

'NEW LIFE HEALING CENTRE'

(The Bethel)

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*Breaking into God's Plan
& Purpose for your life*

RELEASE *from* **SLAVERY** *to* **FREEDOM**
The Sacrifice of Christ Bondage New life/healing/Deliverance

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAYMOND

Being persistent! So, today how persistent are you? I have no surprises in the fact that in some things you are very persistent. We all have this determination that, if we want it badly enough, we will continue to save for it, or fight for it, or wait for it, but being persistent to get what we want, we will be.

Can you see this area of 'persistency' in you? There are times when God watching over our lives 'proves our faith' We say to Him that we really believe in Him, we believe all that Jesus did for us, and that we believe in His promises to us. We say that we confess this, but deep down do you truly believe and live by your confession. You have heard the cliché, say one thing but do the opposite. Many Christians live and act and do this, all be it unknowingly. To be consistent and persistent you have to be determined to get what you are asking for. How would you have reacted if you were in a similar situation as to this woman? When you are in a similar situation to this, how do you react? Let us hear what we can learn of God from this Syrophoenician woman. Jesus didn't respond immediately to her request, the disciples tried to send her away, but she did not give up! Her faith in Christ and His mercy was not weakened. She did not go away discouraged or defeated, i.e. feeling sorry for herself, she continued (despite her obstacles as such) to reach out to Christ in faith. Listen . . . she fell down at His feet and worshipped Him. Can you hear this? The faith that was active within her would not let her go

Until she received what she needed from Christ. The Bible tells us that 'God will meet all our needs'. This was a 'need' she had. Phil 4 v 19 – And in testing her faith Jesus 'proves her faith' by saying – Matt 15 v 26 – It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs. Here is the point where most would or could have 'turned away' with discouragement and given up. "That's it, not meant to be, this is my cross that I have to bear", I can see it, I can hear it. Can you, and how many Christians would have responded, maybe you have responded in this way, just recently or maybe in a situation of yours where you have not received from God what you have asked for. Just like this woman's plea for Christ to cast the demon out of her daughter, how it had been 'met by His silence'. Disillusioned, rejected, no sign of improvement, you sense the words of the disciples to you 'to send you away', and then if this wasn't enough, the response of Christ was that His mission was only to the House of Israel. Now, He tells her that it was not right to take what rightfully belonged to the children of Israel and give it to 'dogs' or heathen nations. Do you feel like this, that God isn't interested or answering your prayers, or changing your situation? Jesus 'proves faith' is He proving your faith? She would not let go. Will you, or will you be as persistent as she was? Is Christ your only hope? He was hers. He alone has the power to do what you ask.

Be consistent, be persistent. Be proved. In Jesus Name . . . AMEN.