

01.10.2010 (Sun)

Believing Against All Hope (Rom 4:18-21)

In the New Testament, the term used for God's word is *logos*. However, if we take a closer look at the Bible, *logos* is not the only term used for God's word, but also the term *rhema* is used as well.

For example, Mt 4:4 says, [*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*] In this verse, the term used for "word" is *rhema*, not *logos*.

Again, in Lk 5:5, [*Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."*] Here, the term used for "say" is again *rhema*, not *logos*. Jn 15:7, "*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.*" Once again, the term *rhema* is used.

When the work of the word leads us to repent, to obey, to have faith, to overcome trials, to receive answers and bear fruit, each of these moments is the work of *rhema*. What is the difference then between *rhema* and *logos*? *Logos* refers to the Word.

*Rhema* refers to "*Thus says the Lord*" (or "*God said*"). In consequence of *rhema*, the will or purpose of *the Word* is manifested. Thus, in the Old Testament as well, we can see that there is not just one, but two terms used for the "word" which are *dabar* and *amar*.

In Genesis chapter 1, in all of the phrases "*God said*", it is *amar*. In Gen 15:4 the Scriptures says: *Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."* Here, *the word* is *dabar* and "*came to him*" is *amar*.

So, *dabar* is the providence of God and it is manifested by being uttered. Once the word is spoken and made known, *dabar* becomes *amar*. So, let's consider Abraham's faith. He had a faith where against all hope, Abraham in hope believed. It is easier said than done.

How can one have faith when there is not even a glimmer of hope? When in the moment, it appears before your eyes as assuredly dead and you come to a point of complete despair and hopelessness, how can one have faith and believe? This is impossible without fully trusting in the Word and taking that leap of faith.

Abraham had held on firmly to what God had said. He did not doubt. He infallibly held on to God's spoken promise that God would provide him a son. And indeed, as believed, the promise was granted (Rom 4:19-21).

This is why even today, the Lord says to us, "According to your faith will it be done to you (Mt 9:29)". Have faith the way Abraham had faith! There is no need to even consider the condition of the economy, the government, or anything. All things will be achieved through God.

God gives hope and calling to sinners who have lost their paradise as he sees over everything, be it personality, disposition, circumstance, or environment and His will is done. Consider the process of Simon becoming Peter. Until God had *spoken* to Simon, he remained as Simon. But did he not become Peter when *thus says the Lord* came to him (Lk 5:1-10)? The life-giving Spirit saves us. Through *thus says the Lord!*

We can believe against all hope thru *thus says the Lord*. Then surely, it will be achieved! Jn 6:63 proclaims, "*The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*" Here, once again, the term for "words" is not *logos*, but *rhema*.

Consider how John the Baptist was appointed through the spoken word (Lk 3:2)! "*The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert.*" Here too, the term for "the word" is *rhema*.

The administration of God's redemption is accomplished through *thus says the Lord*. Consider the course of how our Lord came as the seed of woman. It was through *thus says the Lord!* As we can see in Lk 1:38, Mary received and had faith in the spoken word of God. "*I am the Lord's servant, Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said.'*" Here as well, *said* is the spoken word, it is *rhema*.

So, think about the process in which faith is being developed. The Bible says that *faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ* (Rom 10:17). Once again, the term for the *word* here is *rhema*. The same goes for the *word* in Eph 6:17. "*Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*"

In the most crucial moments, the providence of God is manifested through *thus says the Lord*. Beloved friends, if you have faith and believe against all hope, salvation, resurrection, and transformation is made possible!

The parting of the Red Sea happened in the hopeless hour. The Manna came down in the hopeless situation. The salvation of the Cross came in the most hopeless moment.

Dearest friends, what does the children of God believe in? *That through the power of His Word, the providence of Father is being accomplished in the most trying times, in the most difficult places, and in the most impossible ways!*