

Volume 5, Day 4: Fool me once. Shame on you!

My brother, Willie called me the other night asking me to loan him fifty dollars to get his car out of the repair shop. He knows that I am very clear with everyone asking for a hand out that I will not give money or stuff to them. He watched me flat out deny a man money just a couple of weeks ago.

Be aware, however, that sometimes the Holy Spirit tells me to write a huge check or pay for towing and repair for someone. Unless the Holy Spirit directs me to do anything, I will not do it. So in that context, my first inclination was to say “No.” to Willie. But the Spirit said to do it anyway. So with some skepticism, I agreed to meet Willie the next morning to loan him the money. As I drove to my next meeting, I texted his wife to let her know about the loan. Having received no reply, I met Willie and handed him the cash. He assured me that he would repay me in a couple of weeks.

Willie introduced me to his friend Dannie sitting on the bench beside him. As Dannie and I talked, I could tell that he was finding spiritual value in my words. I described how we don’t need to ask God for more faith. He gave us all at least a mustard seed amount of faith. Jesus said, “... if you have faith the size of a grain of mustard seed, you can command mountains to move and it will happen!” That small suggestion to seek to have the same faith as Abraham rather than asking God for more seemed to bring new understanding to Dannie.

As I left Willie, Deb’s response came through loud and clear. Willie has a gambling problem and **no responsibility** for auto repairs. I instantly realized that the transaction had nothing to do with Willie and everything to do about a divine appointment with Dannie! I refused to put shame on Willie and encouraged his wife later on the phone not to shame Willie, but release Him to God’s care and healing. She was moved to tears as we prayed for the “long-suffering” of God to be ours as we wait patiently for His Holy Spirit to heal Willie. Actually Willie’s deception produced two divine appointments. Instead of shaming others, I will release them from my condemnation to God’s love and grace which are truly healing.

My Confirming Scriptures and Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan