousy in my heart.

I have a lot of bitterness in my heart. I can't forgive that person. I can't forgive all the terrible things my husband did against me.

I can't forgive all the terrible things my wife did against me. Or my mother-in-law. Or my sister-in-law.

Or my brother who cheated me of the property. Lord, help me. You be honest and God will deliver you.

Lord, I am always lusting with my eyes. Please deliver me. People don't know it, but I am a fantastic lover of money.

If you are honest, God will deliver you. That's the first thing. He is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

That's what it says here. There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. I thank God I have such a friend.

I want to ask you, is Jesus a friend of yours? It's a wonderful thing. Not just to have him as a Lord and Savior, but a friend with whom you do everything together. See, that is the meaning of Matthew chapter 11 and verse 29.

This is a wonderful word. Matthew 11 and verse 29 it says, Jesus says, take my yoke upon you and learn from me. Because I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your soul.

Now, if you have been in any village and you have seen the oxen ploughing together, you know what a yoke is. Even if you have seen a bullock cart being pulled by two bullocks, you know what a yoke is. There is a piece of wood on the two bullock's necks.

That's called a yoke. It is on both bullocks. So they have to go together.

Supposing we want to train one young bullock, new young bullock, how to walk straight or how to plough a straight in the field, then you will put that young bullock with a senior experienced bullock. You put the yoke on both their necks and then it is like the senior bullock telling the junior bullock, now you learn from me. Just yield to me.

Just stay under my yoke. And if I turn left, you turn left. You turn right, I turn, you turn right.

Just go with me. And in a few years you will also be experienced. That is how Jesus teaches us.

It is wonderful. Each person by himself. He doesn't put 200 bullocks and say, come on.

No, it is one by one. That is one of the wonderful things I have discovered in the Christian life. That the Holy Spirit gives us all private tuition.

See for example, I mean I speak to all of you. I can't speak to all of you individually because I am a human being. Can you imagine if I sit and talk to each of you for one hour, when will I finish? And you may have so many problems which you may say, oh brother Zach may be able to help me.

Maybe I can. But I don't have time to sit one hour with each of you. I will be here for the next year.

And if I have to sit here the next year, then somebody in Bangalore will be waiting for me. And somebody in Tamil Nadu will be waiting for me. So it is wonderful that the Holy Spirit can be with us all the time.

And the Holy Spirit brings the presence of Jesus with us. And it is just like having Jesus next to me and going together wherever we go. Now who can solve your problem better, brother Zach or Jesus Christ? I am sure you have no doubt about that.

Who do you think has got a greater compassion for your problem, brother Zach or Jesus Christ? Who do you think can give you a better solution to your problem, Jesus or me? It is wonderful to have the yoke on your neck with Jesus there and you walk together with Him. You know some of you are fortunate that you have some godly brother who can guide you. So I am not saying that you should not go for counsel to a godly brother.

That is good. If the Apostle Paul were living in Bangalore, I think I would visit him very frequently. Definitely I would go and see him often if he lives in my hometown.

So if there is a godly brother anywhere you can meet, it is good to meet him. But what I am saying is you will not get the opportunity always to have a godly brother to guide you. So then you should not feel helpless.

When I was a young Christian, 22-23 years old, I really wanted to follow Jesus. I wanted to know God's word. I used to go to an assembly and there was not one person there whom I could look up to as a spiritual father.

There was not one person there who could give an anointed prophetic message. I sat there for 3 years and I cannot think that I heard one prophetic anointed message in those 3 years. There was not one example I could follow.

They were good brothers. They were not evil people. But I said, Lord, what shall I do? I do not find these people radical, wholehearted disciples of Jesus.

Never once did I hear a message on anger. I never heard a message on the love of money. I never heard a message on bitterness.

I never even heard the expression being crucified with Christ. I never heard a message on being filled and baptized in the Holy Spirit on fire. I never heard a message on seeking for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

What to do? You people are so lucky. You hear these things. I did not have all that privilege 40 years ago.

You know what I did? I got alone with Jesus. I used to read His word. I said, Lord, speak to my heart.

I do not have any man to guide me. I used to sit in the ship in my room all by myself. I used to read the Bible.

I really became very, very close to Jesus. Because He was the only friend I had. I am very thankful that from my very early age, I learned to talk to Jesus.

Because I did not have any man I could look up to. It is good to have a godly brother. But sometimes you can be so dependent on that godly brother that you do not need Jesus Christ.

So I want to encourage all of you to develop the habit of sticking to Jesus. All the time. A friend that sticks closer than a brother.

Do you want that type of life? That is the real Christian life. Where you are always with Jesus. All the time.

Any little problem, immediately you can tell your friend about it. That is Jesus. Because you are under the yoke.

You have not sort of left the yoke and wandered off somewhere on your own. So Jesus says, take my yoke upon you and learn from me. That means humble yourself and say, Lord, I do not know how to walk straight in this world.

You came and lived on this earth and you walked straight. I want to live like that. Please work with me and help me to walk with you every day.

Many of your problems will be solved. You know one of the wonderful things I discovered in the last more than 25 years? You will not believe me if I tell you. But it is the truth.

God is my witness that I am speaking the truth. For more than 25 years, I have never been discouraged for even one day. It is not because I am a great man.

It is because I decided to stick to Jesus. And He is never discouraged. I have faced many problems in my life.

But I immediately tell Jesus about it. You know, when you read the Gospels, what is the main message you get from reading the Gospels? Many things. But one of the main messages I get from the Gospels is this.

In the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, one of the main messages I get is this. If anybody came with any problem to Jesus Christ, any problem, any type of problem, food problem, health problem, marriage problem, any problem, and he believed that Jesus can solve it, he always got an answer. Can you show me one example of a man who did not get an answer when he went like that? Not even one.

Whether it is a storm in the sea, or not enough food to feed 5000 people, or not enough food in a wedding feast, or any problem, Jesus could solve it. They would go to Him, and He would solve it. That is the message I get.

I say, take it, Brother Solomon. And he tells me, Brother Zach, can you please give me a Bible? I say, yes, here it is. And he will not take it.

I say, Brother Zach, please give me a Bible. I have been asking you for six years. Brother Zach, please give me a Bible.

When is he going to get it? In a hundred years, he will not get it. He just keeps on praying. That is what happened to these people.

Believing equals receiving. Supposing he opens his hand. He got it.

How easy it is. Many of you are praying, praying, praying, praying. Good.

But you must believe. You know what the Bible says? If you pray without believing, many of you think there is no promise for unbelievers in the Bible. Here is a promise for those who do not believe.

You pray for something and you do not believe. Isn't it good to get a promise for you also? Have you prayed for something and you do not believe? Please frame this verse and hang it up on your wall. It says in James 1, do not forget this verse.

This is a promise for those who ask without faith. It says in verse 6, let him ask in faith. But if the man doubts, here is the promise you must hang up on the wall.

Verse 7, let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord. I have seen many verses hung up on the wall, but I have never seen this verse hung up on the wall. Let not that man think he will receive anything from the Lord.

He is praying. Every time he prays, here is the answer. You will receive nothing from the Lord.

Oh Lord, I have prayed for 5 years. You doubt, you receive nothing from the Lord. That is the problem with many many people.

You know it is the biggest insult to God to say, I do not believe you can help me. This is a difficult problem for you. The Lord says, is anything too difficult for me? You know, he had to ask that question even to Jeremiah.

Turn to the book of Jeremiah, chapter 32. The Lord says in chapter 33 first of all, call to me, I will answer you, and I will show you great and mighty things which you do not know. See here, Jeremiah 32 and verse 17.

It says here, Lord God, you made the heavens and the earth, and nothing is too difficult for you. That is Jeremiah confessing it. We sing that in a chorus sometimes, nothing, nothing, nothing is too difficult for the Lord.

That is from this verse. I want you to see this. Even though Jeremiah said it, again God asks him in verse 27.

Yeah, you said it, but do you really believe it? I am the Lord, is anything too difficult for me? Even though Jeremiah said it, God says, Jeremiah, I do not know whether you really believe it in your heart. I know you sang it in the chorus, but I do not know whether you really believe it in your heart. Do you really believe? Is

there anything too difficult for me? Jesus said to people, you know, once one man came to Jesus, you read in Mark's gospel, in chapter 9. His child was always jumping into the fire and the water, and he brought him to his disciples, and the disciples could do nothing.

And Jesus said, bring him to me, Mark chapter 9, verse 19. And then he tells Jesus, see this in the last part of verse 22. Lord, I do not know whether you can do anything, but if you can do anything, please have pity on me and help me.

See how he is saying. That means, this is a tough case, Lord. This is not like the ordinary cases you did elsewhere.

I do not know whether you can do it. But if you can do something, please help me. If you, Lord, here is Jesus standing here, and this man is saying, if you can do something for me, help me.

And Jesus replied, he said, it does not depend on me. If you can believe, verse 23, then everything is possible. See how this man said to Jesus, if you can do something, and Jesus puts it back and says, if you can do something.

Did you notice that same expression in these two verses? In verse 22, Jesus, he says to Jesus, if you can, and Jesus turns it out and says, if you can. That is great to see that. I go to Jesus with a problem, and say, Lord, if you can do something, and the Lord turns around to me and says, if you can.

If you can believe, it will happen. Is there any problem in your life that Jesus cannot solve? Is there any sin that he cannot help you to overcome? Take his yoke upon you, and say, Lord, I want to walk with you. Let me show you another example.

In John's gospel, chapter 5, we read that Jesus went to a pool called Bethesda, in verse 2. And it says here about this pool, just read this verse. In this, these porticoes lay a great multitude of sick, blind, lame, and withered people, verse 3. Not 5 or 10 people, great multitude, blind, lame, withered, sick. Do you think Jesus could have healed all of them? What do you think? Yes or no? Yes.

In some other place, he healed hundreds. He could have made all of them get up and go. But he healed only one man.

He went to one man who was lying there for 38 years, and he said, take up your bed and walk. And then Jesus went away. What about all these 300 people lying there who are sick? They are lying there.

Why did Jesus do that? Didn't he love all those 300 people? He loved all of them. But he had the supernatural ability to see inside people's heart. Like even now, he has the ability to see inside your heart.

So, he looked inside their hearts and he saw only one man has faith here. So, he walked between all these sick people. They are wondering, what is this man doing? Walking, walking, walking, and there one man lying there.

Do you want to be healed? Yes. Take up your bed and walk. And Jesus also walks off.

And even after seeing that, all those other 300 people are just sitting there. I would have thought if I were there, I would say, Lord, wait, I am also here needy. Please help me.

Nobody says that. Sad, isn't it? Really sad. You take another example.

What will you say? I know what I will say. Lord deliver me from sin completely. I will never say give me long life, give me health, give me a better house.

You tell me what will you say if suddenly you are asked in 5 seconds. Give an answer. Is that your number one desire in your life? If that is your number one desire.

The bible says Matthew 6.33. If you seek first his righteousness, not just his kingdom. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. If you seek first to be holy as he is holy.

All these other things will be added to you. That is why I want to seek holiness first. And when you seek holiness first, all your earthly needs gets added like a bonus.

I have experienced that for 45 years. You can believe me, same thing can happen to you. Seek his righteousness first in your life.

Seek to be absolutely pure in your life. God loves those who are seeking for purity. Because Jesus said bless another pure in heart, they will see God.

That is God's will for you. That you should be holy as he is holy. Let's pray.

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