

# It Works For Others But Not For Me!

## The Initiation—This is the Cross Over from Unbeliever to believer!

By B. D. Tate

I was asking the Lord of Lords to help me help you so that your journey in Him is encouraged, built up, and able to move forward. I know that sometimes the gospel messages that I present can be overwhelming and seem like too much...at least that's the impression I get from some. So in prayer I was asking for direction, clarity, maybe a step by step process that would be applicable to all of us and especially encouraging to you.

When we hear testimonies as we have been hearing from various ones among us we should all be encouraged and I think we are; however, at the same time it can be discouraging for some if they have not had the same results or success. All of us have experienced discrimination in various ways all of our life. **We know that things happen for some but not for all.** We know that some are richer than others for example. We know that some seem to get what they are after while others do not. We watch TV and see what the rich and famous have and know that many do not have the same things. In other words, we can develop **a deep seeded attitude that things don't always work out**, aren't fair, and many get the short end of the stick so to speak.

**Life is not fair.** We do not all have the same opportunities. We will not all get our dreams fulfilled. Many of us will settle and

become “stuck” in our life’s routine. All of us will compare our lives and find that many have more than us but also recognize that many have less than us. What I’m getting after is this sense that **we don’t expect equal treatment** because that is not what we’ve experienced. We’ve seen others get favors, special promotions, worked the system to their advantage, you know the “teacher’s pet” syndrome.

Some of us may develop another attitude such **as it may work for others but it won’t work for me**. I’ve tried all those weight loss programs and none of them work for me! I’ve gone to those vocational schools and I still don’t have a good job! I’ve lived a good life and done the right things but it still isn’t working out for me! I’ve prayed, fasted, said the right things, tried to believe and it still hasn’t happened for me!

**From Life is not fair to it’s not fair to me;** both of these attitudes are destructive to our willingness to trust or believe God. Satan, the evil ones, whisper in our ears how it is that **God’s word may be true but not for you!** It seems that many of us may see that there is a no man’s land position when it comes to receiving from God. The first position is that unbelievers and doubters do not receive from God. The other position for some believers is that if you ask you receive; if you knock the door is opened; if you seek you will find. In truth we can see that the scriptures point to **only two positions** in receiving from God: those who don’t and those who do. But there is **a third position** that many of us have fallen victim to. That position is that I honestly believe in my heart that even if I do what others (believers) do in regards to receiving from God, I won’t. This position feels that even if I do everything God asks us to do I

won't receive. I may pray the right way, I may fast, I may speak the right words, I can ask with all my heart, and still won't receive.

We are all familiar with a fear that from our hearts we'll miss God. We all fear that our life will be wasted and not be fruitful. **And we fear that even if I do everything right I'll still fail...fail to receive, fail to heal, fail to deliver, fail to have faith, etc...**

There are those (believers) who don't care, want to live their lives their way, don't have any real intention of serving God with all of their heart. These may have been born again but their focus really is living a good life and then going to heaven. **Then there are those who seemed to have crossed over.** They have stepped over some invisible **God line** that takes them from normal Christianity to the supernatural realm. These are the ones that have beautiful testimonies about God answering their prayers. These are the ones that glow it seems and have a deep abiding relationship with God. These are those who people **want** to pray for them to be healed. Yet, *there is this third position* that many find themselves in, a place that is not so much worldly, a place that is desirous of the things of God, **but not fully crossed over into that deeper spiritual life.** This position seems to be between the other two, a place of vagueness or uncertainty about the things of God. **This is the place that experiences a type of discrimination.** This is the place that may harbor resentment, a **place where it may work for others but it doesn't work for me.**

**God wants us to know that He is no respecter of persons** and plays no favoritism whatsoever. God has established His will

for whosoever. I've shared that it is like the **Boys Scouts program** of badges that are earned by any boy who accomplishes the proper tasks. Any boy can earn any badge including becoming an Eagle Scout it is up to their own pace and desire. The opportunities are equal to all involved and not up to the leaders of the pack. Likewise, God is not playing favorites **in giving some special grace to cross** over into the spirit realm while others He is holding back. **What God has provided for one in Christ He provided for all in Christ.**

***Sometimes it is the effort of our heart that makes the difference***...honestly we can all grow comfortable with our spiritual life and making an extra effort to cross over into the supernatural realities *seems too much*...We can become very accepting of our life as it is...we can also have a fatalist mentality that the supernatural things of God are just not God's will for me...I'm not special, I'm not called or empowered to do these things...If God wanted me to do these things He'd have done them already...

***Sometimes we are missing a memo of vital information*** and connection which hinders us from stepping forward...for me it was the grace thing...I didn't understand that God had already decided and already had done it...it was for me to accept this by faith and act upon it.

**Sometimes, and this is what I've pointing to today, it is an initiation issue. The initiation provides for the cross over from unbelieving and not receiving to believing and receiving.** The no man's land of being a believer and it not working for us **changes** when we are willing to cross over through the initiation process.

When someone wanted to join a fraternity back in my college days they had to go through a pledge period—an initiation. Whatever it was it meant following and doing things that proved their intent, loyalty, belonging, and *earning their inclusion*. Initiation rites exist in many areas such as in the army ranger school. They volunteer to become a special soldier called a ranger but it takes at least two weeks of hell for them to earn their badges. Many quit because of the grueling pace and requirements.

## The Paradox!

**It is a paradox when it comes to the Christian faith** because on the one hand there is *nothing we can do to earn our salvation or the grace that God has so freely given us*. No one can boast in His presence about the works that are accomplished in their life through God's Spirit.

Gal. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,*

**9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

**10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

Yet, ***there is this tension*** or the other side of this issue that requires that ***we give all*** that we may enter into the kingdom of God.

Mt 16:25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**

Lu 14:27 "**And whoever does not bear his cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Lu 14:33 "So likewise, **whoever of you does not forsake all that he has** cannot be My disciple.

In another place Jesus put it this way,

Mt 7:6 "**Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine**, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

## The Part We Must Put Into Action

***The price that we must pay is overcoming our flesh*** or sinful nature to become useful for God's kingdom. The cross we must bear is denying our self centeredness to become Christ centered. The life we must give up is the passions, pleasures, and desires of our natural man ***as dominating us*** to become God dominated. **This process requires an initiation!**

Every soldier has gone to boot camp and its sole purpose is to turn men and women into soldiers who will and do respond to orders. **Boot camp is an initiation process** of training raw recruits into a fighting machine. For the army to have soldiers who will do what is required of them they must break them down *from being an individual dominated by their own will* to training them to respond to the commands of their officers. Drill sergeants do exactly that they drill the recruits into obedience.

Although we walk by faith in God's grace that is freely given to us in Christ Jesus **none of it works through our flesh or sin nature**. We die to ourselves and take on the new born again spirit filled life but that is not easy. We need to deny our sinful passions, our self will, and temptations to do our own thing and fulfill our own desires. This takes training too.

## The Proof is In the Pudding!

“*The proof is in the pudding*” is a saying that means it doesn’t matter how much we know, how much we talk, how much we pretend, ***what we really believe shows***. Jesus said, “If I do not do the works, don’t believe me!” That same standard applies to us.

When we fall short of God’s grace we need to be honest with ourselves and **examine our heart’s location**. When the same works that Christ said we’d do are not manifesting in our lives we need to take it to the next level. Our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked in the natural man. We can fool ourselves into thinking we are spiritual, we are faithful, we are obedient, **but if the works are not present something is wrong**.

We can say that God is holding out on us and excuse ourselves from the responsibility but we will never progress embracing unbelief like this. We can say that God doesn’t will that all manifest what Jesus did and excuse ourselves of the responsibility to receive and be fruitful in this way; however, this is not the case either. When the responsibility centers on us and we know it we can become guilty, self condemned, and burdened with failure and become exasperated. **We can give up feeling overwhelmed by the pressure of being responsible but not experiencing the power to change anything**.

The guilt, condemnation, and burden are not from God. God is not against us, angry with us, nor holding a grudge because we are failing to be like Jesus. ***God is on our side working with us to win and to overcome***. In Christ we have been freed from all

condemnation and all sin past, present, and future is atoned for...***all that is left is God's desire to win in and through us!***

## **The Initiation—This is the Cross Over!**

I present to you our need to process through an initiation in the Christian walk. We need training in this too. We need to be broken from the love of family, love of this world, fear of man, and love of self ***as dominate in our lives AND DOMINATED BY THE SENSES*** to become ambassadors in Christ.

Mt 10:37 "**He who loves father or mother more than Me** is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

1Jo 2:15 Do **not love the world** or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Pr 29:25 **The fear of man brings a snare**, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

Mt 16:25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**

2Co 5:7 For we walk by faith, **not by sight.**

The initiation process is after **one thing** that **we should no longer be sense knowledge dominated to become revelation knowledge dominated.** God wants us to recover from being dominated by our senses and ***dependent upon seeing first before we believe*** to become **dominated by His Word**. This may sound simple to understand but the change requires diligence. We have lived by our senses being dominated by what we see, hear, feel, touch, taste, and smell. We have walked by sight and not by faith. We can talk faith but to live by faith **takes transformation. We must be weaned from this world's way of being to become God's**

way of being. **This is really what life is all about a choice to be like Jesus!** This choice begins and ends with a decision to accept what God has done in Christ in us! Grace leads us to be believers and to walk in the Spirit. Grace leads us to our intercessor and to dominion over unbelief, doubt, fear, and all sin.

**This is the key to victory** over the flesh and sense knowledge faith. This is the key to overcoming our failure to receive and experience the supernatural power of God. ***We must go through an initiation*** that transforms us from being **baby Christians** to mature in faith. Baby Christians are dependent upon what they see to believe this is exactly what ***Doubting Thomas*** was when he demanded that he would not believe unless he saw the nail prints and touched Jesus' side. Jesus showed him his nail prints and told him to touch his side but then said to Thomas:

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those **who have not seen** and *yet* have believed."

I thought for years that Jesus was speaking about the fact that so many would ***have to believe*** in Him without seeing and without touching Him and because of that they would be commended for doing so without the ***same advantage that Thomas had***. There may be truth in this understanding but the **major thrust of Jesus was the blessing of believing not by sight, not by touch or any requirement of this world or senses but believing because of the Word itself**. We are blessed when we stop being dominated and led by the world and its happenings to being fixed and led by the Word that doesn't change.

2Co 4:18 **So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen**; For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

When we insist that we see first and then we believe we are dominated by the flesh. When we believe we are healed, delivered, set free because we feel it, see it, or experience it, we are still flesh dominated. **We need to grasp this faith fact that God's Word alone is what we are to live by. What God's word says is to be enough, not what we feel with it, see with it, or experience with it. When we become God centered and Word dependent alone we are where God wants us.** This takes diligence, training, and determination—it takes initiation!

1Pe 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ**;

We need to **rest** in God's Word alone (The revelation of Jesus Christ) and not be looking to see signs first. Signs follow those who believe the Word of God and speak it. Sense knowledge faith believes after they see it. Sense knowledge faith is following after signs.

**When we are convinced in our heart by the Word of God alone—that is faith.** Holding fast to this position despite what we see, hear, feel, taste, or smell **is faith in God's grace.** God's grace may be unseen at the present but the reality of it is eternally true right now. We may not see it but the spirit realm is more real, truer, more fixed and unchanging, eternal and more powerful than the temporal world we've been living to. **When we are**

**depending upon physical things to change before we are convinced we are not living by God’s Word.** When we are convinced that we are healed because we feel better or the pain is gone, we are not living by God’s word—we are still sense dependent.

Consider this: **What makes us believe what we believe?** When we can boil it down and see what is at the core of our believing if it is based upon something we can see in this realm then we are not living by the Word of God. **For example: Our salvation** in being born again what of this realm or of this world has convinced us that we are saved? Is there physical proof? Is there something we can feel, touch, taste, smell, or hear that convinces us that we are saved? We know we are saved because **we crossed over** from being sense driven about our salvation to basing it on one thing—**God’s Word**. We know we are saved because we took the step to trust the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ to those who call upon His name. When we took this step to call upon the Lord we believed in our heart and spoke with our lips that we are indeed saved. This was a cross over from sense knowledge to **revelation knowledge from God’s Word alone**. When we did this, **the Holy Spirit then confirmed and bore witness within our hearts with peace, rest, and joy**. Our faith knowledge was confirmed by revelation knowledge based solely in God’s promise through the Spirit’s power in us. **This is the mystery of life to live by faith!**

Col 2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him**,

This is the challenge for every believer to **transform our dependence** upon sense knowledge faith that is “I’ll believe when I see it,” to revelation knowledge faith which is “I believe it because God’s Word says it.”

## The Whole Heart Issue

There is also this fundamental element of receiving anything from God: **We must come with our whole heart!** No one can become born again unless they ask from their whole heart to be saved. Those who are not convinced, who are uncertain in their need, who ask half heartedly will not receive. Likewise, if our heart is depending upon our financial status, the food in our cabinets, the medical profession, the evening news, what the scientists are telling us, or what our leaders proclaim, then our position to receive from God is hindered. **God expects us to be wholly devoted to His Word first.**

**This issue is vital. This is the issue of priority.** God must have first priority in our life. If there is something we are trusting in more or instead of God’s word ***we have not crossed over*** into faith in God’s grace. Just as in a marriage where the husband and wife are to become one making their relationship and life together the priority of their lives, so are we in our relationship to the Lord. If there is anything held back, secrets, time, possessions, energy, focus, purpose, to the degree that it is, it stands between us and the Lord.

Jesus isn’t ***suggesting*** that we seek first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33) so that things will work out for us better; he is saying that ***there is no other position*** for us except putting the kingdom of God first **for God’s grace to work in us.**

We must understand that God's relationship to us is priority number one; **that the word of God in our lives is to become our trust in everything.**

Ps 118:8 **It *is* better to trust in the LORD** Than to put confidence in man.

Ps 118:9 **It *is* better to trust in the LORD** Than to put confidence in princes.

Pr 3:26 For **the LORD will be your confidence**, And will keep your foot from being caught.

**We are not crossing over** from being *sense knowledge dependent* to *revelation knowledge dependent* until our hearts are trusting in God's Word over against, before or in the face of, contradictory evidence, contrary symptoms, or reports from any other source.

**Our first priority is to Trust the Integrity of God's Word:**

We cannot trust in God and riches; we cannot trust in God and the medical profession; we cannot trust in scientists and God's Word. **We must put our trust in God first and progress in this direction towards faith in God's grace.** This doesn't mean that we don't manage money or work to earn it; this doesn't mean that we don't go to doctors or get physical checkups; this doesn't mean that we don't learn from scientists. What this means is that we are coming to these and all worldly authorities **with our eyes fixed on God's Word first**. We see the world, our situations, our physical condition the way God sees it. **Until we are fully standing in grace by faith *we are to be pursuing it...***

Consider this verse and its application:

Ro 14:23 **But he who doubts is condemned** if he eats, **because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.**

**We are to walk and live by faith!** If we are not there we ***should be progressing towards this end***. Living by faith is not blind but **full of revelation knowledge**. **Faith knows God's will, knows God's word, knows God's Spirit, and abides in peace with power. It is to our advantage to cross over from being sense driven and dependent to becoming revelation knowledge dependent!** Jesus lived in faith, walked in faith, abided in faith and what characterized his life was the authority, the knowing, the peace, the grace, and power he exemplified. *What is common among sinful man?* We all do not know, do not have power, peace, grace, we walk by our senses, we are under the curse, and we live in a world of unbelief and doubt. Unfortunately much of the church remains in this state still being sense dependent and carnally driven.

Ro 8:6 For to be **carnally** minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

## **The Conclusion:**

We need to overcome our present position in not receiving from the Lord. We need to pursue further and reject the lie that God is holding out on us, limiting us, or does not will us to receive like others do. **We must be honest and locate our heart's condition:** are we still sense knowledge dependent? We need to focus and realize that God's call and will for our life is **to become revelation knowledge dependent which is to be fundamentally established in His grace through His word**. Further still, to

examine and see where our heart's focus is and *how committed we are to putting our whole trust in God*, in His Word, and in His Spirit. We need to be transformed from sense knowledge dependence to revelation knowledge dependence **and that takes a whole heart commitment**. These steps are not suggestions but requirements for faith and grace to be fully operational in our life. It is to our advantage and for God's glory for us to accomplish this in our life. The more we do the more success we'll have in connecting with the truth of God's grace.

How do we cross over? By taking God's Word as the truth, life, and way, and speaking it into our lives...See these booklets for further understanding:

**A Power We Know Not of...** (We are to prophecy into our lives!)

**Understanding Doubt** (Become convinced of God's will)

**Understanding Unbelief** (Address the weeds of unbelief in our heart)

**You Have the Faith of Christ!** (We've been Given His faith!)

**Training** (We'll succeed and fail but training presses on)

**What About Guilt?** (Guilt is not from God, it comes from us)

**We Ask But Don't Receive** (All fail to receive but don't give up)

**Indicators and Location** (We must locate our heart to move forward)

**Where do the fiery darts come from?** (Addressing the weeds of unbelief in our heart to diminish them)