

2. Discussion

a. Faith is Tested by Unbelief

Luke 18:1-8

The Lord introduces this section with the expression that men should "pray and not faint." The previous chapter had discussed the judgments and strife coming to the earth and the sequence of events suggests that the content of this early portion is set against that background. When men do not believe they do not pray and consequently they faint or fail in the process of life. Unbelief and faith are opposed in the strongest of terms but whenever a situation arises that seems incredible or impossible to us, our faith is thereby tested. The willingness of a Christian to believe the Lord and act in the terms of His word is the demonstration of faith and unbelief effectively negates these things. Unbelief tests faith...it does not destroy it unless we allow faith to be set aside in its preference. When unbelief arises and we respond with prayer, it is likely that the test of faith will result in its increase.

b. Faith is Tested by the Size of the Task

Luke 9:19-17

The multitude that had followed the Lord and needed feeding was a large group. The disciples had but five loaves and two fishes when the Lord commanded them to feed the flock. It was, to all intents and purposes, an impossible task. But the Lord commanded that the multitude should be seated in an orderly fashion, in groups of fifties (v. 14). And this the disciples did, wondering no doubt, what would happen next. The size of their job (not feeding but ordering) was enormous and their willingness to undertake