



CHIEF EDITOR Z. MARTINEZ

“The Importance of the first step!” By Z Martinez

¹² “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.” 1 Kings 17:12

I love this story very much. I have read it many times and it never fails to speak to me. The widow here is speaking to Elijah who asked for food and all she had left was a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. It was all she had left in the world and Elijah was asking for it. She didn't have a clue to what truly awaited her. Her expectation was to eat the little that she had left, feed her son and die. Instead she gave to Elijah what he asked. I wondered what went through her mind. Knowing this was the last of her resources and a stranger was asking for it, yet she gave it to him. What a reflection of her heart. I wondered if she saw how hungry Elijah was and felt sorry, or if his reply spoke profoundly in her heart where she believed him when he said “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.” ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug

of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.”

It was indeed a sacrifice on her part. But she did it, she took the first step in obedience and sacrificed a days meal. And just as Elijah had spoken on behalf of God, her resource never ran dry. She isn't the only one in the bible. Think of the women who bled for 12 years, she left the security of her home, where by law at the time she needed to stay home, she was unclean. She knew this and took the first step out the door seeking the man she knew would heal her. She reached through the crowds in her unclean state and touched no other than the son of God himself, Jesus. The results... she was healed. But it took the sacrifice, it took the first step. What about Abraham, called to leave him home. All that he knew, all that he had made for himself, and just go to an unknown land holding on to the word God spoke. Then God tells him that in his old age he will have a son, and he does, and he loves him. What an amazing gift, to get the impossible and then God ask for his life. Abraham waited so long for Isaac arrival and now God wanted him as an offering. Your offering is the expression of your heart. Abraham put his heart on that table. What Isaac do you need to give up this year to go to the next level? Is

God asking for everything? Are you willing to give everything? I know its alot to ask for, I know its easier said than done. But if you flip through all the pages of the bible every promise was kept and everyone who believed, sacrificed and took that step came out better than they expected. I know its a big deal, but the reward is greater. Peter couldnt walk on water if he didn't take the step out the boat. Nothing happens unless we sacrifice, and take the first step.

If you want to be saved, you have to take the first step, if you want to be forgiven or need to forgive you have to take the first step, if you want restoration you need to take the first step. If you want healing; take that first step in faith. If God is calling you to take that first step, then embrace His calling. This step will take you to the next level; take the first step it will change you forever.





“Freedom” *By Z. Martinez*

Proverbs 26:11 “As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly”

God can make change happen. But God is not in gold little bottle waiting to be rubbed the right way to appear and grant you three wishes. It doesn't work that way. And let us not insult God in praying that way.

Yes God can do anything and everything. He can do the impossible. However-the possible... I must say he is expecting for you to take on. He is not your servant. He gave you incredible gifts, talents and abilities.

Amongst one of them is a brain and HE wants you to use it. So the problem is not whether or not God can change you but if you're willing to change your mind about your situation. You can't make a request to be free from your situation, and make no effort to break yourself free.

Nothing will change, if nothing changes with you. Do you know how many people I hear praying for God to change them, but they won't let go of other peo-

ple's opinions of them? Do you know how many addicts I have seen pray that they want to be free of their addiction, but they deliberately put themselves in temptations way.

When my kids want something, I don't do it for them, I teach them how to get it, keep it, and protect it. Do you not think God is a much better teacher than we are as parents?

It's not about what you keep going through over and over; it's about what you keep returning too. So it looks like you yourself have to make decisions to not return, decisions to not put yourself in temptations way. And I know it's easier said than done, this isn't something you can do alone. You're going to need God. People might have given up on you already, but God hasn't and won't. The Psalmist wrote “Many are they, who say of me, ‘...’There is not help for him in God.”...But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice and he Heard me” Psalms 3:2-4.

Pray the prayer, “turn me back to you O Lord and I will be restored” Speak it in faith, and all the impossibilities of your situation will change, and you will learn, and you will be set free.

“ASK A SISTER”

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Sister Teresa Farnell: daughtersfaith@bellsouth.net



Q. Is this true? “To understand a faith we need to see how it works amongst a people” -Ninian Smart. I’m studying religions in school and this quote didn’t make sense to me.

Dear Student,

The answer is no. If you could see it, it wouldn’t be called faith. It would be just another theory that we would try to prove with the eyes. Faith is believing in the unseen. Hebrews 11:1 “Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see” To understand faith you have to believe and experience living in hope.

Words can never truly grasp what faith is. How does one have faith in something they have never seen? Therefore, something has to happen to the heart, that calls us to hope in something we can’t see. This is why the scriptures tell us that those who are his sheep will know his voice. It runs deeper than observation of a people and theories. And its wonderful you caught how incorrect that statement is. Read the chapter of Hebrews 11.

Good luck with your studies and be blessed.

To Read more submissions of “ASK A SISTER” please go to our website: www.daughtersfaith.org

(The opinions above are not from a certified counselor, but from your Sister In Christ, therefore it is up to the individual to take the advice...Zion’s Daughters of Distinction Ministries Inc., will not be liable for your actions.)

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*"...out of Zion, the
perfection of beauty, God
hath shine" Psalm
50:2)"*

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