

***Faith Still Causes Miracles & Healing***  
**Answers to the Question, "Are Miracles for us Today?"**  
**Acts 10:38, 2Cor. 12&13**

There are some churches and theologians, and people smarter than I who believe that the gifts of the Spirit, such as healings, speaking in Tongues and prophecy died with the last apostle. They believe that, and they teach it. As a result, they don't expect to receive a miracle from God. They don't expect to be able to petition God and have God do something. They generally believe, that if a miracle occurs, it was the devil or someone else. If there is a healing, it was great medical work, or mother nature, or it was just an isolated demonstration of the will of God or a chance happening. It was something that God did without man's participation. That is not what the Bible teaches. I really question whether Jesus, who says that He loves us and cares about us, would leave us without hope, with no means by which to fight? Would He leave us on the earth unequipped to come against death, disease, poverty, infirmity, and these different things? Is that the condition in which He left us?

We want to look at some of those obstacles to having Faith in the supernatural. Let's first take a look at what the apostle Peter said about Jesus in the Book of Acts. Let's establish, first of all, that Jesus has authority over the works of the devil. Here's what Peter says in the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter, verse 38: *"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him"*. So the prerequisites here are that:

1.) God was with Him 2.) He has power, and 3.) He has dominion over the works of the devil. Churches that teach

against Faith for miracles and healing put most of their energy into missions, ie. helping the poor - clothes, food, orphanages, etc. Yet an investigation of Scripture shows that Jesus spent very little of His time doing any of that work. When the poor needed food, He didn't hold a rummage sale or beg for anything; He used it as an opportunity to do a miracle - multiply fish and loaves. When premature death struck He didn't establish a bereavement memorial fund, but raised the dead. When a good church worker died before her work was completed (Dorcas), Peter called her back to earth. Jesus served all who asked in Faith for healing, whether Jew or Gentile. If the devil had brought sickness and disease, Jesus ordered it away. He is the Demolition Worker against the works of the devil. Has the church reduced our commission to doing that which is easiest, helping the poor, rather than healing the poor? Feeding and helping the poor was a side benefit of Christ's ministry. When He healed the blind beggars, it was because they were blind, not because they were poor. Poverty is a symptom, not the problem - demonic bondage is the real problem. Are we not focusing on a lesser problem which Jesus described as, "*the poor you will always have with you*"? Has our theology limited and eliminated John 14:12? "*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*"

We need to ask ourselves, "What are the works of the devil?" We can figure that out by seeing what Jesus did in His ministry with His power. When we read the Gospels, we realize that Jesus raised the dead. Obviously, then death was not a work of God...death had to be a work of the devil, for God would not reverse His own work.

Since Jesus is the Son of God, surely He would not

reverse the work that His Father did. Jesus raised a little girl, He raised a young man whose mother was widowed, and had no one to care for her or to look after her when she got old. He also raised a young man, Lazarus from the dead. There are other Scriptures from the Old Testament of people who were raised from the dead by God's great prophets. So if Jesus and the prophets would reverse death when it shows up at the wrong time, then obviously these deaths are the work of the devil.

And sickness...how about this? It says that everywhere Jesus went He preached the Gospel, He preached Isaiah 61: *"the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach the Good News, the glad tidings, and to set at liberty those that are captives, and set at liberty those who are oppressed, to give sight to the blind..."* well, if that's what He preached, isn't it interesting that it was followed with miraculous works of healing to them that believe? So, anyone who believed the Gospel received their healing. It says that through the laying on of hands, through the commands that He gave, demons were cast out, healings were administered to people's bodies, the blind got their sight, the deaf received their hearing, and the cripples began to walk, and on and on. Even the flu and the common cold was defeated. Remember Peter's mother was sick in bed with a fever, and Jesus commanded the fever to go, and her health was restored. So my friends, we have to conclude that sickness is also the oppressive work of the devil, for Jesus worked against sickness when it came in His midst, or whenever anyone sought Him in Faith for healing. OK, I hope I've established that death and sickness were enemies to Jesus and are enemies to us. Jesus used supernatural power to destroy the enemy. He also acknowledged that there was

a connection between sickness and sin. Jesus would say, "go thy way and sin no more", stating and implying that "sin can cause a return of the work of the devil". Also, Jesus identified a connection between unbelief and receiving the healing, or miracles. Often He would ask, "Do you believe I can do this?" If you did not believe then you could not receive. This is clearly seen in His home town, "for He could do no mighty works there (Nazareth) because of their unbelief, (Mark 6:5) and "He marveled because of their unbelief." The Greek word used for unbelief implies disobedient.

Is it possible that the modern generation of church folk are like Jesus' Nazareth hometown folk - filled with unbelief that is rooted in disobedience? Are we believing for the salvation of Christ, without believing in the power of Christ? Salvation defined means: deliverance, liberty, health, help, prosperity, safety, save, welfare and victory!

Now, what did Jesus do with that power? Maybe it was only for Jesus. Well, if we look at the end of the book of Mark, there is an amazing passage of Scripture. In Mark chapter 16, Jesus is about to go to Heaven. He does an amazing thing. Beginning at the 14<sup>th</sup> verse: "Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked them for hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen." So, He rebuked them for hardness of heart; that's a lack of willingness to believe. Are we today still guilty of that? Romans 10:9 states "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved". It points out that believing in the resurrection is essential to salvation. Is this belief all that is needed to do the work of God? Do we still have hardness of heart, when we refuse to believe all of the Gospel?

You see, believing and having Faith are optional.

They are choices that you make. You either choose to believe, or you choose to doubt. But even in spite of unbelief and doubt, Jesus says in verse 15: *“Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature; He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”* (damned - katakrino - to judge against, ie, sentence, condemn, damn). Now many people think that this “condemnation” is singular in meaning, that you will go to hell and not to Heaven. You are also condemned if you refuse to believe because your condemnation also means that you will remain a prisoner to the oppressive work of the devil. Sickness will have its way with you; you may die before your time. You may believe exclusively on the resurrection rather than the inclusive gifts and powers given to us by Christ. Therefore, you are included in eternal salvation, but excluded from John 14 and will do no mighty works. You will be oppressed by the devil along with the unsaved non-believer. So you can be saved for Heaven and condemned to suffer under the works of the devil on earth.

Paul points this out in 1 Cor. 11, concerning the Lord’s Supper: *“and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.*

*For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.” (1Cor. 11:24-30). Paul is saying that to be unworthy is to partake of communion as an un believer. There are two things we are called to believe: 1.) Verse 24 - “by His (Jesus’) stripes (scourging) we were healed” - we have a way of escape from infirmity through the punishment of Jesus. Medical science divides all sickness into 39 divisions, and Jesus took 39 stripes from the lash, one for each category of disease; therefore, by Faith in this sacrifice we can receive our healings. 2.) The Blood that Jesus bled from the lash, thorny crown, pulling of the beard, driving of the nails and spear to the side - all guarantee eternal salvation and forgiveness of sin - if we believe it. This second belief, blood-forgiveness, is widely accepted but the first - the bread - and the scourging of Christ’s Body for healing, is often overlooked. Therefore, there is much sickness in the body of Christ. Note verses 31 & 32 - since we have failed to judge ourselves as to Faith for healing, we suffer under condemnation with the world. Because we preach the Love of God throughout the churches, we are forced to develop elaborate rationalizations as to why our health is the same as the unsaved. The simple answer is that we believe the Blood and overlook the Body. If you believe that sickness came from God, then satan goes free and you are truly in bondage. If you believe it is the will of God for you to be sick, you will be sick and may die prematurely. If you believe poverty is from God, you will be condemned to live in poverty. If you believe that God does not hear nor does He answer prayers, you will be condemned to live in disappointment.*

So there is condemnation even before there is the condemnation of the grave and hell. Are you today living in situations where you feel there is no relief, and there is

no positive change, that things are staying the way that they are, or guaranteed to get worse? You are living under condemnation by your thinking, your doubt, and your unbelief. You are trapped in it, for Jesus said, ...*"for he who believes will be saved"*. If you would believe the Gospel, the Good News, that Jesus came to reverse, to take away the oppression of the devil, then you would be saved from your perceived fate.

Let's see what He commanded we do with this power. He said first of all, go preach the Good News. Well, after you preach the Good News, what's going to happen, Lord Jesus? He said, *"and these signs will follow those who believe"*. In other words, if you do not believe the Good News that the oppression of the devil can be overcome, if you believe that the Good News died with the apostles, then guess what? The signs of removing the work of the devil will not follow you. You will be stuck in the work of the devil. Your inability to remove the work of the devil rests with you. You won't have a way to remove the devil, because Jesus Christ says these signs will follow those that believe. To *follow* means you must lead the attack and *then* the signs will show up. If you do not believe then you will not lead, therefore, you will be waiting for God to do something or you will just passively wait, beg or plea, etc. You'll do everything but that which is required - do some leading so signs can follow!!!! Jesus is delegating authority upon us to act in Faith believing.

We have fostered a picture of this delegation of authority that is misleading. Jesus as Son of Man set aside His deity when He came to earth. *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in*

*the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:5-8). So He did no miracles on His own power but relied upon the Holy Spirit to show up. Luke 5:17 - "...And the power of the Lord was present to heal them."* So wherever Jesus Christ went the power of the Holy Spirit followed Him and brought power as needed. Jesus, in Matt. 28:18 declares, "all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth", and commands us in verse 19 to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," and in Mark 16:17 tells us "and these signs will follow". Also, that He will never leave us and will be with us until the end of the ages (Matt. 28:20). So, He does not give all the authority to us, but He retains it, and shows up with it when we need it. We have Jesus Christ's promise that the Holy Spirit will be with us (John 14:16-18) and that He also will be there. So we go and do and the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ show up with the signs. The unction to do comes from God as well as acting upon our knowledge of "God's will". Jesus said, "I only do what My Father does and says" (paraphrased). So He is acting on what He feels the Will of the Father is, ie. love, compassion, and attacking the works of the devil. As Christ's agents in the earth we are to carry out His will, being obedient to the written word and the revealed word. When the unction (leading) comes from the Holy Spirit, we are to lead (act) in the natural realm and the Holy Spirit (signs) will follow from the supernatural realm.

If you believe that Jesus (as Hebrews says in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter) is the same yesterday, today and forevermore... then it means His power is the same today, and it means His gifts to the apostles are the same yesterday, today and



forevermore. Again, these signs will follow those that believe. If you don't believe these signs will follow; they will not follow. If you pray for sickness to go, it will not go. If you pray for death to go, it will not go. If you pray for poverty to go, it will not go. Because you don't believe that Jesus has ordained you to have that ability and power to draw His presence into the battle, through Faith. But if you do believe, then "all things are possible."

So, let's go on a little further. He says, "*In My name...*" not in your own name. This means you are a representative authority, acting on the behalf of the one with the authority. Jesus Christ's name can only be used for what He has authorized. To use His name we must be abiding in Him. We must be in close relationship and under obedient direction of the General and Commanding Officer. We write the check but it's only valid if He signs it.

John 15:4,5 - "*Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*" Faith in the Name gives us the right to use the Name, but Jesus sets the how, when and who. In Jesus' name "*they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues, they will take up serpents, and if they drink anything deadly it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover*". So there are five things right there that He said you can do in His name. In His name you can cast out demons. Demons, of course, being the work of the devil. You can speak with new tongues. You can speak in a spiritual language that will build you up so that you can do supernatural works and have that empowerment. In addition to that, you will

Speak in new tongues - I never met anyone who spoke the same before Jesus, as after Jesus. Your profanity disappears; you begin becoming a person who speaks Faith, you begin to become a positive person. In the natural you speak with a new tongue, in the supernatural you begin to speak in other tongues and in new tongues as well. In addition, it says you will take up serpents, natural or spiritual. In other words, if Satan comes around with a false teaching or a false gospel and you seem to take it up in error, guess what folks? It won't harm you. The same with a natural snake as Paul did in Acts 2 - the viper bit him and the viper died, not Paul. Spiritually, you could pick up a teaching like the Aquarian gospels which I did many years ago, and as I read it, something inside said, "this is a lie...this is not true..." Jesus didn't go off in some cave with some virgins in India... Jesus was the oldest Son; His father died, He stayed and raised the younger children, as Jewish Tradition requires. Then when He was in His thirties He went into ministry. He did not go to India on some sojourn. Then when I read the Koran, blatant differences and contradictions with the Bible existed. Not just simple facts like creation in the Bible was 6 days and in the Koran it states 6 days and also 8 days, but differences in the nature of God. Allah is merciful but does not give Grace (divine favor for miraculous empowerment). Mohammed did not operate with signs, wonders, or miraculous powers. The God of the Bible does not tempt men with evil but Allah does - even good men.

These contradictions lead one to realize both books cannot be correct, one or the other must be flawed. Therefore the message given to Mohammed could not possibly have been from the same God who gave His message to all of the prophets and through Jesus Christ as

well. I began to realize that I had picked up a serpent, but that serpent, I declare, has not harmed me. God has given me revelation knowledge to separate the Truth from a lie. Then the Bible says, *“if you drink a deadly poison, it will not hurt you”*. Well, that’s the same thing, if you drink into yourself something that is inappropriate, it can’t harm you in the natural or the supernatural. That’s why Christians bless their food, in case something has been tampered with, or has spoiled, or is foreign to our diet. If you go, let’s say, to some foreign countries such as Haiti where there is rampant voodoo, or even in America where people practice black arts, you better be praying over your food, and bless it unto God for your protection. In addition to the reality of drinking a deadly poison, consider alcohol. The signs over many liquor stores warn us plainly *“wine and spirits”*. No wonder so many saints come from addiction and struggle with alcohol spirits and demons.

Many people, when they are searching for God, will open themselves to demonic spirits and not be aware of it. I know a man who loved his guru, and when his guru died, he allowed the spirit of this dead guru to come into him. Within a short time he began to have strange illnesses. These were illnesses with no prognosis or diagnosis. The doctors just couldn’t figure it out. Eventually it became very debilitating to him. I was able to ask him about it, and I realized that at the point he allowed this demonic spirit to come into him was the time that these strange illnesses began. Many people do Tarot cards, astrology, fortune telling, the I Ching, deep transcendental meditation, seek familiar ancestral and astral spirits, practicing in ways that the Bible describes as evil. They have opened themselves up, and have drunk in deadly poison. Many people get names from their gurus. They

sound good, like they have wonderful meaning. But they don't research the source of those names, which may mean that they have been pledged to a Hindu god, or goddess, that is plural by nature. Many foreign gods have dual natures; they have a good nature but also may have a demonic side.

I know another person, who was given a name, and it was one of the gods that served Siva. Siva is a goddess with a dual personality. Siva requires the drinking of blood and other strange sacrifices. And so this person embraced this evil spirit unknowingly, and with that came a drinking in of a deadly spirit. She required deliverance from this oppressive spirit in order to live a normal life.

Then we go on to the last thing; He says, "*they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover...*" Now someone is thinking and saying, "well, that's just for the apostles". Well my friends, history shows us that that is not so. Because, as the apostles died off, the miracles in the early church continued. Let me say that again... after the apostles die, after Paul is sacrificed, after Peter, James and John have all passed away, we find that the history of the early church shows that miracles continued to be a part of church life.

Following are excerpts taken from A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs<sup>1</sup>, **concerning gifts, pages 299, 300, 301, 302:**

'Daily some are becoming disciples in the name of Christ, ...who are also receiving gifts, each as he is worth. These are illumined through the name of this Christ. For one receives the spirit of understanding, another of counsel, another of strength, another of healing, another of

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<sup>1</sup> A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs, David W. Bercot, Editor, Hendrickson Publishers

foreknowledge, another of teaching, and another of the fear of God.' *Justin Martyr (c. 160, E), 1.214.* 'It was prophesied that, after the ascent of Christ to heaven, He would deliver us from error and give us gifts...Accordingly, we...have received gifts from Christ.' *Justin Martyr (c. 160, E), 1.214.* 'It was necessary that such gifts would cease from you (Jews) and...would again, as had been predicted, become gifts which, from the grace of His Spirit's power, He would impart to those who believe in Him, according as He deems each man worthy of it...Now, it is possible to see among us women and men who possess gifts of the Spirit of God.' *Justin Martyr (c. 160, E) 1.243.* 'What is nobler than to tread under foot the gods of the nations, to exorcise evil spirits, to perform cures, to seek divine revelations, and to live to God? These are the pleasures - these are the spectacles - that befit Christian men.' *Tertullian (c. 197, W), 3.91.* 'The name of Jesus can still remove distractions from the minds of men, expel demons, and also take away diseases. Furthermore, it produces a marvelous meekness of spirit and a complete change of character.' *Origen (c. 248, E) 4.427.* 'The Jews no longer have prophets or miracles. Yet, traces of those things are still found among Christians to a considerable extent. Some of these miracles are more remarkable than any that existed among the Jews. I have witnessed these myself.' *Origen (c. 248, E) 4.433.* 'Not a few cures are brought about in the name of Jesus, and certain other manifestations of no small significance have taken place.' *Origen (c. 248, E), 4.475.* **Concerning divine healing, page 328:**<sup>2</sup> 'Were not the eyes of the blind opened? Did not the tongue of the dumb recover speech? Did not the weak

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<sup>2</sup> A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs, David W. Bercot, Editor, Hendrickson Publishers

hands and palsied knees become strong and the lame leap like the hart? We are accustomed, no doubt, to give a spiritual meaning also to these statements of prophecy, according to the analogy of the physical diseases which were healed by the Lord. But, still, they were all fulfilled literally. *Tertullian (c. 210, W), 3.559.* 'We have faith for a defense...in immediately making the sign and adjuring...We often aid in this manner even the pagan, seeing that we have been endowed by God with that power that the apostle first used when he despised the viper's bite.' *Tertullian (c. 213, W), 3.633.* 'He who has received the gift of healing is declared by revelation from God. The grace which is in him is manifest to all.' *Apostolic Constitutions (compiled c. 390, E), 7.493.* 'Some persons provide evidence of their having received through this faith a marvelous power by the cures which they perform. They invoke no other name over those persons who need their help than the name of the God of all things, and of Jesus, along with a mention of His history. By these means, I, too, have seen many persons freed from grievous calamities, from distractions of mind, madness, and countless other ills that could not be cured by either men or devils. *Origen (c. 248, E), 4.473.*

The Catholic churches basis for declaring a person a saint is that miracles must be verified to have happened. There are saints throughout history who have been tested, observed, and have on record multiple miracles that have happened under their ministries. So, it's almost insane to say that God stopped performing miracles with the last apostle. All we have to do is go to a church that still teaches miracles, walk in the church one Sunday, and say, "I believe miracles died with the apostles. Is there anyone here who has seen or had a miracle that can be verified?"

My friends, over 25 years ago I was dying from an incurable lung disease, and the Name of Jesus delivered me and healed me. The doctors had given up on me, they had no cure for my disease, so they sent me home to die. The last thing the doctor told me was “get your house in order”. I’m healed by Divine miracle, by learning to pray, confessing the Lord Jesus, and confessing healing. The power of God delivered me. And, it was not the year AD 60, it was the year 1979. Miracles have not ended.

There are two arguments that people give to say that the gifts of the Spirit no longer exist. Let’s go to 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, chapter 13, and we’re going to deal with both of these. In the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians is a passage of Scripture that reads this way...*“Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away”*. OK...so where there are prophecies, they’ll fail, tongues will fail, knowledge will vanish away. Well, obviously that’s not yet, because all prophecies have not been fulfilled, all knowledge has not been completed, we don’t know all things as of yet, and even though we have the Bible we don’t understand all the revelation in it, and of course tongues have not as yet ceased, because there are still many churches and people that operate under the gifts of tongues. Verse 9 says, *“For we know in part and we prophesy in part”*.

So Paul is saying that during his day, all prophecy and knowledge hadn’t been fulfilled? And he says, *“but when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away”*. Now many people try and say that the Bible is perfect and that it is the Bible that has come, and therefore, prophecy, tongues, knowledge, and the gifts of the Spirit have vanished away. Well, that cannot be so. If

the Bible was the perfection to come, Paul would have easily said, "The revelations given me will now complete 62% or so of perfection and with John's writing, the Revelation of Jesus the Christ, and a few other books perfection will be complete and you'll know everything."

He makes no such claim, nor does any prophecy even imply this possibility. Notice these three are grouped together: prophecies, tongues and knowledge. We obviously know that today prophecy has not totally been fulfilled, we know tongues are still in use, and we know that we don't understand everything. Well, when would we understand everything? Only when the Lord, by His Spirit, explains everything to us.

The Bible contains the Word of God and yes, the Word of God is perfect - yet our understanding of it and our translations of it are not perfect. So, perfection has not yet "come". It's like opening a box with a brand new super-duper computer in it. You are not computer literate so you use the computer as a TV monitor, CD player and paperweight. Well, it's useful but you haven't even tapped its most perfect use, therefore, the computer has not really "come" yet. Unfortunately, the perfect Word of God has been translated and copied by imperfect humans. So the Bible is not perfect though it contains the perfect Word.

We discovered that Daniel, in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, was told by the angel, "*But you Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end;*" and then in the end times these things would be opened up. Well, these are the end times. What prophecies have been opened up? What knowledge has been opened up? Until a few years ago, we didn't even know that Bible Codes were in there. Men have discovered secret, supernatural Bible codes that could have only been put in the Bible by a supernatural God.



Moses had no computer, and therefore he couldn't hide messages in the Torah. Moses... no computer, no understanding of languages except Egyptian and Hebrew, no way he could have hid secret messages in the Bible. Especially messages like in the last days an Israeli Prime Minister (Yitzhak Rabin) would be assassinated, and the Code also names the assassin.

So I declare to you, perfection hasn't come. After all, God is perfect, and when God comes, prophecy will be fulfilled; there will be no need to speak in the spiritual language of tongues, for we will speak immediately spirit to Spirit. The Scripture goes on to say that when God comes, *"we will be known as all things are known"*. All things are not known, and we presently only know in part. We don't usually know each other in the spirit.

Only when God comes will we know all things and will we know as we are known. Therefore, we cannot use chapter 13 to say that the gifts of the Spirit died. Perfection has not come, we don't have full revelation of tongues or of prophecy.

There are millions of people who have not experienced the supernatural or been part of a miracle, and they readily confess that they believe. This group believes by mental ascent, which can be purely academic reasoning. They chose to believe but have not experienced the touch of God, or had a heartfelt supernatural encounter. There is a group that "knows that they know" due to mental ascent plus spiritual experience. Jesus declared, *"...blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe"*. He was referring to the miracle of His rising from the dead, yet to experience the supernatural is in itself a blessing. To believe in the Christ even though you have not seen Him is true Faith that does not go unnoticed or unrewarded. Amen!

Hebrews 11:6 warns us, "...without faith it is impossible to please God. He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Spiritual gifts are part of those rewards.

A man with an intellectual argument does not have advantage over a man with an experience. (This old adage is still worth quoting.)

The other Scripture that people use is Paul's thorn in the flesh. It is argued that "it is not always God's will to heal. Suffering is part of the Christian life and grace is there for strength to suffer." I believe that if God permits sickness it is so we can learn and be healed and prevent more of it in the future. Suffering is a part of all life. It is suffering for Christ and the sake of the Gospel that brings glory. To suffer otherwise is due to ignorance, disobedience or accident. Much is determined by our outlook. Hardship can be viewed and lived out as a trial, battle, or suffering. If sickness is from God then we are surely determined to suffer, for there is no escape if sickness and suffering have been sent by a sovereign God. No need to pray or rebuke if God is the cause. Yet, if it's of the devil, and as Acts 10:38 declares, "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil...", then there is hope of victory and deliverance.

If we brought this attack upon ourselves, or the devil of his own accord put sickness, strife or suffering upon us, then they can be removed.

Let's now consider Paul's thorn. That's in 2 Corinthians in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter. To figure out if Paul was physically sick and didn't get his healing is very simple. Many people teach, "well, Paul was a great apostle of God.

If the gifts of the Spirit always worked, if prayer for healing always worked, why didn't Paul get healed? He had a physical sickness." Well, did he have a physical sickness, and did he ever get delivered? Let's read what he says, right out of his own mouth, "*a thorn in the flesh was given to me*", (was it blindness, deafness, illness, a disease of the kidneys; what was it, Paul?) He says, "*a messenger of satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure*". It would appear that he's saying "I was permitted to see and know so much that the sin of pride opened the door to me being attacked by satan". Since he was exalted so much, it may have meant he was a targeted and marked man for special persecution. Let's read it again: "*a thorn in the flesh*"... This phrase occurs in the Old Testament concerning the Hebrews failing to drive out all the pagan Gentiles ("These people shall be a thorn..." Judges 2:3, Numbers 33:55, Joshua 23:13). The term has no reference to sickness in this setting, nor does it when used today. It means something is annoying, contentious, frustrating, persecuting or painful concerning relationships or human endeavors, not physical sickness. It does not appear to mean something in his body bothered him. It says, "*a messenger of satan to torment me*". Buffet, in this case, translated from the Greek, means to torment, to bother. That, my friends, is not a physical illness. He is saying that wherever he went to preach, wherever he went to heal the sick, satan stirred up people. They were so stirred up he was beaten many times, thrown into the sea to drown, debated, threatened, people even stoned him. That's pretty buffeted, my friends. But did he ever get his deliverance, his healing? Well, where was he stoned and beaten? He was stoned and beaten in Iconium, Lystra and Derby. In Galatia he had the most opposition by satan. All we need to do is

find out what happened there and what Paul says. 2 Timothy, chapter 3:10 - *“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions...”*, notice he didn’t say any sicknesses; he said persecutions, and afflictions... *“which happened to me at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra - what persecutions I endured”*. Well, Paul, did God deliver you from suffering the oppression of the devil? In the 11<sup>th</sup> verse is our answer: *“And out of all of them the Lord delivered me”*.

## 7 Steps to Faith

### *How to Receive Your Miracle - Mark 16*

Supernatural power was made available to Paul and is still available for all of us who will believe. Romans 10:17 says, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God", so we must begin by getting into the positive, powerful side of the Word. Then hope plus belief grows into Faith. Now follow the seven steps to miracles.

These steps may occur in any order and with varying intervals of time between them.

1.) Remove obstacles: repent of sin, quickly deal with unforgiveness, resentment, bitterness; sin has to be the highest percentage of being the cause of illness and demonic oppression.

2.) Do whatever you can in the natural. If you need to go see a doctor, go see one. Doctors will tell you what man can do. This is usually what man can do about the symptoms. Cancer treatment is about killing tumors - the symptoms. That does not cure the disease, which may be worry, hate, self-loathing, resentment, diet, pollutants, etc. Therefore, if the doctor has a treatment that will not kill you while it kills the symptoms then it may be ok, but God wants to heal you - stop the body from making tumors. Painful symptoms make it hard to focus your Faith, confession and helpful activity, so stopping the pain may be necessary to get ready for your healing. Painkillers and many doctor treatments have side effects and consequences. Therefore, go to doctor Jesus *first* for instructions. The Spirit will lead you concerning these matters. God's healing is the best - complete and final. Never forget all healing comes from God, as He is the designer and controller of all body processes. God uses some doctors but not all paths are acceptable or beneficial.

Ultimately He will get the glory as all healing is the result of His creative design. So any method of helping the healing process must be in line with the Word of God. Do whatever you can in the natural to help and apply your Faith to the process. Expert advice is helpful, and good Christian counseling, financial advice - get sound counsel. Get knowledge and understanding. Whatever you need to do in the natural, do it as an act of Faith.

3.) Do whatever you can in the spiritual realm. That means pray and have the right confession. Trust God. Trust God to bring it to pass. Relax, and cast your cares on Him. Don't worry. Ask God to reveal the problem, source & method of deliverance. Find your point of contact to release your Faith & receive.

4.) Believe Mark 16:15-18. The works of the devil are defeated, and laying on of hands causes the sick to be recovered. Get mad at the devil; he's the one that put it on you.

5.) Begin to give God the praise, and don't stop praising Him until it is done.

6.) Get around positive, Faith speaking people.

7.) Look for miracle opportunities - speak miracles, expect miracles and receive healing as your covenant right which Jesus Christ paid for. Therefore "Stand" in Faith. Make sure you've complied with all 7 steps and Stand. Hold on. Your merciful God has given grace (empowerment) for the completed manifestation.

The Bible tells us in Mark 11:25, "*And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses*". Once your sins are cleared out of the way, you also have to look at your motives. Do you have the right motive? Once your motives are established, stay on

course. *“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of Faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”* (James 5:13-16).

Are you in poverty? The Lord will deliver you out of it. Are you in sickness? The Lord will deliver you out of all of it. Are you mentally tormented and depressed? The Lord will deliver you out of all of it. You, who are under the oppressive works of the devil, the Lord will deliver you out of all of it.

Therefore, believe the Word, seek His face. He loves you, He wants you well in body, well in mind, and victorious over the oppression of the devil. God Bless you... and remember, these signs will follow those that believe.

### *"The Keys To Faith"*

Everyone has problems, and in the real world you will be faced with difficulty, economic shortfalls, health, and needs of various kinds. As individual believers we must realize that our help comes from the supernatural realm. Our day to day problems exist in the realm of the natural, yet have connections and may even have originated in the supernatural realm. Fortunately, in the supernatural realm there is spiritual help available. *"Therefore, our help comes from the Lord."* In this writing we will look at our Faith (belief system) through the keys to Faith (gifts and beliefs in operation).

There is a new view that must be challenged - Christianity is only a belief system that is non-binding and ineffectual. Modern Christianity has been reduced to "Be a good guy and believe whatever, whenever!" We must get back to being the church that Jesus established, or the gates of hell *will* prevail against what we have become. As we fight amongst ourselves, we will be devoured. Are we free to believe any way we choose? Does it matter what we believe? Is our Faith just ideas or a lifestyle we are tied to? Does what we believe effect what we can accomplish? These questions must be answered through the Word and the life of Christ.

#### *The 1<sup>st</sup> Key is to Believe.*

**Have Faith in the Word of God. Commit yourself to it and be in unity with the true Body of Believers.** The Christ came to give His life for others. He was bound to the Cross by the persecution of the world. Jesus would not change or deny His Faith and lifestyle for anyone for any purpose, so His followers are also bound to an unalterable



Faith. The old maxim still stands, "I will take up my cross and follow You, Lord!" Many will defend Christ to the death, but will deny and not defend what Christ taught. Muslims will defend that Christ was a prophet, but declare He did not die and rise again as the Son of God. A Christian research group found that some 30% of Methodist ministers do not believe in the resurrection, and about 80% of Christians believe that Heaven can be attained by good works. *"And if Christ be not raised, your Faith is in vain; ye are yet in your sins."* I Corinthians 15:17 and John 6:29 tell us that the work we are to do is to *"believe on Him (Jesus) whom He (God) hath sent"* and verse 40, *"every one which sees the Son and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life"*. So there are many people calling themselves followers of Christ, but their doctrine leads them off the path of Christ. Would a man actually die (or live) for a Christ that had no supernatural power, or serve a Savior that had no power to conquer sin or death? There is no power, promise or heavenly reward for worshipping a defeated Savior.

To believe and maintain a faith less than Biblical Faith is, in my opinion, a waste of time. How can you have Faith in Christ, but not have Faith in all of His Word? Jesus' words and works are provable and testable, but only for those who believe. Does Jesus really heal and prosper? We can only find out by having true Bible Faith (Hebrews 1:1-2, Mark 11:22-25, James 5:14-16). Wishing, hoping and demanding won't do a thing. If we don't have the revelation of the keys of Faith, we can't operate in Faith.

Theological error permits some Christians to suffer under the weight of demons (negative supernatural forces) and wrong thinking. These saints are not willing to die for the keys of Faith, or even live by them. Therefore, they

will suffer much and die premature deaths with their works uncompleted. Jesus knew He would not get sick or die before going to the Cross. Paul knew he could not die before he completed his work at Jerusalem and Rome. In I Corinthians chapter 11, Paul discusses communion, and explains that many, even then, failed to discern that the (wine) blood was for remission of sins and the bread was for healing of the body. This failure resulted in sickness and early death. Mark 16 tells us that spiritual gifts follow those that believe. If we have no Faith in power, then we'll have no power. We must know the keys of Faith and have Faith in order for it to work. Faith in tradition, ritual, or man will not win the day, but Faith in the Word of God will.

Are we not supposed to rule and reign down here on the earth before we get to Heaven? (Genesis 1:28) Jesus Christ and His disciples had great victories over the devil while on earth - we should also!! If you keep your car keys in your pocket, you can't drive the car. You can't open a locked door without a key. The power of Faith is the same way - if we use the key, we can access the power on earth. There is the choice of living this life here, but there is also the choice to take the key and unlock the door to the spiritual side and access its power. If you choose to use the key to unlock Faith for salvation, but don't use it to access gifts and powers for other things, you will still go to Heaven, but you will be powerless to dominate demonic forces and be an overcomer by use of supernatural power. You will have no way of escape from the works of satan and you will not rule here on earth. Jesus would not tell us that He will be with us *"even to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20), but leave us powerless against our enemies. Let's grab a few keys and use some power.

The Church is in a difficult circumstance today. Jesus prayed in John 17 that we would have unity, and that we would be unified as He (the Son) is with the Father by the Holy Ghost. This type of unity is rare in the Body of Christ today. The Body of Christ is divided by many different traditions; most conflict is caused by traditions and cultures. If Peter, James, John and Paul came back and attended Gentile churches, they would go nuts. They would question all the traditions and objects hanging on the walls of sanctuaries. Temple sanctuary walls were only white-washed, except for Solomon's temple, which was overlaid with gold. In Deuteronomy Chapter 5:8-9, we are told: *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image - any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them..."* Therefore, temples and early churches were kept plain. The apostles would be upset about the pagan worship that has crept in, e.g., the celebration of Easter, which is worship of the fertility goddess Estre. The Fall Feasts, ordained by God, are now overlooked. We celebrate "going back to school" and Halloween instead of celebrating the *Feast of Trumpets, Yom Kippur, and the Feast of Tabernacles*. Most Christian churches do not celebrate the Jewish holidays; they pay no attention to them, even though Jesus and all the disciples celebrated them. Christ is symbolically central to all the Feasts, but He takes a lower seat to a bunny, a bonnet, a santa, and a jack-o-lantern, as the Gentile churches are misled by satanic substitution. More on this later. How can we (churches) declare that we have the right tradition and neglect Judaism? There are seven feasts that are neglected that should be celebrated, and the Gentile church should realize that we are New Covenant, New Testament

Jews. We are of the Faith of Abraham, grafted into the heritage of the Jews through Christ (Heb. 11).

Basically, most of our traditions are ridiculous and should be thrown out. They have very little or nothing to do with what the Bible says, and no righteous Christian in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century would have celebrated the traditions to which we pay attention. If you look carefully at the Word of God, you will begin to see that the unity for which Christ called has not existed in the traditions of the church. Hebrews 6:1 says we should come together on the elementary things. The elementary things that are mentioned are Christ's principles, doctrines, foundational repentance and *Faith*. There is a problem with that because we don't have unity when it comes to Faith. Some people believe that Faith is necessary to get you to Heaven, but does not have any purpose on earth today. Many believe that *works*, i.e. "I'm a good man" will determine salvation, while Jesus preached salvation only through Faith in Him. Some believe that Faith provides supernatural power to heal, deliver, and save; but some teach that there is no power in Faith. We pray divided, double minded and in error. Some pray, "Lord, if it's Your will, heal this person". Then someone else will come and pray, "In the Name of Jesus, get up from here NOW. Be healed in the Name of Jesus". Well, obviously if the first person is praying in one way (if it's the Lord's will to heal them), and the other person is praying "be healed in the Name of Jesus", ***we are definitely NOT in unity***. One is hoping it's God's will and the other is declaring it *IS* God's will to heal.

***The Body of Christ is in serious trouble - disunity.***  
Jesus prayed for us to be in unity, but we are not. We are not in unity with tradition, and we are not in unity with

theology. Our only unity may be in "Jesus is Lord". Knowing that Jesus is Lord is different from making Him Lord over your life. Let's examine Christ's prayer for unity. John 17:21-26: *"that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You: that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which you gave Me, I have given them, that they may be one just as We are One: I in them, and You in Me: that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and had loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them"*. Verse 21 points out that the purpose of unity is *"that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me"*. Next, we have been given Christ's glory so we can accomplish our tasks (verses 22-23); this was the eternal plan. If we believe in the Christ, we receive His glory to do His and our work through a love relationship.

Finally, Christ reveals to us the Father, and this revelation results in a unifying Love. Belief plus Glory plus Revelation plus Love equals Unity. Nothing will happen without "Believe Faith" in who Christ is. We can only be made perfect by believing we receive the glory with which we are "made perfect" (Jesus Christ prayed for us to be one and the glory the Father gave to Him would be made manifest in us - in other words we would do the same "good works" Jesus Christ did as He perfects us) King James version, John 17:23: "and unified" - only one group is certified in Christ's unity. This group is "in the

Faith of the Faith, and operates by the Faith". Who? Only this group will stand as one across denominational lines, national ties, political alliances, traditions, cultures and through the generations. We are called "A Faith" - meaning a unified belief system, representing a group that is in agreement. Jesus' apostles were united. They all believed and acted in an identifiable way. Outsiders saw them all as being followers of Christ in thought and deed. They were seen as a "Faith" operating by "Faith" in the name of Jesus. They expected the power and presence of miracles. Somewhere along the way we have misplaced the keys of our Faith and/or forgotten what they are. Let's get them back.

### 2nd Key - Love

The Bible tells us in Galatians 5:6 that "*Faith worketh through Love*". The most righteous thing that a believer can do is to walk in love. The purest thing you can do is to love. It is the love of Christ that caused Him to shed His Blood on Calvary, and He did it by Faith, that our Faith would be in Him and in His love, and by love our Faith will also work. I Corinthians 13:8 tells us that "*Love never fails*", and I John 4:8 says that "*God is love*". A Faith that manifests through love has God at its center. Love is the cause and Faith is the effect.

At the end of the book of John, Jesus pursues the depth of Peter's love. He asks three times, "*Peter, do you love Me?*" Peter answers with friendly love (*phileo agapao*). That's good, but it's not miracle working love. Jesus knows that for Peter to be a miracle worker he needs that deep Zoë (the God kind of love), the love that binds Peter to God and Jesus' glory. Do we believe this second key, a Love that makes Faith available? A love so deep it will

believe the unbelievable. Jesus of Nazareth was endowed with all spiritual gifts to minister to all kinds of people. Could it be that this was due to the fact that He loved all people that much? If your plan is to die for mankind, then you must have tremendous love for mankind; therefore, tremendous Faith to operate for the welfare of mankind. The Lord said that love would *"wax cold during the last days"* (Matt. 25 paraphrased).

As love decreases, there will be less Faith; so Jesus questions, *"when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"* (Luke 18:8). We need to have Faith in the love of God, that love will cause Faith to operate (King James, Galatians 5:6: *"...but faith which worketh by love"*). We must believe that because of love, Faith is available and will change things. To know the Father is to also know His love. As love causes us to *"believe all things"* (I Cor. 13:7), Faith gives us the power to do all things. *"All things are possible to him that believeth"* (Mark 9:23).

If we ask any Christian "do you believe Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you?", they all will respond "of course, that's what He promised". If asked, "why?" they'll say, "because Jesus loves me". We need to realize that His promise to us is often cancelled or limited by the amount of revelation we have concerning His love and faithfulness. To know that God loves you is to know that His Faith will operate in your behalf. *"...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God"* (Ephesians 3:17-19). As our revelation of the Love - Faith connection grows, so should our power and our confidence in our Father - child

relationship with our Savior.

Therefore, saints who have no power by Faith either don't truly love (*rooted and grounded in love* - Eph. 3:17), or have not the revelation of the "...width and length and depth and height" (Eph. 3:18) of the Lord's love. Ephesians 4:8: "*Therefore it is said, 'When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.'*" Through these gifts Paul assures us that great things can happen. Surely miracles can abound in a love soaked atmosphere. Jesus loved Lazarus, wept over the situation and raised Lazarus to life (John 11). Yet, in another instance, although He didn't know the young man in the funeral procession or his family, He still loved them and raised the young man up (Luke 7:12). Not all persons that die are to be raised, but Love as a cause brings out the effect of Faith that will reverse many acts of the enemy, such as premature death.

### ***3rd Key - Faith in the Blood of Jesus***

Faith in the Blood of Jesus releases power. It is the prayer of Faith which is the key to unlock the spiritual blessings. To live a life of Faith means that you believe in the power of the Blood of Jesus Christ, which was shed for you. Therefore, if you believe Romans 10:9-10, and live by it, you will go to Heaven, because the Word also says "*we are saved by grace, through faith, lest any man should boast*" (Ephesians 2:8). Romans 10:9-10 are salvation verses that were made possible by the Blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ: "*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*". "*For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that*



*makes atonement for the soul*" (Lev. 17:11). The law of substitution sacrifice was established by God. Man's payment for sin was in place from the very beginning. *"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission of sins"* (Heb. 9:22). Adam and Eve sinned and the Lord clothed them with skins from the first sacrifice. Their sins were covered under the mercy of the Lord. They would have to reap what was sown - loss of earth dominion, loss of fellowship with God, addition of sickness and death; *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned..."* (Romans 5:12), until a sinless Man could pay the full debt for man's sin. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Rom. 6:23).

Generation after generation would fail to produce this pure and holy man sacrifice (Romans 5:12). Many would come close but none would achieve the needed goal: righteous blood. Since all mankind has the same father and mother, we are all blood descendants. Therefore, we are children and heirs to the covenant of Adam.

Blood covenants are eternal and binding. However, a contract can be entered into by election or adoption. Adam and Eve sinned by entering into a contract with satan, for they agreed to follow his leading in direct rebellion to God and His commands. This made them the children of God with a contract as slave/servant with satan. *"Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" "* (John 8:34,35,36). This relationship is totally unacceptable to God as well as

to satan. Therefore this situation cannot be resolved unless one of the originators (God or satan) ceases to exist, or the second party (man) terminates his part in the agreement. So, by election (or adoption) the second party (man) can declare the second contract (satan) null and void and re-establish the first covenant (God), once all debts are paid in full. II Chronicles 6:14 shows God is faithful and ever-waiting for us to uphold our part of the covenant. *"...Lord God of Israel, there is no God in heaven or on earth like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts."*

To renounce the devil is good, but that alone is not enough. We must also fight not to follow his instructions in order to void his contract. *"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin"* (I John 1:6-7). *"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,"* (Hebrews 10:26). By realigning ourselves with God, we must proclaim by word and deed that we want to reconfirm His covenant. *"let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful"* (Hebrews 10:22-23). We can pay the debt by sacrificing our blood, but that would mean termination of our lives. *"For where there is a testament, there must also be the death of the testator"* (Hebrews 9:16). Yet, if a family member (blood relative) pays the debt, we can elect to be covered under the original covenant. *"and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the*

*ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen” (Rev. 1:5,6). Then in Gal. 4:7, “Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ”.*

Since all of this occurs in the spirit realm, we can only successfully negotiate this by FAITH. *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). If we speak it and believe it, then it’s so. “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them” (Mark 11:24). Satan’s contract is broken; “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son and His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Col.1:13-14). Our debts are paid, covenant re-established and all rights and privileges returned. “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace...In Him we have also obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will” (Eph. 1:7-11). At each sin, “the accuser of the brethren” (satan), will try to re-establish his contract, but he will fail. “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death’ ” (Rev. 12:10-11).*

Romans 5:8-10: *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we*

*shall be saved from wrath through Him".* Clearly, then, Romans 5:8-10 testifies that because of love God operated in Faith in our behalf through the Christ. In verse 9 we were made "just as if we never sinned" - justified, excused, forgiven by His blood and saved by His life. Adam's life brought us a life of slavery and servanthood, but Christ brought us something more - abundance of grace: *"For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ"* (Romans 5:17).

Grace has been poorly defined in the modern era as "unmerited favor". This definition has crippled the Body of Christ, for unmerited favor is another way of saying "grace is mercy". The Greek word for grace, *charis* (5485-Strong's Concordance), is "the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in life; including benefit, favor....", meaning that God favors and benefits us so that His influence upon our hearts gets reflected in life. Therefore, we are empowered on the inside to the point that something happens on the outside. Grace is God's empowerment manifesting in life. God favors us and that means we can do stuff. Amen!! We are not left to suffer under the hand of the enemy.

No, the Blood has provided favor, power and ability to act according to the original covenant. *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth"* (Gen. 1:27-28). The Blood not only forgave us, but also empowered us. Jesus took the stripes for the healing of our bodies, but

in each stripe there was Blood shed. Blood provided atonement for attainment. Since life is in the blood, our grace (empowerment) contains each and every victory we need while in life.

The tomb represents Christ's victory over the last enemy of man - death. This great demonstration is to give us a seal of assurance and freedom from fear of this enemy.

Truly Jesus the Christ is Lord over all. Even death could not hold Him, for on the cross He called it "finished" and gave up the ghost. This means He determined the moment of the separation of Spirit from body. Biblical death never means the cessation of life, but it always points to a separation from the body and from God. The authority of death and the devil ends at the door of the Blood. If we do not believe in the Blood, then life and death will rule over us.

Faith in the Blood provides forgiveness which we must be assured of, for the devil will seek to disqualify us from standing in our rightful place - the family of God. Faith in the Blood is our first defense and first definition. How can we stand if we don't know who and whose we are?? If we don't have supernatural Faith to believe this supernatural truth, then we cannot fight against our supernatural enemy. We are still sitting with Eve, debating the first question, "Did God say?"

In John 6:53, the Lord is striving to get us to re-establish the original covenant of obedience by Faith in following the Truth. Communion is a reflection of the Blood covenant. We should be trusting God's Truth in our everyday decisions. We must embrace the Blood of Jesus as a TRUTH. Christ's Blood paid for our sin but requires a rededication to obedience in Faith. We must affirm the revelation of this TRUTH and accept it as a binding

covenant. In John 6:61, Jesus asks, *"Does this offend you?"* Modern statistics seem to reveal that many so-called churches and clergy are offended by what Jesus is proposing as necessary for discipleship. The belief in the supernatural and actual events of the Blood, death and resurrection is mandatory. Yet today, many try to convince us that they are Christians, although they are not believers. These are unacceptable to Christ for He declares, *"But there are some of you that believe not"* (John 6:64). To put it in clear terms - Believe not, you're out, believe and you're in.

The covenant made by the Blood of Jesus is central to the Faith, and your Faith won't work without it. In verse 63, *"The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life"*. Without accepting the revelation of the Blood, the elements of Communion are only bread and grape juice. With the revelation, they are assurance (of an eternal covenant) and power (grace to live victoriously). John 6:66 (a very interesting number, 666 - see Rev. 13:18): *"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more."* This verse is telling us that there are many so-called disciples that are antichrists, for they accept neither body nor blood (remission of sins)! We must have Faith in the Blood as our third key! The Spirit still asks us, *"will you also go away?"* (John 6:67). Let our answer be the same as Peter - *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"* (John 6:68-69).

The benefits of having Faith in the Blood are tremendous. First, Faith in the Blood gives us son-ship, and the assurance that Heaven is our eventual home. Great peace and confidence come from knowing you have a permanent, eternal covenant with the Father through the

Son, and by the Holy Spirit. With this assurance we can move forward with life's tasks by the grace the Blood provides.

The Blood gives us favor with God, who in turn bestows upon us gifts and special powers. Supernatural forces are subject to Faith in the Blood. A Blood-bought believer stands in the authority of the King of Heaven and earth, and must be obeyed by demonic forces, sickness, and even death. By the blood of Adam we are entitled to all that is his and by Jesus Christ we are entitled to all that is His. *"The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit"* (1 Cor. 15:45). The Blood covenant is made secure by these two witnesses, but we must have Faith in the Blood to access and claim the benefits. Amen.

#### ***4th Key - Sovereignty of God***

We have looked at Faith in the love and in the Blood covenant of the Lord. With these in place, we now need to have Faith to believe in the sovereignty of God. We must have Faith that God's will is ultimately going to be accomplished. Numerous Scriptures remind us that our God is Omnipotent in Heaven and in the earth. God is bound by His "Word" in that God cannot lie or violate His own will and decrees. *"But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases"* (Psalm 115:3). Then in Psalm 115:16: *"The heaven, even the heavens are the Lord's; but the earth He has given to the children of men."* *"Indeed before the day was, I am He; and there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?"* (Isaiah 43:13).

God tells us that He alone cannot be defeated. God has power to help and to overthrow - God can enter the affairs of men or angels to fulfill His purpose or pleasure.

Jesus reminds us of God's absolute power in Matt. 19:26: "...*With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible*", and in John 19:11 Jesus defines the ability of man as limited or permitted as God decides - "*You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.*"

Jesus is saying this: that there is a division between the spiritual realm and the physical realm. He is saying that nothing is going to happen to Him in the earthly realm, unless permission is granted through the spiritual realm. If you are walking in Faith, believing in the Faith (believing the tenets and doctrine of the Faith), walking in love, and if you know that power comes from God to heal, deliver, etc, then obviously Jesus is saying, "you may have authority over My body and things down here, but your authority over Me, your power over Me has limits, and nothing that you plan for Me will come to pass unless My Father (God) allows it."

Jesus tells us "*have faith in God*" (Mark 11:22). We must believe in our power by Faith, knowing that it is based upon having Faith that God is sovereign. God alone is the ultimate will that must be served. By His will He allows us many things and tolerates many sins, but He is still sovereign.

He rules and reigns over all. Faith in the sovereign power of God releases a peace and a power the carnal world cannot understand. Paul speaks of "*the peace that passes understanding*". This can only come by knowing that God is sovereign. This peace is supernatural, not based upon the natural circumstances, or else we would fret and be disturbed. The saint is victorious even in defeat since he believes that no fate can befall him that God has not pre-arranged. No matter what happens, our God will gain



glory from our lives if we endure in Faith. Consider the adventure of Daniel 3:16: —

***Daniel 3:16-18***

*“Shad’rach, Me’shach, and Abed’-Nego’ answered and said to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter, If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.’ ”*

What was the matter to which they were answering? It was that the king’s people had made a golden image. Shad’rach, Me’shach, and Abed’-Nego’ were walking in Faith; therefore, since they were walking in “The Faith”, they refused to bow down to the image. “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us, and He *will* deliver us.”

What these three did was to declare that God can and that God will deliver them from the king’s hand. They did not waiver as to the sovereignty or the ability of God. In verse 18 they are acknowledging the sovereignty of God. (“God may have another plan for us but in any case we will not abandon ‘The Faith’”). They are in a Faith shaking situation, but they are using the key of Faith. True Faith doesn’t waiver in the face of adversity; it still believes in the power of God to carry out His will for His children.

Now in Daniel 6, Daniel is in trouble. Darius is the king and his people wanted everyone to do as they did in Chapter 3 (when they bowed down), and Daniel wouldn’t do it. But Darius loves Daniel; he knows he is a man of a sovereign God and doesn’t want to put Daniel in the lion’s den. However, Darius wrote the law that said, “If the king says it and sets a seal to it, it cannot be changed”. This Gentile king must now back up his edict and put Daniel in

the lion's den. That night the king can't sleep. He stays up all night, and in the morning runs to the den. There are two elements of Faith in this story. The first is that Daniel believes, and second, that this Gentile king also believes.

***Daniel 6:15-16***

*"Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, 'Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed'. So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, 'Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.' "*

***The king wants to save Daniel.***

***Daniel 6:20-22***

*"And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?' Then Daniel said to the king, 'O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.' "*

There is such a beauty and a peace in knowing that the sovereign God has set His face to smile upon His obedient children. Worry and fear melt away, no matter how severe the situation. Little David can stand down a big Goliath when he knows that protection and victory are predetermined by God.

Can we know the will of God? Surely, we are not left to guess and hope. Our Faith should be based on the Word and the Spirit. The Bible is a record of the will of God.

He clearly tells us about His plan, power and purpose. He identifies who He will fight for and swears to

His faithfulness. We already know the winners and losers through the prophetic Word. God has given us the Holy Spirit to help interpret His will and to intercede for and with us in the “grey” areas. With our hearts and minds we must seek to follow His path. God is not silent or a non-participant. He desires to communicate with us. We can even get things wrong, miss the path and still, God swears His allegiance to protect, defend, reorder and redirect us. Wow! Our Faith determines our response, emotions and attitude, but not the outcome, for God is sovereign and ALL powerful. As children we must take our clues from our parent. Emotions will rise up in tough situations and try our Faith. If God isn’t worried, then we also should not worry. Faith says it’ll be alright, God is still on the throne.

There is a strange consideration to be understood when thinking on the sovereignty of God. Though it is hard on the flesh, we must seek to refrain from figuring out or demanding “how” God will do His will. The Bible is filled with the failings of men and women who tried to guess how, or attempt to help God do it! Abraham has Ishmael to help God give him an heir. Moses kills an Egyptian to help God free the Hebrew children. David takes a census to help God drive out the enemies. Solomon marries foreign wives to help God keep the peace in the region. Peter rebukes Jesus to keep Him from the Cross, etc, etc. Over and over again we see that God can carry out His plan if we’ll be patient and let Him do it. So often we pray with our own instructions as to how God should answer our prayers. He is God and often answers the way He chooses. For example:

***Acts 12:4,5***

*“So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to*

*bring him before the people after Passover. Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church."*

The church is taking the Faith that they are walking in and using it as a key to unlock the spiritual realm. Peter is in jail, and prayer is going up for him, which is the key that unlocks the door. Many people are praying, some "in Faith", but some in only hope. It is Faith that will rescue Peter, but not in the way they are expecting. The door to the prison is unlocked, an angel is sent, the angel releases Peter and Peter walks free. Somebody was praying the prayer of Faith, therefore there was a "KEY" of Faith unlocking the door. But there were also some people not praying in that Faith, for it says that when Peter got to the door, the girl recognized him, ran back into the meeting and said that Peter was outside. Some of them didn't believe her and they argued with her.

The most important aspect to this is to *believe, and not plan how God will do His will*. People often pray, but they do not all believe what they are praying, or they have prayed another plan. In Acts 12, God chose to answer quite quickly and in a dramatic fashion. But since they were not allowing for the sovereignty of God, Peter almost got left out in the cold. The old Gospel Hymn "He may not come when you want Him, but He's right on time!" fits here real well. Amen.

### ***5<sup>th</sup> Key-Faith in the Power***

Having Faith in the power raises many questions. Some can be answered from I Cor. 12, where spiritual gifts are defined and explained. Power comes from the Spirit, as the Spirit chooses, to whom the Spirit recognizes. Romans 4:17 tells us that God's power works by speaking

and calling things into existence. Therefore, Faith causes a creative force to manifest. This force is not visible, but often can be sensed or felt. Positive Faith causes things to be restored to God's design and will; while negative Faith leads to disorder and decay. For example, cancer is often caused by negative faith/doubt, worry, stress, etc. It causes rogue cells to affect healthy cells by multiplying disorder and rebellion against God's design. Positive Faith is a reversal of this process: healing. This power hasn't been analyzed in a lab or seen under a microscope, but when it's present, things begin to change.

Jesus tells us in Mark 11 to say and believe and it will come to pass. The power of Faith is to believe you have something that at the moment of declaration does not exist (Hebrews 11:1). One question is this: are we calling into existence something that exists in another dimension, the spiritual realm, or does it not exist anywhere? Another question: when we speak in Faith, do the words sounding from our vocal cords have any intrinsic power or properties? Or, do our words signal to God, who then adds power in our behalf? There are no direct answers to these questions, but we have clues. *"When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things."* In John 8:28, Jesus points to the Father as the source. *"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."* In John 9:4, we see Him declare that He is working. We see these same two elements in John 5:19, 20 & 30: the Father providing and doing, the Son taking what was provided and following the Father by deed and example. Therefore, something must exist in the spirit realm, because the Son is witnessing and/or following something. In John 5:19, Jesus

says “sees”; in verse 20, “shows”; in verse 30, I “hear”. These verses all agree that some form of communication is necessary. So the first set is that power is accessed by communication. There needs to be Faith to believe we can communicate with God and therefore, see, hear, and be shown God’s power in action.

The greatest miracles I’ve participated in were from following a “knowing”. This is like a window opening in the spiritual realm and the carnal mind realizes, “God’s about to do something, wow, that deaf girl is going to be healed!” Then, I just act out what I knew was going to happen! It’s the same with smaller miracles like “she’ll fall in the spirit before I touch her!”, so you tell an usher to catch her before you get near her. The disciples James and John want to rain down punishment (fire) by their command on a Samaritan village. Jesus rebukes them sharply, for this is not in the plan that was given to Him by the Father. When we combine these clues with I Cor. 12, we can see that the power is not ours to wield, but it passes through us to the target God has chosen, at the time God has picked. Faith is a power in the spirit realm similar to gravity in the earthly realm. It must be answered to when it manifests. Faith for the wrong reason or wrong objective will set events in motion that may be detrimental. So for saints the “will of God” and the “way of God” need to be known, even if we don’t know the specific purpose of God. Obedience is always required, as prayer or action will be needed to release Faith’s power. *“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills”* (I Cor. 12:11). There are no rays shooting out of hands as in the movies, but there is a force that effects the physical; though invisible, it is tangible.

Because God delegated to men the rights of Christ,

we can by Faith do what Christ did. John 14:12, Matt. 16:15-18, and Matt. 28:18-20 confirm this spiritual authority. We don't have all the details, and therefore operating in the power of God is a work of Faith beyond our absolute control but within our ability to cooperate, **BUT...**

If we believe that the power of God is long ago and far away - then it is.

If we believe it is limited by our sin and that we are disqualified and rejected by God - then we (sadly) are.

If we believe we are the power and can use it as we please - we are deceived.

Yet, if we believe in the power of God, then we will see that power in operation as well as the manifestation.

If we believe He will use us as a conduit for His work - then He will. God gives His grace, mercy and power to those that believe in them, and ask for them.

What happens in spiritual warfare is a battle of power by Faith. We can only access God's power through what we believe. To believe in Faith is to know as real what you say. Satan and demons are well aware of the covenant of Blood, the power and sovereignty of God, and the authority of the believer. These evil forces know the Truth with great assurance. They don't like it, but have no choice and must obey the power of God.

God's power works by Faith and they (demons) know this, so they'll do any and every thing they can to shake our Faith. Therefore, our Faith must be as real to us as their knowing is real to them. If we are not sure of the love, Blood covenant, sovereignty and power of our God, then demons can and will oppose us. Our motives may be correct, our mission honorable, our need very great, but without Faith, our cause will fail. God must meet us at a

point where we have *"I know it Faith"*. If you know you'll be healed when we pray, then you will. If you know you'll be healed after you do what the doctor says, then you will. If you know you'll be healed in Heaven after you die, then you will. The power is waiting on you. The power is released by Faith!

In many cases some saints will only have the one great Faith that does defeat satan: *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death"* (Rev. 12:11). Hebrews 11 gives us the testimony of many saints who had Faith. They are divided into two camps: Hebrews 11:33-34, *"who through Faith subdued kingdoms"*, etc. In the same army but in the other camp is in verse 35, *"...others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection,"* (also mocking, scourging, chains, imprisonment, being stoned, etc.). God loves both camps and counts them all worthy of Heaven.

Each camp had Faith in order to do what was needed of them. They were able to accomplish what they were able to believe for.

There is a Heaven, and it's greater than earth, for Heaven is permanent and earth has been changing and dying since creation. The spirit is greater than the body, for it shall not pass away. Having Faith for that which we cannot see is difficult. Waiting for something we don't see is weary on the flesh. Yet, life teaches us that good things take time and hard work but are worth waiting for. God knows the trial that we are in, and He has blessings along the way and glimpses of tomorrow, so we'll stay the course of Faith. Rom. 10: 17, *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* Keep hearing and use the keys of Faith.

Finally, have Faith in the power of God in you. The



anointing of God will come upon you to do and pray great things. You are really something to behold - your potential is mind boggling. God believes in you, so don't let Him down. Jesus thought you were worth the Cross, so He gave you the precious keys of Faith, along with the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Matt 16:19, *"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven"*. Then in John 14:12-14, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to the Father."*

*And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."*

### *Establish Your Point of Contact and Your Declaration*

A *point of contact* is a point at which a person releases their Faith, or if you would, announces their declaration. For example, if a slave owner said to a slave, "Here, sign this; you're free," the slave must at some point declare, "I'm free". There has to be a point of declaration. If not, he would continue to live his life as a slave. His behavior would reflect that in his mind he was still "a slave" while in fact he was free. He would continue to do slave things and people would say to him, "Don't you know you're free? Why do you keep acting like a slave?" This is the dilemma of the Bible believing Faith teacher - telling saved people to exercise their rights and accept the status that was won for them by the lash, the Cross and the tomb of Jesus Christ. Faith *is* and must be acted upon, released at a "point of contact" - that is where declaration becomes action and Faith becomes reality. So, let's dissect these concepts.

We have to realize the problem is not that you don't have Faith, the problem is what to do with that Faith and how do you make it work? If you have a car, you must locate the ignition key and the gas pedal! For this study, think of "Faith" as the ignition key and "point of contact" as turning the key, and the gas pedal as maintaining - speaking your "Faith declaration". The end result of this process is that our Faith comes into manifestation. I believe that the church of Jesus Christ has great Faith; we struggle though, with the problem of when and how to release our Faith in order to get things to work for us. We have these moments when we're truly in Faith. You're driving down the road, and you're saying, "I've got that job, I know he's gonna hire me, it's gonna be alright, I'm gonna get the job," and then you step out of the car, and

you say, "oh man, I wonder *if* I'm going to get the job". What did you just do? You released your doubt. You allowed your doubt to be declared and therefore, by declaring your doubt you have negated your Faith. When you go into the interview, you are in a position of doubt, which means that your confidence is not going to be there. The employer is looking for someone to take charge of the department, and he's seeing a doubtful person that is not reflecting confidence; therefore, no job. Continue to maintain your confession. From the time you start to look for the job and through the interview process, you're confessing that you have the job and favor with the boss. God needs you to be standing in Faith - giving the angels your confession support. Then on Monday when you start the job you should be moving your Faith from, "I'm going to get the job" to, "I'm going to do a great job". In other words, you must meet doubt with the appropriate declaration after you establish your point of contact. For example, think - when I apply I'll begin to say, "Thank God, I have my job." Once hired say, "Thank God I am great at this!" Let your mouth and your Faith make contact at a place of agreement.

Once we make our Faith declaration, in which we release our Faith, then we have to go with it unchanging and resolute. Many athletes understand Faith better than a lot of us. In athletics, you have to train your body to do something, to shut down the mind during the game or event, and just let it happen. When a baseball player is standing at the plate, it is not the time to be analytical. That's the time to be swinging. That's not the time to measure out when you're going to shift your weight forward or back, that's the time when you are automatically supposed to do that. When a basketball

player receives the pass and has the ball is not the time for him to be going through the analysis of “are his knees bent, is he in position, is he holding the ball solidly, ready to move left or right.” A football player going deep for the pass, that is not the time for him to be thinking about, “are my hands too high, too low?” No; he is to keep his eye on the ball. His body is just supposed to react. Once we have prayed and established our Faith position then there is no good time to re-evaluate what we are confessing. There is one exception and that is, if the Holy Spirit corrects us because our prayer was not lined up with God’s Will and Word. So before you start declaring, ask God what you should be saying. Search the Word for verses that support your goal and ask the Holy Spirit to show you the point of contact - when to release your Faith and fully believe it is done.

My grandmother was a great cook, and I noticed as a young boy that there were no recipes around the house. I asked my mother, “Mom, how can Grandma cook that good without consulting a recipe?” She said, “your grandmother has a gift for it, and when she gets in the kitchen, she’s on automatic”. She would just look at the salt and know how much of a pinch was needed, this and that; and she would talk and praise the Lord while she was cooking with no measurements, no time to think about, she was just in the flow of cooking. Your Faith is the same way. Your Faith has to be flowing, and your mind has to be shut down. Your mind has to come out of the process and yield under the subjection of the Word of God. The Word of God tells us that we must maintain our confession. But that confession has with it a point of contact. A point at which you release your Faith, you are going from “I’m hoping for, I’m hoping for” to “I’m

believing for, I'm believing for", to a final release of "it's mine, it's mine". Let's run it again. You begin in your mind with "I'm *hoping* for", because Faith is the substance of things *hoped* for (Hebrews 11:1). You begin in a position of "I'm wishing, I'm hoping, I want this to be". Then you go from "I'm wishing and hoping" to "I'm *believing* for it, I *believe* it's going to happen, I'm *believing* that it is going to come to pass". Then at a point of contact, you release "I'm *believing* for", and you make your declaration, "I have it, it's mine". Let's take it again; I want you to get your miracles, I want you to get your healings, I want you to get your blessings from God. At first you're *hoping*: "I'm hoping this happens, I'm wishing it would be so." Then you go to "I'm *believing* for, I'm believing for it to be so, I'm beginning to trust and rely on the possibility"; that's believing. You are now taking your hope and bringing it into your present. We say sometimes, "I'm starting to feel good about this". Then you have to arrive at a point in your believing when you say, "I'm making a declaration here, I am now confessing, *not* that I'm believing for it, I'm beyond wishin' and hopin', I'm making a declaration *that it is mine*. I'm going to release my Faith." Now there are different things that are required to get you to the point of releasing your Faith. For each of us, there is always something that is an effective catalyst that moves us into the Faith process. With many people, sickness and tragedy are that catalyst. If we don't practice living by Faith, we may find that when trouble comes we don't know what to do!

Here's one mistake we make: We look at different Bible examples, and we listen to great Bible teachers, Brother Hagin, Oral Roberts and other Faith giants, and we say, "I'm gonna do the way they did". Their Faith won't

work for you but the method will. I've been healed of diabetes, lung disease, a number of things, and how I got delivered is *only an example* to you that Faith works, but you cannot apply the same point of contact for you unless your Faith appears in the same way.

I had been getting sicker each day and the symptoms grew worse and I finally knew I'd have to go to the doctors for the bad news. "Young man, your sugar is sky high and medication must begin right away - you have diabetes." As I tried to wrap my confused mind around this truth I felt the still small voice say "fast 10 days and I'll heal you." I told the doctor I planned to fast and he said, "that is medically ill advised." Looking back I do not recommend that people not follow doctor's advise unless you have a word from God and the Faith to go with it. I began to say "On the morning of the tenth day I am healed of diabetes. On the morning of the tenth day I am healed. Over and over again until I knew I believed it. When the sun rose on that tenth day I knew it and went back to the doctors to show it - all praise to Jesus my Healer. My point of contact was the sunrise on the tenth day. My point of contact may not work for you. You have to have your own Faith and declaration. You have to continue believing, listening and looking to establish a point of contact.

Too often people come to church sick and go home sick. The reason is that they have not established a point of contact, for example, they don't say, "at such and such a point of the service, when Pastor is standing at the left side of the pulpit, that is my point of contact, and I'm getting my healing". So they come sick, maybe they're waiting for God to move, the praise and worship is fabulous, they feel the presence of God; but they haven't established that point at which they declare their healing.

You have to establish your point of contact, at which you are going to release your Faith, begin to believe and receive.

I was attending a meeting in Richmond, Va. After which I was going to Columbus, Ohio. At that time I had this wart on my nose. The man who was speaking said, "everyone who has a growth on their body that they don't want; whatever it is, cancer, tumor, a sore..." and here was this wart on my nose. He said, "stand up; I'm going to pray for you and you are going to receive your healing". So as I was standing, he said these words as he was praying: "Some of you are going to receive your healing instantly - now; some of you will receive yours tonight, and some will receive on the third day". Now for some reason, when he said the third day, something leaped inside of me, although I would have gladly signed up for right then and there. What I did was, I began to change my confession to, "on the third day, I receive my healing". So every time it itched or I touched it, I just said, "on the third day I receive my healing". I established that my point of contact was going to be on the third day. By the morning of the third day I was in Columbus Ohio; I got out of bed, I walked in to brush my teeth, and BOOM! It leaped in my spirit that this was the morning of the third day. I reached up, no room for doubt, confessed "I'm healed", pulled it and it fell off in my hand.

I'm talking about what God will do for you, but you must establish a point of contact at which you release your Faith. The Bible is very clear and we tend not to realize - when God said to Moses, "raise your staff and I'll part the sea", you have to realize that Moses had to believe, or else he wouldn't have raised his staff. What did he believe? He believed that when he raised his staff the seas would part.

Years later, there was a great war going on, and whenever Moses lowered his hands, the Israelites began to lose. He established the point of contact that his hands needed to be raised. But he was over 80 years old now, and battles last a long time. He was getting tired; so it says that his armor bearers came and lifted up his arms, and the Israelites were victorious.

You must establish at what point you give up being a loser and start being a winner. You have to establish that you have to release it and then make a declaration that you're not going back into doubt and unbelief. You are going to keep your eye focused and you're going to go forward.

Let's look a little bit more in the Bible, in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mark in the 28<sup>th</sup> verse. This is a very familiar Scripture, but you need to be thinking of it in terms of a point of contact. *"For she said, 'If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.' "* She is saying that when I touch Jesus' clothes, I receive my healing. When I touch His clothes I receive my healing. She didn't say, "well when I get there, something may happen"...no! Before she got to Jesus she established a point of contact. God is ready to heal you, but He needs you to make a declaration and a decision. Jesus, in the Word of God, is very clear about it. He goes to people and asks them, "what do you want Me to do for you? What do you believe I can do for you? What do you want, My child?" We have to see that we must petition the Lord. He says, *"come, let us reason together"* (Isaiah 43:26). *"Put Me in remembrance of what you want, of what you need, of what you are standing in position for"*. What is your point of contact?

Remember in the Bible, people are always building altars? Why are they building an altar? They don't need



piles of rocks in the desert. They are building an altar because they are saying, "at this place, when I do this thing, I'm going to meet God". You need a place where you say, "this is where I'm going to meet God". I don't care where it is; in the mall, in front of a hot dog stand, you can say, "at that place, I'll meet God". You know God doesn't care where He meets you. He met me many times in bars and in night clubs, places where I shouldn't have been. He just came and said, "I am here. I'll remind you of who you are, so you can stand and have a witness and a testimony". I can remember many nights walking out on the stage, and just saying, "Lord, I want to preach to this many people". You know God has been good to me; I've preached to hundreds and hundreds. But it was my training in that ungodly place where God still met me, and prepared me so that I could release my Faith in front of anybody and look a fool, I don't care - I'll be a fool for Jesus anytime. You determine a place where God is going to meet you. In your car, on the roof, wherever, He'll meet you anywhere you determine. In the book of Malachi chapter 4 verse 2, it says this very interesting thing. It says *"the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings"*. This woman had determined, "when I touch the hem of His garment, I'll receive my healing". She had established her Faith in His prayer shawl. The Jews believed that the Messiah's prayer shawl held healing power in it because of what it said in the Old Testament. The reality is that it didn't. The reality is that their Faith made it so. Faith that makes it a reality for you and for God who is faithful. Faith is a power in the supernatural, just like electricity is unseen power in the natural. You don't see electricity but it manifests when the right principals are acted upon (ie. throw a switch then there's light, etc.). A point of contact

causes Faith to be released and things must change.

A modern day example is how God is using Brother Benny Hinn. People are releasing their Faith and getting their miracles. I'm sure some are using his meetings as a point of contact or even his white suit. Some people have attached their Faith to his white suit. 'If I can get to the man in the white suit, I'm gonna get my healing', they may say. Well the reality is that it doesn't matter if he's in a white suit or on TV or on the radio, they are attaching the releasing of Faith and as a point of contact, and that's what's bringing the manifestation. They could save the bus fare by establishing any point of contact; 'When I get home today, and I turn on the TV, I'm gonna receive my healing'. The woman with the issue of blood said, "when I but touch His tassels...". It was her touch of Faith; Jesus knew the power had gone out of Him. It didn't come out because there was some power there and she was extracting it, it was her Faith meeting the Man of Faith, and when Faith meets Faith then things have to happen. That's why you have to be careful about who you pray with. You have to make sure the other person is believing exactly what you're believing. That's why I ask people, "What are we praying for? What do you want the Lord to do for you?", "when do you believe He'll do it?" If they say I'm going to pray that the doctor is going to fix this situation, I don't have a problem with that because after the doctor does what he does, the healing process of God is still what brings the healing. Healing does not require a doctor but if you wish, the doctor can be a point of contact.

Look at this other example here. Jesus says in verse 34: "*Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction*". Whose Faith? Her Faith. What was her point of contact? The hem of His garment.

Look in Mark 7:33. Decide when you are going to get it; when you're going to release your Faith and get your healing.

When is your prosperity coming? Just walking around declaring you are prospering is *not* going to do you any good. You better release that prosperity. In verse 32: *"Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him"*. For these people their point of contact and of Faith was that if Jesus touches you, you've got your healing. But that doesn't mean that that was the point of contact for the deaf man. Verse 33: *"And He took him aside from the multitude..."*. It doesn't matter what the multitude's Faith was, or what their point of contact was ("Jesus You just touch him and he'll get healed"). Something has to be done about the man's Faith. So Jesus takes him aside; He needs a Word of Knowledge from the Holy Ghost to see where the man's point of contact is. Look at this - *"He put His fingers in his ears..."*, do you think for one minute that has anything to do with anything? No. But there probably is somewhere in this world, where there is a "School of the Healing of the Fingers in the Ears". Well, if you don't like that methodology, look at this next one: *"and He spat, and touched his tongue"*. You wanna try that, huh? 'The Healing School of Spitology'. *"Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened". Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly."* So Jesus basically spit and put spit on this guy's tongue. You wanna try that today? The Health Department will be swooping down on you mighty quick! You think that's something, take a look at this next one. Go over to Mark 8:22: *"Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind*

*man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything".* Is the anointing in the spit? You look at something like this in the Bible and you say 'that's strange, what has that got to do with anything?' But...the Jews of Jesus' day believed that not only was there healing in His wings, they also believed that the Messiah was so holy, there would even be healing in His spit. They believed that God was so powerful, even in the rejected thing that He would expel from His mouth, healing power would be possible. They believed that they could release their Faith at the point of contact of touching Him, or at the point of spittle. I know that's hard for you to gather, but you need to understand. The Jews realized that the Savior had all capability and power. In the slightest touch of His clothing, or even in His spittle, you could be healed. Jesus knowing that He had to prove Himself as Messiah, didn't care what the method or technique was, but if this was to cause men to see that He was the Lord of lords and the King of kings - He would even use spit as a point of contact. That was Jesus' position - I'll spit on you if necessary for you to see - whatever it takes for you to come into Faith, to release your Faith and believe I am who I am.

Now what goal was accomplished? If you notice, Jesus does not command the death demon, He does not command the blind demon; He doesn't command any of them. He despised them with His own spittle. When a person is spit upon, it was and still is because you are rejecting someone, or expressing hate or a curse or wanting it to be known that you despise them. When Jesus was going before the Cross and at His trial, they spat upon Him many times. But Jesus is not spitting on the man, He's

spitting on the curse that was put on the man; He's spitting on the devil that has blinded the man. He is saying, "I hate you devil, you have got to leave now, and My very spit will cause you to leave and bring a great blessing and reverse this affliction.

It doesn't matter what your point of contact is, God will meet you where you will declare your Faith, and bring it by declaration into reality. *Just go ahead and declare it; that this is my moment of deliverance, this is my time, this is my year, this is my month, this is my hour, this is my opportunity. If you will but declare it, you will have it.* This is my year that my marriage gets its breakthrough; this is the year my business explodes; this is the moment that sickness leaves my body, I am through with being sick and tired, I declare my freedom, my deliverance, I declare it now by the Blood of Jesus, by the Spirit of Jesus, by the Name of Jesus, by the spit of Jesus, by the work of Jesus, by the calling of His Name, by the fragrance of His very Presence, whatever it takes, He'll do it for you! Whatever it takes - He's God. He'll take your darkest hour and bring some sunshine in, but you've got to make a decision. You've got to set a point of contact. When will you be free? Declare it, then think, act and live like it's so!!

### *“Faith Requires Action”*

Your Faith will not work unless it has the appropriate action. Faith is an action word. The devil cannot read your mind. He can sense your Faith, and then he has to watch your action. So, even if your Faith is a little shaky, and you say to the devil, “In the Name of Jesus, I command you to be gone,” then you go about your business, the devil says, “WOW, he’s not paying any attention to me. He’s not complaining anymore and he’s not worrying about me”. The devil then finds someone else to bother, because you aren’t feeding that situation by negative actions, worry or fear. Say it’s done and act like it is, and it will be.

*“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”* This is a Bible principle that shows that what is inside will show on the outside eventually.

ONCE SPOKEN, WE SHOULD ACT OUT OUR WORDS. *“Faith without works is dead,”* says James. Action is the work that needs to be done once Faith is declared. If we believe what we hope for then we should identify an action that reflects our Faith. Many times I have been directed by the Spirit to tell people after praying for them to do something they could not do before. Usually if Faith is at work they comply and act. If they are only wishing and hoping then they look at you in disbelief and may say, “Well I can’t do that” or, “That will really hurt” or “I’ll do that when I’m healed.” Their lack of action binds them to their unbelief. This is especially true with injuries. If they don’t have a clear action that can be taken, then a simple “go get a glass of water” may be enough.

Praise and worship are actions that reflect Faith. Many people will not give God, a sacrifice of praise. They

will act as if it's asking too much to expect them to get out of character, or it's too much energy to expend. Yet, they expect God to heal and bless them without giving praise or even an offering or tithe. If you have Faith that God is going to bless your finances, then you would take advantage of an opportunity to give to someone else's need as an act of thanks and Faith.

Sometimes we say we are in Faith and then while waiting on God we implement our plan. This is an act that shows we are not in Faith. So, sometimes doing nothing but waiting in Faith is a very powerful act. Waiting in Faith is not idle, as we should be thanking God in prayer and speaking words of Faith over the manifestation that we are sure is on the way. There is also a way we should be acting if we are in Faith or we are believing to get into full Faith. There is a confidence that we should have. We need to look and act as if we are victorious. Looking and being depressed and fearful is an invitation to failure. Sometimes we offer an excuse, "That's how I feel so I'm just being honest." This shows that you are "feelings bound" and that the physical realm is more real to you than the spirit realm. The truth is you are deceived because the negative spirits are holding you bound to a lie. God and the realm of Faith is the greater and more real reality. We can obey God's command and act above and beyond our negative thoughts and feelings. We can "take our thoughts captive and make them obedient to Christ." Faith is not a feeling it is a fact. Faith is a "knowing," which once Faith is present our feelings do change. When we get to know how Faith feels, then we can walk in that feeling while it comes into manifestation. If your vacation is coming up and you have planned a great trip, don't you walk around in the expectant joy before you leave? Well that is an act of Faith.

When people talk about healing, they are usually focused on the symptom, not on the sickness. They are usually addressing the pain. We should be focused on taking the disease away. When you are in physical pain, it is hard to focus your Faith. You need to speak to the disease and not just the symptom. Symptoms will keep re-occurring if you don't speak to the disease. Get in Faith against what causes your sickness. You need to have Faith for health, not worrying about or being in fear of the symptoms. Treat pain any way you can and stop worrying, so you can attack the source – disease. We want God to heal us without being responsible for how we may have caused the illness. It is a sin to worry, fear, run down our bodies, eat garbage, be negative, unforgiving etc. Also, I have seen God withhold healing till we face the truth that we need to change. I was way too fat and had stopped being good to my body - so I was getting sickly. Joint pain and gout became my norm. Prayer brought relief and healing but after some years it got harder to receive my healing. While preaching one Sunday I heard a thought, "You want the people to get their flesh under control and they are looking at a fat man out of control." Faith is an act, so I began to act my Faith and get myself together. God gave me the strength to do a life change and my healing has been truly wonderful. Once you begin to focus on the cause of disease, your Faith will come up and you will then have the Faith to rebuke the disease, change your life and ignore the symptoms. Check yourself out beforehand, list the symptoms and identify the disease. This will help you think about what you can do as you get ready to act upon your Faith.

This next story is true and will work for you if you can discern the voice of God. Bold action without direction



from the Spirit of God can lead to great injury. Let wisdom and the Holy Spirit guide you. A few years ago while playing basketball, I heard and felt a loud snap. I fell to the floor in terrible pain; the Achilles tendon on my ankle had been torn. My specialist reported that it was severed and surgery would be needed to repair it. I tried to confess my Faith in God and His healing power, but the doctor wasn't interested. He gave me a boot to wear, drugs for pain, and a pat on the back. He said, "next week we'll see you for pre-surgery and then fix it". That week the church was going away for a few days to a camp with amusement rides, and I decided not to cancel the trip and went along. I spent my nights focusing on being healed and confessing it. I repeated Isaiah 53 – "*by His stripes I'm healed*" constantly. I was praying and searching for an act that would release my Faith for healing. As we walked on the boardwalk headed for camp after a long, painful day, my wife and sister Winifred were pulling away from me because my steps were so labored. I paused and prayed, and was interrupted by the thought, "Run; if you were healed, you'd run, wouldn't you?" Before worry, fear or doubt could set in, I said, "I'm healed" and took off running. The first two steps almost changed my mind (as the pain was tremendous), but as I passed the ladies, all was well and we all praised God together. My doctor was also surprised! The boot still hangs in my garage, but my sneakers don't. Running was the action that God spoke, that released my Faith and His healing power. Amen!

With sickness and disease, you have to open a door for satan to come barreling in. he'll put symptoms on you if you will receive them. Start fighting with the symptoms, forget about the cause, then satan's got you. You have to speak to the problems and difficulties in your lives, but

after you speak to them, there has to be an accompanying action.

The battle ensues between light and darkness, and you need to get serious about what you will and will not tolerate. You cannot be “body bound”. The devil should not be able to take you off the spiritual battlefield because of circumstances that are happening to your body. The battle has been engaged and you must step up to the plate.

Mark 9:14-24

*“And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. And He asked the scribes, “What are you discussing with them?” One of the crowd answered and said, ‘Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit, and wherever it seizes him, then it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.’ He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him? And he said, ‘From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything have compassion on us and help us’. Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes”. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’ ”*

The foaming at the mouth, gnashing of teeth and becoming rigid are symptoms and circumstances. Jesus doesn’t fool around. He tells them to bring the son to Him.

Jesus asked the father how long this had been happening to the child and the father told him since childhood. Jesus told the father he could believe that all things are possible to him who believes. The father immediately cried out and said that he believed but to help his unbelief. That is an acceptable position. You don't have to be a giant of Faith; you just have to be honest. God just wants people to be honest. If you would be honest, the devil couldn't beat you up. If you know you have no Faith, say so. But to pretend that you have Faith won't get anything done but to get you sicker. The devil will just say that you lied and that you have no Faith at all. Then the devil will make the symptoms stronger on you. If you have Faith, then say so. If you don't have Faith, you need to be honest and ask for help and tell people that you are struggling. You can say that you need your Faith built up, and take the little bit of Faith that you have and get it built up. *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."* Rom. 10:17 and praying in tongues are the Bible way to greater spirit strength. Then you will see a difference in your life. You have to take your focus off the symptom (which is the circumstance).

**CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT DETERMINE  
YOUR REALITY!**

(Example)

Jesus is in a crowd; He goes over to the crowd and asks what they are talking about, and they tell Him they are talking about the demon-possessed son. The demon sees Him (Jesus); it's not the boy, it's the demon in the boy that sees Jesus. And the demon says, "It's show time; let's put on a show of symptoms like we did for the disciples, He'll look at the circumstances and won't be able to drive us out either". Why did the disciples fail? They were in

Faith, but when they tried to drive the demons out the symptoms escalated and they immediately said it didn't work. Jesus then said to them, "*O faithless generation*". It's not that they didn't have Faith. It's that they lost their Faith because they saw a circumstance. The manifestation escalated and they said, "Oops, it didn't work".

You pray in Faith, you wake up two days later and the pain is back and you say, "Oops, it didn't work". Then the devil says, "Thank you, you just gave me permission to come back and stay".

The disciples had to have some Faith. Why? Because in previous chapters Jesus sent out the twelve and they did miracles. They cast out demons, they spoke to spirits, and they healed the sick. Then He takes the twelve along with the others, which is approximately seventy people, and He sends them out. They come back with such success that He says, "I saw satan falling from the heavens". They were so pumped up and successful that Jesus said, "Chill out a little and just be glad that your name is written in Heaven". The fact that demons are commanded by you is good, but remember that the main thing is that you are children of God, and your names are written down in Heaven.

When the boy was brought to the disciples, the disciples looked at the situation. All they had to do was the accompanying act of Faith and say, "Who's next?" The demons at that point would have to come out because they put on their best show to no avail. Because the disciples didn't have the correct Faith action, the demons' accompanying act was *worry and fear*. So the disciples' immediate response was, "It didn't work".

In this situation, Jesus did indicate that this type of demon required prayer and fasting, but Jesus still asked

why they didn't drive it out. In this particular case, if they had stayed in Faith, the demon would have come out. But the disciples didn't stay in Faith because they had not done all the steps to confident Faith: prayer and fasting.

The prayer of Faith in Romans 4:17, (calling what is not as if it were), and Mark 11:22-24, (you shall have what you say), are conditional. You must believe what you say – not what you see. What they saw changed what they were saying. When they got to Jesus Christ, they were wondering why they couldn't, which shows they didn't believe they could. Prayer is knowing that the Holy Spirit and the Father hear and answer, "Yes, My child, it's done". So they failed the prayer test, as they weren't sure that prayer was heard and answered in the affirmative.

The law of fasting is found in Isaiah 58:6. It tells that fasting breaks the bonds of the oppressed. It breaks the yoke of the oppressed and the oppressor. The demon-possessed child was not possessed because of sin. The demon came on this child as a bully taking advantage of the weak, maybe even when he was a baby. It was an oppressive demon that had become deeply rooted in the child's life and in the parent's fear.

There were three things that Jesus was saying:

- 1.) I have fasted, the true fast
- 2.) I have power over oppressors
- 3.) I have self-control

When we deny self through fasting, we reach the level of self-control. This means we can control ourselves and our fears, and that demonic accusations or demonstrations will not sway or change our resolve to win. The first victory of spiritual warfare must be over self. If we win this battle, then demons cannot beat us. We are no longer subject to what we see and what the circumstances

are. Faith doesn't go into fear or go into doubt. When the demon put on a show, their Faith was weakened. When they saw the circumstances, they abandoned their Faith, and immediately said it didn't work. But when Jesus drives it out in Mark 9:25, He rebukes the demon and the symptoms get worse.

Mark 9:25-26

*"When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead".*

Jesus drives the demon out, and the same symptoms happen, only worse. When the apostles saw the circumstance, they abandoned their Faith. The Spirit lifted and the demon saw he could stay. But when Jesus rebuked the demon, the demon acted up, and the boy with the unclean spirit fell on the floor. That was the manifestation that the demon was coming out. It wasn't the manifestation that the demon was staying. When you pray with someone and cast out a demon, there is always a manifestation. There is always something. That is the proof that it's coming out.

Mark 9:27-29

*"But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, 'Why could we not cast it out?' So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.""*

The manifestations got worse, but there was no problem here. Jesus told him to get up, that it was all done. He probably wouldn't have done it this way, but the crowd was coming, bringing doubt and unbelief. If the crowd had gotten there with doubt and unbelief, they

would have said that the casting out didn't work. The father would have lost his Faith, and that would have broken Faith agreement with the Lord. Jesus prayed the prayer of agreement in Mark 9:23 when He said, *"If you can believe, all things are possible for him who believes."* The father knew in his spirit he had to come into agreement with Jesus. Jesus wanted and needed the father to agree so the demon had no legal right to stay at all. Jesus commands and is not concerned, but is confident. He is wise, and acts before the crowd can encourage the demon or weaken the dad's Faith.

The action in Faith in Jesus' case in Mark 9:27 was that, even though the circumstance seemed to get worse, Jesus took him by the hand lifted him up and he arose. No matter what the circumstance looked like, Jesus did what He was going to do anyway. Many times the demon will come out and it's just the person themselves that is worked up. You need to tell them "peace, be still". Before they couldn't, but now they can be still.

Healing power is amazing. Once it goes into a person's body, it's in there. When healing power is ministered, all you have to do is stir it up and it will still manifest. The confession has to line up with the Word of God, and you have to have the accompanying action. You need to find out what action is going to bring Faith and bring the manifestation. You need to refuse to worry over it. If you pray in Faith for finances, you don't lay awake worrying about money. That would mean that you just killed your Faith.

There's an act that must accompany your Faith. The first act is to stop worrying, doubting or being in fear. Act like it's a done deal. Act like the devil's defeated. Act like you're free and the devil is bound. Act like health is your

right and sickness is an intruder. Do what you'd do if you were healed. Get up and get dressed and go do your thing. Believe what the Lord has said about your condition and act out any instruction your spirit gets. Don't do it in your head, do it by your spirit. Don't stop a medicine without God's advice and your doctor's consultation. Be wise and know that you know that you know and act upon it.

*Pick up your mat and walk!*



### *When Faith Comes, 'I Know' Has Arrived*

This section deals with a deeper understanding of what "Faith" is. The definition of Faith is found in Hebrews 11:1, but we still get hope, believing and Faith mixed up. Are they the same? How much Faith is enough Faith? When do we have Faith? These questions will be addressed in the following paragraphs.

For starters, let us think of hope and believing as prerequisites to Faith, a doorway to Faith. To help our discussion, remember **hope** is associated with **expectancy**, therefore, a process, or a progression toward Faith. **Believing** is a process, a progression toward Faith and is *opposed* by **unbelief**. **Faith** is *in opposition to doubt* - Faith is the "I know", doubt is the "I don't know" and "I don't think so." When "I know" is present, there is no "I don't know" or any "I hope so." When "I know" is present, *believing for* has been **replaced**. Faith is **substance** and **evidence** of what's *hoped* and *believed*. Therefore - **I know**. Or as some say, "I know (Faith) I have what I was hoping and believing for". Let's explore this further so we can move as effective disciples toward true Faith.

#### *Transcript from Discipleship Class:*

*Pastor:* "In the Gospels there are eighteen or nineteen miracles that Jesus does, and in the majority of them He says, "As your Faith is, let it be done to you." There are more miracles that occurred in this way than by any other method. Most of them are initiated by the people that need the blessing and are driven by their Faith."

*Question from Student:* "What if you didn't have full Faith, but you had half Faith? As your Faith is, so it shall be done to you? Half healed, if you only have half the Faith?"

*Pastor Don:* "Is this what the Scriptures teach? Turn to the ninth chapter of Mark."

*Comment from Student:* "I just listened to a Kenneth Hagin, Jr., tape on Faith as a mustard seed. He said Faith isn't green stamps. You don't need more Faith to get more healed or to get healed of bigger things."

*Pastor Don:* "We'll answer that as well in this teaching. In the ninth chapter there is an answer to this question in verse 22, "And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!""

"Now, we would have a desperate situation if, after he acknowledges that he believes but at the same time in verse 22 and 23 he says he was not in full Faith. He was in partial Faith. We know he had some Faith because he brought the boy to Jesus, so he had hope. And all Faith begins with hope. Hope is the desire for things to come to pass. Jesus says, "What do you mean, if I can? Of course I can." The parent calls upon Jesus' compassion and mercy and straight out pity. 'Take pity on us and help us.' And it says, "Help my unbelief." It doesn't say 'Give me more Faith.' He asks to kill the doubt.

*Comment from Student:* "My version says, "I do have Faith; help me have more Faith.""  
*Pastor Don:* "That's not a clear translation. If mustard seed Faith can move a mountain, then the **very presence of Faith is enough**. *Believing* is not the same; it has varying degrees. You can have belief and unbelief at the same time. But you can't have Faith and not have Faith simultaneously. You cannot have substance and evidence and lack of both at the same time. You cannot know and not know at the same time; Faith is **I know** I have. Let's develop a better understanding of this with

an example... Is Don Moore sitting here?"

*Students:* "Yes."

*Pastor Don:* "Do you *know* that?"

*Student:* "I see it, I know it. I believe it because I see it."

(Don ducks under a table and is hidden from sight.)

*Pastor Don:* "Now, let me ask you a question. Is this Don Moore speaking to you?"

*Student:* "Yes."

*Pastor Don:* "But, do you see me?"

*Student:* "No."

*Pastor Don:* "Do you know that it's me?"

*Student:* "Yeah."

*Pastor Don:* "How do you know?"

*Student:* "We know your voice. And we saw you get under the table."

*Pastor Don:* "Who's talking to you now?"

*Student:* "Don Moore."

*Pastor Don:* "Now that isn't Faith, that's just plain knowing – there's no hope, no expectancy, no believing for and no extension of the inner man into the spiritual realm."

(Pastor Don gets up and goes out the door and peeks back in and says,)

*Pastor Don:* "I will be back in five minutes. Will I be back in five minutes?"

*Student:* "Yes."

*Pastor Don:* "How do you know?"

*Student:* "Because you said it, and class isn't over yet!"

*Pastor Don:* "Notice now that if I did leave there would be an opportunity for Faith. After a minute or so of leaving, someone may say, "I don't believe Pastor is coming back." Some may say, "I hope he does and I'm believing he will." Another may say, "Chill out, *I know* he will be back!" Let's see this in the Word; turn to Heb. 11:1... This word is

what?"

*Student: "Hope."*

*Pastor Don: "This word is what?"*

*Student: "Belief."*

*Pastor Don: "This word is what?"*

*Student: "Faith."*

*Pastor Don: "There is a big difference in what God is trying to say to us about these three key words that is a spiritual mystery. Read **Hebrews 11:1**, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for..." Stop. He just said that Faith is the substance. Faith is the matter (material fact) of something we hope for. So hope is wish and expectancy, but it isn't belief or Faith. "...the evidence of things not seen." It is the evidence of something that is not seen. "For by it the elders obtain a good testimony. By Faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God..." (vs. 2,3)*

*\*\* Notice that Faith **is**,*

*but Faith also causes something to happen in the material realm.*

*Faith created the World.*

*Faith is substance of hope and the power of creation.*

*"Through Faith, we know,' isn't that what it says? People get to Hebrews 11:1 and they stop. Read the first two verses again. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it (Faith) the elders obtained a good testimony. By Faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which are visible." In other words, what he's saying is that Faith is power and the substance, the matter that is made up, when we have hope. We move from hope to some place where we have Faith*

and then, once we're in Faith, we're also causing to come into existence.

"Believing is what we do when we *hope*. **Faith** is what we do when we **know**. Let me say it again. *Believing* is what we do when we *hope*. **Faith** is what we do when we **know**. Now, the benefit of believing and hoping is that we arrive at **Faith**. The benefit of Faith is *knowing* and causing to come into material reality. Believing is hoping; Faith is knowing. You either know or you don't know because the knowing is seeing. Faith is the factual representation of that which is not yet, to your physical eye, a fact, but you *know it* as a fact. You know that you know that you know that you know, and 'you know' is better than and beyond belief.

"Believing is the road that leads to the knowing. When you get to the knowing, you have seen with the spiritual eye, whether or not you have seen in the physical reality, but the spiritual reality is as real to you. You can't get any more Faith, but there always is more believing. We believe and believe until that thing we hope for has substance. Once the thing that we hope for has substance, it thus then becomes knowing. Now, once it becomes knowing, it is not believing any more. When I came up from under the table, your believing stopped. You were not believing for it; you knew it.

**\*\* *Blessed is he that comes from believing and gets to the **knowing** - before he gets to the seeing.***

**\*\* *Anybody can have Faith once they see it, but seeing it and knowing is not Faith – **Faith is knowing before you see.*****"

*Question from a Student:* "Can't there be Faith ... you know something without really seeing it? But you got the Faith

inside of you.”

*Pastor Don:* “Yeah, you got it. A few years ago I had a jail inmate that really got a-hold of this during Bible Study, and God did a miracle for him. He was totally guilty of a felony and waived his right to a trial. He began to confess the Word of God over his situation. He began to sincerely repent and declare God’s love over him and speak God’s blessing over his case. He told anyone anywhere what he was believing and hoping for... and then Faith came. Romans 10:17, “*So then Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

“While he was locked up everybody was telling him that he’s going to do a minimum of three to eight years or eight to twenty-five. And all the time he’s locked up, he kept saying that he knows he wasn’t going to do any jail time. “I know I’m going home for Christmas. I know” he kept saying. For some ‘strange reason’ the judge gave him probation and released him before Christmas... FAITH.

“Where does that knowing come from? The knowing comes from hoping and believing. A Faith comes to the heart. You don’t know it in your head, but you know it in your heart. If I can get people to stay at hope, believing and confessing long enough, they’ll get to Faith and the knowing. Once they get to there, they’ve got the knowing and then it’s just a matter of time before the seeing comes. Sometimes the seeing is instant. In the spiritual realm, it’s instant because you have the knowing. It’s in here and you say, ‘I see it. I have it, now!!!’

“And where the Church has missed it - and I can’t say it enough - the Church thinks that believing *is* Faith and it’s not. Believing is hoping - but believing *can become* Faith. Let’s look at it in the Word. Jesus never once said, “As you hope, let it be done unto you.” He said, “*As your*

*Faith is, let it be done unto you."*

*"Start at Mark 11:22 and read all the way through, slowly. "So Jesus answering and said to them, "Have Faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. (When will it be yours? - When your believing manifests in your heart as 'I know', because you **said so** from believing Faith of the heart.) And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."*

*"Let's break this down. Have Faith in God. It doesn't mean believe in God. In another translation it says trust in God. What it means is **know**. Even if you don't see God, have **Faith in God**, *know God is real and trust God as real*. Believing can change, but Faith doesn't change, because it (Faith) knows.*

*"Believe you have received it and, in the process of time, it will be yours. That's really what He's saying here. Continue to believe something, and believe you have received it – that is eventually **Faith**. Believe that it's already yours. And what He's really saying is this: Hope and believe until it becomes Faith, which is a knowing. In knowing it, then, it is yours. Let's look at what Jesus Himself, actually did; let's look back to verse 12. "Now on the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He (Jesus) was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree in having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from*

*you ever again.” And His disciples heard it.”*

“And then He went on walking and He reached Jerusalem and the temple; He entered the temple and threw out the money changers, and so on. Now go to verse 19, *“When evening had come, He went out of the city. Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, ‘Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.’”* Well, when did it wither in the physical?”

*Student: “When He said it.”*

*Pastor: “No, not when He said it. It took all night for the process of withering to be complete in the physical, yet in the spiritual it was instantaneous. Jesus knew when He said it that it was a done deal, but that time would be needed in the physical to see the result. Sometimes you pray for healing and you still feel the symptoms. Still feeling the symptoms doesn’t mean you are not healed. It’s a process of time that had to occur. Had Jesus cursed the tree and stood there and waited and nothing happened for a few moments, and said, “Well, I guess it didn’t work” - What then would the tree do? The tree would have said, “Hey, He ain’t in Faith. I don’t gotta die. Why should I die? That power that was causing me to shrivel up has stopped.”*

*“Look at this one. Go back to **Mark 9:17**, “Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” Now, we get a clear answer why they couldn’t. Jesus says right away, “O faithless generation.” (v.19). Then look at verse 29, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”*



“Well what kind of prayer, Jesus? The prayer of Faith. The prayer of **Mark 11:22-25** *“So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”* and of **Romans 4:17** - *“as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations” in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.”* The prayer of Faith is speaking and calling into existence what your Faith is saying on the inside, expressed on the outside. You shall have what you say by calling it into existence. Amen.

And what does fasting do? Fasting loosens the bonds, (Isaiah 58) destroys the yoke. It destroys the yoke of the demonic bullies that get placed around our necks in life. And what kind of prayer did He pray? The prayer of Faith. When He commanded that thing to come out, He **knew** it came out – no matter what He *saw*. Earlier the boy went into convulsions and here’s what the disciples did: The disciples were hoping and believing and were not in Faith. The disciples gave the exact command Jesus gave, but when they saw the boy go into convulsions because the unclean spirits were coming out, they said, ‘OOPS, it didn’t work.’ And then the evil spirit says, ‘I was on my way out of here, but I don’t have to leave now. They’re not in Faith. They’re not even in belief because their hope is gone, so I can stay, the power against me has stopped.’

Be careful here to understand – The disciples did have Faith, but Jesus was telling them in this moment with this situation that they failed because they did not have ‘epileptic demon-removing’ Faith. When Jesus saved Peter after he walked on water the Lord said, “*O you of little Faith*” (Matt. 14:28). You see Peter had Faith of many types, he even had ‘walking on water’ Faith, but Peter did not have ‘walking on water in a storm’ Faith.

“Romans chapter 4:17 and 18, “*(as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations.”) in the presence of Him whom he believed - God, Who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations,*” Now, don’t tell me for one minute that Abraham didn’t get challenged. Your believing will always get challenged. Your believing will get challenged because believing isn’t seeing, but a process toward Faith that will result in seeing. Faith, in the process of time becomes seeing. And in that process of time when you are between Faith and seeing, you’re open to unbelieving. We often turn the fire off before the meat’s done = get out of Faith or stop believing before the manifestation.

“Verse 20 says, “*He did not waiver at the promise of God through unbelief.*” Why? Why did he stagger not? Where was he? He was in Faith. He was in the **knowing**, therefore he staggered not. If he were still in unbelief, he would have staggered. Here’s what God says in His Word in Rom 12:3, He said that a portion, a measure of Faith is given to all of us. Turn to **Romans 10:17**, “*So then Faith comes...*” The NIV reads, “*Consequently Faith comes...*” What does consequently mean? Consequently; soon to follow; as a result of a consequence: a result of, an outcome due to. If we hear the Word, then - BOOM - Faith

will result!

“It doesn’t say, ‘Consequently Faith is given.’ It says, “Consequently Faith comes.” Some Bible translations and the comments in the notes are hurting people’s Faith because they don’t believe the whole message. Listen to the King James, “*So then, Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.*” Read the second half of it. Faith comes by hearing the Good News, the Good News about Christ.

“Consequently Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Not a part of it, but all of it - the total message. So many reduce the Good News to a limited salvation of hope, not Faith, and that’s not the total picture. Some denominations reduce the Good News to only *believing* and make **Faith (knowing)** impossible in reality. When you get there, to Faith, Heaven will not deny you.

“In my own life, I have believed God for many things. And I have learned in the process of believing, sometimes quickly and sometimes after long believing, there comes a moment of *knowing*. There is, in the process of Faith, a moment of knowing. There is a situation in the mind and in the heart that becomes so blatantly clear spiritually as well as intellectually. It happens in your whole being that you progress from ‘believing for it’ to declaring, ‘It’s mine. I know it. I know it and I’m willing to bet everything on it. I just know it.’

“That’s what I said, when I was sick, my mind was saying “blah, blah, doubt” and everybody was saying that I was going to die, and I even knew that in that situation people die. But, “I’m not going anywhere because I know I’m healed,” I said. I stayed up late at night reading and reading, reading the **Word**. Faith comes by reading the Word.”

*Student:* “But Faith also comes by hearing what you,

yourself, say to yourself."

*Pastor:* "Only if you're saying the Word of God. Remember, doubt also comes. Unbelief comes by what you say when you are not saying the Word of God. What did the man with the oppressed boy say? "*Help thou my unbelief,*" meaning I am believing, but I am also doubting. Basically what he was saying was, "Lord, help me to believe." And Jesus says, "No problem. I'll help you."

### ***Thinking & Instant Results***

***\*\*When true Faith is activated  
the miracle is done.***

This means that at the point where the word of Faith is spoken, the power to effect change begins to move. The full result of this moving Faith may take some time before the human eye can see the difference, or the manifestation may be instantaneous so I feel that all healing is instant in the supernatural realm, but often progressive in the natural. Romans 4:17: "*God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.*" God establishes or changes the natural when He thinks or speaks something into existence. We would do well to realize that most of thinking is speaking internally. Just as silent reading is thinking mind words, therefore it is speaking to one's self. "Faith comes by hearing" on two levels: when others speak it (Faith words) to us, and when we think (speak Faith words) to ourselves. When God thinks, His Spirit knows His thoughts, and therefore, things begin to happen. 1Cor. 2:11: "*For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*" We also know our thoughts, or if we are plugged into the Spirit of God we then also think **God thoughts**. The Spirit of God knows what God is thinking and so gives

us access to God ideas and God Faith.

What a powerful Truth. Are we not capable of knowing the mind of God and therefore, able to focus repeatedly upon a God idea which is a Faith idea? When God says your thoughts are not My thoughts in Isaiah 55, He is talking to the wicked. Isaiah 55:7,8 – *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.”* In verse 11: *“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”* We see that we can use the Word of God that has gone forth from God’s mind to the Word of God by the Spirit of God. And we have been given the Spirit of God (1Cor. 2:10 and 16). Praise God we have the mind of Christ and therein Faith comes by hearing the thoughts that are birthed by the Spirit into our minds.

When God thinks (a Faith thought) and the Spirit plants it in us it is done. The time it takes to see it in the natural is really to be viewed as unimportant and non-binding. Jesus curses the fig tree and goes on about His business; it was a completed thought. Mark 11:14,15: *“In response Jesus said to it, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.” And His disciples heard it. So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple...”* The tree instantly died on the inside; the time it took to show on the outside was of interest to the disciples because they were “natural-minded.” Mark 11:19-22: *“When evening had come, He went out of the city. Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, ‘Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has*

withered away'. So Jesus answered and said to them "Have Faith in God." When Jesus spoke it, it was done. When we fixate on the manifestation, a long observation time can cause us to abandon Faith and allow the devil to return and make things look like he never left. This waiting time is totally subjective, and feelings cause doubt to turn to abandonment. We are too quick to believe our feelings and the way things look rather than God's Word.

Most demons come out with a demonstration, but often it's just a shutter or a slight change. Violent demonstration can make you think that "it didn't work". This may be what happened in the exorcism of the epileptic boy – the disciples commanded, the demon made a scene, the disciples thought it must have failed.

*\*\*\*The mind is a place of birth.*

*Life, death, defeat or victory*

*spring forth out of the womb of thought\*\*\**

*\*\*\*Timing is the process of the healing manifestation*

*but time is not the proof of healing\*\*\**

Our Faith proves healing just as our surety of salvation is not based upon whether we are in Heaven or on earth. We happen to be saved but on earth, while Heaven is our home. My Faith places me in Heaven no matter what I feel. Yet, in time I am earth-bound. My body may feel sick and healing only minimal but my Faith must say, "I have it now!" I call those things that are promised to me as though they were and they are. Not going to be but they are right now. When a woman is pregnant, we say "she's having a baby". Well, that's not correct. They have a baby; it's in the womb. We don't see it so we call it as future when it is now. You must think of Faith as instant right from the first thought. Say it

internally and externally, because healing is instant. God cannot lie because anything He thinks by Faith is changed into that reality. Since God is outside of time it is so when He thinks it. The time it takes to manifest within time is not a problem to Him, only to us because we allow this dimension (natural) to dominate us.

So what then are we to do? We must remind the flesh of the greater reality.

### *Hang in There*

"I've had some healings that were instantaneous and I've had others that I had to really work for. I had to get in there and just work my Faith. I would take the Bible and I would look up healing verses. I would memorize healing verses. I've stayed up nights when I've needed a healing real bad and prayed, '*by His stripes I'm healed. By His stripes I am healed. By His stripes I am healed.*' And I mean all night, '*by His stripes I am healed,*' walking around, '*by His stripes I am healed.*' It wasn't until noon the next day that there was a bolt of lightning and I said, '*yes, by His stripes I am healed,*' and I just knew it. And the manifestation was almost always gone right after **knowing**. Almost for sure right then. Some time later it may try to return, but "I know" would rise up and destroy its ability to return. I've learned to stand on Nahum 1:9... "*Affliction will not rise up a second time*".

"Other times I've been healed just standing on believing. As previously mentioned, believing is often progressive. We give mental assent to information that we come in agreement with. We start at supposition, "I suppose it's true or possible." This moves toward, "I believe it's so!" Then, "I believe by faith." Jesus sometimes stated, "As you have believed – so be it!" So believing is Faith in process toward knowing something

unknowable. To complete this process we gather information, and at the point of the “unknown” we make a leap to choose to agree to accept that our hope is beyond knowledge. Then we choose to hold on to our hope though we lack empirical knowledge. Jesus is asking people, “Your Faith or unbelief is based upon the info you have plus what you’re hoping, plus what you’re willing to risk. I am willing to grant you according to your believing.” If believing becomes knowing, then it is Faith and a done deal. The gathering and analysis of information is important to the process. Remember in the earlier example - I’m under the table; you can’t see me. But you believe it’s me. What did you do? You went over everything you knew. You went through, ‘he was just here. I know his voice. I know what he sounds like. I heard him. I saw him go under the table.’ I hope you don’t lose this example I’m trying to give you.

“In any situation where your Faith is weak or you have unbelief, go over and over what you do know. Go over the Word of God concerning what you do know, over what you do accept, over what you have seen and the Faith - the ‘knowing’ will come. When I had lung disease, I had to go over and over in my mind that I’d had diabetes at the age of 24, that God healed me, and that I didn’t have it now. And where did it go? God took it from me. I had to remind myself that, if God can take diabetes from me, He could definitely take the lung disease.”

*At this point Sister J with a disability spoke up:* “Can I say something? Pastor Don you’ve had a healing. Joy’s had a healing and probably a lot of others. As far as I know I haven’t had a healing.”

*Pastor Don:* “But you have, I said, have you ever cut your hand?”



*Student, Sister J:* "Everybody does that."

*Pastor Don:* "That's true, yet all healing is the same process, sometimes fast, sometimes slow, but God's in all healing. Because healing is His will. That's why healing is a natural part of what the body does – heal."

*Student, Sister J:* "If I had a healing I would believe and I would have Faith."

*Pastor Don:* "Hold it; if you had a healing you wouldn't need Faith."

*Student, Sister J:* "I would at least have Faith for the future. I would have Faith for my future illnesses and my children's sicknesses."

*Pastor Don:* "That's not necessarily true. Hopefully you would, but the Hebrews with Moses saw great miracles and failed to have Faith. The Pharisees saw great miracles and failed to have Faith. People got saved and don't move on to have Faith for miracles. A changed life is a greater miracle than changed skin, but what we see doesn't always result in Faith. Doubt and unbelief can always cause us to limit or underestimate what God can do. Faith doesn't always come by observation or necessarily experience; it comes by Romans 10:17 – *"So Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"*. Observation and experience can elevate Faith to strengthen our ability to stand in Faith. Seeing is not always believing. We can have Faith for others and not for ourselves. You have to start with, *"Consequently, Faith comes by hearing."* By hearing what? The Word of God and the testimony of God. During Jesus' time the people saw many miracles and still didn't develop Faith. *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"* (Matt. 11:15) We must hear with our ears and then with our hearts.

"Consider those healed in the Bible. They heard that this man is Messiah, the Healer. Then we hear them

develop belief, then Faith, and then they receive. The woman with the issue of blood, the lepers, blind Bartameus, etc., all heard the Good News about the Nazarene - believed and then given the opportunity, released their Faith and received. We must do the same, '**Hear** and be healed.'

"You have to say to yourself, 'I'm going to hear all testimonies till I believe and till I have Faith. I am going to believe Don's healing.' Go talk to people and say, 'I want to know about your healing from deafness and disease.' "

*Student, Sister J:* "Won't that make me envious?"

*Pastor Don:* "Yeah, you've got to be envious, so hungry and so desiring to hear that you will pull yourself up by your Faith boot straps into confession and constant feeding on the Word of Faith - till victory comes. Bury yourself in books and tapes of successful Faith. Do this until you have more Faith than excuses and unbelief. All Christians have some Faith - at least enough Faith to get saved. Faith beyond this must be acquired by extending more hope and believing until more Faith appears."

*Comment from another Student:* "Sometimes, I think God rewards our obedience as well. One example I heard about was a man's son, who is now 17. When he was about 9, the child was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy and they checked his enzyme count, which is the CPK count. And the normal CPK count is 180 - 200. Well, his was 800 and they told him he had a degenerative muscle disease and they wanted to admit him to the muscular dystrophy clinic.

"Well, the father went crazy. The father went to the library and got all these books. Then he thought, 'I have to bring my child up for prayer'. He brought him up for prayer and the elders of the church laid hands on him, but

the father had no Faith. He didn't give it much thought, but he was obedient and he brought him forward. Later, when they rechecked the child he was perfectly normal and he was healed. That was just the father's obedience in bringing him forward and God still honored that even though he didn't meet all the other Faith criteria."

*Pastor Don:* "I bet the elders Faith joined the Faith of the 9 year old and bang! - God showed up. You can hear the father saying, 'Help my unbelief.'

*Student, Sister J:* "Years ago, I remember going over to a church a couple of nights and had this other Pastor anoint me with oil and had him pray for my healing. A couple of people at his church were praying for my healing, nothing happened so, now I don't go up in prayer lines anymore because it doesn't help."

*Pastor Don:* "Yeah, because your unbelief has risen. What do you think about?"

*Student, Sister J:* "I think, 'Why does God heal all these other people and not me?' I say it to myself over and over again."

*Pastor Don:* "So, you're thinking that God heals all these other people and He doesn't heal you?"

*Student, Sister J:* "Yes and this is my other thought. He'll heal me in Heaven. I know that I'll be healed in Heaven, but that doesn't help now. It still makes me feel like the low man on the totem pole. God doesn't really hold me in high esteem, I think because He's not doing something for me that's supernatural and I've been dealing with this since I was three years old."

*Pastor Don:* "You have to reverse your thinking and start believing that God can and will heal you. Listen to your confession: 'Why does God heal all these other people and not me?' You are saying over and over your doubt and

unbelief. Healing in Heaven is a reality but you're pushing your healing afar off rather than bringing it nearer."

*Student, Sister J:* "I believe He can, but I wonder about believing He will. This has really bugged me for a long time."

*Pastor Don:* "It is not God that holds you in low esteem."

*Student, Sister J:* "I'll buy that."

*Pastor Don:* "I really feel that what's in the way is a lie from the pit of hell, that you don't count, that you are worthless, that you don't deserve to be healed. That God can, but for some reason He doesn't "will to". That is one of satan's most effective works and methods. As long as he can keep you and others from being healed, he can keep you from being the mighty warrior for God that God wants you to be."

*Student, Sister J:* "I understand that, but how do I get out of this trap? Do I read the Bible and mutter what you just said, 'By His stripes I am healed', or is there more?"

*Pastor Don:* "Here's what you do:

1.) To begin we must honestly examine and take an inventory of what we really believe and what we hope for and what we say. (For example 'my hope for healing now is weak, but not non-existent. Believing is postponed or misplaced. 'Saying is in need of changing'. Faith in God is clouded by circumstances and bad experiences'.)

2.) Next, a disciple of Christ must get rid of wrong thinking; you need a demolition crew and a new construction company. Now, notice what you say, 'I know I'll be healed in Heaven...God doesn't hold me in high esteem...Nothing supernatural for me.'

3) Know who God is, and what His will is through the Word. God does esteem you; He *died* for you and bore the lash and great disgrace for you. He saved you, and

that's very, very supernatural. God is no respecter of person and wants to do equally for all His children.

4.) Then, relocate yourself after feeding your knowledge and Faith. Occasionally, God will do a sovereign act, but He is bound by His Word to act in response when Faith is present. Therefore, in the past you were in hope, want, or beginning to believe for, but *not yet in Faith* for your healing.

This is a concept I've observed in the body of Christ; we have forgotten that God and His Word are absolute. Because we see "good people" suffer, struggle and not get healed we assume God and His Will are relative - random acts and not just Faith. We hear people say, 'God can heal but it's not His Will to heal all the time'. This statement makes God's healing relative to some hidden formulas we can't know and God's choices totally random. Getting healed is like getting hit with lightning - if you're standing in the right field at the right time, "bang" you're it, if not, then God will be with you in suffering and it's His Will that you suffer on. Sounds cruel to think that way - and it is!

The people that believe the "not His Will to heal all the time" are caught in wrong thinking. The reason - I see "good people" pray earnestly without result - so the theory stands "God's not willing". The error is: God's healing power never was or will be moved by man's works, will power or righteous acts. Mark 11:23-25 "Believe what you say and it shall be yours." James 5:15 "The prayer of Faith will save the sick..." It is the prayer of Faith - knowing it's done and speaking Faith... that makes it yours - our good works are as 'filthy rags' before a 'pure and righteous God'. Salvation (deliverance, healing, sanctification, etc.), and Grace (free gift) of God (Eph. 2:5-10), not by works so no

man can boast. If we think we're a "good Christian", therefore we should be healed, that is wrong thinking and we will not be justified by God, for our pride is in our way. Compared to Jesus we're not "good" at all, (Matt. 19:17) only the Father is good.

So often we look at people and say, "They should be healed, after all they love the Lord and have served Him for 30 years." Why should you be commended for just doing your job? We are required to love and serve the Lord always. There is not one Biblical healing that was based on someone's love of the Lord, but is and was always the Lord's love (compassion and mercy) that brought Him to heal. Love that doesn't result in trust and Faith will not move God to act. Unbelief is unbelief, doubt is not believing, and without Faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6). Numbers 13, (spies went out and came back) a report of unbelief, of doubt, is "evil" in God's eyes. The Pharisees wanted Jesus to do a sign and then they would believe – He said no sign would be given but His resurrection. Well, we've been given a big sign and it reads, *"Start moving from doubt and excuse making to working on and getting to Faith!"*

Heb. 13:8 tells us: *"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever."* There is not one Scripture to even begin to imply that God is not willing to enforce His covenant of healing. No one was turned away with Jesus ever saying "I'm not willing, but I'll be with you in sickness." Mark 6:5,6 says, *"Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief."*

We are all tempted to feel so righteous and sure of our level of supposed kindness to others - "Brother, I know you're hurting and I see your tears and I heard how you

and I prayed, surely if God heals He would have moved for us. Brother, be comforted in the peace of knowing God hears and answers prayer and sometimes He says 'No.'" Well, to me that's not kind, but mean - it says "suffer through and give up believing for your miracle."

Even a crumb from the Masters table was enough for the Syro-Phoenician woman's demon possessed daughter, and the woman with an issue of blood pushed through the crowd and kept saying, "I know I'll be healed." Blind Bartameus cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me." Yet well meaning Pastors and Bible-believing Christians say, "God doesn't do these things anymore and it's beyond our understanding," etc., etc., all well-meaning, but "evil" in its core and end result.

Bad things happen to good people - true - but Faith people don't give up on a good God. Job turned things around by declaring "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Hezekiah turned to the wall and got 15 more years of health. Paul was not sick; (2Cor. Ch.12:7-10) *"And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."* He had a tormenting demon that followed him and stirred up enemies wherever he went, but God's grace was... and still is ... sufficient for Paul and for us. God delivered him out of all of it. Let's read 2 Timothy 3:10,11: *"But you have*

*carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.*” His thorn in the flesh was the torment that the devil put him through as he suffered from stress and mess, not sickness or disease. God’s answer was not “I can’t do anything,” but “My grace is more than enough for you (sufficient) to drive the demon and deliverer from you, so stop stressing and trust My unmerited favor (grace) for this situation. Paul had to recognize that in supernatural things he couldn’t drive out the demon, but through acknowledging his weakness and drawing on the strength (grace) of God the works of the devil could be defeated. Because of the great revelations shown to him, Paul thought he could handle everything himself, but after a while, he begged God three times for help. Well, since Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, who has given this delegated authority to us, we are not effective begging, but are effective in realizing who we are and acting on what Jesus has already done – given us authority to drive out demons and say, “and out of them all the Lord delivered me”; demons, sickness, shipwreck, persecution... out of it all. This still is God’s victorious will for us.

I have cried, prayed and suffered, but when healing doesn’t come I have learned to look for the answer in me, not in God. God is absolute, not relative. He is not moved by excuses or our placing pity and compassion over the laws of Faith to cover failures - obedience to the Word, trust and Faith get results. A study of the great Faith healers shows this. Smith Wigglesworth suffered with gallstones; Kathryn Kuhlman suffered heart trouble. They would often have Faith that God would move for His



people, but often struggled with some problem for themselves. I have experienced this myself.

I struggled once with a small wart. After many weeks I had to accept that I did not have the Faith - went to a doctor and had to have it removed. Yet the second time it appeared a year later my head was in a different place of determination and I was able to get up to where God moved and that wart fell off and has not returned. The failure is not God and He has not changed His Word - He came to destroy the works of the devil.

*\*\* It's hard to tell someone  
they are not at Faith  
when they think they are,  
or that it's not about how good you are;  
but we must tell them.*

The ultimate goal is to keep them moving toward healing. Encourage them to continue hearing the Word till healing comes.

*\*\* Yes, God is with us in suffering,  
but He'd rather be with us in Victory.*

Yes, we'll all be healed in Heaven, but we don't have to get sick to die down here.

A lot of sickness in America is reaping and sowing. Too often we are afraid of telling people the truth - you live unhealthy and until you stop, God will not start to heal you. Americans are too fat and don't exercise. We are lazy in Faith and lazy in health. We pray with people that abuse their bodies and won't tell them God will not heal them because they would instantly destroy the miracle.

I heard a preacher say, "How come I'm way overweight and not once has anyone ever prophesied that I better lose weight?" God knows the heart and the head of

a man - if the flesh is still in control, then it means we are going to 'go and sin some more' and God knows that. It is not His will to deny a healing if Faith is present, even if failure is imminent, because Faith is His promise to us and it will not be denied. The borderline "help thou my unbelief" determines that healing will be delayed, so we can get serious and grow in self-control and ensure long-term success.

I am amazed at how Jesus, if Faith is present, will heal the backsliders and sinners so quickly - God looks on the heart and knows when Faith is there, and that is why He moves. The sinner hears about grace and God's forgiveness, and he is broken and is open to receive. The seasoned saint feels he deserves a healing and will not hunger and thirst for it. Forgiven much is to be given much. Remember the alabaster jar (Luke 7:37). The sinful woman loved much and was forgiven much.

God sees into the heart of the person and knows much that we cannot see. Many people believe *IN* Jesus, but do not believe *ON* Jesus for the supernatural. Many believe Jesus is in the "super" but will not affect the natural except to save. God is limited by the limits of our Faith... "God *can* but He's not willing... God *used* to do that, but now He doesn't... God *could*, but that's too tall an order... God did it for *her*, but He won't for me." These are all unbelief, all doubt, all wrong, all sin. We need to repent of wrong, unfaithful thinking and find the truth, or we will have what we say to our own detriment. Remember these Scriptures:

*"God is no respecter of persons"* (Acts 10:34)

*"He is the same yesterday, today and forevermore"*

(Heb 13:8)

*"God calls those things which are not as though they are"*

(Rom 4:17)

*"All things are possible with God"* (Mark 10:27)

*"All things are possible to them that believe"*

(Mark 9:23)

Remember Jesus rebukes -

*"Why did you doubt?"* (Matt. 14:31)

He (Jesus) knew their thoughts... *"believe and do not doubt."* (Luke 5:22)

To the disciple Jesus said, *"Oh unbelieving faithless generation..."* (Luke 9:41)

*"When I come will I find faith on the earth?"*

(Luke 18:8)

*"Having a form of godliness but denying its power"*  
(2Tim 3:5)

I could go on and on; the teachers of doubt and God's 'shortened will' can not quote Scripture, but can only offer conjecture, human reasoning, and talk of failures they have experienced or seen. *"We prayed, we believed and nothing happened, and we're 'good people', so God must have another plan."* Well, if He has shortened His hand why hasn't He told us? If God stopped after the Apostles, then why didn't they warn us instead of saying in James 5, *"go to the elders, and the prayer of Faith shall raise them up... they will recover."*

Remember - *"all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."* *"There is none righteous."* *"Our works are as filthy rags."* *"By grace, lest any one should boast."* In the book of John *"What must we do to do the work of God... believe on the One He sent."* *"They brought the sick, the lame, the demon possessed, the diseased and He healed them all."*

We are so arrogant that we will not even 'fess up to the fact that we are often *hoping*, often *believing* for (or toward), often *saying* we are in Faith and often we are *not*

in Faith. The masses wanted so badly to hear Jesus that they stayed 3 days with no food. We can't get people to listen 60 minutes to something unless it's entertaining and saying what they want to hear, or fits their tradition. May God forgive us for having accepted a doctrine of demons and the teachings of the world. Many will stand before the Lord and He'll say, 'it was never My will for you to have suffered so; if you had stayed faithful you would have seen My hand move.' Jesus will ask whereby we believed our thoughts more than His Words, especially after He did so much to preserve that Word for us to believe in Him.

Fear, doubt and unbelief are sin. Sin opens the door for satan to come in, and Faith closes the door after it drives satan out. Job was righteous but opened the door through fear (*"that which I feared the worst has come upon me"*). He kept the door open with pride (over 15 Chapters of self-righteous defense). God rebukes him - "Who do you think you are? Where were you when I ..." Job makes the heart adjustment and is delivered. Look at Job's statements of Faith, *"I know my Redeemer lives..."* *"Yet, though He slay me I will trust Him."* Job prayed for his 'friends' (bringers of wrong thinking) and forgave them and was totally healed and restored. "I will forgive and believe until by Faith - I know and I will see God's salvation. No excuses, no quitting, no blaming God, for He sees my heart and when I am in Faith He will move, for that is His will."

If you are a parent think on this - When, as a parent, would it be your will for your child to suffer with illness? I think never, but some people would say only for a little while, after a real stubborn episode, disobedience, or rebellion. For example: you tell the boy to wear a jacket, put on a hat, don't go out with wet hair, go to bed and get

some sleep, eat right or you'll get sick! Then, when the stubborn child gets sick, you smile and say, "See, I told you but you wouldn't listen." Then do we let them die? – No. We do all we can to get them well as soon as possible. Maybe God is sometimes that way also because that is what we need. He allows us to do it our way and get ill for a time. That getting ill was not His work or His will for us, but a consequence of our actions.

The Bible is filled with examples of this from beginning to end - sowing and reaping - all sin is sowing, sowing leads to reaping, reaping should lead to repentance and repentance should lead to God, and God leads us to Faith, and Faith results in deliverance... satan's plan is to hold us in sin and keep us making excuses for the sowing and reaping cycle. If he fails there, he seeks to hold us in repentance, feeling undeserved while stagnating and suffering. Once the believer goes to God with no excuses, on God's terms, with trust and Faith God helps us. Our Faith grows till we accept that at Calvary the price was paid and at the Tomb Victory was given. There is a law of gravity which we don't fight against. There is a law of Faith we must not fight against, but come into agreement with it.

*\*\*If Faith is present*

*the supernatural must appear.*

Bad things happen to good people but that's no reason to give up and stay down. Too often we forget that satan is a bully and an oppressor. God has promised and placed a hedge of protection around us. We remove this protection by committing sin. Yet, whether or not we are hedged in and protected or if, because of our sin, we are temporarily unprotected, we may still come under an attack. In either case we'll not ultimately lose. The faithful

and the faithless all come under attack - "satan seeks whom he may devour." Even our Lord Jesus was tempted, tested, tried and attacked... satan will come after our health, finances, marriages, children, etc., etc., etc. Faith says, "I know I am delivered." And as Job said, "I know my Redeemer lives."

*"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."* Mark 11:25 is so important and usually over- looked, especially by the "good people". We must forgive others to clear the field of debris (trash), and reestablish the hedge of protection. We are hurt or may have hurt others, but hardness of heart makes us blind and reluctant to confess our sin of un-forgiveness. We justify and recount the hurts and excuse our actions and think we've fooled God... "He'll still heal me 'cause I need and deserve it." Sorry, not so. Go get forgiven and go give forgiveness. That's a law, not an optional, relative, random act. Mark 11:25, "...and when you stand praying...". Don't allow any excuse, or any reason, to block the power of God. Find out the problem that's keeping you from completing the absolute directive that Jesus has arranged by the Father.

God's Love and Compassion = His Forgiveness

Our Love and Compassion = our forgiveness, which is required (Mark 11:25)

*\*\* A clear field for Faith is created by forgiveness!*

Our hope sets the stage for belief. Belief, with hope, will generate a confession that leads to a possession scenario.

"Faith comes by hearing, therefore, I speak and confess the Faith I hope for (or at least listen) until Faith comes."

Belief and confession becomes substance as FAITH -

knowing.

God's response to Faith - knowing is Power and Faithfulness (in His timing).

Our response is our Faithfulness and we receive His Power and Faithfulness (in His timing).

*\*\*When Faith is present*

*God will always move,*

*but according to His timing and perfection*

Our Faith causes the manifestation to come and God brings it forth in the perfect season, day and hour. God produces the manifestation in a perfect way, so as to teach and lead us to our best chance to hold on to His blessing.

#### ***How to Get Faith -The Practical Method***

We are the quick fix generation that practices procrastination. This greatly hurts our chances of becoming Faith people. If it takes a long time or a lot of work we quit and chase after the quick fix. The Apostles took a 3-year intensive with Jesus. Paul, 10 years of Holy Spirit teaching, after 20+ years of studying the Books of Moses and the Prophets. Why do we think once a week for less than one hour will do anything? Well, it can build strongholds of doubt and weak theology, if that's all we're doing. We surround ourselves with people that think the way we do - that's why we have so many denominations. A 'like' people doing the things they like in 'comfort zones'; this makes us comfortably unchallenged. Jesus challenged and drove the disciples ever higher.

While in the south a Baptist Preacher said he and his wife very reluctantly went to a "Holy Ghost, laughing, healing meeting." His wife declared, "If any of *that* stuff goes on, I'm leaving!" Well, he said the worship was great and then "it" began to happen, he wanted to stay, but up

and out his wife went. He was still wondering what these meetings were about since he couldn't find Scriptures against them. I told him of some of my experiences and pointed out that God touching His people with joy was better than a good comedy and that supernaturally inner burdens were lifted at these meetings.

We should not let fear or ignorance keep us from seeking the Truth. Paul fought against a move of God that is described in Acts Chapter 2. So much of what we see today does look just like the scenes in the book of Acts. What then should we do?

Be practical, do a study on the "Will" of God. Go to conferences, put in years of faithful study on the work of God. Study good health Bible style. Develop the ability to help others get set free from the work of satan - sickness. Go to where miracles are happening, speak to people that have seen or had God move. Play Faith tapes and read Faith books all the time. Until Jesus comes satan will be making people sick, why wait till you're sick to know what to think or do?

Don't be afraid to examine for yourself God's supernatural processes. Be confident that Jesus' promise is still valid, *"I will never leave nor forsake you."* (Heb. 13:5) ***God is greater than the devil!!!***

One of a disciple's strongest weapons is a testimony of healing and the power to heal. *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."* This is a key to reaching the unsaved and securing the saints. As Jesus told the demoniac in Mark 5:19, *"Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you"*. A demonstration of power is God's way of building the Kingdom.



Read and listen to the great men and women of Faith; read their biographies. Memorize healing and deliverance Scriptures, practice words of Faith in your own life. Prov. 4:20-22: *“My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.”* To attend means to pay attention, that means to listen to, watch, write, memorize, speak, etc., etc.

Have a quiet time for God and self-examination. What do you believe, where are you out of line with God? Seek the counsel of Pastors and Elders; do they see your shortcomings? Have them critique your words, your confession - does it line up with the Word? Do you speak power or is it unbelief? Record what you say on tape or paper. Put positive sayings on the fridge, bathroom, car visor, everywhere you turn, have the Word of God in your face. Avoid negative people, loud people and gossip. Police your mind and arrest any doubt, take thoughts captive and demolish mental strong holds, etc. (See 2Cor. Ch. 10). Pray in Tongues, sing in Tongues, shout in Tongues, think in Tongues.

Faith comes by hearing – so we need to ask what are you listening to? Country music and hard rock music will not build Faith. So control your environment as best you can.

When in a situation where you need Faith, do the following:

- 1) Find out what the Word of God says about your need. What has God promised?
- 2) Find someone alive or in the Bible, that has the victory over the problem or the need.
- 3) Identify, if possible, the sin or generational curse

that may have caused or contributed to your situation and get cleansed, forgive, get healed and forgiven.

4) Determine to be obedient to God's purpose and the Faith process that you're going to live by till the victory comes.

5) Lock in on and memorize a Faith confession (for confession leads to possession).

6) Use all the armor of God, but above all the **shield of Faith** (Eph. 6).

The shield is – Finding where you know you are fully persuaded, convinced, unshakable, unmovable and undefeatable in your Faith. What do you believe without doubting? This is the shield that when you hold it up, the devil's fiery darts are quenched. The devil cannot stand against your shield – get basic, get simple, get truthful, what's in your heart and in your head with power of surety – use it! Use your shield while you confess the Faith that you know needs to be built – This is the winning combination.

7) *"Have Faith in God."* (Mark 11:22) Trust in, rely upon the Lord. God is the source, Faith is the manifestation of His power. *Lord, we worship you.*

### ***Faith, Participation, Compassion, Spiritual Authority***

As we have seen in our Faith section, someone has to be believing for the miracle to take place. At a minimum, Jesus said *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them"* (Matt. 18:20). Therefore, you and the Holy Spirit in Faith are enough to bring Jesus in the midst, and when He shows up, all power is present. So just you and the Holy Spirit are two, and the Holy Spirit's power will also bring the miracle. Occasionally, our sovereign God will do a great

miracle on His own. Most often, though, we need to be active – participate.

Faith is an act. When Faith is present there is an act we can do that releases the Faith. Since Faith is “I know” then it is accompanied by a “since I know I do”. This action releases great power. I have seen this often – Faith to be healed is made manifest by an action that was not previously possible. “Rise and be healed” - as the person moves to stand, the word of Faith turns into power to walk, as they participate in their healing.

Compassion is the love by which Faith works. “*Faith working through love*” (Eph. 5:6). God is love; therefore, God works by Faith. Love hopes the best, desires the best, and Hebrews 11 calls Faith the substance of things hoped for. So compassion causes one to use Faith to change the work of satan into a work of God. Amen.

Spiritual Authority – There is a divine order to the whole universe. Master – servant, Leader – follower, Father – children, Shepherd – sheep. First, second, third, etc. Permission is essential to the divine order of self-willed creatures. We have self-will, but not independent of authority. Spiritual authority is the overriding power in the natural and supernatural realm.

Since God instituted the divine order of spiritual authority He must also be bound by it. Due to rebellion we try to break this bond, only to find the devil and God adhere to it. Therefore, generational curses and hereditary problems and blessings are in effect. Adam rebelled and gave his authority to satan. Christ reestablished this authority in the earth, but only for those that enter into the covenant of Jesus Christ’s Blood. So when we trust and rely on Jesus Christ’s Blood sacrifice, we can come under the spiritual authority of Jesus Christ as Father, and break

any bonds that we or our fathers made with satan. Our Faith, participation, and compassion can work only as we are able to give God permission to operate in our lives. We must relinquish our spiritual authority to Him, as He must recognize and operate within the system He executed. Minor children need their parents to give their permission in the natural and the supernatural. Sick people that do not give their permission for healing rarely get healed. So we see Jesus saying, "Do you want to be healed?" or asking if they wish to participate – "Stretch out your hands", "go to the pool and wash", "take up your mat", etc. These four elements are essential to the work of God – Faith, participation, compassion, and spiritual authority.

#### ***Whose Faith Do We Need?***

The person whom we are hoping to minister to must in part, initiate some action in cooperation with Faith. It's best if they initiate action and move with a desire from their heart to see God move in a miraculous way to help them. When Jesus goes to the pool of Bethesda, the Scripture tells us that there were many there, with many various types of diseases. If we could take a Scriptural journey, we could see Jesus walking around, and even in some cases probably climbing over disabled people who were waiting about the pool for the stirring of the water (John Ch. 5).

The scenario goes thusly; Jesus looks upon a man who was some thirty years disabled and says, "*Do you want to be made well?*" (v.6). In other words He asked him, "Do you desire still, after all these years, to be healed of God?" I assure you that if the man said, "Well, I'm sitting here, nothing's happening, nothing's gonna' happen, I just came here to get a tan..." I assure you Jesus would have walked

over this man and continued looking for someone who had hope and to whom the possible spark of Faith would ignite when He spoke the Word *“Rise, take up your bed and walk!”* (v.8). It must be said that Jesus’ compassion will sometimes heal someone with no Faith – but Jesus had Faith that was ever ready to help and work with other people’s Faith.

Think of the examples where Jesus healed children. In each one of these cases, *the Faith of the parents, the presence of the parents, and the attitude of the parents, is paramount*. We can in no way, and at no time, take a child that is below the age of accountability, or even at the age of accountability, separate them from the parent, and expect that God will recognize our spiritual authority over the child and heal the child, just on our Faith. *This is in error*, as Jesus never moved without dealing with the parents.

*We must recognize that God has placed the parent over the child as a spiritual authority*. Hopefully the parents have a positive Faith concerning the healing of their child. The Holy Spirit recognizes parental Faith, since the child is under the spiritual authority of the parent. Children are usually positively predisposed to healing and having Faith, more so than adults.

Think of these examples:

Mark 5:22,23 and 35-42, the healing of Jairus’ daughter - What did Jesus say? As After He drove out the doubters and the unbelievers who mourned her death, He pulled the mother and the father aside and told them to keep the switch of Faith turned on. Only after addressing them in this manner did He minister to them.

Mark 9:14-27 How about the boy with the evil spirit in him? Jesus addresses the fathers’ Faith. *“How long has this been happening to him?”* (v.21). Then He addresses the

situation more directly. After ascertaining the fact that the child was oppressed of this demon while below the age of accountability, Jesus knew this was an oppressive demon. The Faith of the father is most important at this time. He then addresses the father, "*If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes*"(v.23). The father answers those famous words, "*Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!*" (v.24).

I have seen enthusiastic believers surrounding a small innocent child, praying loudly in tongues, putting their hands all over the child, while the poor child cowers in fear under their grip and their noise, not understanding at all what is going on. While the parents stand off, out of the way, looking on in wonderment as if to say, "What-in-the-world is going on here?" The Bible speaks of "proper" or "decent" and "in order" - and this is not that. Notice the parents aren't in Faith, they are not participating, the people aren't showing compassion, and are ignoring the spiritual authority over the child.

What is the message here? The message is of course, we want to minister, we have compassion, but we must step outside of our personality and address the famous "WWJD?" - What Would Jesus Do? Jesus would minister by the Holy Spirit, according to the guidelines of the Holy Spirit, which are *Faith, participation, compassion and spiritual authority.*

So often I hear Christians say to me, "I heard so-and-so is sick, I'm going to get over there and raise them up" or "I am going to go over there and pray for them and heal them"...so forth and so on. I think to myself this is definitely their personality speaking, for we are all called to go to minister to them according to their need. Unless we have a *direct unction (leading) from the Holy Spirit*, we need to recognize that we cannot impose our will or the

will of God upon anyone, even when it's a good thing like health. Just go visit them, and wait for the unction to move with the Holy Ghost.

*\*\* Always be ready to pray, hope to pray,  
believe God to pray,  
but don't force other people to pray!*

Many sick people have become faithless and shipwrecked by over-zealous – out of time, uninvited, self appointed prayer people. Sometimes just holding a hand, giving a glass of water or a word of encouragement is all the ministry that is needed.

*\*\*Sent ones are **sent**.*

There is not one example of Jesus leaving Bethany and going to Jericho because He heard there were sick people there. The only time we see Him move to heal is when He has been requested to, or when the Holy Spirit is moving Him to do so.

Some examples to look at: Even in the case of a man being totally, totally possessed, Jesus gets out of the boat and the demoniac of the Gadarenes comes to Him. (Mark 5:1-13) Blind Bartamaeus was sitting by the roadside, and at the top of his lungs called out, "*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!*" (Mark 10:47) The leper comes to Jesus and says; "*If you are willing...*" think about this... "*If You are willing, You can make me clean.*" (Mark 1:40)

There are too many examples, I would have to go through each of them, and that is not necessary because if you are reading this or listening to it, you are already a student of the Word and you know that what I speak of is true. Pushy, prideful personalities try to push people to Faith and try to push the Holy Spirit to move. The fruit is damaged by this aggressiveness.

*\*\* Jesus is a gentle Shepherd.  
He leads and sheep follow –  
cattle and cars are driven!  
If you drive sheep  
you will step in a lot of sheep dung.*

So follow the Holy Spirit and lead the sheep. Sheep call out and we must go rescue them, showing them the way back home.

Yes we are called to minister. As we sit by the bedside of the person, we can ask them if they want to be prayed for, or we can wait for the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit says to command, we can command, if not, we are commanding without power, and making a mockery of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Name. For His Name is to be used for our joy, *but only according to the true guidelines of discipleship.* Jesus commands us, *“Love one another.”* (John 13:24) Then – *“abide in Him,”* then – *“ask what you will and He will do it for you”* (John Chapters 13 and 14).

The key is to abide – to be in close union with the Lord. We cannot ask outside of the will of the Lord if we are abiding in Him. When we ask then it is in accordance with His will and we yield to accept His timing.

So often I see people have a desire and a hope for someone to receive a healing, but upon pulling back and watching carefully, what I really see is that they have a desire to be able to brag about what God did through them. It looks and sounds like this: *“Hey you, come here so I can show you what God will do through me, and ain’t I wonderful?”*

Jesus’ greatest, most miraculously reported healings occur in a one-to-one or a one-to-two or three people, in privacy. He pulls them aside, not making a show of the



Holy Spirit, nor making a show of Himself. He pulls Himself aside that He may hear from the Holy Spirit what methods and techniques are to be used. Is this a time for spittle? Is this the time for the rubbing of mud and clay? Is this a time of just the touching? Is this a time for the use of water? Or is it time for just a command? My goodness, can't we see that Jesus ministers *only* under the unction of the Holy Spirit? No method that we can manufacture, no timing, enthusiasm, or approach that emanates from our personality will get the job done. *The mind and personality of the human is an enemy to the disciple*, unless we are under the control of, and yielded to, the Holy Spirit. Let us cooperate with the Holy Spirit, abiding in the Lord. Our Faith directed by God will bring great results. With each victory our Faith will grow into more areas and cover different situations. My heart's desire is to hear Jesus say, "Oh ye of great Faith, no sickness, no condition, no problem, no demon, no mountain seemed too great for you!" After all, in John 14:12 Jesus said to believers "...the works that I do he will do also, and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father." This greater is quantitative not qualitative. There is nothing of greater quality than raising the dead, opening deaf ears or giving sight to those born blind, but there are many more disciples so we can do a greater quantity.

*"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"* (Numbers 23:19). So we see the burden is upon us to build Faith, have Faith, and act upon that Faith. We lie to say "we have Faith and God doesn't do miracles anymore". Whether we call ourselves hoping, believing, or in Faith, it matters little except to aid our understanding.

The end result promised to us is that if Faith is present  
things must change.