

The truth behind 'standing on the Word' #1

Hi all,

Home after church one day a mom found her little boy in his room, standing on top of his Children's Bible, feet together, arms wavily wildly as he tried to maintain balance. When the mom saw him she asked what he was doing, and he replied that he had been praying for a bicycle and his children's church pastor said you had to stand on the Word to get your prayers answered, so that is what he was doing. "Mom, do you know how long I have to stand on the Word before God gives me my bicycle?"

With results ranging from the humorous to the tragic, the phrase 'standing on the Word' has permeated most of Christian culture to such a degree that in some circles when people ask how someone is doing they might reply, 'Oh, you know, still standing on the Word' as some sort of measure of emotional and spiritual health.

Enter man's tradition

Is there power in the ink and paper verse? No. If the Bible alone had power then anyone who read it would be saved, but we all know that doesn't happen. What makes the Bible so powerful? It is more than the concepts therein, it is that the Holy Spirit brings to life the words on the page. Without the Spirit making those words alive, you have just a 'book' called the Bible.

So if you are 'standing' on a verse without the Holy Spirit having communicated to you that verse is for you, you are standing merely on ink and paper. But there is a solution.

There was no New Testament to 'stand on' until the late 300's AD, some 250 years after the events we are so privileged to read about in our New Testament. Apostles Paul, Peter, James, John, and Jude were doing church in the house and writing their letters to people doing church in the house. They had no written scriptures other than Genesis through Malachi, for no one had yet written about the life of Jesus and their own letters were just then being copied for reading in (home based) churches.

When Paul wrote in his letter that became Ephesians 6:13-14 to put on the whole armor of God and having stood, stand against the wiles of the devil, he never actually said to 'stand on the Word'. Our stand is against the plans of the enemy. What Paul wrote became twisted through the 'Word of faith' movement of the 1980's to be taught as 'stand on the Word', having been repeated enough most Christians who believe it that think it is chapter and verse. But it isn't. This is:

"Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil...for we wrestle not against flesh and blood...therefore take to yourself the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand on the evil day, and having done all to stand, stand therefore..." Ephesians 6:11-13 We stand against Satan's plan. How?

What DO we stand on? The truth in scripture

In Acts 13:45-48 Paul and Barnabas are teaching about Jesus and are strongly opposed by the unbelieving Jewish population of the city, and Paul makes this declaration:

"It was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you; but seeing you put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, look! We turn to the Gentiles, for this is what the Lord commanded us, saying, 'I have set you to be a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'

The word that Paul said the Lord spoke to him that he quotes here, is Isaiah 49:6 in a prophesy about Messiah. The Lord lifted that verse to tell Paul it applied to him. Paul didn't open Isaiah to look for a verse that fit his life or situation. He didn't read it in his memory verses nor in his morning devotional. The Lord spoke that word to him.

THAT is how we stand, we stand on fresh revelation which the Lord speaks to us for our situation. The Lord lifts verses and tells us, reveals to us, that verse is for us. WE don't make that decision.

Revelation from the Lord on a particular verse is revelation from heaven, and the gates of hell cannot stand against revelation from heaven. Paul didn't thumb through the Old Testament to find a verse to 'stand on', He received revelation from the Lord. To do that, you have to know the Lord and walk with

Him and pray about your situation until you get a 'Word' - not quickly use your daily memory verse because it just happens to fit - unless the Lord told, showed, revealed, communicated to you that it was for you.

In John 21:18 Jesus prophesies to Peter about how he would die, stating: "Truly I say to you, when you were young you dressed and walked wherever you wanted. But when you are old another will dress you and carry you to a place you don't want to go." The apostle John adding in v19: "This He spoke to signify what kind of death he would glorify God, and when He had said this to him, He said, "Follow Me." Notice Jesus is telling him when he is old he will be crucified - this is important.

About 10 or a bit more years later Acts 12 opens with the matter of fact statement Herod had killed James, the brother of John, with the sword and had now arrested Peter with the intent of doing the same. Peter is still a young man, and being executed by sword is not crucifixion. I believe that is why Peter was so sound asleep in v7 that the angel had to hit him to awaken him. (Greek for 'hit': pataxas, to beat as in the beating of the heart, to strike, to hit). Peter was deeply asleep.

The Word Peter was 'standing on' was revelation from the Lord from roughly 10 years earlier that when he was old he would be crucified. Later in life, in his last letter which is our II Peter, in 1:14-15 he said this: "...knowing the shortly I must put off this tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me. Moreover I write this that after my death you will have these things always in remembrance."

Peter was fully aware in Acts 12 how he was going to die, and it wasn't going to be by sword when he was still young. He was sound asleep as he 'stood' on the Word. Paul was 'standing' on a similarly given personal word from the Lord that shifted his attention to the Gentiles.

We stand on personal revelation for our situation. That's how it is done. For your situation now - stop what you're doing, carve out time with Him (worship and then being quiet in His presence is what I recommend), and let Him give you a word for your situation. But that raises the question, where does Jesus' revelation come from?

That is for next week. Until then, blessings,
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The truth behind 'standing on the Word' #2

Hi all,

Last week I shared the tradition of 'standing on the Word' and the examples in scripture of Peter and Paul who 'stood' based on personal revelation the Lord gave them for their situation and life, rather than thumbing through verses to find one that fit their situation. I ended asking where the Lord got His revelation. That may have caused some head scratching because we all assume the Lord Jesus is the source of the revelation - but is He?

"Unto us a son is given; unto us a child is born" is how Isaiah 9:6 starts in one of the most recognizable prophecies about the Lord Jesus Isaiah makes. Notice the dual nature of Messiah - He is the Son given, who became the child born. He is both 100% God and 100% man. What does that mean?

The fact Jesus Christ is both the Son given and the child born is reflected in His name and title: Jesus refers to His humanity, the name given to Mary for the child in her womb. Christ is the anointed One of the Father. He is therefore Jesus Christ. The God-Man.

Being God means He existed before He ever became the child born. He was Christ the Son first and foremost, who was later given to become the man Jesus. The fact the Father God gave Him is a clue as to whose revelation we are receiving from the Lord Jesus. In my series "I AM; Who Jesus is and Where He Came From" I go into detail concerning the origins of the Father-Son relationship and Christ's appearances in the Old Testament, but I'll hit some high points here.

Understanding the Word of the Lord

In I Samuel 3 it opens saying "The Word of the Lord was rare in those days, there was no open vision", to establish the context for what is about to happen. This classifies for us that a visitation from the Lord is called 'an open vision'. As we'll see, Samuel's eyes were wide open to see the natural, but he also saw the Lord in His realm.

The boy Samuel is on his bed and he hears a voice call to him; "Samuel. Samuel." The boy gets out of bed and goes to the high priest, Eli, certain he had called to him. But Eli told him it wasn't him who had called, and this happens three times. Verse 7 is interesting in an explanation on why the boy didn't recognize the voice: "Samuel did not yet know the Lord; neither was the Word of the Lord yet revealed to him."

After the 3rd time Eli told Samuel to answer the voice and stay put, which he does. Verse 10 says this: "Then the Lord came and stood as He had at the other times, and said, 'Samuel, Samuel'." Notice - the Lord came and stood as He had the previous times. Who was this Lord that came to Samuel's bedroom that night?

Verse 21 tells us: "The Lord appeared again in Shiloh to Samuel, for the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel as the Word of the Lord."

Samuel set the stage

Samuel was prophet in Israel in the time of the Judges for which that book is named. The time of Judges was after Joshua died but before Saul became King. Samuel was the last judge, for he anointed Saul and later David as kings. Other judges over the centuries of the time of the judges included Deborah, Samson, and Gideon.

Samuel therefore being the prophet or Seer as he is called that* established the kingship of Israel, serving as the type of all prophets Israel would have. How the Lord treated this first prophet was how He treated all the rest of them in the OT. That is the reason the phrase 'the Word of the Lord' appeared to Samuel is important. *I Samuel 9:9, 13

Other 'Word of the Lord' mentions

The Lord appeared to Samuel who knew Him as the Word of the Lord - this is an appearance by the Son to be given, Christ, who appeared to him. We must keep this first and foremost, He is the Word from the Father God to people - the Word of the Lord (Father God). Jesus is not a 'stand alone' Person nor concept nor even are His Words written in pen and paper stand alone verses - they proceed from the Word and that Word proceeds from the Father.

After Samuel the Lord appeared to his successors in the same way, as the Word of the Lord, and when you read 'The Word of the Lord came to...' it is vital to understand that is the Person of the Word of the Lord - Christ - and the proof is that when you see that phrase the prophet will say He talked to them, or Him appearing or something he saw.

Consider...

"Jeremiah...to whom the Word of the Lord came...the Word of the Lord came to me and said before I formed you in the belly I knew you and called you...then the Lord stretched forth His hand and touched my mouth and said..." 1:1-9

"The Word of the Lord came specifically to Ezekiel...and I looked and a whirlwind came out of the north and a fire enfolding itself..." (His vision of the throne and cherubs) Ezekiel chapter 1

"The Word of the Lord who came to Micah...which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem..." Micah 1:1-2

"...came the Word of the Lord to Zechariah, saying..." Zechariah 1, in which he describes visions (actually through most of his book)

As I said earlier, I don't want to go into full detail and if you want more information you can listen to my "I AM" series, but understanding that starting with Samuel Christ appeared to the prophets as the Word of the Lord is important.

John 1:1-14: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and lived among us."

The 'Word' he is talking about is that Word of the Lord who appeared to the prophets, and finally, after centuries appearing to prophets through the centuries, actually 'became flesh and lived among us.' WOW. He is the Word of the Father to man - up to now just specific prophets and people in the Old Testament. But He became human, for us all.

So that means...

The Person of the Word of the Lord, the Person of the Word of the Father, is our Lord Jesus Christ. To Adam He was the Lord God in the Garden of Eden. To Abraham He was Jehovah Jireh and El Shaddai, to Moses He was Jehovah Nissi (banner) and Rapha (healer) - but all those appearances before Samuel were unique and specific to the situation. Centuries later He appeared to Samuel as the summary of all those revelations of His character and more, as the totality of the Word of the Lord (Father) for man.

To Samuel He summed it up as the Word of the Lord (Father), and then THAT was summed up as the Word from the Father when He became conceived in Mary's womb as THE message from the Father - Peace on earth and good will TOWARDS men.

That isn't peace man to man, but God the Father whose angelic army appeared to the Shepherds, said proof of His good will towards men is that His Word became flesh and lived among us. Amazing. So now we see that 'standing on the Word' certainly is not picking a verse ourselves upon which we stand our ground - the example through the centuries is that of men and women who received a specific Word of the Lord for their situation - in the NT we saw Paul and Peter.

Next week I'll close it out with more New Testament realities about the Word of the Lord who came to become that man...and where He gets His 'words' for us...until then, blessings,
John Fenn

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The truth behind 'standing on the Word' #3

Hi all,

When I was a teenager and was left to babysit my little brothers and sister while our mom went to night school to complete her MBA (after dad walked out of our family), my authority was often questioned when I told them mom said bedtime was 8:30 (20:30).

The Parable of the 'Word of the Mom'

When they got angry with me I told them "Mom said it was 8:30", meaning my word to them was not my own, but mom's. My command was the 'word of the Mom' coming through me. I was 'the word of the mom', so if they wanted to change their bedtime it wasn't me they needed to ask, I was merely the intermediary, the go-between.

They had to go to mom for requests, not me. I had the authority to carry out mom's orders, for all authority in house and yard had been given me by mom, but mom was the source of my authority though she'd given it into my hands. But as to the times and seasons of their bedtimes, that was within mom's authority, not mine. Understand the parable?

"In that day you'll ask me (Jesus) nothing, but I say to you ask the Father in my name and He will give you all...for the Father loves you..." "All authority is given to me in heaven and earth, therefore go..." "And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with and confirming the Word with signs following." John 16:23-29, Matthew 28:18, Mark 16:20

(Some versions say 'the Lord worked with THEM and confirmed the word with signs following, but the Greek says 'the Lord worked with and confirmed the Word...' BIG difference. He doesn't work with us, He works with the Word of the Father. We have authority, but the Father has the power. Unless you know the power is immediately available you shouldn't try to operate in authority.)

The Source of the power of the name of Jesus

That is the grammatical structure and theological understanding when we read 'The Word of the Lord' or 'The Word of God (Father)'. The Person called the Word, is simply that, the Word of the Father God the way my word was the word of mom. He Himself, the Word, derives His power from the Source of that Word - the Father.

"Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave Me (Jesus), so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them I protected them and kept them safe by the name (Jesus) you gave to me." John 17: 7-8, 11-12

Notice 'the name which you gave me', and an editorial comment here - Jesus said His name was given to us so that we might be one. How often His name is used against one another (though He isn't in that)! Sad.

We use His name against demons, we use His name to lay hands on the sick, but how often have you thought of rallying around that name that we may be one. That is why I have to tell house churches over and over, when you come together you don't allow discussion about your differences and your different beliefs, you gather to focus on the One, on what and Who you have in common - that is the word 'fellowship' or 'koinonia', meaning 'common or all things common'. He is our focus, not your differences.

Angels cannot use the name of Jesus because He didn't die for them. Even the greatest angel of all, Michael, the one who guards Israel*, had to rebuke the devil saying 'the Lord rebukes you**' - angels don't have the authority to use the name of Jesus, but humans do because Jesus died for us. *Daniel 12:1, **Jude 9

(It is actually an insult to the Lord albeit usually in ignorant disobedience by well meaning believers for a Christian to say 'the Lord rebukes you' against a demon. Jesus said we are to cast demons out using His name - to lay that name down is direct disobedience to Jesus, and an insult against the work of the cross to lower oneself as if you don't have the right to use the name. You're not an angel, you're a human, so use the name and tell demons to go! You don't pray against demons, you command them out!!!)

Hebrews 1:1-3 when speaking of Jesus Christ:

"God has spoken to us in these last days through His Son...He is the impressed image of (God) the Father, the exact representation of His (the Father's) nature, and upholds all things by the Word of His (the Father's) power."

Notice that is not 'the power of the Word'. Jesus the Word of the Father has no power without the Father. John the Babysitter had no power of his own. The power was within 'the Mom', lol. If they had issue with their bedtime I really had no say in the matter, I was merely the word of the mom. Take it up with her.

Jesus is by nature, the Father's Word to us - herein revealing yet another error we've been taught and believed. That error being the Word alone has power, and even the error that the mere ink on paper Word has power in and of itself- wrong. If the ink and paper Word had power in an of itself anyone who read the Bible would be saved, as mentioned earlier in this series. That is not the case.

From that error comes declarations and speaking the word 1,000 times in the hope that maybe 1 of those times it will 'work', also included is casting out demons using the name of Jesus dozens of times, also laying hands on people saying, yelling, screaming the name of Jesus over and over, or in prayers over and over...all that demonstrates is the person praying has no power and worse, has no real faith in that most powerful name, nor do they have a clue what the Holy Spirit wants and how He is leading at that moment. If they did, they would know they were moving with the Spirit and 1 mention of that name, 1 command using that name, is all that is required. Sigh.

Many, many Christians are like what Jesus described in Matthew 6: 7: "When you pray don't use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard because of their many words." His reference to 'Gentiles' means the unsaved, those who worship other gods who think the

gods will hear them if they talk loud and long enough. Sounds like a normal altar call at any number of charismatic 'outpourings'.

But if you want to lay aside that error and walk with the Father and Lord you'll realize Christ is in you, and all you have to do is turn your thoughts to Him and He is there - no shouting required. When you stop thinking God the Father is 'out there' and start walking with Him in the truth He is 'in there', a whole new world will open to you.

Listen to the prayers of others in your circle of Christian friends, or in media, or draw on memories of altar calls past. See how little faith in the most powerful name they demonstrate. Look at how they place their faith in formulas rather than zeroing in on what the Father wants, and then 1 time speaking and casting the demon out, or commanding healing. And how many ask Jesus for things rather than the Father - which is what Jesus commanded, and what the apostles followed.

The reason they don't have faith in the name is they lack real revelation of Him, and they lack truly knowing the Father from whom all good things flow. Know the Father, determine His will, know where He wants to direct His power, THEN AND ONLY THEN can you flow in the authority that is yours, to effect the Father's will in heaven is done on earth. Period.

Jesus by Himself isn't the power source - He is merely the Word of the Father's power. So you have to know the Father and what He wants in order to flow with Jesus and use the weapons of our warfare effectively and correctly. You have no power in and of yourself. Know the Father, ascertain where He wants to direct it, step out as the Head of the body directs, and the Spirit will cause the Father's power to flow into that situation. Until then, shut up. Stay before the Father until you know, until you feel to go in a certain way, until you determine where the peace is, then follow it. Wait. Linger. Don't be afraid of the silence.

He upholds things by the word of the Father's power in the same way I kept by brothers and sister in line using the word of our mother. I was the word of mom to them. I had no power, just authority, but power was mom's and the authority she gave me was first hers. She would only flow with my commands in her name according to how those commands flowed with her will. If I commanded them to stand up until 10pm (22:00) I had no power behind me, therefore no authority, therefore mom's power didn't flow to them.

Jesus's power and authority come from the Father. Again, the power is the Father's, who has given the Son authority to use the power.

We'll pick it up there next week...how to balance next week, Blessings,
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The truth behind 'standing on the Word' #4

Hi all,

Back then Barb and I were teenagers eager to be used of the Lord in ministry, but destined for the university where my parents had gone and where her brother and sister had gone. This did not seem to fit the larger picture of the Lord's call on our lives. But, lacking any direct word from the Lord otherwise, I did what was right in the natural and headed for college. Barb was a year behind me in high school, so she finished up her senior year while I was a freshman about 2 1/2 hours away, then started university the next year while I was starting my second year of college.

I lived in a fraternity and she was rooming with her best friend in a dormitory, but we met together a couple nights each week and prayed about what we were to do. We were in university for our parent's but our hearts were for ministry, and seeking the Lord for direction, for some word about our future. One night in September of 1977, a month after Barb had arrived on campus for her freshman year at the university, we met for prayer in my room in the fraternity house.

She was kneeling on the floor worshipping and I was seated worshipping, and suddenly we each had words from the Lord. She was suddenly in the Spirit and standing before the Lord on a mountain, looking at Him. He put His hands on her shoulders and gently turned her around to view the vast

prairie stretching out before the mountains on which she and He were standing. The prairie was covered with a vast field of golden heads of wheat, and when she looked at each head of grain she saw each was a human face, and the Lord told her we were called to the end time harvest.

At the same time this was going on, the Lord was talking to me about our future. He said He would send us to Boulder, Colorado, and that my dad was going to cut off funding for school at the winter break, and to spend time fasting and prayer for He would teach me about healing during that time until the timing was complete, and then He would send me out. He also said, "You may be married about a year from now." That part I kept from Barb, but the rest we shared with each other.

We wanted with all our hearts to quit university and start 'ministry' whatever that might be in the midst of the charismatic renewal of the 1970's. But we weren't going to make such a monumental decision without a word from the Lord first.

Faith versus presumption

There are 2 Greek words concerning us today about the word, 'word'. One is logos, and means the whole counsel of God. It is used of Jesus in John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God." Logos is the Genesis through The Revelation counsel of God and the Person of the Word of the Lord.

The other word is rhema, which comes out of the logos to be a specific word to a person. That rhema can come in various forms; vision, word, quickening, witness, something perceived or discerned in one's spirit, and so on, all used to convey the truth that God has communicated something specific to a person out of the logos. A rhema is a specific word to a person from God to you, even if that word is peace, or a witness, or even a heavy feeling in your spirit conveying 'don't do this'.

It is rhema in Romans 10:17 when Paul wrote "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word (rhema) of God." Faith does not come by reading the logos, nor picking and choosing a verse to stand on. Faith comes when God communicates something specific, a rhema, from Him to you. Within rhema there is peace, provision, faith, grace, and so much more - if He communicates to you then all you need to fulfill the word, to accomplish that task, is open to you for the asking.

Jesus in John 15:7: "If you abide in me and my (rhema) words abide in you, then you may ask what you will and it will be done for you." What the disciples heard from the Greek is this: "If you stay in me and the specific words I've spoken to you stay in you, you may ask anything you want according to those words and it will be done for you."

Here is where we've missed it

Many read this verse not understanding the Greek, leading them to conclude if they just abide in the Lord enough, if they just learn enough, if they just walk in enough purity enough, then anything they ask will be done - but that is NOT what Jesus said. He said if you abide in a specific word from Him or the Father to you, then you can ask anything (according to that specific word) and it will be done for you.

Consider Noah who received a rhema word the earth would flood and he needed to build the ark. Within that word as he abided in it, stayed in it, was all he needed, and anything he needed to fulfill the word was his for the asking - he needed time, materials, and so on to accomplish the word - and it was his.

The same is true of Abraham who was called to be a father of nations, so he and Sarah were given the ability to conceive and be delivered of a baby boy. Moses was called to deliver Israel, so he was given the signs and wonders required to do the job, Joshua who received a word about taking Jericho, and on it goes. Each person of faith was in faith because they responded to a rhema word God had given them. They didn't just pick a verse or decide on their own to be 'in faith'. They responded to a specific word.

If you will examine your life you will see anything you had a direct word from the Lord on, flowed and was very peaceful. That is how a rhema works, that is what faith feels like - peace and rest. That is what Barb and I received that September evening in 1977, and it all came to pass and is in process of coming to pass even now.

We have never made a major decision in life without having first received a rhema from the Father or Lord. The 1 time I did it nearly cost my wife her life. Hard lesson to learn, but it was learned.

Call to remembrance former words, revelations, things sensed in your spirit

At the start of this series I mentioned 2 examples of people who 'stood' on specific words to them: Paul and Barnabus who said a verse in Isaiah originally about the Messiah was lifted by the Lord from Isaiah's prophecy about Messiah and told by Him that verse was also for them, and Peter who was told in the 40 days after Jesus' resurrection that when he would be old he would be crucified for his faith.

Neither of them received those words right at the moment of intense need - they had received those words years earlier. Most often we get into a situation and then we go to the Lord for a 'word'. The practice of Peter and Paul above though was to 'stand' on words from years earlier, earlier revelation about their lives, not on something given by the Lord right in the middle of intense moments. Praise the Lord for those, but these examples were of those who pulled on words earlier in their lives, revelation that was still stirring in their spirits, on which to 'stand'.

I've had a Bible since 1978 that I've had rebound 2x, and even now has duct tape on the spine because it is falling apart. But within those pages are highlighted verses, notes, and dates next to some verses marking the time a verse was quickened to me, jumped out at me, provided some revelation or promise. When I stand on the Word for healing for myself, I do so not on a current revelation, but on revelation received January through March of 1978 when the Lord had told me at university that my dad would cut off funding for school and to spend time fasting and praying and He would teach me about healing...he did, I did, and then He did. I stir up past revelation by remembering it, going over those same passages, in my mind going back to that time and once again feeling the rush of excitement in my spirit.

Peter said in I Peter 1:23 we are born again of incorruptible seed, meaning it never deteriorates, never decreases in power or relevance. That seed is a rhema word to us about who Jesus is, and our response was faith in Him and the giving of our lives for Him, and we continue to walk in that seed to this day.

That seed, that word, is incorruptible. So if you received revelation as I did in 1978 about healing, and then need that healing power of God in 2017, go back as Paul and Barnabus and Peter did to words years earlier, and renew your time in them, recall that rush of revelation, stir yourself up in that incorruptible seed in you - it is still a living Word and able to be used of God to you in your current situation.

So many spend time looking for a current 'Word' they neglect all their notes written and memories gained from revelation years earlier. KNOW what the Lord has spoken to you in years past. Hold on to them, they are incorruptible revelations, just as full of power now as they were then. You don't need to pick and choose a verse to stand on, you can go back to the living revelation from years past, or if needed, do spend time in worship for something current...but either way, learn to walk with Him thereby living in revelation for your life.

New subject next week, until then, blessings,
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