

**PRE-MINISTERIAL AND CHRISTIAN WORKERS
BIBLE COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES**

COURSE NUMBER THREE:

HOW TO HAVE GOD'S FAITH

PREPARED BY

A. A. ALLEN

CONTENTS

Lesson One: Is Your Faith a Finished Product?	3
Lesson Two: You Must Have the Faith That God Gives	13
Lesson Three: Hindrances to Faith	21
Lesson Four: Victorious Faith - the Old Testament	36
Lesson Five: Victorious Faith - the New Testament	48
Lesson Six: How to Take the Answer From God	58
Lesson Seven: Living By Faith	70

LESSON ONE

IS YOUR FAITH A FINISHED PRODUCT?

INTRODUCTION

If you can have faith for the miracle-working power of God in your life and ministry, God can, and He will use you to perform the miraculous.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

True faith is of the heart:

“... if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

Jesus is the “author” and the “finisher” of our faith. In Jesus we live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17:28) so we should keep our eyes fastened upon Him, laying aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us, and run with patience the race that is set before us. (Hebrews 12:1)

If you ever have a supernatural ministry you are going to have to **KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS**. You will have to keep your life and heart pure and clean. It is natural to sin, but it is supernatural to live Godly.

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)

“... ye shall be holy; for I am holy; ...” (Leviticus 11:44)

The continuous cry of our hearts should be, “Lord, increase our faith.” **IF WE WILL PAY THE PRICE GOD REQUIRES OF US, HE WILL INCREASE OUR FAITH.**

IS YOUR FAITH A FINISHED PRODUCT?

Are you enjoying **ALL** God has provided for you?

Do you want more **SUPERNATURAL** blessing?

Let Christ be the “Finisher of your faith!”

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith ...” (Hebrews 12:1-2a)

You are in a race. You must make a perfect score. You will never win this race by quitting when you are half through. Seventy-five per cent isn't enough. Ninety-nine and one-half per cent isn't enough. You are going to have to run all the way if you come through shouting the victory.

YOU MUST KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS! He is the **AUTHOR** and the **FINISHER** of your faith.

The disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee in a ship, and in the fourth watch of the night, Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “... It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.” (Matthew 14:26b) Jesus spoke to them, saying, “... Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.” (Matthew 14:27b) Peter spoke to Jesus and told Him to bid him, Peter, to come unto Jesus on the water if he was really Jesus. Jesus told Peter to come to Him. When Peter came down out of the ship, he walked on the water to go to Jesus, but when he saw the wind was boisterous, “... he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.” (Matthew 14:30b)

Like Peter, as soon as you take your eyes off Jesus, you are going to begin to sink, but if you keep your eyes on Him, you will make it through. As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he was doing the thing that, in the natural, is impossible to do. **HE WAS DOING AN UNNATURAL THING!** When a natural man does something contrary to all the laws of nature, **THAT IS A MIRACLE!**

We are natural, but the supernatural, miracle working power of God can enable us to do supernatural things through its operation. Keep looking to Jesus, the **AUTHOR** and **FINISHER** of your faith.

In the last course of this series of studies, I am sharing with you my experience of receiving **GOD'S MIRACLE WORKING POWER** in my life and ministry. With it, a sincere prayer in my heart for each of you - that you will be inspired to pay the price God requires you to pay in order to have His **MIRACLE WORKING POWER FLOWING FREELY THROUGH YOUR LIFE AND MINISTRY**. There **IS A PRICE TO PAY**, and in the course, “**GO YE!**” - **EVERY BELIEVER AND EXHORTER AND ABLE MINISTER**, I have put forth a special effort to open my heart to all of you and share with you the secret of getting God's power into your own hearts and lives. The harvest is ready - the golden sheaves are falling - I can't gather in the whitened harvest alone - recruits are sorely needed if the job gets done before “... the night cometh, when no man can work.” (John 9:4b)

It is not a natural thing for a man to get a new lung after his lung has been removed by surgery - or to receive new eyes after his first eyes have been removed - or to suddenly rise and walk after having been confined to a wheel chair for twenty years. It is not natural, when a man is dying a natural death, for God to touch him and raise him up;

BUT THESE THINGS ARE TAKING PLACE IN MY MEETINGS AROUND THE WORLD. Preacher, Layman, if the power of God ever works in your life and ministry, YOU WILL PAY THE PRICE TO GET IT JUST AS I DID, AND AS OTHERS HAVE PAID THE PRICE TO GET IT! MAKE UP YOUR MIND TO FAST AND PRAY UNTIL YOU HEAR FROM HEAVEN-THEN PAY THE PRICE GOD ASKS YOU TO PAY FOR HIS POWER TO FLOW FREELY THROUGH YOU!

These miracles take more than natural faith. **THERE IS MORE THAN ONE KIND OF FAITH!** There is what you might call “natural faith,” based upon sight and experience, or a natural hope. Then, there is “supernatural faith”, that comes directly from God. You can get that kind of faith from God, for He is **THE AUTHOR AND THE FINISHER OF YOUR FAITH!** Remember - **YOU CAN LOSE THIS FAITH UNLESS YOU LET HIM BE THE FINISHER!** If you accomplish the things God is expecting you to do, **YOU WILL HAVE TO HAVE SUPERNATURAL FAITH IN ORDER TO WALK IN A SUPERNATURAL REALM!**

As long as Peter kept his supernatural faith, and kept looking to Jesus, **HE DID A SUPERNATURAL THING AS HE WALKED ON WATER!** You may say these things were only done in Bible days - **WE ARE STILL LIVING IN BIBLE DAYS.** We are serving the same God. The Bible tells us He is “... the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8b. God never changes - what God has done, He can do again, and will do in the future. Peter was just a man, subject to the same temptations, the same doubts and fears, the same passions as you are. He was a natural man; yet he was doing a supernatural thing!

God will give you supernatural faith. He will enable you to do what the natural man can never do, **AS LONG AS YOU KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS AND PAY THE PRICE GOD ASKS YOU TO PAY TO GET HIS FAITH! KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS, AND YOU WILL NEVER SINK! YOU WILL NEVER GO DOWN! YOUR FAITH WILL HOLD YOU UP!**

If you ever have a supernatural ministry - a ministry of the miraculous, you are going to have to keep your eyes on Jesus.

It is natural for people to talk. Men can “preach” without even a touch of the supernatural being manifested in his ministry, but it takes the **POWER OF GOD TO DO MIRACLES!** If you ever have a supernatural ministry - able to heal the sick, perform miracles, cast out devils, and break the yokes of bondage that bind the people - and then take your eyes off Jesus, **YOU WILL BEGIN TO SINK JUST AS PETER DID.** He cried, “... Lord, save me.” (Matthew 14:30b) Should you ever begin to sink, may God give you enough grace to make a comeback - Satan will **NEVER** let you alone - he will destroy you if he can do so - may you have the grace to reach up and find Jesus again, and get your eyes back on Him. As surely as you do, He will lift you out of the waters.

Have you ever felt the waters of defeat folding in around you, when you didn't know which way to turn or what to do?

Of course you might try swimming - doing the best you can in your own weak, natural way. But as you look you can see it is a long way to shore and the waters are stormy, and you are far short of having done what you set out to do - of doing what Jesus did! It would have been better to have “stayed in the boat”, like the rest who never reached out for a supernatural ministry, than to be out there in the water without the power of God for a miracle!

You don't have to “sink or swim.” You can LOOK UNTO JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF YOUR FAITH!

Jesus is the one who started your faith. You couldn't even have faith enough for your salvation all by yourself. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” (Ephesians 2:8) God started your faith, and what He started, He will finish - IF YOU WILL ALLOW HIM TO DO SO!

Lay aside every sin, every hindrance, and run the race with patience. “... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” (Hebrews 12:1b)

If you confess that you have little faith, or no faith, you are really confessing that you are not pleasing God, for the Word says, “... without faith it is impossible to please him: ...” (Hebrews 11:6a)

I believe every one of us ought to have enough faith, so that when the table is set, the fatted calf has been roasted just right, and the Father has asked us to sit down and partake to the full of all the good things of God, WE SHOULD SIT DOWN AND EAT. There is something wrong with us if we do not sit down at God's table and partake of the good things of God.

We can partake of the things God has set before us and bring honour to His Name, or we can be like the brother of the prodigal son, who refused to come in to the feast his father had prepared for his brother to celebrate his “being found again.” He told his father he had stayed at home and worked hard, kept his father's commandments, feared his laws, and had not wasted his substance in riotous living, while his brother had been away all this time, spending all he had in riotous living. Now, the brother is home, and his father has killed the fatted calf for him, but had never even killed a kid for him so that he could make merry with his friends. SO HE JUST WOULD NOT GO IN TO THE FEAST.

This son who refused to sit down at his father's table missed the blessing he could have had. Even though the father entreated him to come in, he angrily refused. He acted like one of these self-righteous, “holier-than-thou”, super-religious persons, who has never strayed away from God.

The prodigal son repented of his wayward-living and confessed his sins to his father - “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.” (Luke 15:21b) The father told his servants to bring the best robe and put it on him, and to put a ring on his finger, and shoes on his feet.

“And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found ...” (Luke 15:23-24a)

The prodigal son truly repented, accepted his father’s forgiveness for his sins, sat down at the table, and again got the blessing in his soul.

COME ON, PREACHERS! The “fatted calf” is on the main table in the dining room. THE MERRY-MAKING IS ON! COME ON AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS - THERE IS ENOUGH FOR ALL OF YOU! Get every sin out of your life, get God’s forgiveness, sit down at His table with rejoicing, partake to the uttermost of the good things He has prepared for you, then go forth in the strength thereof to do mighty exploits for God!

The one that is going to hell is that one who will not come in and sit down at the table with his repentant brother. A prodigal, even after having been deeply in sin but who has thoroughly repented, will stand a better chance of getting to heaven than will that deeply religious, highly respected fellow, whose heart is full of sin because there is no love in his heart and no fellowship in his spirit.

The world is full of religious people who are not putting their feet under the Father’s table. They are so-called “believers”, but they are not eating, because the Father has set only ONE table and they won’t have fellowship with those at the table. God is preparing only ONE heaven for all of us. If you refuse to sit at the ONE table He has set, you will not be prepared for heaven - YOU ARE GOING TO MISS HEAVEN. You are hurting yourself. You will never get anything from God. Move in and let God prepare you to do the work He wants you to do here on earth.

Sit down at the Father’s table and start eating - don’t be looking around to see who is sitting across the table from you - IF YOU LOOK AT ANY ONE, LOOK AT JESUS! With every bite you take you will lose some more of your pride and begin to enjoy more and more the rich fellowship of God’s children who are eating there at the Father’s table with you.

Do not try to pick out what you want to eat - EAT EVERYTHING GOD GIVES YOU TO EAT - LET HIM FILL YOUR PLATE. If God selects the food you should have, it will make you strong to run in the race. You will have the endurance He knows you need to run with patience the race that He has set before you. Eat what He gives you to eat - keep your eyes fastened on Him - AND LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS TO YOU - THEN OBEY HIM AND DO IT! In 1 Samuel 15:22, we read, “... Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice ...”

“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it ...” (Isaiah 35:8a)

You can’t run on that highway unless your life and your heart are clean.

It is natural to sin, but it is supernatural to live Godly.

It is natural to be afraid, when things look like they are going wrong, or when things are different from what is naturally expected. It is supernatural to have such abiding trust in God that there is no fear. The only way to have this abiding trust in God IS TO HAVE PERFECT LOVE FOR GOD.

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” (1 John 4:18)

It is not even an unnatural thing to hesitate, lose faith, and become fearful after you have already started experiencing the supernatural in your life. However, having already started out, if you then start looking at the storm - thinking about the water being so deep and tempestuous - reasoning about how unnatural it is for you to walk upon the turbulent water - YOUR EYES ARE OFF JESUS, AND YOU WILL BEGIN TO SINK!

Christ is the author of your faith. He has started you on the road of faith. Everything you have had from Him HAS BEEN BY FAITH. Everything you have ever done as a Christian has been done by faith. Perhaps you have started well, but if you are to know Him as the FINISHER of your faith, you are going to have to walk with Him DAILY, and not only TALK TO HIM BUT LET HIM TALK TO YOU. Lay aside the sins that so easily beset you, AND LIVE IN PERFECT OBEDIENCE TO HIM.

“... ye shall be holy; for I am holy; ...” (Leviticus 11:44)

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)

If you would win in the race set before you, YOU MUST BE HOLY. This is what it is going to take to win the race. It is good to start out with Christ as the author of your faith, but you will not win the prize until your faith is a FINISHED PRODUCT.

(The foregoing is a chapter taken from one of my books, MIRACLE SERMONS, Series Number 2.)

ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF FAITH

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

“Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)

Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, had remarked to the other disciples that he would not believe they had seen Jesus alive again unless he saw “... in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.” (John 20:25)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

“All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.” (John 1:3)

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

“... think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3b)

God has dealt to every man a measure of faith. We have only to look about us at the trees, grass, animals, and people in order to know that there has to be a creator. Then, we know that there was a creator in the beginning-trees come from trees, grass comes from grass, animals give birth to animals, and children are born into the world. BUT THERE HAD TO BE A BEGINNING OF ALL THESE THINGS, and it isn't difficult for us to believe that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1) It isn't difficult to believe that all things were made by God (John 1:3), and we believe the Word was made flesh and dwelt on earth as a man. (John 1:14) These things we readily believe, BUT WE NEED TO HAVE OUR FAITH INCREASED!

“And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.” (Luke 17:5)

As Christians, our faith should keep increasing. As we keep our feet under the Father's table, eating the food He sets before us, listening to what He says to us, and keep obeying Him, HE WILL GIVE US HIS FAITH IN AN EVER INCREASING AMOUNT!

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: ... these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” (John 20:30-31)

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.” (John 17:20)

“And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.” (Acts 15:7)

We are told in Romans 10:17 that faith cometh by hearing the word of God. Our faith is increased as we read the written testimonies of Christ's disciples. Jesus said, “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their (disciples') word.” (John 17:20) In Acts 15:7 we are told that our faith is increased by hearing the gospel.

“... thy faith hath made thee whole; ...” (Mark 5:34)

“... According to your faith be it unto you.” (Matthew 9:29b)

“... as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee ...” (Matthew 8:13)

“... let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed ... let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.” (James 1:6-7)

A certain woman (Mark 5:25-34) had an issue of blood twelve years. This woman had suffered many things of many physicians, had spent all she had, but instead of getting better, she grew worse. When she heard of Jesus, she felt if she could only touch his clothes she would be made whole. She pressed through the throng of people around Jesus and managed just to touch His garment, and was immediately made whole. **HER FAITH HAD MADE HER WHOLE!** Jesus said, “... Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.” (Mark 5:34)

At another time (Matthew 9:27), two blind men came to Jesus for healing. He touched their eyes and they were opened. As Jesus touched their eyes He said, “... According to your faith be it unto you.” (Matthew 9:29b) Their faith, in cooperation with the power of God through Jesus Christ, brought their healing.

In Capernaum, a centurion came to Jesus beseeching Him to heal his servant who was sick with palsy and tormented. Jesus offered to go with the centurion and heal the servant, but the centurion said, “... Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant will be healed.” (Matthew 8:8) Jesus marvelled at this man’s faith, and said, “...I have not found so great faith, ... in Israel.” (Matthew 8:10) He told the centurion that as he believed it would be done unto him. The servant was healed in the same hour.

All the promises of God are conditioned upon faith. **THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO RECEIVE ANYTHING FROM GOD!** James states this fact in the plainest possible language. “Let him **ASK IN FAITH, NOTHING WAVERING.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed... let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.” (James 1:6-7)

Faith is an absolute necessity before one can receive anything from the Lord.

Many have a mistaken idea today, that since many are exercising the gifts of healing and miracles, all that is needed is to get into one of these meetings where the gifts are being exercised, and that they will be healed, without necessity of faith on their part. They think that the gift of healing will take the place of their own faith in God. This is unscriptural! The gift of healing **WILL NOT** take the place of your own faith in God.

There is no doubt that Christ exercised **ALL** the gifts of the Spirit, including healings and miracles. Yet, when He went to Nazareth, “... he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. ... he marvelled because of their unbelief ... he went round about the villages, teaching.” (Mark 6:5-6)

Paul met a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet. Steadfastly beholding him, and

perceiving that the man had faith to be healed, Paul said with a loud voice, "... Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked." (Acts 14:10)

When Jesus healed the woman of Mark 5:25-34, he said, "Thy faith hath made thee whole." To the blind men who came to Him for healing in Matthew 9:29b, He said, "According to your faith so be it done unto you." Paul perceived that the impotent man had faith for his healing, and he spoke the word and the man was healed.

Student, pay the price to have God's faith - be sure your faith is increasing. How marvelous a privilege it is today to be able to attend meetings where God's anointed preachers are bringing deliverance in the name of Jesus, **BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO BRING DELIVERANCE TO THE PEOPLE? ARE YOU PAYING THE PRICE TO BE A DELIVERANCE PREACHER?**

If Jesus conducted deliverance meetings today, He would no doubt say to people as in the days of old, **"THY FAITH HATH MADE THEE WHOLE!"** Many confess that they do not have much faith and wonder if it isn't possible for them to be healed through the faith of some other person. I have had many people tell me they have no faith and want to know if they can be healed through my faith.

The Scripture states that, "... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," (James 5:16b) but **GOD'S GUARANTEE** is to those who themselves have faith! If a person received healing without having faith himself, it would certainly be an exception and not the rule laid down in God's Word.

A person might be healed through another's faith, **BUT HOW WOULD THAT PERSON KEEP HIS HEALING?** Faith is necessary, not only to receive healing, but to retain that healing, for Satan is not easily defeated. Almost without exception, when a person is healed, he will immediately be attacked by Satan, in an attempt to snatch from him the gift God has given. Student, learn this well - **IF A PERSON DEPENDED UPON YOUR FAITH FOR HEALING, SATAN WOULD ONLY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE NOT PRESENT TO FIND THAT FAITHLESS PERSON UTTERLY DEFENSELESS, AND TAKE THAT HEALING FROM HIM!** This is the reason many are suffering from diseases from which they had once been healed.

Whether you are a pastor or an evangelist, **REMEMBER IT IS IMPORTANT TO TEACH THE PEOPLE HOW TO KEEP THEIR HEALING.** If they lose it, they become discouraged and even doubt that they were healed. This might even cause **YOU** to doubt their healing.

(**ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF FAITH**, is a chapter taken from my book, **GOD'S GUARANTEE TO HEAL YOU.**)

Student, pay the price God requires you to pay to have His faith, and you **WILL** have the miracle-working power of God in your life and ministry. If you will pay the price God **WILL** give you His faith - **WITH GOD'S FAITH GOD'S POWER WILL FLOW THROUGH YOUR LIFE TO BRING DELIVERANCE TO THE PEOPLE AND TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE - GOD CAN AND WILL USE YOU TO DO THE MIRACULOUS.**

REMEMBER - GOD IS NOT ONLY THE AUTHOR OF YOUR FAITH, BUT HE IS THE FINISHER OF YOUR FAITH AS WELL. THERE IS NO PLACE TO STOP IN THIS RACE WHICH HAS BEEN SET BEFORE YOU. THE PRIZE IS AT THE END OF THE RACE - KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS FOR HE HOLDS THE PRIZE. IN JESUS WE LIVE, AND MOVE, AND HAVE OUR BEING. SATAN WILL ALWAYS BE ON HAND TO WEIGHT YOU DOWN WITH SIN, BUT THROW THESE WEIGHTS OFF AND KEEP RUNNING FOR JESUS.

RECOMMENDED MEMORY WORK FOR THIS LESSON

Hebrews 12:1, 21

John 9:4

Isaiah 35:8

1 Samuel 15:22

John 4:18

Hebrews 12:14

Hebrews 11:1

John 20:29

Romans 10:17

James 1:6-7

LESSON TWO

YOU MUST HAVE THE FAITH THAT GOD GIVES

INTRODUCTION

The Apostle John declares, "... if our hearts condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." (1 John 3:21)

We are told in Romans that faith cometh by hearing the Word of God.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

Having been planted in the heart through the Word, faith must be watered and nourished through a genuine love for God.

"... perfect love casteth out fear ..." (1 John 4:18)

FEAR IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF FAITH! FEAR IS THE MURDERER OF FAITH! THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE! YOU CAN NOT HAVE FAITH IF YOU DO NOT LOVE GOD! If you love God you will keep His commandments.

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself unto him. ... If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:21, 23b)

Love is manifested by obedience. Disobedience to the known will of God is poison to faith. Real, living, vital faith is impossible to those who are living in disobedience to God's commandments.

"... to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22b)

REAL FAITH IS SIMPLY TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD.

YOU MUST HAVE THE FAITH THAT GOD GIVES.

There are thousands of promises in God's Word, **BUT EVERY ONE OF THEM IS CONDITIONED UPON FAITH!** This is the faith that God gives, **AND YOU CAN HAVE THIS FAITH!**

On His way from Bethany one day, Jesus cursed a fig tree because it bore no fruit. He was hungry, and seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, "... he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of the figs was not yet ... No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever ..." (Mark 11:13-14) Although it was not immediately apparent, a miracle had been performed. Faith had been exercised. The following morning, the disciples again saw the fig tree, but it was dried up at the roots. Peter spoke in amazement at finding the tree withered.

Jesus answered him, "... Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith." (Mark 11:22b-23) The same faith Christ exercised in this passage of Scripture can be yours. Just as He told the disciples, **HE IS TELLING YOU - YOU CAN HAVE THE FAITH OF GOD! THIS IS LITERALLY THE FAITH THAT GOD GIVES!**

God gives faith to every person who wants it enough to pay the price He requires. **THE PRICE IS WALKING IN THE FULL LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES - FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS-HE REQUIRES OBEDIENCE, GODLINESS, AND HOLINESS. THERE MUST BE FREEDOM FROM CONDEMNATION!**

"... if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." (1 John 3:21)

No matter how trustworthy an acquaintance may be, we can never feel entirely sure that he merits complete confidence until we are thoroughly acquainted with him. This is the reason many people fail to trust God. We become acquainted with God **BY WALKING WITH HIM DAILY, AND BY READING HIS WORD.** "... faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

When you read God's Word, read it as you would a letter from a trusted friend. Consider it the **FINAL AUTHORITY!** Turn resolutely away from those books and conversations that question the truth of God's Word.

Jesus accuses a religious group in His day of "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition ..." (Mark 7:13a), and "... teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Mark 7:7b) Many preachers today set at naught the promises of God, basing their teachings upon the things that they have observed around them, rather than upon the Word of God. **FAITH CAN ONLY BE BUILT UPON THE POWER AND SUCCESS OF THE WORD OF GOD - NEVER UPON OUR OWN OR ANOTHER'S WEAKNESSES AND FAILURES.**

Having been planted in the heart through the Word, faith must be watered and nourished through a genuine love of God. "...perfect love casteth out fear ..." (1 John 4:18) **FEAR IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF FAITH! Fear is the murderer of faith, THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE! YOU CAN NOT HAVE FAITH IF YOU DO NOT LOVE GOD!**

If you love God you will keep His commandments. "If ye love me, keep my commandments. ... He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself unto him. ... If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:15, 21, 23)

The reason many do not have faith is because "... faith ... worketh by love ..." and they **DO NOT HAVE LOVE! LOVE IS MANIFESTED BY OBEDIENCE!**

Disobedience to the known will of God IS POISON TO FAITH! A lack of desiring to learn the will of God will bring the same results - IF YOU LOVE HIM YOU WILL BE CONCERNED ABOUT KNOWING HIS WILL FOR YOUR LIFE!

The greatest hindrance to faith today is DISOBEDIENCE. John says, “Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” (1 John 3:21-22)

Real living, vital faith is impossible to those who are living in disobedience to God’s commandments, and who are out of harmony with the personality and the Spirit of God.

Many people today who profess to be Christians are living constantly under condemnation for sin and disobedience to the known will of God, and to His Word. Such a person can never have real faith, the faith that God gives, until he has repented of his sins and turned his back upon them. Only when this is done will condemnation leave. Only then will he have a clear conscience toward God, which brings perfect confidence - perfect faith.

The confidence of some may be destroyed because of living in the condemnation that light (the light of the Scriptures concerning the Baptism of the Holy Ghost) is come into the world, and they have not walked into that light. They know that they should have this glorious experience, but have not met the conditions to receive it.

“... Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? ...” (Acts 19:2)

This is not an unfair question to a Christian. Paul asked this question of a group of twelve believers at Ephesus. It is an experience that every Christian should have; not only because God commanded it, but because the Christian needs it, and that he may be ready to receive power to work and witness for his Lord.

In the New Testament Church every member was filled with the Holy Ghost. All Christian individuals and groups spoken of through the New Testament were baptised with the Holy Ghost, as a separate and different experience from conversion, and coming after conversion. The disciples of Jesus were all saved, inasmuch as Christ had commissioned them to preach the Gospel and to heal the sick, and had given them power and authority over devils.

“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases, And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.” (Luke 9:1-2)

“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you: but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:20)

Having their names written in heaven is another evidence that the disciples were saved. Yet, Jesus, “... commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly

baptised with water; but ye shall be baptised with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” (Acts 1:4-5)

“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

This is not only a commandment for those few people in days gone by, but for Christians who have lived since those days, for Christians who are living now, and for those who will live in the future days. After Peter had been filled with the Holy Ghost, while preaching his first Holy Ghost sermon, he said, “... Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” (Acts 2:38-39)

Many consider the Baptism of the Holy Ghost a mere privilege, instead of a direct command, for Paul said, “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess: but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18)

Since this is a command, God expects us to obey Him. If we have come into the light of God’s truth we are expected to walk in that truth; failure to do so brings condemnation.

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” (John 3:19)

Many people are living more or less under condemnation because they have not made a consecration of full obedience, that they might receive this glorious experience, **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST.**

Those who have been obedient **HAVE RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST.**

“And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.” (Acts 5:32)

If you have not been filled with the Holy Ghost, it is evident, from this verse, that you have not yet been fully obedient. You have been disobedient, and disobedience is sin. Sin brings condemnation. **CONDEMNATION DESTROYS FAITH!**

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7)

One must abide in Christ before he is in position to exercise real faith, **BEFORE HE CAN RECEIVE THE FAITH THAT GOD GIVES. GOD DOES NOT GIVE FAITH TO PEOPLE WHO A RIDE NOT IN HIM.** The blessings of God are for those who serve God and put Him first in their lives. **ONE MUST ABIDE IN CHRIST BEFORE FAITH CAN ACTUALLY BE EXERCISED!**

Now, let us look into God’s Word for the definition of “abiding in Christ.”

“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” (1 John 2:6)

If we profess to abide in Him, **WE SHOULD BE WALKING AS HE WALKED!** If you are not walking as Christ walked, **YOU ARE NOT ABIDING IN HIM.**

IT IS NO WONDER YOU HAVE NO FAITH!

YOUR SIN AND DISOBEDIENCE HAVE DESTROYED YOUR FAITH!

You can never be on real faith-ground until you abide in Christ, and walk as He walked. This is not only possible - **IT IS GOD’S COMMAND!**

“... Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin ...” (1 Peter 2:21-22)

“... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8) He resisted the devil and temptation, although He was “... in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15) He is our example, and He stands ready to help us to walk as He walked - **IN HIS STEPS!**

“Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.” (1 John 3:6)

God is no respecter of persons-**YOU MAY HAVE GOD’S FAITH, BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE FOR IT - THE PRICE FOR GOD’S FAITH IS OBEDIENCE AND HOLINESS! FAITH IS NOT AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT HOLY!**

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)

“... Be ye holy; for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:16)

“Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.” (1 Corinthians 15:34)

People who are finding excuse for their habitual sin, according to this verse, do not have the knowledge of God. **THIS IS A SHAME!** It is evident that such professed Christians do not read their Bibles.

After Jesus had healed a man, He found him in the temple, and said, “Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.” (John 5:14b)

To the woman of Samaria, Christ Himself said, “... Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” (John 8:11)

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not ...” (1 John 2:1)

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid.” (Romans 6:1-2a)

There is more than one reason for lack of faith, but the main reason is lack of holiness.

Another main reason for the lack of faith is the neglect of Bible study.

It is no wonder that faith is so low in the hearts of so many. The price of faith has been established. **IT HAS BEEN SET BY GOD HIMSELF!** The price is to **LOVE GOD, READ HIS WORD, OBEY HIS COMMANDS, AND BELIEVE HIS PROMISES!** God has enabled man to pay this price for faith. The same Christ who saves from sin will keep those who desire to be kept by His mighty power.

“But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.” (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy ...” (Jude 24)

God has not only commanded that we abide in Him, but has made it possible by giving His children power to resist the devil in temptation.

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Those who have a real desire to please God, and pray and read their Bibles are attaining holiness. These are the people who are shouting the victory over the power of the enemy - **GOD HAS GIVEN THEM FAITH!**

Faith is listed as one of the nine spiritual gifts, “To another faith by the same Spirit ...” (1 Corinthians 12:9) The faith mentioned here is a gift of the Spirit, **GIVEN BY THE SPIRIT.** The church is admonished to covet earnestly the best gifts.

“But covet earnestly the best gifts ...” (1 Corinthians 12:31)

“... without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Without faith to accept Christ as one’s personal Saviour, the benefits of Calvary could never be claimed ... Jesus paid the full penalty for our sins when He gave His life to redeem us. **THE PRECIOUS BLOOD SPILLED ON GOLGOTHA’S BROW THAT DAY FROM THE BODY OF JESUS CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN WHEN WE, BY FAITH, APPROPRIATE THESE BENEFITS FOR OURSELVES.**

There are two common errors in the minds of people about faith. Some people say they have no faith. This is not true, for the Bible says that every man has faith. “... according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3)

There are other people who come through our healing lines saying, "I have all the faith in the world." This is not true. If they had faith in such proportions they would not need to be in a prayer line, but would probably be conducting healing campaigns of their own.

All Christians have a certain amount of faith. It is impossible to get saved without faith, so if you are a Christian, **YOU HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FAITH.** At the moment of salvation, faith begins to grow, as a fruit grows on a tree or a vine, for faith is a fruit of the Spirit as well as a spiritual gift.

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

As some trees in an orchard produce very little fruit, or perhaps fruit of poor quality, so some Christians seem to produce very little of the fruit of the Spirit. Natural fruit must first bud, then grow and develop. Just as natural fruit buds, grows and develops, the fruit of faith must be properly nourished.

If you are going to have the faith of the Son of God, you must constantly abide in the Vine (Jesus).

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch can not bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." (John 15:1-10, 12-14)

Faith is used as a defensive weapon of Christian warfare. If we fail to exercise faith against our adversary, Satan, he comes in like a flood and we become overwhelmed by his onslaughts. **BUT, IF WE ARE ABIDING IN AND HIS WORD IS ABIDING IN US, GOD'S FAITH IS FLOWING FREELY THROUGH OUR LIVES. WE ARE TRUSTING SO COMPLETELY IN GOD THAT WE CAN BELIEVE EASILY FOR GREAT VICTORIES.**

Since faith cometh by hearing the Word of God, the Christian should read the Word often, memorising many of God's promises, **THEN STAND ON THOSE PROMISES, QUOTING THEM AGAIN AND AGAIN.**

Faith must be built upon the Word of God, AND ONLY UPON THE WORD OF GOD! The more of God's Word you have hidden in your heart, the easier it is to believe, or to exercise faith in His Word. Base your faith upon the Word of God exclusively - DON'T TALK IN TERMS OF WHAT YOU MAY OR MAY NOT FEEL. People who gauge their healing by their feeling, never credit anything to God's Word. The person who accepts God's Word as true in his own case, whether the results are visible or not, or whether he can feel the results or not, WILL SOON SEE AND FEEL THE RESULTS, FOR THIS IS THE FAITH THAT GOD GIVES. REAL FAITH IS SIMPLY TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD!

RECOMMENDED MEMORY WORK FOR THIS LESSON

1 John 3:21

* Romans 10:17

* 1 John 4:18

John 14:21

Jude 24

John 14:23

* 1 Samuel 15:22

Acts 5:32

John 15:7

1 Corinthians 10:13

1 John 2:6

1 Peter 2:21-22

1 John 3:6

* Hebrews 12:14

(* Verses memorised in Lesson One.)

LESSON THREE

HINDRANCES TO FAITH

INTRODUCTION

There are many hindrances to faith, but when you are tempted, or a delay has come, stand still and wait upon God - HE HAS PROMISED TO DELIVER YOU, AND TO ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS.

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

The quickest and most effective way to hurt a mother or father here on earth, is to hurt one of their children. God is our heavenly Father, so Satan is not only seeking ways to hurt God, but he is constantly trying to do damage to God’s kingdom by hindering our service to God in some way.

God’s power is sufficient for anything we need - healing, salvation, baptism with the Holy Ghost, deliverances from bondages, miracle ministries, or anything else we need. **BUT GOD’S FAITH FOR THESE NEEDS IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, WALK IN HIS STATUTES, BELIEVE ALL THAT HIS WORD SAYS, AND CONSTANTLY ABIDE IN CHRIST.**

As you study this lesson, let God’s Word speak to your heart and be on the alert for any appearance of Satan with his hindering devices.

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Revelation 12:9)

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground ... For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ... I will be like the most High.” (Isaiah 14:12-14)

Satan was cast out of heaven and he hates God - **THE ONLY WAY HE CAN HURT GOD IS THROUGH GOD’S CHILDREN HERE ON EARTH. KEEP AN EYE ON SATAN AS YOU SERVE GOD.** “... Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh to you.” (James 4:7-8a)

HINDRANCES TO FAITH

There are many hindrances to faith. Why is this so?

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

“... whether ye be obedient in all things. ... Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” (2 Corinthians 2:9b, 11)

“For some are already turned aside after Satan.” (1 Timothy 5:15)

Immediately after Jesus was baptised He was led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. When He had fasted forty days and forty nights He was hungry. The devil came to Him and told Him if He was really the Son of God to command the stones to be turned into bread. Jesus told him that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Then the devil took Jesus up into the holy city, and put Him on a pinnacle of the temple, and tempted Him again. He told Him if He were really the Son of God to cast Himself down for it was written in the Word that the angels had charge concerning Him: that they would bear Him up in their hands lest at any time He dashed His foot against a stone.

“Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” (Matthew 4:7)

The devil took Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, and told Jesus he would give Him all of these things if He would fall down and worship him (worship the devil).

“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10)

There is a close connection between Jesus’ baptism and the temptation in the wilderness. By His baptism, Jesus dedicated Himself to the way of the cross. In the temptation in the wilderness the devil presented to Him ways of carrying out His ministry which would have avoided the cross.

Jesus had fasted for forty days and nights. He was hungry. At a very weak time in His life, Satan tempted Him to turn the stones into bread to appease His hunger. Two other temptations followed this one.

Student, if Satan quickly tried to stop Jesus’ ministry as soon as His active work was to begin, **HE WILL BE AFTER YOU THE MOMENT HE SEES YOU IN ARE EARNEST WITH GOD ABOUT YOUR MINISTRY.**

Sin prevents one from **HAVING** faith, “Now we know that God heareth not sinners ...” (John 9:31a) The only promises in God’s Word that apply to sinners, are promises to forgive sins if the sinner repents, and promises of judgement if the sinner does not repent.

The promises of answers to prayer are for obedient children of God.

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7)

Abiding in Christ guarantees the answers to your prayers.

Failure to abide in Christ may well be placed first in any list of hindrances to faith, for it annuls God's guarantee to answer prayer.

Abiding in Christ is living IN the Word of God, BY the Word of God, and in joyful fellowship with God.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1)

Some ask of God and receive from Him. Others ask in the same words, and receive nothing. **THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF CHANCE! THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF RESPECT OF PERSONS! THIS IS A MATTER OF FAITH!**

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it on your own lusts." (James 4:3)

This kind of asking can never be done in faith. There may be a desire to be well, and even a hope that it "may work," but there can not be faith, for there is no promise upon which faith can be based. There are those who desire healing in order to be better able to carry on their sinful pursuits. A dancer who became paralyzed because of an accident desired healing so that she might go back to her dancing. Simon the sorcerer (see Acts 8) desired to be able to impart the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, so that he might turn this gift to his financial profit. God does not give faith to such people. God gives faith ONLY to those who abide in Christ.

God's formula for faith is:

"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." (1 John 3:21-22)

God's power is sufficient for anything we need, but God's faith for these needs is given to those who keep His commandments, walk in His statutes, and believe that ALL his words are true.

Condemnation is perhaps the greatest hindrance to faith, but anything that is of disobedience, of ungodly or of unholy nature, is a hindrance to faith.

Unscriptural relationships in the home can be a hindrance to faith, In 1 Peter 3:1, 7, Peter exhorts husbands and wives in regard to their relationship:

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;"

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." (1 Peter 3:1, 7)

Unscriptural attitudes toward our fellow-men outside the home can also be great hindrances to faith.

“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12)

“... Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.” (Luke 6:27b)

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.” (Romans 12:10)

“... love as brethren, be pitiful (full of pity; tender; compassionate;) be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: ... let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.” (1 Peter 3:8-12)

“The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.” (Proverbs 11:25).

“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly ...” (Proverbs 18:24)

An unforgiving spirit hinders faith.

“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14-15)

“... Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.” (Matthew 18:21-22)

“And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

Many professed Christians live under condemnation because they refuse to give God the tithe that He declares to be His.

“... all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree is the Lord’s: it is holy unto the Lord.” (Leviticus 27:30)

People know that the Bible teaches tithing, that a tenth of their income belongs to God, yet they refuse to walk in the light of God’s Word. **THESE PEOPLE ARE CALLED THIEVES.**

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me ...” (Malachi 3:8-9)

Do not expect God to give you His faith if you are robbing Him of His tithes and offerings. ASK GOD'S PARDON FOR BEING A THIEF, AND BECOME A CONSTANT TITHER, AND THEN GIVE HIM OFFERINGS ABOVE THE TITHE.

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10)

The law required tithing, but THE TITHE IS OLDER THAN THE LAW!

Another hindrance to faith is found in James 5:16:

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. ...” (James 5:16)

Many people are quick to see the faults of others, but are blind to any faults of their own. With this spirit, one can not have faith for healing, for deliverances of any kind - God will not give faith to a self-righteous person.

Have you ever wondered why people pass through many healing lines and are not healed? Few people claim to be perfect, yet when confronted with the idea that a confession of their faults may be necessary before they can get their healing, there is usually not one fault which they are willing to confess. These people need to call in help - according to James 5:14, the elders of the church should be called in - and with much heart-searching and prayer, they should trace out in their lives the reason the healing has not taken place. Then, when God has revealed to their honest and seeking hearts the cause of their failure to be healed, they should confess their faults as they feel God would have them to do. (Whether it is to confess these faults to God alone, or to the persons that have been wronged, or to confess them to the elders of the church). Then they should ask for the prayers of those praying for them, that these faults may be overcome. Then, in answer to the united prayers of the sick, and the elders who are praying for them, SATAN CAN BE DRIVEN FROM THE FIELD, AND A DOUBLE VICTORY WON. THE BONDAGE OF BOTH SIN AND SICKNESS CAN BE BROKEN!

Unwillingness to confess faults usually indicates a unwillingness to forsake them, or else a lack of confidence in the power of God to deliver from them. This is a great hindrance to faith.

We are warned in God 's Word that in the last days there shall be those in the world “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof ...” (2 Timothy 3:5) This applies to churches and ministers who make loud professions of godliness, but deny that there is any supernatural power in operation in the world today. These churches and ministers offer water baptism, church membership, and advise people to make good resolutions instead of being born again, and having a change of heart take place.

One such religious man, Nicodemus, came to recognise the futility of his own doctrine and sincerely sought God's way, “... Ye must be born again.” (John 3:7) Some who

call themselves “Fundamentalists” accept this much of the miracle-working power of God, but no more. They agree with Mark 16:16, “He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved ...” but they deny the power of verses 17 and 18. “... these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues ... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (Mark 16:17-18)

These people gather together in churches and sing their hymns, preach their sermons, pray their beautiful prayers, and some even baptise in water, and take the Lord’s Supper. They have all the outward form of godliness. They are recognised by the world and by the government as “the church,” but they absolutely DENY THE POWER JESUS PROMISED TO LEAVE WITH THE GODLY. God says, “... from such turn away.” (2 Timothy 3:5)

When the spark of faith has begun to glow in the hearts of many, they refuse to heed God’s warning to “turn away” from churches and ministers who “deny the power thereof,” and their faith begins to dwindle away. God tells us in Hebrews 10:25, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is ...” But we should turn away from those who do not believe in the miracle-working power of God and deny that there is any such power, and assemble ourselves together with others of like precious faith, who will encourage and guide us to an ever greater faith.

Your personal faith will not survive in an environment that denies the power of God. You will be turned away from the truth if you continue in the company of people like this.

Search the Scriptures for yourself. Build your faith upon the Word of God, and then get into a church that has done the same thing. The faith of many people is hindered because they have failed to heed this important warning of God’s Word, “... from such turn away.” (2 Timothy 3:5) If your minister or church denies the miracle-working power of God, heed God’s warning and “turn away.” If you do not heed this warning from God’s Word, this will be another great hindrance to your faith.

One of the most common hindrances to faith is found in the misconceptions regarding the teachings of God’s Word. These misconceptions are largely due to erroneous teaching by those who do not possess the power of God in their own lives, and make excuses for themselves by adjusting the teaching of the scriptures to their own thinking. Peter tells us how these people wrest the scriptures to their own destruction:

“... as our beloved Brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.” (2 Peter 3:15-16)

Misconceptions of God’s Word causes faith to waver.

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive

anything of the Lord.” (James 1:6-7)

Misconceptions of the Word of God have been taught for doctrines, but they can not be proven by the Bible. They have become traditions of men that make the Word of God of no effect:

“Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.” (Mark 7:13)

Jesus said of those who taught in this way, “... in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” (Mark 7:7)

One of the most common misconceptions of the Word is the idea that some people can not be healed because they are sick for the glory of God. This teaching is based upon two misinterpreted incidents in the ministry of Christ.

When Jesus was told that Lazarus was sick, he replied, “... This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.” (John 11:4)

When Jesus finally came to Bethany, and was met by the sisters of Lazarus, He certainly was not met with praise, nor were they glorifying God nor His Son. The Son of God was glorified WHEN LAZARUS CAME FORTH FROM THE TOMB.

“And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.” (John 11:43-44)

In the other case of the misinterpreted incident in the ministry of Jesus, some of Jesus’ disciples questioned Him concerning a man born blind. They asked whether the man had sinned or his parents. Jesus answered, “... Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.” (John 9:3)

This verse does not mean that this man nor his parents had never committed a sin, for we are told, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) This verse means that the blindness of this man, which was unusual, was not a direct punishment of unusual sin, but was an occasion for the works of God to be made manifest in him. God was glorified when those who had known him to have been born blind, SAW THAT SUDDENLY HE WAS ABLE TO SEE.

Not once in all His earthly ministry did Jesus ever command any person be to sick, although He commanded many to be well, and healed them with His Word. Not once did a sick person come to Him asking to be healed and received the answer, “It is God’s will for you to remain sick for His glory.”

There is no place in the Word of God where sickness is declared to be an evidence of God’s favour. The reward of obedience is health and healing.

“... if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.” (Exodus 15:26)

A glaring inconsistency in those who hold the view that sickness may be the will of God for some, is that, while they do not come to God for healing, they seem to feel no hesitancy in doing all they can to ease pain and restore health. If sickness really is God’s will for them, should they try to escape it?

Sickness IS NOT the will of God for His people. IT IS THE WORK OF THE DEVIL. It is the will of God that His people prosper and be in health - “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” (3 John 2) So, God’s people should come to Him for healing, or for any other need (if they have paid the price for God’s faith) WITHOUT WAVERING-IN FULL ASSURANCE THAT OUR PRAYERS WILL BE HEARD AND ANSWERED.

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

According to the testimony of God Himself, Job was a perfect and upright man, “... one that feareth God, and escheweth evil.” (Job 1:8) No divinity was attributed to Job. No superhuman perfection was attributed to him. Any Christian can and should be at least as perfect as Job was, for our opportunities, privileges, and power are far ahead of his. Jesus left us this commandment to be “... therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48) The Scriptures, which Job never had the privilege of reading, because he lived before they were written, were given “That the man of God may be perfect ...” (2 Timothy 3:17)

We may need to say with Paul, “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which I am also apprehended of Christ Jesus ... but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God ...” (Philippians 3:12-14) Our goal should be kept before us at all times. PERFECTION IS THE GOAL! NEVER MAKE EXCUSES FOR IMPERFECTIONS.

God accounted Job as perfect, because he sincerely feared God, and eschewed (shunned, found no pleasure in doing) evil. However, there were reasons enough in Job himself for his trouble being allowed to come upon him. God does not submit His faithful and beloved followers to the tortures of Satan for no better reason than to merely prove a point to the devil. Job’s faithfulness WAS proved, and Satan’s boast proved empty, but a far greater issue than that was involved in the trial of Job. EVEN A PERFECT MAN CAN KEEP GROWING IN FAVOUR WITH GOD.

While Job was commended for his fear of God, that was not Job’s ONLY fear. When he found that he was bereft of family and possessions, suffering in body, scorned by his wife, misunderstood and accused by his friends, he cried out, “... the thing which I

greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.” (Job 3:25)

Fear is not faith. Faith is our protection against sin and sickness. Faith is our defense when these enemies lay hold upon us. Satan saw it as a hedge around Job, through which he could not penetrate, but fear, being opposed to faith, makes an opening in the hedge through which Satan may enter. Job is not to be condemned for his attitude, for he had not the Scriptures we have today. His knowledge of God and His dealings with Job came only from oral tradition, and an incomplete direct personal revelation of God. (The book of Job is generally recognised as the first written book of the Bible.) Since “... faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God,” it is little wonder that Job should have failed to have faith sufficient to protect him from Satan’s attack.

Having God’s wonderful promises so easily accessible, **WE SHOULD GRASP THEM BY FAITH AND STEP FORTH INTO THE GLORIOUS LIBERTY OF THE SONS OF GOD.**

God did not afflict Job - Satan did, but with God’s permission.

“So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.” (Job 2:7)

In his desperation, Job examined his attitude toward God, and through the struggles of his soul, he found a new relationship with God. He had feared God; he had striven to do right; and he had avoided evil. But now, when his wife urged him to curse God and die (“... Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.” - Job 2:9), and his friends accused him of every kind of sin (calling them by name), Job discovered that only one thing remained a firm anchor in his fast changing world. In his anguish he cried, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him ...” (Job 13:15) **GOD COULD NOT DISREGARD SUCH FAITH AS THAT.** Immediately God began to work toward Job’s deliverance. He revealed Himself to Job in such a splash of splendor as has seldom been equaled in His dealings with any one man. In the light of this revelation, Job had an opportunity to compare his own righteousness with that of his Maker, and found himself sadly lacking. He then approached God in a spirit of true humility and repentance mixed with faith, “Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:6)

Job was even willing to pray for his accusers, and “... the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends ...” (Job 42:10)

After Job had repented of his self-righteousness and lack of trust, proven his humility and forgiveness by praying for his friends, and God sets him free from the **CAPTIVITY OF SATAN**, we see Job restored to all his former status, plus even more than he had at the beginning. He lived another one hundred and forty years, and there is no record that he ever had another boil to annoy him in all those years.

Student, if you have been down in an ash heap moaning over your fate, and blaming it on God, or some one else, **TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT JOB - PLACE YOUR TRUST IN GOD**, as Job did, **THOUGH IT MAY SEEM TO LEAD ONLY TO**

DEATH. Start searching the Scriptures, reading them prayerfully, and as though you had never heard those explanations men have added by their traditions. Look to God HIMSELF to find the cause of your sickness, other bondages, or lack of faith, AND WHEN YOU HAVE FOUND THE CAUSE, GET RID OF IT. Like Job, you will be set free, for GOD IS THE SAME TODAY AS HE WAS IN JOB'S DAY.

Some people even say Paul had his own private physician, Luke, who travelled with him to watch after his health. Luke HAD been trained as a physician, "Luke, the beloved physician ..." (Colossians 4:14), but there is as much reason to declare that Jesus took Matthew with Him as His private tax collector, as to say that Luke was chosen to go with Paul because of his skill as a physician. There is no record in the Scripture that Luke ever treated Paul or any sick person in any place that they visited, in the capacity of a physician. As the author of his writings in the Bible he records many miraculous healings. NEVER ONCE IS IT MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE THAT LUKE OR ANY OTHER PHYSICIAN APPLIED ANY MEDICAL AID AS SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE MIRACLE-WORKING POWER OF GOD. No doubt, Luke, being a physician, was especially impressed with the ease with which Christ and His Spirit-filled disciples relieved diseases that the physicians had spent much time and effort trying in vain to heal. In fact, it is Luke who records that "... a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd." (Luke 8:43-44)

Faithful physicians have relieved much human suffering, but there are many people in the world today who have never heard or learned of the healing power of God, who can keep all the physicians busy, fully justifying the existence of physicians in the world. As Christians, we should know THE GREAT PHYSICIAN, wait at His feet and find relief, FULL AND FREE, WITHOUT MONEY OR PRICE, WITHOUT MEDICINE OR SURGERY, that our bodies may be well and strong for His glory.

If your body needs healing wait upon God - heed His directions and carry out His commands and you will be healed. If there is ANY need in your life, YOU CAN HAVE FAITH TO BELIEVE GOD FOR THE ANSWER - WAIT UPON HIM - WHEN HE SHOWS YOU THE PRICE YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY TO HAVE THAT FAITH - PAY THE PRICE REQUIRED AND RECEIVE FROM GOD THAT WHICH YOU NEED. Examine yourself according to the Word of God. FIND WHAT HE SAYS TO DO AND DO IT. Believe the Word of God - do not believe the traditions that have been built up around the Bible. As you pay the price God asks you to pay, the flame of your faith will be made to burn brightly, no longer wavering, and you may ask God WHATSOEVER HE HAS PROMISED AND IT SHALL BE DONE UNTO YOU!

Jesus once said to a man whose faith was weak, "... If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." (Mark 9:23)

The man replied, with tears, "... Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." (Mark 9:24)

Jesus immediately helped his unbelief. His faith sprang up. He received the faith God gives, and the thing he desired became a reality. HIS SON WAS DELIVERED FROM

SATAN'S POWER.

REAL FAITH WORKS! "... faith without works (faith that doesn't work) is dead." (James 2:20) **REAL FAITH BRINGS RESULTS, FOR GOD IS FAITHFUL AND HE HAS PROMISED THIS TO US. Real faith is NOT HOPE - IT IS REALITY!**

Student, if you measured up to all that God requires of you, and your faith is still weak it is because you have not asked for it - "... ye have not, because ye ask not." (James 4:2)

Two blind men were sitting by the wayside, and hearing that Jesus was passing by, began to cry out, saying, "... Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David." (Matthew 20:30) They were speaking to the right person, but they had not really asked Jesus for anything. Jesus asked them, "... What will ye that I shall do unto you?" (Matthew 20:32) When they asked Him to open their eyes that they might see, He immediately opened their eyes

"So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him." (Matthew 20:34)

When you come to God, state your need definitely, God's promise is, "... whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." (John 14:13)

A man came in the healing line in one of my services who was deaf in one ear, blind in one eye, and had rheumatism in his knees. As he came, he asked for deliverance for his ear, which had been totally deaf for a number of years. As prayer was offered and Satan's power was broken, he received his hearing. This so inspired his faith that he had courage to ask for healing for his eye. When this prayer was answered, his faith was strengthened yet further, so that he asked for deliverance for his crippled knees and received it. There was no real new need in the man, nor any new willingness on God's part to heal Him, but as each need was presented definitely, God was true to His word, and **DID EXACTLY WHAT WAS ASKED IN JESUS' NAME.**

The failure to make a definite request is often due to a lack of faith. When a person comes to God believing that whatsoever he asks he shall receive, will naturally ask for the things he desires.

The central secret of answered prayer is **PRAYING IN GOD'S WILL.** If you are not sure it is God's will for you to have what you're asking, **YOU CAN NOT ASK IN FAITH.** No one can persuade God to do anything contrary to His will.

People who feel that they should add, "If it be thy will," while asking God for something, quote as an example the prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane, When He cried out in agony of soul,

"... Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42)

Jesus was not praying for something God had promised. He was not praying with a desire to change the circumstances. Although this prayer was prayed by the Son of God Himself, IT DID NOT BRING ABOUT THE CHANGE SUGGESTED IN THE PRAYER. This was never intended to be a prayer to change things. It was simply the agonising cry of a struggling soul.

How different was the triumphant prayer at the tomb of Lazarus.

“... Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always ... Lazarus, come forth.” (John 11:41-43)

It is right that we should be concerned to know the will of God. When we pray, we should pray in accordance with His will. When we pray, for instance, for healing, we are praying for that which God has already revealed to be His will. Why, then, would we say, “If it be thy will?”

We read in James 4:13, 15:

“Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain ... For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

In this case, God has not promised, nor revealed His will in the matter, but God has promised and revealed His will in regard to the healing of His people. WE NEED NOT SAY, “If it be thy will.” Instead, we should say: “I thank you, Father, that you have revealed your will concerning this matter in the Word, and I know that I am asking in your will.”

The “if” in many prayers not only denotes doubt, but it is a loophole through which many hope to escape any possible charge of unbelief or unconfessed sin. If healing fails to come, the person who prays thus can always excuse himself by saying it just wasn't God's will to heal him.

A person's lack in understanding of how God deals in regard to healing is the cause of many remaining sick. The person who has already set a pattern in his mind that he feels is the only way God can or will work is in danger of losing confidence. He may even get the feeling that his prayer has not been heard or will not be answered when the answer doesn't come according to his mental pattern. And since healing can only come by faith, it is easy to see the importance of understanding God's methods of dealing, so that faith may not be shaken.

Many people have been heard to remark that if God does the healing, it will be instantly complete. The fact that this is merely man's theory, and not God's constant pattern, can be readily seen from the fact that Christ Himself did not always heal in this way. Many times Christ did heal people instantly, and many healings are instant and complete today, but other patterns apparent today were also apparent in the ministry of Christ.

A certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum, met Jesus and “... besought

him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.” (John 4:47) Jesus said unto him, “... Go thy way; thy son liveth.” (John 4:50a)

The nobleman believed Jesus and went his way. As he was going down, his servants met him, and told him his son lived. He inquired of them the hour when he began to amend. When they told him the hour the fever left the child, the father knew this was the same hour Jesus had told him his son would live.

Although the boy was truly healed, it was not instantly done, but the fever left, and he “began to amend”, and was on the road to recovery.

In many cases today, the cause of the disease is driven out, yet some time is required before normal processes of growth bring about a state of full and normal well being.

In dealing with people about their healing, we need to know there are two dangers involved in failure to understand this truth about healing. First, the person may lose confidence in the healing power of God, due to disappointment in failing to be made perfectly whole as he had expected. The loss of confidence opens the door for Satan to return and take possession again of that which had been taken from him.

“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first ...” (Matthew 12:43, 45)

This also accounts for many who testify at one time to having received a “partial healing” and then in a little while are as bad, or worse than they were before.

There is the danger of accepting the partial deliverance as being all that God can, or will do and failing to continue to stand against the devil by faith until the healing is complete. If Satan can not prevent a healing altogether, he will back up one step, and try to hinder a person from receiving ALL that God intended for him to have. God’s plan for healing is COMPLETE HEALING, whether it be instant or a convalescent type of deliverance.

Student, in dealing with people for their healing, do not allow them to be discouraged if they do not receive instant healing, but encourage them to keep praising God by faith for that which has already been done in their behalf. Encourage them to praise God, not only for the improvement they may feel, **BUT ALSO FOR THE STRIPES WHICH JESUS BORE AT THE WHIPPING POST IN JERUSALEM TO PAY THE PRICE FOR THEIR DELIVERANCE.** Tell them to keep right on looking to Jesus until the manifestation of their deliverance is complete.

As Jesus entered into a certain village, ten men who were lepers stood afar off and “... lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.” (Luke 17:13-14)

Jesus did not tell them they were healed right there on the spot, but He did tell them to go shew themselves to the priest, which they had no right to do UNLESS THEY WERE HEALED.

As they started to the priest in obedience by faith, doing the thing they could not do unless they were healed (although as yet there was no outward manifestation of their healing), THEY WERE HEALED.

The healing of the lepers were not instant healings, BUT THEY WERE GENUINE HEALINGS BY THE POWER OF GOD. THESE MEN TOOK JESUS AT HIS WORD, AND IT DID NOT FAIL THEM. They acted their faith, while it was not yet seen. As a result, in a very short time they SAW WHAT THEY HAD FAITH TO BELIEVE.

Faith in God is more than faith in His promises. It is also faith in His commands.

On one occasion, Jesus spoke to a man who had suffered with an infirmity for thirty eight years, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." (John 5:8) Immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked.

In Acts 3:2-8, a man who had been lame from his mother's womb, was carried and laid daily at the gate of the temple which was called "Beautiful" to ask alms of them that entered into the temple. Peter and John were about to enter the temple one day, when this man asked an alms. Peter said,

"... Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazereth rise up and walk." (Acts 3:6)

Peter took the man by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength, and the man leaping up, stood and walked, and entered the temple with Peter and John, walking, leaping, and praising God.

God's command is not always a simple test of faith, it may be a test of obedience as well.

In John 9:1, Jesus met a man who was blind from his birth. He made clay and anointed the eyes of the blind man with it, and gave the man a command: "... Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing." (John 9:7)

The blind man's eyes were opened when he obeyed the command of Jesus. Healing, or a deliverance of any kind, may be down the road of obedience.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." (James 5:16)

Secret sins can destroy faith and hinder a person from receiving healing and other deliverances as well. In my ministry many people come to be prayed for but receive nothing until they become humble and willing to confess their faults, according to the

scripture.

Many people have wronged others and have been unwilling to confess that they have been wrong. With such rebellion in their hearts they can not have real faith for deliverance. God promises that if these faults are confessed, both the sin and the sickness shall be taken away.

One day, Jesus cursed a fig tree because it produced no fruit. "... No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it." (Mark 11:14) Apparently there was no change in the appearance of the tree at the moment. But the next day when Jesus and His disciples passed again that way, Peter was amazed, and said to Jesus ... "Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst, is withered away." (Mark 11:21) In this short time it had "dried up at the roots," and was withered away. Many diseases are healed in the same way. The "root" of the disease is cursed in the name of Jesus, and no matter what the disease may be, whether goitre, cancer, tumour, or some other sickness, **IT MUST EITHER PASS FROM THE BODY, OR DISINTEGRATE INTO THE BLOOD STREAM AND BE CARRIED AWAY.** It is easy to understand how a person could be truly healed, and yet continue to suffer some discomfort during the time this process is taking place. The suffering may even be more acute for a short period of time, than it was before, as this dead foreign tissue is being separated from the body and carried away. At this point many cast away their confidence because they do not recognise what is happening, and give testimony to the fact that they are not healed. Fear, loss of faith, and acceptance of Satan 's suggestions in regard to the case, opens the door for Satan to replace the very thing that had been cast out by the power of God. The healing is lost before any of its benefits are recognised.

Although many cases of cancer are healed in this way, I have known many instances of cancer disappearing instantly.

God has no set pattern whereby He heals or brings other deliverances. He performs miracles in the way that brings most glory to His name. You must learn, Student, and be able to teach others, to **ACCEPT DELIVERANCES JUST AS GOD GIVES THEM.** If it is instantaneous, shout the praises of God and go on your way rejoicing. If it is gradual, thank God for your healing, or deliverance, just the same, and look forward joyfully to the time when you will be fully restored to health. If God has cursed the root of a disease, as He did the fig tree, **DON'T LET YOUR FAITH WAVER, AND TEACH OTHERS TO HOLD STEADY, KNOWING THAT IT IS FAITH THAT MAKES ANYONE WHOLE.** But if God has commanded you **TO GO, TO DO, OR TO SPEAK,** do not think that time alone will mend matters - **BE OBEDIENT TO GOD, AND THE VICTORY WILL COME!**

MEMORY WORK FOR THIS LESSON

Revelation 12:9
1 John 3:21-22
1 Peter 5:8
Proverbs 11:25

James 4:3
James 4:7-8
Luke 6:27
Romans 8:1

Isaiah 14:12-14
Matthew 7:12
2 Corinthians 2:9, 11
1 John 5:14-15

LESSON FOUR

VICTORIOUS FAITH - THE OLD TESTAMENT

INTRODUCTION

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14)

In the business world, most business establishments that continue to fail to achieve the results for which they have been established, will seek professional help before all their effort and investment is lost. In such cases, an efficiency expert is generally employed to search for the trouble. This expert will check the weak spots of the business, faults, failures, wastes, etc. He is not influenced by the way things have always been done, but when he has completed his investigation, he will present facts and a perfect plan of operation to achieve top performance in the business.

The Church was established by Jesus Christ to evangelise the world, but it has consistently failed to achieve the results for which it was established. It is only wisdom to consult some experts where God’s work is concerned. In this lesson and the next one we will look right into the Word of God to check our faults, failures, etc., and we are going to find some answers. Not only will we find WHY we have failed to achieve the results God requires of us, but we **ARE GOING TO HAVE A PERFECT PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE SUCCESS GOD EXPECTS**. When we begin to employ the methods of advance and conquest, it will hasten the return of our Lord!

According to the Bible, “... this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14) “... the gospel must first be published among all nations.” (Mark 13:10) Again God’s Word says, “... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15) Christ will not return until this is accomplished. No sane person dare contradict the divine urgency of this command. The sooner we get the gospel to every creature, the sooner our Lord can return.

The gospel means **GOOD NEWS** to the sick, the oppressed, the demon possessed, those bound with demon powers and unclean spirits, and to those bound by sin. It means to **PREACH THE WORD, HEAL THE SICK AND CAST OUT DEVILS**.

The only way Christ ever ministered to the sick was to **HEAL THEM!** The only way He ever ministered to the oppressed and to the demon possessed was to cast out the demons. His method of ministering to the sinner was, “... I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” (Revelation 3:19) “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

Nothing but the miraculous ministry of Christ has ever or ever will turn the heathen masses to Christ. Our concern is **PREACHING THE GOSPEL WITH SIGNS FOLLOWING**; confirmed with miracles and wonders.

The supreme task of the Church is to evangelise the millions of heathen people in the world. One person can not accomplish this task alone. Many believers in many places, moving as one body can get the job done quickly.

Just before Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot He prayed and asked God to glorify Him with the glory which he had with God before the world was. At the same time He prayed for His disciples and all believers who were to be added to the number.

“And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world ... Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. ... I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. ... As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. ... Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us ... and the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one ...” (John 17:11-12, 15, 18, 20-23)

SIGNS! WONDERS! MIRACLES! This is the means by which we get the ears of the heathen open to the gospel.

“... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” (Hebrews 12:1)

If you ever have a supernatural ministry, a ministry of the miraculous, you are going to have to keep your eyes on Jesus, stay in the race and finish your course and be able to say, when YOUR time of departure from this world comes, “... the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:6-7)

VICTORIOUS FAITH

World evangelisation may be accomplished only by preaching the gospel with signs following - **SIGNS! WONDERS! MIRACLES!** The time truly is at hand when **BOLD METHODS** will have to be used if we hope to get the job done quickly. This is a task far beyond the abilities of any individual or group. It is a task that will require the resources of the **WHOLE CHURCH**. Just before Jesus went back to heaven He prayed, not only for His disciples, but also for those who were to follow - **OTHER BELIEVERS**. He prayed that God would keep believers from the evil in the world. **GOD WILL KEEP US IF WE WILL ALLOW HIM TO DO SO!** If God keeps us from evil, and we pay the price for God’s faith - **WHAT IS KEEPING SO MANY FROM FOLLOWING HIM INTO THE WHITENED HARVEST FIELDS?**

Jesus, in praying for believers, told God He was not praying that God would take us **OUT OF THE WORLD**, but that we would be kept **FROM THE EVIL**. As God had sent Him **INTO THE WORLD**, HE REMINDED GOD THAT HE WAS SENDING

HIS DISCIPLES INTO THE WORLD. If we are followers of His today, THE SAME COMMISSION IS OURS! “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.” (John 17:20)

To get the world evangelised we are going to have to MOVE AS ONE MAN, OR ONE BODY. Jesus prayed that we might be ONE - “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.” (John 17:21a) This task will never be accomplished by criticising the efforts put forth by other believers on the field. EVERY WORKER IN THE VINEYARD IS NEEDED.

“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:36-38)

Instead of criticising others who are labouring on the field, too, we should be obedient and pray that God will send forth MORE labourers into the whitened harvest field.

“And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part. For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward. And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.” (Mark 9:38-42)

EVERY WORKER ON THE FIELD IS NEEDED! Some may accomplish more or less than others, BUT ALL OF THEM ARE NEEDED! God is not sending us forth into His whitened harvest field to find fault with others and sorely criticise them - OUR TASK IS TO PREACH THE WORD, HEAL THE SICK, CAST OUT DEVILS, AND TO BREAK THE YOKES OF BONDAGE THE DEVIL HAS PLACED ON PEOPLE. The weakest of God’s children can be used in God’s harvest field - if they do no more than give a Christian a cup of water to drink in His Name. They should be encouraged to continue to serve God in that manner, and TO EVEN DO MORE FOR GOD! They need to know that their labours are necessary. WE ARE ALL MEMBERS OF ONE BODY, AND NONE CAN SAY TO THE OTHER, “WE HAVE NO NEED OF THEE.”

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” (Romans 12:5)

HOW WILL WE EVER ACCOMPLISH THE TASK SET BEFORE US? Just as people in the business world call in efficiency experts to search out reasons for failure and lack of success, let us go to God’s Word. We are going to examine the lives of some of those who were obedient and faithful to God. These people brought forth results that were so wonderful and encouraging that God had them recorded in His Word.

ABRAHAM

The study of the life of Abraham is of great importance because he was chosen of God to become the father of a new spiritual race. Spiritual seeds were planted in his heart which have blessed the children of God down through the years. Abraham was the file leader of a great spiritual host.

While living with his father in Haran, God called Abraham to go into a new country that He would show him. God promised him divine favour, many descendants (as numerous as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore - Genesis 22:17), and that he should become a blessing to all the families of the earth.

By faith, Abraham obeyed the call of God and became the leader of the great host of God's children - those who have sought a city whose builder and maker is God.

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked for a city ... whose builder and maker is God.” (Hebrews 11:8-10)

WHAT GOD SAID HE WOULD DO, ABRAHAM BELIEVED HE WOULD DO IT! He did not hesitate to take God at His word when He promised him a son - Abraham was ninety-nine years old when God promised to give him a son by Sarah. The Word says, “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith ...” (Romans 4:20)

Sarah bore a son unto Abraham when she was ninety years old, and Abraham was one hundred years old.

Through this son, Isaac, God was to bless Abraham with a host of descendants which could not be numbered. One day, God spoke to Abraham and said,

“... Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and dave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.” (Genesis 22:2-3)

“... Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.” (Genesis 22:9-12)

Abraham is one of the most likely candidates in the Old Testament when we look for an example of some one with great faith. Student, would you believe God if He told you something like He told Abraham - even though you were about one hundred years old, and your wife, or husband, whichever were the case, was about the same age - **WOULD YOU STAGGER AT SUCH A PROMISE?** Do you have a son? If God told you to offer that son as a burnt sacrifice (if we still offered God such sacrifices), **COULD YOU DO IT?** Could you build an altar, bind your child with cords, place him on the altar, take a knife and strike the deathblow to that child, light the fire, and then burn him as a sacrifice unto your God? We do not offer sacrifices as people were required to do before Jesus became our sacrifice for sin, **BUT IT WAS JUST AS HARD FOR ABRAHAM TO DO SUCH A THING AS IT WOULD BE FOR YOU TODAY. YET WE READ HOW ABRAHAM OBEYED GOD, EVEN IN OFFERING HIS ONLY SON AS A SACRIFICE TO GOD.**

It was to be through Isaac that God would give many descendants unto Abraham, but by faith he offered up Isaac accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead ...

“By faith, Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: accounting that God was, able to raise him up, even from the dead ...” (Hebrews 11:17-19)

If we will only study God’s Word, we will learn the secret of success as God counts success. **THE FAITH THAT GOD GIVES IS THE ANSWER!** If you will pay the price that God requires, **HE WILL GIVE YOU HIS FAITH - FAITH THAT WILL ENABLE YOU TO DO ANYTHING GOD ASKS YOU TO DO!**

MOSES

Another example of great faith expertly used in the Old Testament is Moses. One of the kings of Egypt, who was afraid that the Israelites would outnumber them and perhaps would turn against Egypt in some future conflict, ordered all Israelite babies, if boys, to be put to death at birth. Moses’ mother placed him in a basket and hid him among the bulrushes along the river. Pharaoh’s daughter came down to the river to bathe, found the child, took him as her own, and reared him in the courts of the palace of Pharaoh. When he came to manhood, he chose to identify himself with the Israelites, slew an Egyptian who was smiting one of Moses’ brethren, and had to flee to save his life from the wrath of Pharaoh.

Moses fled to Midian where he spent forty years in obscurity.

God heard the cries of the Israelites In Egypt, who were crying out because of the sore persecutions of the Egyptians. One day Moses was on the backside of the desert, taking care of the sheep of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. When he came to Horeb, the mountain of God, he saw a bush burning, but it was not consumed. Out of the burning bush, God spoke to Moses.

“... I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard

their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey ... I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt.” (Exodus 3:7-8, 10)

“... take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs. ... see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand ...” (Exodus 4:17, 21)

Moses returned to Egypt to obey God and bring the Israelites out of bondage. Pharaoh’s heart was hardened against Moses and he refused to let the Israelites leave Egypt. God used Moses with signs and wonders in sending ten plagues on Egypt which caused Pharaoh to finally give in and let God’s people be taken out of Egypt. The first plague was turning their water into blood. (Exodus 7:14-25) The next three plagues in succession were frogs, lice, and flies which covered all of the land with the exception of the portion of land designated to the Israelites. (Exodus 8:1-32) The next three plagues were murrain on the beasts, boils, and hail. (Exodus 9:1-25) The plagues of locusts and thick darkness followed the first seven plagues. (Exodus 10:1-29) The last plague was the death of the first-born of every Egyptian family. (Exodus 12:29)

“And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.”

Student, just as surely as the Israelites were crying out for deliverance from the whip-lash of Pharaoh, God’s children are crying out against the bondages and sore distresses being imposed upon them by Satan. **JUST AS SURELY AS GOD SENT MOSES DOWN INTO EGYPT TO DELIVER HIS PEOPLE FROM PHARAOH, HE IS SENDING HIS MINISTERS OUT INTO THE WORLD TODAY TO BRING DELIVERANCES TO HIS CHILDREN, AND TO REAP THE HARVEST THAT IS ALREADY WHITENED AND FALLING.** Satan is working at full speed seeking whom he may devour.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished In your brethren that are in the world.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)

Get the Word of God hidden away in your heart. Pay the price for God’s faith and fasten your eyes upon Jesus. Get into the race and run quickly to the rescue of God’s children who are chafing under the constant onslaughts of Satan, and pluck the lost ones from Satan’s grasp as you would pluck a firebrand from a fire.

Rescue the Perishing, duty demands it; strength for thy labour the Lord will provide;
Back to the Narrow way, patiently win them, tell the poor wanderer a Saviour has died,
Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter, feelings lie buried that grace can restore;

Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness, chords that are broken will vibrate once more.

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;

Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen, tell them of Jesus the mighty to save.

Rescue the Perishing, care for the dying; Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

CAN IT BE DONE? IT CAN! By faith, we like Moses, will have to turn our backs upon the world and sin. We must set our faces like flint to follow Jesus, even to a cross if necessary, in order to carry the gospel. As it took great faith for Moses to lead a great host of God's children out of Egypt, it will take great faith for us to carry out the **GREAT COMMISSION**:

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world ...” (Matthew 28:19-20)

“... preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved ... And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. ... And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.” (Mark 16:15-18, 20)

Student, if Jesus bore heavy loads and lifted great burdens - **YOU WILL HAVE TO DO SO, TOO!** The works that Jesus did, **YOU WILL HAVE TO DO**, if you follow Him. **THIS IS A DAILY WALK WITH JESUS!**

“And he said unto them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

“And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.” (Matthew 10:38-39)

As the early disciples were sent forth to win the lost, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out devils, believers today are sent forth by God to do the same things. These are the things Jesus did, and these are the same things included in the Great Commission.

We are sent forth as sheep in the midst of wolves with the admonition, “... be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” (Matthew 10:16) If we are obedient to God, He has promised to be with us always - “... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:20) We are told to have no fear of those which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father ... the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:29-31)

As God was with Moses, so will He be with us if we are obedient and in faith, do the whole will of God for our lives.

It is going to take supernatural miracles to win the people of today to Christ. Just as it took the miraculous in Moses' day to sway Pharaoh and also to keep the hundreds of thousands of the Israelites submissive to the leadership of Moses, we are going to have to pay the price to have God's miracle working power flowing through our lives! When people see SIGNS, WONDERS, AND MIRACLES, they recognise that it HAS TO BE GOD DOING THE WORK - FOR NO MAN CAN DO THESE WORKS EXCEPT GOD BE WITH HIM!

Let us look at some of the miracles God did through Moses. When he had led the Israelites as far as the Red Sea, the sea was in front of them, and Pharaoh's army was behind them, for Pharaoh had hardened his heart against the Israelites and was pursuing them.

“And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them. And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night. And Moses stretched his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry land: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.” (Exodus 14:19-22)

The Egyptians followed the Israelites into the midst of the Red Sea, and the Lord troubled the Egyptian host by TAKING OFF THEIR CHARIOT WHEELS SO THAT THEIR CHARIOTS DRUG HEAVILY! They tried to flee for they saw God was fighting AGAINST them and was fighting FOR the Israelites. (Exodus 14:23-25)

At God's bidding, Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea and the waters returned and drowned the Egyptians. NOT ONE OF THEM REMAINED ALIVE! Beholding this miracle take place before them, the Israelites feared the Lord and believed Him and His servant, Moses.

Moses brought the Israelites from the Red Sea into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water found there because it was bitter. The Lord showed Moses a tree, which he cast into the water, AND THE WATER WAS MADE SWEET!

The Israelites came into the wilderness of Sin, between Elim and Sinai. Being hungry, they began murmuring against Moses for having brought them out of Egypt, away from the flesh pots and bread, where they had plenty to eat. God heard the murmurings of the Israelites and caused quail to come up in the evening, and manna covered the

face of the wilderness. God instructed Moses to have the people to gather just enough of the manna each morning for their use for each day, with nothing left over. Some of the people disobeyed, leaving some manna until morning. This left-over manna bred worms and stank.

On the sixth day of each week the people were to gather twice as much manna as was needed for one day, thus making provision for the sabbath. They laid up the extra portion of manna for each family for the next day, "... it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein." (Exodus 16:24) **WHEN THE PEOPLE DISOBEYED MOSES, THEY LOST THE MANNA KEPT OVER UNTIL MORNING - BUT. WHEN THEY OBEYED HIM, THE MANNA GATHERED FOR THE SABBATH WAS STILL GOOD THE NEXT DAY!**

God even instructed Moses to have an omer full of manna gathered and put into a pot, and laid up before the Lord to be kept for the generations of the Israelites, that they might see the bread they were fed with for forty years. **WHEN THEY OBEYED GOD, THE MANNA THEY GATHERED LASTED FOR MANY GENERATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES AND DID NOT STINK, NOR WERE ANY WORMS EVER FOUND IN IT!**

The Israelites journeyed from the wilderness of Sin and camped in Rephadim, and there was no water for them to drink. Following the instructions of God, Moses took the elders of Israel and the rod of God with him to a certain rock in Horeb. God stood before Moses on the rock - Moses struck the rock with the rod, as God told him to do, and **WATER CAME OUT OF THE ROCK FOR THE PEOPLE TO DRINK.**

The Amalekites came out and fought with the Israelites at Rephadim. Moses sent his men out to do battle under the command of Joshua. Moses took Aaron and Hur with him to the top of a hill. He stood on the top of the hill with the rod of God in his hand. **WHEN HE HELD UP HIS HAND, ISRAEL PREVAILED IN THE BATTLE - WHEN HE PUT DOWN HIS HAND, THE AMALEKITES PREVAILED.** When Moses grew tired, Aaron and Hur had Moses sit upon a rock, and they stood on either side of him and held up his hands until the sun went down. **THE ISRAELITES WON THE BATTLE THAT DAY!**

After leaving Sinai, the Israelites came to Taberah. Again the people were hungry and remembered the fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic they enjoyed back in Egypt, and cried unto Moses for flesh to eat. God told Moses He would give the people flesh to eat - not for just one day, two days, nor five days, nor twenty days, "But even a whole month, until it come out of your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you ..." (Numbers 11:20)

"And there went forth a wind from the Lord, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth. And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails ..." (Numbers 11:31-32)

At Kadesh-Barnea, the Israelites had no water. God told Moses to take the rod, to

gather the assembly together, and to SPEAK unto the rock before their very eyes. Moses obeyed God in that he gathered the assembly together and took the rod, BUT instead of SPEAKING to the rock, he SMOTE it twice. The water came forth abundantly, though, and all the people and all of the beasts had water. (Numbers 20:10-11) HOWEVER, this was not the end of the episode in Moses' life. The fact that the water came forth abundantly is proof positive that God's abundant mercy was extended to the people. The very next verse expresses God's displeasure at Moses' disobedience.

The Israelites spoke against God and against Moses as they journeyed on, because they did not have bread and water, and they had come to loathe the manna God was giving them each day, so God sent fiery serpents among them, "... and much people of Israel died." (Numbers 21:6) The people repented and came to Moses confessing their sin in speaking against him and God, and they asked him to pray unto God that He take away the serpents from them. Moses prayed for the people, and God told him to make a fiery serpent, set it on a pole, and to tell the people who were bitten by a serpent to look up at the serpent of brass and they would live. **THOSE WHO WERE BITTEN BY A SERPENT AND LOOKED UPON THE SERPENT OF BRASS LIVED!** (Numbers 21:4-9)

What God did for Moses and through Moses, **HE WILL DO FOR AND THROUGH YOU!** If it was necessary for God to part waters, make bitter water sweet, send manna and quail for food, give water from rocks, fight whole armies, open the earth to swallow enemies, send fiery serpents to stop an uprising, and come to Moses in thunder and lightning and an earthquake which made all Mount Sinai shake and tremble **FOR MOSES' SAKE - HE WILL DO THE SAME THINGS FOR YOU!**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. ... John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me." (John 1:1, 14-15, 29-30)

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

The Word was in the beginning - the Word was with God - the Word was God - the Word was made flesh - the Word was Jesus. Jesus is the same today, yesterday, and forever. **WHAT HE DID FOR MOSES, HE WILL DO FOR YOU!** If you are full of faith and obedient to God, **HE WILL DO WHAT YOU NEED HIM TO DO FOR YOU. IF YOU ASK HIM TO OPEN THE GROUND AND SWALLOW YOUR ENEMIES FOR HIS GLORY, HE WILL DO IT!**

If you need to be delivered out of a burning fiery furnace like God delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego - **GOD WILL DELIVER YOU FOR HIS GLORY IF YOU ARE FULL OF HIS FAITH AND OBEY HIM PERFECTLY!** (See Daniel 3:12-18)

If you need to be delivered from a den of lions as was Daniel, GOD WILL DELIVER YOU AS HE DID DANIEL, FOR HIS GLORY, IF YOU LOVE AND SERVE GOD PERFECTLY!

If, for God's glory, you need to bring waters of refreshment in times of drought, increase a widow's store of food, raise the dead, as did Elijah and Elisha, GOD WILL SEE THAT IT IS DONE, IF YOU ARE PERFECTLY OBEDIENT TO HIM!

God sent waters of refreshment in times of drought for Elijah and Elisha. (1 Kings 18:41-45; 2 Kings 3:9-20) GOD IS THE SAME AS HE WAS THEN - HE WILL DO THE SAME FOR YOU!

God increased a widow's store of food for Elijah and Elisha. (1 Kings 17:10-16; 2 Kings 4:1-7) GOD IS JUST THE SAME AS HE WAS IN THEIR DAY - HE WILL DO THE SAME THING FOR YOU TODAY!

God raised the dead for Elijah and Elisha. (1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:18-35) God is the same today as He was In their day - HE WILL DO THE SAME THING FOR YOU!

"... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." (Luke 9:23-24)

"... what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

Student, pay the price to have God's faith, get into the portion of the harvest where God wants you to labour for Him, believe God for the miraculous in your life and ministry, AND HELP ME AND OTHER DELIVERANCE MINISTERS TO GET THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THE WORLD QUICKLY.

Are you WILLING TO TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, DAILY, AND FOLLOW JESUS ALL THE WAY?

If you follow Christ FULLY, it will mean following Him to the place where He was filled with the Spirit, and then on into the wilderness where you will spend hours of fasting and prayer, to hours of service that will not be appreciated. There will be misunderstandings and persecutions for Jesus' sake. THERE WILL BE NIGHTS OF WATCHING ALONE IN PRAYER WHEN THOSE YOU LOVE SHOULD BE WATCHING WITH YOU, BUT THEY WILL BE ASLEEP. It will mean following Him into the garden - bearing the burden of a lost world. You may even be ushered into the judgment hail and receive false accusations and unjust decisions. You may be scourged for Jesus' sake. Instead of hearing sweet words of comfort and love at times like this, you may hear more false accusations, railing, mocking and scoffing as you suffer agonies of pain and anguish of soul. There is NO PLACE TO STOP AND DROP OUT OF THE RACE, NO PLACE TO EVEN DRAW BACK FROM THE PAIN AND SUFFERING. IT MAY MEAN A LITERAL CROSS FOR YOU AT THE END OF THE WAY. ARE YOU ABLE?

Get alone with God NOW - PRAY THROUGH TO VICTORY - the kind of victory that OVERCOMES THE WORLD! God must come FIRST in your life if you would have a miracle ministry, COUNT THE COST FOR YOUR LIFE AS GOD SHOWS YOU THE WAY YOU MUST GO - PAY THE PRICE AND LET GOD HAVE HIS WAY WITH YOU.

This is LOSING YOUR LIFE FOR JESUS. Jesus said,

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mark 8:35-37)

“... let him ... take up his cross, AND FOLLOW ME.” (Mark 8:34)

FOLLOW ME

I travelled down a lonely road, and no one seemed to care
The Burden on my weary back had bowed me to despair,
I oft’ complained to Jesus how folk were treating me,
And then I heard Him say so tenderly,
“My feet were also weary upon the Calvary road;
Be faithful weary pilgrim the morning I can see,
Just lift your cross and follow close to me.”

“I work so hard for Jesus” I often boast and say,
“I’ve sacrificed a lot of things to walk the narrow way,
I gave up fame and fortune; I’m worth a lot to Thee,”
And then I hear Him gently say to me -
“I left the throne of glory and counted it but loss
My hands were nailed in anger upon a cruel cross,
But now we’ll make the journey with your hand sale in mine,
So lift your cross and follow close to me.”

“Oh, Jesus, if I die upon a foreign field some day,
Twould be no more than love demands, no less could I repay,
No greater love hath mortal man than for a friend to die.”
These are the words He gently spoke to me,
“If just a cup of water I place within your hand,
Then just a cup of water is all that I demand.”
“But if by death to living they can Thy glory see,
It’ll take my cross and follow close to Thee.”

LESSON FIVE

VICTORIOUS FAITH - THE NEW TESTAMENT

There are many examples of Victorious Faith among the followers of Jesus in the New Testament, but we would call your attention, first, to Paul.

Paul's father was a Pharisee (Acts 23:6), and a Roman citizen. (Acts 22:25-28) Paul was a free-born Roman citizen, He was born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, learned tent-making, and studied with Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3)

As a young man, Paul (then called Saul) was an arch persecutor of the Christians, and was present when Stephen was stoned to death.

“And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest. And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that, if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven. And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” (Acts 9:1-4)

“And I persecuted this way unto death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.” (Acts 22:4)

“And cast him (Stephen) out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.” (Acts 7:58)

In Acts 9:1-4 when Paul was on his way to Damascus to obtain written permission from the high priest to more sorely persecute the followers of Jesus, a light from heaven shone about him, and he heard a voice saying, “... why persecutest thou me?” (Acts 22:7) When Paul asked God what he should do, God instructed him to go to Damascus and he would be told the things which were appointed for him to do.

Being blinded by the glory of the great light from heaven, Paul had to be led by those who were with him, into Damascus. When he came to Damascus, Ananias, a devout man according to the law, came to Paul, spoke to him, and his sight returned. Ananias told him he was to be a witness unto all men of what he had seen and heard, and instructed Paul to be baptised.

Paul started preaching Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. All that heard him were amazed, for he had been destroying those who called on the name of Jesus In Jerusalem, in and they knew that he had come to Damascus for the same purpose. The Jews were puzzled and took counsel to kill him. As Paul had persecuted the early Christians, so was he persecuted, to the extent that his life was almost taken by angry people on several occasions.

“Are they ministers of Christ? ... I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received

I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep. In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.” (2 Corinthians 11:23-27)

“In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me. And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.” (2 Corinthians 11:32-33)

“... I suffer trouble ... even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him. If we suffer, we shall also reign with him ...” (2 Timothy 2:9-12)

“I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where, and in all things, I am instructed, both to be lull and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Philippians 4:12-13)

Paul (as Saul of Tarsus) was a man of mental stature and force even before he became a Christian. His personality was so strong and original that no other man could have been less expected to sink himself in another. Yet from the very moment when Paul came in contact with Jesus, He WAS SO OVERPOWERED WITH HIS INFLUENCE THAT HE NEVER AFTERWARD HAD ANY OTHER DESIRE THAN TO BE A CLOSE FOLLOWER OF JESUS, AND TO BE AN ECHO AND A REFLECTION OF JESUS TO THE WORLD!

Accepting Jesus as his personal Saviour, being filled with the precious Holy Ghost, and being obedient “... unto the heavenly vision:” Paul pressed “... toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:14) He was willing to give his life for the cause of Christ. “... I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 21:13)

“According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also, Christ, shall be magnified In my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:20-21)

Paul’s mind was of breadth and force; it was never able to leave any object with which it had to deal until that object was thoroughly studied from its remotest causes and forward into all possible developments. There was one great subject that Christ had to leave unexplained - HIS OWN DEATH. He could not explain it before it had taken place. This became the leading topic of Paul’s thinking - to show WHY it was needed and what were its blessed results. By LIVING FOR CHRIST, PAUL CAME TO REALLY KNOW HIS SAVIOUR, and his thirteen Epistles give to us a rich knowledge of what it means to follow Christ. As Paul took up his cross daily and followed Jesus, WE MUST TAKE UP OUR CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW OUR

LORD!

Student, there is no other way to heaven but the way of the cross, so we need not expect to have a **MIRACLE MINISTRY WITHOUT TAKING UP OUR CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOWING JESUS**. If others had to go by the way of the cross, **WE WILL HAVE TO PAY THE SAME PRICE!**

God asks no more of us than we are able to do. If we are from lowly walks of this world, or from more advantageous positions in this world, **GOD ASKS NO MORE OF US THAN WE ARE ABLE TO GIVE**. Paul was a Hebrew of the Hebrews, a Pharisee (Philippians 3:5), "... after the most straitest sect of our religion, I lived a Pharisee." (Acts 26:5)

"I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God ..." (Acts 22:3)

Gamaliel was a Pharisee, a doctor of the law, and "... had in reputation among all the people ..." (Acts 5:34)

Some of the other apostles were unlettered men, while Paul enjoyed the fullest scholastic advantages of the period. Whatever your station in life may be - **GOD WANTS YOU!** If He can get you to fully consecrate your life to Him, **HE WILL HAVE YOUR TALENTS, YOUR POSSESSIONS, YOUR ALL** to use in His service. If you have not made the **FULL** consecration God requires, fast and pray until God reveals to you what **YOU** have to do to **PAY THE PRICE FOR HIS MIRACLE-WORKING POWER TO FLOW THROUGH YOUR LIFE!** What you do for God will have to be done quickly, for there is not much time left! "... the night cometh, when no man can work." (John 9:4)

Jesus wants to use our hands, our feet, our tongues, our brains, and our hearts through which He may evangelise the world. He would have us face difficulties victoriously. **THIS REQUIRES THE FAITH GOD GIVES!** Only as you live in obedience to God will He be able to give you this faith and live **THROUGH** you to bless the world.

Student, can you make the words of the following song **YOUR** words?

But if by a still small voice He calls to paths that I do not know,
I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in Thine, I'll go where you want me to go.
I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord, o'er mountain or plain or sea;
I'll say what You want me to say, dear Lord, I'll be what You want me to be.

On his first missionary journey with Barnabas, Paul came to Lystra in Asia Minor, and found himself in a population of heathen people, "And there they preached the gospel." (Acts 14:7)

"And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice,

Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.” (Acts 14:8-10)

The people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods who had come down in the likeness of men, and were on the point of offering sacrifice to them. Paul and Barnabas were filled with horror, and rejected the intentions of the people with haste. Certain Jews from other areas in the land came in, stirred up the people at Lystra, and having stoned Paul, they took him out of the city, thinking he was dead.

Paul never thought of turning back - his was a total commitment of his life to God, even unto death. As he went from place to place a little band of converts were left behind. The gospel found those for whom it was intended-penitents burdened with sin, souls dissatisfied with the world and their ancestral religion, hearts yearning for divine sympathy and love; “... as many as were ordained to eternal life, believed.” (Acts 13:48) These formed in every city the nucleus of a Christian church. Even at Lystra, where defeat seemed so complete, a little group of faithful hearts gathered around the mangled body of Paul outside the city gates. Eunice and Lois were there to minister unto him, and young Timothy was there, and perhaps his heart was knit more closely to the hero who had courage to suffer unto death for his faith.

God is looking for those who will follow His leading as did Paul and others - those who will suffer unto death, if necessary, for their faith. We are to obey God and leave the results of our obedience up to Him, as did Paul. **THE GOSPEL WILL FIND THOSE FOR WHOM IT IS INTENDED, IF WE WILL ONLY OBEY GOD!**

“... Are ye able to drink of the cup that I drink of, and to be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with? They say unto him, We are able.” (Matthew 20:22)

“Are ye able,” said the Master,
“To be crucified with me?”
And heroic spirits answer
Now, as then, in Galilee,
“Lord, we are able.”

Student, are you able to follow Jesus, **EVEN UNTO DEATH?** If you are not ready for this kind of consecration, **PRAY AND FAST UNTIL YOU CAN SAY YOU ABE READY.**

“... He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also...” (John 14:12)

In Thyatira, Lydia, a seller of purple, and her household, heard Paul preach - the Lord opened their hearts to the things spoken by Paul, and all of them were baptised. (Acts 16:14-15)

A damsel, possessed with a spirit of divination met Paul and Silas. She followed them saying, “... These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ, to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.” (Acts 16:17-18)

God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: so that from his body were brought unto the sick "... handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." (Acts 19:11-12)

Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. Just as surely as one of Christ's followers does some miracle, or something outstanding for God, Satan tries to withstand them, or tries to stop them in some way. There were those in the synagogue of the Libertines who disputed with Stephen when they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke.

These men accused Stephen of speaking blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. They stirred up the people, and the elders and the scribes, and came upon him, caught him, and brought him to the council. They set up false witnesses who accused him of speaking blasphemous words against "... this holy place, and the law ... we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us. And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." (Acts 6:13-15)

Stephen was allowed to speak. He preached such a strong sermon that they were cut to the heart and gnashed on him with their teeth.

"But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." (Acts 7:55-56)

The people stopped their ears and ran upon him with one accord. They cast him out of the city and stoned him as he called upon God to receive his spirit.

"And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." (Acts 7:60)

Our lives are not our own! When we accepted Jesus as our Saviour, we really became subject to Him and His will for us. Too many Christians try to follow Jesus "afar off" as did Peter on one occasion. Jesus was led away to the high priest, Caiaphas. There the scribes and the elders were assembled together seeking false witness against Jesus, to put Him to death. "Peter followed Him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end." (Matthew 26:58) Two false witnesses appeared accusing Jesus of having said He was able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days. Jesus did not answer when asked about this matter.

The high priest then asked Jesus if He was Christ, the Son of God.

"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? Behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, saying, Prophecy

unto us, thou Christ, Who Is he that smote thee?" (Matthew 26:64-68)

Peter sat without in the palace, and a damsel came to him and accused him of being with Jesus, but he denied this before those present. When Peter went out on the porch, another maid saw him and told those around her that Peter was with Jesus. Again, he denied the accusation - his time Peter denied with an oath, saying he did not know the man.

"And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly." (Matthew 26:73-75)

"And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out and wept bitterly." (Luke 22:61-62)

Student, if you are following Christ afar off, repent of those things in your life you are allowing to come between you and your Saviour, and run quickly back into the centre of God's will for your life. If you do not come back close to Jesus, you will find yourself like Peter, denying your Lord and Saviour. Peter even denied Christ so vehemently that he cursed. Then he remembered that Jesus had said he would deny Him three times before the cock would crow. When he heard the cock crow, he saw Jesus turn to look upon him. **PETER WAS FULL OF REMORSE AND WENT OUT AND WEPT BITTERLY.** He realised he had openly denied Christ - he wept and repented then and there. Jesus forgave him, just as He forgave the ones who put him to death. "... Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

At sunrise on the first day of the week after Jesus was crucified, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought sweet spices to the tomb to anoint Jesus body. The stone had been rolled away from the door of the sepulchre, and they found a young man sitting there clothed in a long white garment. They were afraid, but he spoke and told them not to be afraid, saying further that he knew that they sought Jesus of Nazareth, who had been crucified. He told them He was not there, for He had risen.

"But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you Into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you." (Mark 16:7)

If Jesus had not forgiven Peter, the angel of the Lord would not have told the women to tell Peter, too, that He had gone before them Into Galilee, where they (the disciples and Peter) would see him.

"Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth, and is baptised, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my

name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the work with signs following.” (Mark 16:14-20)

The word “they” included Peter - when he repented for denying Christ, he was forgiven. The angel at His tomb told the women there to take the message he gave them to the disciples AND TO PETER. Peter WAS A DISCIPLE, TOO, but Jesus wanted Peter to know that HE WAS STILL A DISCIPLE. Praise God, when we are forgiven for our sins, THEY ARE REMEMBERED AGAINST US NO MORE! Peter was re-instated with Jesus BECAUSE HE REPENTED OF HIS SIN.

Peter was present on the day of Pentecost with the one hundred and twenty followers of Jesus who waited for the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the upper room.

“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:3-4)

When this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and they were confounded, because every man heard them speak in his own language. The ones who were baptised with the Holy Ghost were Galileans, yet, although there were about sixteen different languages represented there that day, THE PEOPLE HEARD THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGES.

Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and expounded unto the people the works of God. He told them how they had slain Jesus with wicked hands, but that God had raised Him from the dead. They were pricked in their hearts and asked what they should do.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ... Then they that gladly received his word were baptised: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” (Acts 2:38, 41, 47)

Many signs and wonders were done by the apostles. (Acts 2:43) On their way to the temple one day, Peter and John were accosted by a lame man for alms. Peter and John fastened their eyes upon the man, and Peter said:

“... silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he, leaping up, stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.” (Acts 3:6-8)

Signs and wonders were done by the apostles, and fear came upon every soul. All that

believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. (Acts 2:43-45)

A certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, and brought part of it to the apostles, but Peter said:

“... Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? ... thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias, hearing these words, fell down, and gave up the ghost ...” (Acts 5:3-5).

The young men buried Ananias. About three hours later, his wife Sapphira came in. Peter asked her whether she had sold the land for so much, and she answered that she had.

“Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.” (Acts 5:9)

Sapphira fell down at Peter's feet and gave up the ghost. The young men came in, and finding her dead, carried her out and buried her by her husband. Great fear came upon all the church, AND UPON ALL THAT HEARD OF THIS MATTER. Believers were the more added to the Lord - multitudes of both men and women were added. (Acts 5:14)

“Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.” (Acts 5:15-16)

These apostles were abiding so closely in Christ that His power was flowing through them to work mighty miracles and wonders.

As Peter passed through the land, he came down to the saints who lived at Lydda, where he found a man named Aeneas. This man had been in bed eight years, sick with palsy.

“And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.” (Acts 9:34)

This man was known by the people at Lydda and Saron. When they saw the power of God so manifested as to make Aeneas whole, EVERY ONE LIVING AT LYDDA AND AT SARON TURNED TO THE LORD!

Going on down to Joppa, Peter learned of the illness and death of a faithful disciple of Christ, Dorcas. Dorcas “... was full of good works and almsdeeds.” (Acts 9:36) On his arrival in Joppa, he was taken to an upper chamber where he found Dorcas washed and laid out as a corpse. The widows stood by Peter weeping and showing him the coats and garments that Dorcas had made before her death.

“But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body, said, Tabitha (by interpretation, Dorcas), arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.” (Acts 9:40-42)

In Hebrews 13:8 we read, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” If Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, what He did himself, or what He did through Paul, Peter, and the other apostles, **HE WILL DO THROUGH YOU! BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE TO GET GOD’S POWER IN YOUR LIFE.** This calls for holy living.

As we have been in subjection to our earthly fathers and have been corrected by them, “... shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.” (Hebrews 12:9-10)

“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”

“If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ... Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:6-7, 14)

Listen to the words of Jesus as he communed with God just before his crucifixion.

“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.” (John 17:12)

As Jesus watched for the souls of those God had given to Him to look after, we are expected to be watchful over those under our care. If we are true to our task, we will be instant in season and out of season.

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

It is not enough to win people to the Lord, or to bring deliverances to them physically, mentally or spiritually. The people need to be taught in order to become firmly established in God, so that they may be used of God in winning the lost and delivering other people from sickness, oppressions from Satan, demon possession, and other bondages imposed by the enemy.

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.” (Acts 20:28-30)

Paul knew he had to go to Jerusalem on one occasion, in spite of the fact that he was warned not to go in every city he entered en-route to Jerusalem. The Holy Ghost even witnessed to him along the way that bonds and afflictions awaited him there.

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” (Acts 20:24)

“... the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.” (Acts 23:11)

Paul went to Rome literally bound as a prisoner, not knowing what awaited him there. His main objective was to fulfil God’s call on his life - **NO MATTER WHAT THE PERSONAL COST, HE OBEYED GOD AND WENT TO ROME!**

Student, what shall it profit you if you gain the whole world and lose you own soul? Disobedience is sin. “... so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord your God.” (Deuteronomy 8:20) “... to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry ...” (1 Samuel 15:22-23)

Do not forget - **POWER IS A DIRECT RESULT OF FAITH, AND FAITH COMES BY OBEDIENCE!** If you would have God’s power operating through your life, **BE OBEDIENT TO GOD IN ALL HE TELLS YOU TO DO! FIRST-** be sure you know the **WORD** - “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15) “Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) Live in an attitude of prayer - **BE READY TO TUNE IN ON THE ROYAL TELEPHONE OF HEAVEN AT ANY MOMENT.** God may speak to you through sermons, songs, conversations, or through many other ways - **BE SURE YOU KNOW THE VOICE OF THE LORD, TRY THE SPIRITS TO SEE WHETHER THEY ARE OF GOD.** “... believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)

LESSON SIX

HOW TO TAKE THE ANSWER FROM GOD

“... without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

Real praying isn't just saying a lot of words easily - **PRAYING IS HARD WORK - IF YOU ARE TOUCHING GOD, SATAN IS INFURIATED AND WILL WITHSTAND YOUR PRAYERS UNTIL YOU GIVE UP, OR UNTIL HE IS DEFEATED BY YOUR PERSISTENCE! FAITH DOES NOT LET GO UNTIL THE ANSWER COMES! DON'T QUIT BEFORE THE JOB IS DONE!**

Prayer is a battle - the battle is not to get God to hear - the battle is to **WREST THE ANSWER FROM THE HANDS OF THE DEVIL!** Just as Daniel kept holding on in prayer and fasting until the answer was wrest from the hands of the devil, we will have to contend for our answers until the victory is ours.

When Daniel started praying' the Word says, “... I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes,” (Daniel 9:3) and Daniel 10:2-3 says, “In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.”

After a week of fasting and prayer, **DANIEL DID NOT FAINT AND QUIT - he kept crying out to God. He was determined to SEEK UNTIL HE GOT HIS ANSWER!** Two full weeks rolled by, and still no answer! Still Daniel kept right on asking.

In the meantime, what happened? The “prince of the kingdom of Persia,” a messenger of Satan, withstood God's angelic messenger for twenty-one days. There was a battle in the atmospheric heavens, as the angel stood his ground. Michael, the archangel, entered the battle, and the victory was won. **IF YOU WILL HOLD ON WHEN YOU ARE FASTING AND PRAYING, GOD WILL GIVE YOU THE ANSWER IF HE HAS TO SEND THE ARCHANGEL HIMSELF TO HELP TAKE THE ANSWER FROM SATAN AND GET IT TO YOU.**

Student, learn to labour steadfastly in prayer until your answer comes. “... always labouring fervently for you in prayers ...” (Colossians 4:12), was not just for Paul and his followers. **IF WE GET OUR PRAYERS ANSWERED, WE WILL HAVE TO LEARN THAT PRAYER IS HARD WORK.** Remember, we are not wrestling “... against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

Daniel may have had a witness in his spirit that God had heard his prayer, for he knew

the secret of receiving from God. He may have felt his prayer was heard early in the long period of fasting and prayer, **BUT HE WASN'T SATISFIED WITH A WITNESS IN HIS SPIRIT, HE WANTED THE ANSWER HE WAS WAITING FOR.** When God saw Daniel was determined to have the answer, He sent Michael from heaven to help wrest the answer out of the hands of the devil, and to deliver it to Daniel. When the angel reached Daniel, he was still fasting and praying, **WAITING ON GOD!**

If Daniel had quit praying at the end of the first week, or even at the end of the second week, **HE WOULD NEVER HAVE RECEIVED THE ANSWER!** Has Satan intercepted God's messengers to you with answers to your prayers? **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE ANSWERS TO YOUR PRAYERS, SATAN MOST ASSUREDLY MUST HAVE INTERCEPTED GOD'S MESSENGERS TO YOU,** for the Word says:

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." (John 15:7)

If you are abiding in Christ, and His Word is abiding in you, you can receive the answers to your prayers. Hold on in fasting and prayer until your answers come.

Could it be that Satan still holds answers to your prayers - prayers you prayed years ago? If so, there is only one way for you to get your answers away from him. Get back on your knees, and like Daniel of old, set your face toward heaven, and begin to call out to God. Let God know that you are going to keep **KNOCKING AND SEEKING** until your answers come! Come before Him continually until you have been avenged of your adversary, Satan. Let God see that you are going to fast and pray until He sends reinforcements from heaven, takes the answers you are waiting for from the hands of Satan, and delivers them to you.

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." (Matthew 11:12)

"The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." (Luke 16:16)

There are thousands of promises in God's Word, and every one of them is made to God's children **WHO HAVE FAITH! ALL OF GOD'S PROMISES ARE CLAIMED BY FAITH.** James declares you can have nothing without faith.

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." (James 1:6-7)

The only promises in the Bible which are made to the sinner are the promises of forgiveness to the repentant and judgement to the unrepentant.

God has promised many things, but before any of them can be claimed, we must first heed the admonition of Jesus, "... seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his

righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

To some who came to Jesus, His reply was, “... According to your faith be it unto you.” (Matthew 9:29)

As He taught His disciples to pray, He declared, “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” (Mark 11:24)

According to God’s Word, it is impossible to claim the promises of God without faith. **EVERYTHING MUST BE CLAIMED BY FAITH AND THROUGH FAITH.**

“... as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. ...” (Matthew 8:13)

Many people have strong faith. Jesus said of one, “... I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” (Matthew 8:10) However, there are some that have little faith. At Nazareth He could do no mighty works. “And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief ...” (Mark 6:5-6)

Student, your **UNBELIEF CAN KEEP GOD FROM DOING ANYTHING FOR YOU!**

FAITH PUTS ALL THE POWER OF GOD AT YOUR DISPOSAL!

YOU CAN HAVE GOD’S FAITH AND TAKE YOUR ANSWERS FROM GOD!

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7)

TAKE GOD AT HIS WORD AND ACCEPT HIS FAITH!

Abiding in Christ **GUARANTEES TO YOU THE ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER!**
Abiding in Christ is **LIVING IN THE WORD OF GOD, BY THE WORD OF GOD, AND IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD!**

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1)

Those who abide in Christ are not condemned. God’s formula for faith is for those **WHO ARE FREE FROM ALL SIN.** God’s formula for faith is,

“... if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” (1 John 3:21-22)

(Many of the foregoing excerpts were taken from the book, **HOW TO TAKE THE ANSWER FROM GOD**, A. A. Allen.)

In Romans 1:17, we read, "... the just shall live by faith." God's Word also says,

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." (Hebrews 10:38)

In the next verse in Hebrews the Bible adds, "But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition ..." (Hebrews 10:39) We move on. We keep travelling. WE ARE EITHER GOING ON OR WE ARE GOING BACK - WE DO NOT STAND STILL! There is only ONE THING THAT WILL TAKE US THROUGH as we travel along - and that is FAITH! The just walk by faith. "... Without faith it is impossible to please him (God) ..." (Hebrews 11:6)

Student, there will be many, many times you will need to fast and pray, even after you have fasted and prayed until God showed you what YOU had to do to have His miracle working power in your life and ministry. I BELIEVE IN FASTING AND PRAYING AS OFTEN AS YOU SHOULD, but there are times when we need faith in emergencies. It is at times like this that WE NEED TO BE ABIDING IN CHRIST AND CAN JUST SPEAK THE WORD OR SILENTLY COMMAND GOD TO DO SOMETHING IN A SECOND OF TIME.

We can stay "prayed up" to the extent that if an emergency arises we can claim God's promises instantly - silently or aloud, we can contact God in a moment of time, and believe Him for the answer to prayer.

Just before Jesus called out to Lazarus to come forth from the tomb, He lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me ... I knew that thou hearest me always ..." (John 11:41-42) In John 14:12 we read, "... He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also ..." and surely we would have to be close enough to God to be able to say, as did Jesus, "I know that THOU HEAREST ME ALWAYS!"

We are told in the Bible that Jesus is "... the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8) If Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, HIS POWER IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER. What Jesus did while He was on earth, He says WE CAN DO, ALSO!

The Word says, "... the just shall live by faith." (Romans 1:17) We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. WHAT JESUS HAD WE CAN HAVE. "... how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32) Everything Jesus had, we can have. Jesus performed miracles, healed the sick, cast out devils, set the captives free, and made it possible for us to do the same works.

Many of the verses of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews begin with these phrases: "By faith Abel ..." - "By faith Enoch ..." - "By faith Noah ..." - "By faith Abraham ..." - "By faith Isaac ..." - "By faith Jacob ..." - "By faith Joseph ..." - "By faith Moses ..." - "By faith ... Rahab ..." The Bible tells us it is impossible to please God without faith. (Hebrews 11:6)

"Thou shalt ... decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee ..." (Job 22:28)

Student, you can have faith that “decrees a thing” - “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”(John 15:7) When you pray, SET YOUR HEART UPON IT - MAKE UP YOUR MIND THAT THE ANSWER IS YOURS - DECREE THAT IT SHALL BE DONE! If you meet God’s conditions HE WILL ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS! GOD CAN, AND HE WILL BRING IT TO PASS! He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. God never changes. The Bible never changes. GOD HAS ALL POWER IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH AND HE WILL DO TODAY WHAT HE DID YESTERDAY, AND HE WILL DO TOMORROW WHAT HE DID TODAY. God says, “decree a thing,” make up your mind, decide what God is going to do for you, BUT BE SURE THAT YOUR MIND IS THE MIND OF CHRIST. The Word says, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:5) This kind of mind is the result of being right with God.

Just as people in Bible days had faith, WE MUST HAVE FAITH. Joshua spoke to the sun, AND IT STOOD STILL! He spoke to the moon, AND IT STOOD STILL. “And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies ...” (Joshua 10:13)

In 2 Kings 2:14, Elisha said, as he smote the waters of the Jordan with the mantle of Elijah, “... Where is the Lord God of Elijah? ...” THE WATERS PARTED AND ELISHA WENT OVER.

In Numbers 21:9 the children of Israel merely looked upon the brazen serpent which Moses made and placed upon a pole (typical of Christ on the cross). They did not even have to pray; they just looked. They had faith to believe that there was life for one look. “And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.” (Numbers 21:9)

Elijah, in 2 Kings 6:6, merely threw a stick into the water of Jordan and an axe head that had sunk to the bottom immediately came to the surface and began to swim. In the natural, THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE, but BECAUSE ELIJAH HAD FAITH THAT DECREED A THING SHOULD COME TO PASS, THAT AXE HEAD STARTED SWIMMING.

A number of years ago, I published my first book, GOD’S GUARANTEE TO HEAL YOU. I did not like to have any unpaid bills, so I prayed desperately that God would give me enough money to pay the printer. Finally I believed that I had payed the last bill. Soon after that experience I was in a little town in Indiana. I went to the mailbox one day, and there was a letter from the printer saying that he had over-looked a bill, the bill for the paper. If I remember correctly, it was for about \$410.00. The printer wanted the money at once. I looked in my billfold. I had just enough money to get to that town to hold the revival meeting that was scheduled. I had a few one-dollar bills in my billfold, which was not enough to pay the paper bill, but I knew where I could borrow the money for this bill.

I went to my morning service determined that, as soon as the service was over, I would get on the phone and borrow \$410.00 to pay the paper bill so I would not owe the

printer. I preached on Deuteronomy 28.

“And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee ... in all that thou settest thine hand unto ... thou shalt lend ... and thou shalt not borrow ... the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail ...” (Deuteronomy 28:2, 5-6, 8, 12-13a)

After I had read that far in this chapter I was under conviction, but still had it in my mind to go ahead and borrow the \$410.00 for the paper bill. I told God that “... thou shalt lend ... and thou shalt not borrow ...” was for the Jews who lived in those days. God told me I did not have this because I did not believe, and that the promise was FOR ALL WHO WOULD BELIEVE IT, AND CLAIM IT FOR THEIR OWN.

The Jews have most of the money in the world and always have money to loan. God reminded me that I, like the Jews, could have money to lend instead of having to borrow.

I had to change my message that morning. I could hardly wait until I had made the altar call at the end of the morning service, and got everyone on their knees. I got down, too, opened my Bible, put my finger on the verse, “... thou shalt lend ... and thou shalt not borrow.” (Deuteronomy 28:12) God told me if I would claim that verse as my very own, He would perform a miracle for me. All I did was to put my finger on the promise and said, “God, I’m not going to borrow that money. You are going to give it to me by a miracle.”

The next morning God told me to look in my billfold - He said I had enough money to pay my paper bill. To me, this could not be possible, for the pastor did not even take an offering for me the first day of the meeting, and only a few of my books had been sold. No one had given me any money, so I thought the voice I was hearing did not know what it was talking about.

At church that morning, I could hardly preach for hearing God telling me to open my billfold, so when I had finished preaching, I called the saints in the service to come around the altar. I slipped into the preacher’s office, pulled out my billfold and looked at my money. I started shouting - I had a miracle - my one-dollar bills had been changed to twenty-dollar bills. IT HAD TO HAPPEN TO ME BECAUSE I DECREED A THING. I had said, “God, I am not going to borrow that money; you are going to give it to me by a miracle.” Job 22:28a says, “Thou shalt... decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee ...” In Isaiah 45:11, “... Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.” God can do more than command an axe head to swim; make the sun to stand still until a battle can be fought and a victory won; cause the Red Sea to pile up on either side of an opening, forming a passage for the Israelite host to march across on dry ground, and then causing the Red Sea to come together again to drown the Egyptian army. HE CAN PERFORM A MIRACLE FOR YOU! HE CAN AND WILL PERFORM A MIRACLE FOR YOU! HE TURNED ONE-DOLLAR BILLS INTO TWENTY-

DOLLAR BILLS FOR ME! HE WILL PERFORM MIRACLES FOR ALL WHO WILL DECREE A THING, OR COMMAND HIM!

“Thou shalt ... decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee ...” (Job 22:28a)

“... Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.” (Isaiah 45:11)

One man said, “... Where is the Lord God of Elijah? ...” (2 Kings 2:14) He smote the water of the Jordan River with the mantle of Elijah, the water parted, and Elisha crossed over.

We need to know that God will perform miracles for us. Whether our needs are physical, mental, spiritual, or financial, **GOD CAN AND WILL PERFORM MIRACLES FOR US IF WE WILL DARE TO BELIEVE WE CAN DECREE A THING, OR USE “COMMAND-YE-ME” FAITH.**

In 2 Kings 4, a creditor had come to take away the two sons of a widow to be bondmen for a debt she owed him. Elisha had her to borrow all the vessels her neighbours had, take these vessels into her house, close the door and start filling the borrowed vessels from a little pot of oil she had. As her sons provided empty vessels, she poured oil **FROM THE LITTLE POT** into them **UNTIL EVERY BORROWED VESSEL WAS FILLED WITH OIL FROM THE TINY POT SHE HAD.**

Elijah had the kind of faith to believe that God was going to provide a miracle for a widow who lived in Zarephath. This woman had a handful of meal in her meal barrel, and a bit of oil in a cruse. When Elijah asked her for a little water to drink and a morsel of bread, she told him she was gathering sticks to cook the handful of meal for her and her son, and then they would eat it and die. Elijah told her not to be afraid, but to go ahead and do what she meant to do, **BUT TO MAKE HIM A LITTLE CAKE FIRST AND BRING IT TO HIM, AND THEN TO MAKE BREAD FOR HER AND HER SON.** The widow obeyed the prophet “... and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah.” (1 Kings 17:15-16)

I believe you can have the kind of faith that will not only command: the sun to stop, a battle to be won, the walls to fall, or an axe head to swim, but you can have the kind of faith that will command God to perform the miracles you need.

Many Christians have “decreeing faith, command-ye-Me-faith.” When they actually begin to exercise it they find that it works every day. Some of you do not realise you have this faith because you have not put it into practice.

If you never used one of your arms and consistently allowed it to hang by your side, **YOU WOULD LOSE THE USE OF IT.** So it is with faith - if you do not use it, very soon it becomes decidedly weak - you begin to feel you do not have **ANY** faith.

Many of you have “command-ye-Me-faith” but you have not been using it, so it has become a helpless, useless thing. **YOU ARE NOT EVEN AWARE OF THE FACT**

THAT YOU HAVE IT.

The main reason many believers are not in active ministries today (as many of them know they should be) is because they are afraid to trust God financially. All the silver and the gold belong to God.

“The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” (Psalms 34:7)

I believe God wants to deliver you from an empty pocket book, from poverty to prosperity. If you will claim it you can have faith that will command God, faith that will decree a thing and see it come to pass.

In Job 22 God says:

“Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee ... lay up his words in thine heart. If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver. For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God. Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows. Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee ...” (Job 22:21-28)

If you can have faith for God to heal your body, **YOU CAN HAVE FAITH FOR OTHER MIRACLES YOU NEED!** God can take care of you financially as easily as He can take care of you physically and spiritually. You can have the faith that will decree that God is going to bless you financially. Why don't you tell God you want this kind of faith - **TELL HIM YOU WANT THE KIND OF FAITH THAT WILL BRING THE MIRACLES YOU NEED INTO YOUR LIFE, WHETHER THESE NEEDS ARE SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL, OR FINANCIAL.** As surely as you take a step toward God, **GOD WILL DO SOMETHING FOR YOU.** Generally, this kind of faith comes after you know that you have done your part - **YOU CAN NOT HOLD OUT ON GOD AND STILL HAVE THIS KIND OF FAITH!**

Complete surrender to God brings one to the place where deep, abiding faith can be exercised. God had promised to multiply Abraham's seed: "... as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered." (Genesis 13:16) This promise was to come through Abraham's only son (by Sarah), Isaac. God spoke to Abraham one day and said, "... Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." (Genesis 22:2) **ABRAHAM DID NOT QUESTION GOD - HE MADE PREPARATIONS TO DO GOD'S BIDDING.** God had promised to multiply Abraham's seed **THROUGH ISAAC**, and now God has commanded Abraham to **OFFER ISAAC AS A SACRIFICE.** On the way out into the mountains where the sacrifice was to be made, Isaac asked his father where the lamb was: "... Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering ..." (Genesis 22:7-8)

They came to the place that God showed Abraham. Abraham built an altar there, laid the wood in order upon the altar and bound his son, Isaac. He laid him on the altar upon the wood, and stretched forth his hand and took the knife to slay his son. The angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven and said:

“... Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. ... And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.” (Genesis 22:12, 15-18)

Student, THIS IS FULL SURRENDER UNTO GOD - Are YOU as fully surrendered unto God as you should be? IS THERE ANYTHING YOU ARE WITHHOLDING FROM GOD? Get YOUR life on the altar, first, THEN LAY EVERYTHING IN YOUR POSSESSION UPON THE ALTAR - Whatever God requires of you, DO IT! With complete surrender like this, FAITH WILL BE A PART OF YOU SO STRONGLY THAT YOU DECIDE THAT SOMETHING SHALL BE AND IT WILL BE! With a consecration like this YOU WILL STAY PRAYED UP AND THE FAITH IN YOUR LIFE WILL BRING THINGS TO PASS AS YOU DECREE IT TO BE!

Peter became so fully surrendered unto God THAT HIS SHADOW BROUGHT HEALING AND DELIVERANCE TO THE PEOPLE. As he walked by the sick and the demon possessed they were healed and delivered as his shadow passed over them.

“... they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.” (Acts 5:15-16)

When Elisha threw the handful of meal into the poison pot, he just decided that God was going to do it and the pottage was made safe for the sons of the prophets to eat. (2 Kings 4:38-41)

Elisha had “command-ye-Me” faith when he walked up to the Jordan River, struck the water with Elijah’s mantle (as he had seen Elijah do), and said, “... Where is the Lord God of Elijah? ...” (2 Kings 2:14) The waters parted and Elisha went over. Elisha did not pray then - HE JUST DECIDED GOD WAS GOING TO DO FOR HIM WHAT HE HAD SEEN HIM DO FOR ELIJAH. His faith commanded God - he decreed that the Jordan River would stop flowing and that the water would part for him to be able to walk across. HE FOUND HE HAD THE KIND OF FAITH THAT ELIJAH HAD.

“Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.” (Job 22:28)

“... Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.” (Isaiah 45:11)

You can have the same kind of faith that Daniel had when he locked the lions’ mouths, “... no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.” (Daniel 6:23) **DANIEL’S FAITH STOPPED THE MOUTHS OF LIONS.** (Hebrews 11:33)

You can have the same kind of faith that the three Hebrews, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had when they quenched the violence of a fiery furnace by their faith in God, “... I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” (Daniel 3:25)

The furnace had been heated seven times hotter than it was usually heated, and the Hebrew men were bound and cast into that fiery inferno - **THEY STEADFASTLY BELIEVED GOD WAS ABLE TO DELIVER THEM FROM THE FIERY FURNACE.** “... our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.” (Daniel 3:17)

The fire had no power on the bodies of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, nor was one hair on their heads singed, neither were their coats changed, nor was there the smell of fire upon them. **GOD HAD DELIVERED HIS SERVANTS WHO TRUSTED IN HIM.**(Daniel 3:27-28)

You can have the “creative, commanding faith” that Elisha had when he miraculously multiplied the oil for a poverty-stricken widow and brought her instant riches. (2 Kings 4:3-7) You can have the faith that says, “**MY GOD CAN AND HE WILL DO IT.**”

You can have the kind of faith Elijah had when he made an axe head jump to the top of the water and start swimming. The sons of the prophets were building a dwelling place beside the River Jordan. As they were felling timbers for the beams, a borrowed axe head fell into the waters Elijah cut down a stick, cast it into the water, and the axe swam. **ELIJAH WAS ALREADY “PRAYED UP,” HE SIMPLY EXERCISED “COMMAND-YE-ME-FAITH.”**

In 2 Kings 1:10, 12, we read that Elijah decreed, on two occasions, that fire come down from heaven and consume a captain and his fifty men (one hundred and two men altogether) when they were sent down to tell Elijah to come up to see the King. On both occasions fire **CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND CONSUMED THE MEN.**

Just before Elijah was taken in a chariot of fire up into heaven by a whirlwind, he was walking along with Elisha. They came to Jordan, and Elijah took his mantle and smote the water of the river - **THE WATER PARTED AND THEY WENT OVER ON DRY GROUND.** (2 Kings 2:8) When Elijah was caught up to heaven in the chariot of fire, Elisha picked up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, went back to the bank of Jordan, and smote the water of Jordan with the mantle, crying out, “... Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.” (2 Kings 2:14)

In the earliest days of the New Testament Church, when the believers in Jerusalem

increased by the thousands, they laid the sick, the suffering, and the dying in the streets so that even the shadow of Peter might fall upon them as he walked by, and heal them. There is no record in the fifth chapter of Acts that Peter anointed any of them with oil - he did not lay his hands upon them - he merely walked by and his faith commanded God to heal the sick as his shadow overcast them!

You can have the kind of faith Paul had in Acts 19:11-12, when he laid hands upon handkerchiefs and aprons and sent them forth to the sick and the suffering, and even to the demon possessed people. His faith commanded God to perform the miraculous as those in need of a miracle touched a handkerchief or apron that had come in contact with Paul's body. "Command-ye-Me-faith" was being exercised by Paul, and special miracles were wrought by God.

Student, YOU CAN HAVE THIS GIFT OF FAITH! GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE IT! Many people are exercising this kind of faith in our campaigns across America as God gives the gift of COMMAND-YE-ME-FAITH to those who believe and accept it.

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, "... the beginning and the end, the first and the last." (Revelation 22:13) He is the Author and the Finisher of your faith. The same Christ who STARTED your faith in its infancy, can bring your faith to FULL CHRISTIAN MATURITY, and give you THE FAITH OF GOD, the kind of faith that COMMANDS GOD, and THE MIRACULOUS HAPPENS!

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith ..." (Hebrews 12:1- 2)

(Many of the foregoing statements were taken from my books, COMMAND YE ME, and HOW TO TAKE THE ANSWER FROM GOD.)

Student, as you obey God in EVERY PHASE OF YOUR LIFE, God's faith will be prevalent in your life. Before you can KNOW GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE SO YOU CAN LIVE IN OBEDIENCE TO HIM YOU WILL NEED TO BE IN PRAYER AND "... IN FASTINGS OFTEN ..." (2 Corinthians 11:27) as experienced by Paul. If you have not had experience in fasting, THIS EXPERIENCE IS FOR YOU AND IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE IF YOU WANT GOD'S MIRACLE WORKING POWER IN YOUR LIFE AND MINISTRY.

If you still lack something in your life, go into a fast - FAST UNTIL YOU HAVE PRAYED THROUGH AND TOUCHED GOD FOR AN ANSWER! Through prayer AND FASTING, YOU CAN TAKE THE ANSWER FROM GOD!

If preachers fasted more, there would be more success instead of so many failures in the ministry. More fasting among our preachers would bring more power and demonstration through their lives, and the gifts of the Spirit would operate freely. A SURE ROAD TO THE ANOINTING OF GOD IS A CONSECRATION FAST UNTO GOD!

Get in earnest with God - TIME IS SWIFTLY PASSING BY - MAKE UP YOUR MIND TO FAST AND PRAY UNTIL YOU GET YOUR ANSWER FROM GOD. Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days before He entered into His ministry here on earth. Daniel fasted and prayed for twenty-one days before his answer came on one occasion. You may have to go on a long fast before your answer comes from God. FASTING IS PLEASING TO THE LORD.

Prayer is hard work, and fasting is real sacrifice, but THEY WILL GET RESULTS WITH GOD! When your answer comes, OBEY GOD. As you walk obediently before God, FAITH WILL PUT GOD'S POWER AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

“Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee ...” (Job 22:28a)

“... Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.” (Isaiah 45:11)

COMMAND-YE-ME-FAITH CAN BE YOURS - PAY THE PRICE GOD REQUIRES OF YOU AND “... decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee...” (Job 22:28)

LESSON SEVEN

LIVING BY FAITH

Just as GIVING, PRAYING, AND FASTING are foundation stones of the Christian religion, they are foundation stones of each individual person as a Christian. **KEEP THESE FOUNDATION STONES INTACT IN YOUR LIFE!**

Jesus gave all He had for us. He willingly left heaven to come into the world as a baby, to grow up just as we did. Jesus had experiences just as we had in growing from a baby to manhood. He was the Son of God, but He was the Son of man, too.

“For we have not an high priest which can not be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus gave ALL He had, prayed and fasted many, many hours, and even gave His life for us. If Jesus had to fast and pray, **IT IS CERTAINLY NECESSARY FOR US TO FAST AND PRAY! WE MAY HAVE TO GIVE OUR LIVES FOR HIM!** He is to have first place in our lives - the Word says if we love son, daughter, mother, or father more than we love Him, **WE ARE NOT WORTHY OF HIM!** (See Matthew 10:37)

“And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.” (Matthew 10:38-39)

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ... Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:8, 10)

Is it worth it to forsake all we have, if necessary, to follow Jesus? Peter said unto Jesus, “... Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? ... And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.” (Matthew 19:27, 29)

If you have made vows to God - **PAY THOSE VOWS! GOD IS HOLDING YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM!**

The tithe belongs to God - we are called thieves if we fail to tithe. “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. ... In tithes and offerings.” (Malachi 3:8) The tithe **BELONGS** to God. Our offerings should be given to Him because we love Him.

If we obey God in everything He requires of us He will give us His faith. Be quick to obey Him in ALL things. **AS YOU WALK OBEDIENTLY BEFORE GOD, HIS FAITH WILL BE YOURS!** When you have God’s faith, you will never need to ask, “CAN GOD?” You will ALWAYS be able to say, “GOD CAN!”

Before you can walk obediently before God, YOU WILL HAVE TO KNOW WHAT HIS WILL IS FOR YOUR LIFE - WHAT HE WOULD HAVE YOU SAY AND DO IN EVERY PHASE OF YOUR LIFE. How can you know God's will in everything that touches your life? The answer is in PRAYER AND FASTING! When you have the answer from God, DO WHAT HE TOLD YOU TO DO! This will mean that you will have to take up your cross DAILY and follow Jesus.

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.” (Luke 9:23-24)

Many Christians fail to fast. FASTING MUST NOT BE NEGLECTED IF YOU WOULD HAVE GOD'S FAITH AND POWER IN YOUR LIFE! Jesus set this example for us. Before He began His ministry HE FASTED FOR FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS.

“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, ALL these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.” (Matthew 4:1-11)

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them. And there followed him great multitudes of people ...” (Matthew 4:23-25)

Jesus lived on earth as a MAN. He was “... in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15) If Jesus had not been subjected to the same things we have to experience, HE COULD NOT HAVE BECOME AN EXAMPLE FOR US TO FOLLOW. Jesus was in all points tempted “like as we are,” BUT HE NEVER ONCE YIELDED TO TEMPTATION - HE BECAME A PERFECT EXAMPLE FOR US. Jesus was perfect and He expects us to be perfect. If it was possible for Jesus to live without sin, IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO LIVE WITHOUT SIN. As a man, Jesus lived without sin.

“For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” (Hebrews 2:16-18)

“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2:7-8)

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.” (1 Peter 2:21-23)

Christ is our example in words and in deeds. If our words and deeds are to be like those of Jesus, WE MUST LEARN TO THINK AS JESUS THOUGHT. This is possible only as we bring “... into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:5) Controlling our thoughts takes determined consecration. God would have us live victoriously in our thought life. Satan will always come with evil suggestions, for he will try to tempt us as long as he has access to our lives. The Word says, “... Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7) We have to resist Satan in our thought lives because our thoughts mould our lives.

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man.” (Mark 7:21-23)

If our lives are filled with carnality we can not have God’s faith and power in our lives.

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace, because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God ... so then they that are in the flesh can not please God.” (Romans 8:6-8)

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like ... they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:19-21)

Carnally minded people won’t even get into heaven, and God certainly can’t use them in His service here on earth. WE MUST BRING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST, THEN WE WILL TALK LIKE JESUS, AND ACT LIKE JESUS. Christ is our example. We are to pattern our lives after His life. Do not be afraid of going too far in following after our Lord. NO BELIEVER HAS EVER GONE AS FAR AS GOD WANTS HIM TO GO. We have

not gone as far as we should go. No church has gone far enough with the Lord, until the church eventually conforms someone to the Son. (Romans 8:29) **DON'T ALLOW SATAN TO KEEP YOU BACK - GO ON WITH JESUS!** "... if any man will come alter me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

The Word says, "... Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

"... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22-25)

No one has ever had a miracle ministry until the price God required was paid. **NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE A MIRACLE MINISTRY UNTIL HE PAYS THE PRICE GOD REQUIRES OF HIM!** Are you discouraged? Examine yourself to find where the trouble is - have you fasted and prayed until your answer from heaven came? Through fasting and prayer God will tell you, if He hasn't already answered this cry of your heart, **WHY THE MIRACLE WORKING POWER OF GOD IS NOT OPERATING THROUGH YOUR LIFE AND MINISTRY.** When you get your answer, move quickly to obey God. Time is running out, and there is not much time left to work for God.

Satan is busy trying to get the attention of the people of the world. Therefore, **IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR MINISTERS TO BE MIRACLE WORKERS IN ORDER TO ATTRACT PEOPLE TO GOD.**

If there was ever a time when God's children needed to know they are still serving a **MIRACLE WORKING GOD, IT IS NOW! GOD CAN STILL PERFORM MIRACLES AND SET HIS CHURCH FREE FROM THE WHIPLASH OF SATAN.**

Jesus is not coming back for a church in bondage - His church is to be set free.

Israel, while in bondage in Egypt and under Pharaoh's whiplash, is a type of the church - the church under the devil's whiplash, bound and fettered. Just as God delivered Israel out of Egyptian bondage, and led them to the promised land, **HE IS GOING TO DELIVER HIS CHILDREN FROM SATAN'S BONDAGE TODAY! GOD CAN AND HE WILL DELIVER HIS PEOPLE!**

"He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes." (Psalms 105:37)

Just as the Israelites were brought out of Egyptian bondage with much wealth and excellent health, **HE IS GOING TO PERFORM THE MIRACULOUS TODAY. HE IS GOING TO HEAL THE SICK, BREAK THE BONDAGES OF SATAN, AND GIVE FINANCIAL BLESSINGS TO HIS CHILDREN SO THAT THIS GOSPEL OF SALVATION, DELIVERANCE, AND POWER, CAN BE SPREAD TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.**

Jesus is already bringing the church out of bondage - He is setting His people free from the whiplash of Satan-**EVERY BELIEVER CAN BE USED IN THIS GREAT DELIVERANCE!** Jesus is not only performing miracles for the physical bodies of His children, he is also returning the wealth once more to His people - **WEALTH TO BE USED IN SPREADING HIS GOSPEL. HE IS NOT GIVING IT TO BE HOARDED FOR "RAINY DAYS"- NEITHER IS THIS WEALTH TO BE USED CARELESSLY BY HIS CHILDREN.** The needs of His children will be met, for the Word says, "... the labourer is worthy of his hire ..." (Luke 10:7) God expects His children to use this wealth with discretion and wisdom. **EVERY BELIEVER CAN ENJOY THESE BENEFITS FROM GOD IF HE WILL PAY THE PRICE REQUIRED OF GOD, TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW JESUS IN PERFECT OBEDIENCE!**

Just as God performed miracle after miracle for the Israelites on their journey from Egypt to the promised land, He will perform miracles for His children today. **CAN HE DO IT? HE CAN AND HE WILL DO IT!**

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us ..." (John 1:1, 14)

The Bible says "... the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1) In John 1:14 the Bible says "...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." Jesus was that "flesh" spoken of in John 1:14. He performed miracles for His people as recorded in the Old Testament, He performed miracles while He was on earth as a man, **HE IS STILL PERFORMING MIRACLES THROUGH HIS TRUE FOLLOWERS!**

God can and will supply your every need if you are a true follower of His. If you are really living in obedience to Jesus He will perform miracles through you **AND** supply your every need. Many ministers are afraid to trust God for the needs of their families. **YOUR BUSINESS IS TO OBEY GOD!**

"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ... for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:31-33)

Be positive in your faith **THAT GOD WILL BLESS AND PROSPER YOU FINANCIALLY**, just the same as He will bless and prosper you in your health and in your soul. **BELIEVE GOD'S WORD!**

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." (3 John 2)

"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day ... all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, If thou shalt hearken unto

the voice of the Lord thy God. ... Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto ... And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground ... The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.” (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 4-8, 11-12)

“... prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Malachi 3:10-11)

The promises of God are for those who keep His commandments and believe His Word. If you are obedient to God and believe His promises, **TAKE THEM AS YOUR OWN! THEY ARE YOURS! DON'T BE** afraid to trust God to take care of you and your family as you serve him. If God has called you into a full-time ministry - **GET INTO THAT FULL-TIME MINISTRY! DON'T BE SATISFIED WITH A PART-TIME MINISTRY!** “... Hath the Lord as great delight in... sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” (1 Samuel 15:22) **OBEY THE LORD! HE KNOWS THE FUTURE - HE KNOWS WHAT YOU WILL HAVE NEED OF AS YOU GO FORTH TO FULFIL YOUR CALL!** Don't wait until you have everything you will need before you do the bidding of God - “... seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

There was a time in my early ministry when I sawed logs and cut wood in the big timbers of the North-west. I worked part-time and preached part-time. I was building a church, and I needed a set of new tires for my automobile. My church was small and was struggling back in the days of depression. I made the money for the tires, but God allowed some things to happen, and I had to spend that money for something else. **I DID NOT GET THE TIRES!**

One day God told me to start praying, preaching, visiting the sick, and all of the things He called me to do - **AND HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF MY NEEDS.** I was not lazy; I liked to work - but I determined to get back into the full-time ministry.

I got back on my knees and began to pray; “God, you called me to preach. You did not call me to saw logs. I have to have the victory. I have to go on with that call.”

The very next day a little woman came to me and said, “I was praying this morning and God told me to bring you this check to buy tires for your automobile.”

The reason some of you are not in the full-time ministry is that YOU DO NOT BELIEVE GOD CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU. Why don't you say, "God, You have called me and I'm going through. I'm going to trust You to take care of me and my family. I'm going to trust You to give me a ministry. I'm going to trust You for supernatural gifts to make my ministry a success. I'm going to trust You for the finances necessary to stay in full-time service for You."

If God's miracle working power was with the Israelites as they journeyed from Egypt to Canaan, you can have His miracle working power in your life today. Over their heads in the day time was a miracle cloud, and over their heads each night was a pillar of fire. "... the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light ..." (Exodus 13:21)

The Israelites wore miracle shoes - their shoes never waxed old for forty years. Those shoes grew with their feet because there were children in this host of people. As their feet grew, the SHOES BECAME LARGER!

On each side of them was a miracle as they crossed the Red Sea. God caused the water to part and to stand as a wall on each side as the Israelites crossed over on dry ground, and He caused the waters to return like a flood to bury their pursuers in a watery grave.

When they needed bread, God gave them angels' food to eat - "... he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels' food ..." (Psalms 78:23-25) The Israelites ate miracle bread every morning for forty years, until "... they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan." (Exodus 16:35)

While on their journey God gave the Israelites miracle water - "He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths. He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers." (Psalms 78:15-16)

When they needed meat God sent them meat - "He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea: And he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations." (Psalms 78:27-28)

In I Kings 17, God gave a man meat and bread every morning and every evening when there was no food in the land. It was sent to Elijah by special delivery. The ravens brought it to him each morning and night. In this same chapter of I Kings, God used Elijah to perform a miracle for a widow - her meal barrel was not empty, nor did her cruse of oil fail until God sent rain upon the earth to end the drought.

Can God do these miracles for you? GOD CAN AND HE WILL WHEN IT IS NEEDED! If you will follow Jesus in perfect obedience, and believe His Word, GOD WILL PERFORM MIRACLES FOR YOU AND THROUGH YOU!

In 2 Chronicles 20, it took the children of God three days to gather the precious jewels and riches, sack them up, and take them away. God had given them so much there was more than every man could carry!

Can God give you wealth? HE CAN AND HE WILL IF YOU WILL CLAIM IT AND USE IT FOR YOUR NEEDS AND FOR HIS GLORY! You are serving a MIRACLE WORKING GOD WHO CAN STILL PERFORM MIRACLES!

Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine. (John 2:5-11) When more wine was needed at a marriage feast, Jesus told the servants to fill the water pots with water. He told the servants to draw out of the pots and serve it to the governor of the feast. When the ruler had tasted the water which had been made into wine, he said it was better than the wine which had been served at the beginning of the feast.

In John 9:1-7, Jesus healed a blind man who was born blind, by putting mud on his eyes. He told the man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. He went his way, and washed as he was bidden to do, and came forth seeing.

Matthew 14:21 tells how FIVE THOUSAND MEN (not counting women and children) ate fish and bread by a supernatural miracle. Jesus fed more than five thousand people with five little loaves of bread and two fishes.

A centurion's servant, who was dying, suddenly found himself healed when there was no one around him. The centurion had told Jesus there was no need for Him to go and lay hands on the servant - he said, "... Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." (Matthew 8:8) Jesus said, "... Go thy way; and as thou has believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour." (Matthew 8:13)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." (John 14:12)

GOD CAN AND HE WILL USE YOU TO PERFORM MIRACLES! Jesus said you can do the same works that He did. WHAT JESUS DID, YOU CAN DO! By walking obediently before God you can have His faith. With God's faith, ALL OBSTACLES WILL BE REMOVED FROM BEFORE YOU, FOR HIS MIRACLE WORKING POWER WILL FLOW FREELY FOR YOU AND THROUGH YOU. You will put Satan to flight every time he tries to hinder you in any way. The power of God, the supernatural gifts, and the supernatural manifestations are for those who say, GOD CAN!

God wants YOU to have a miracle ministry! GOD CAN GIVE IT TO YOU! God performed a miracle when He saved your soul. He performed a miracle when He baptised you with the Holy Ghost. A miracle was performed each time God delivered you from some illness, bondage, or in some other way of deliverance. When you look back over your life you will remember miracle after miracle He has performed for you. God has brought you thus far. Have you stopped along the way? What hindered you? Have you turned back? Are you dry in your soul? ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOU AND YOUR FAITHLESSNESS, ACCEPT HIS FORGIVENESS AFTER YOU PRAY THROUGH, PICK UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW JESUS.

"... ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and

walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (2 Corinthians 6:16)

Jesus is dwelling in a people, and He is walking in them. He went away, but He declared that while He was gone, and until His return, His people are to just keep walking like He walked, keep talking like He talked, and to keep living like He lived. HIS PEOPLE ARE TO CONTINUE DOING THE WORKS AND MIRACLES HE DID, for He said, “... the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (John 14:12) There is no drawing back, no stopping, no turning around in this journey you are making.

“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” (Hebrews 10:38-39)

When you fail to remember what God has done in the past, you begin to wonder what He is going to do today. YOU BEGIN TO DOUBT AND WONDER IF HE IS ABLE, OR IF HE IS GOING TO DO A THING FOR YOU NOW. This is when you stop. Many times, when your heart is filled with unbelief and doubt, it is easier to stop, turn around and go back, than it is to go on. You can't go on, in yourself. You can't go on in the natural. YOU HAVE TO DEPEND ON GOD'S POWER TO TAKE YOU THROUGH.

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Jesus is coming back for a people who remember the wonderful works of God.

“We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.” (Psalms 78:4-7)

God's people are a miracle people, on a miracle journey, waiting for God to perform the great miracle of the RAPTURE! If you want to make the rapture, YOU MUST KNOW THE WILL OF GOD FOR YOUR LIFE, WALK AS HE WALKED, TALK AS HE TALKED - WALKING IN PERFECT OBEDIENCE TO HIM. As you live like this, YOU WILL HAVE GOD'S FAITH OPERATING

IN YOUR LIFE! Take up your cross and follow Him daily. Remember, this is a FAITH WALK. YOU MUST WALK BY FAITH! You can not live this life IN YOURSELF, GOD WILL LIVE IT THROUGH YOU IF YOU WILL ALLOW HIM TO DWELL IN YOU, AND WALK IN YOU!

GOD CAN DO ANYTHING! Let Him dwell in you and walk in you, AND YOU WILL HAVE HIS MIRACLE WORKING POWER FLOWING THROUGH YOU TO BLESS THE WORLD.

God has a way of providing material miracles for you, whether it is meat, bread, water or something else. God has a way to provide financial miracles for you, as well as physical miracles. **DO NOT DOUBT HIM.**

There is such a thing as starting on a trip or a journey and not finishing it. That is why Paul said, “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith ...” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

It takes faith to run in this race. It takes faith to finish this miracle journey. Get the supernatural power of God in your life. **LET THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD MOVE IN YOUR LIFE.** You can defeat the devil by allowing God to walk in you, move in you and through you to perform the miraculous.

You are on a journey! YOU ARE HEADED HOME! YOU MUST MAKE IT THROUGH! THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN MAKE IT IS TO START RUNNING THE GOOD RACE OF FAITH, KEEP BELIEVING GOD, AND FINISH THE RACE, LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF YOUR FAITH!

“... all things are possible to him that believeth.” (Mark 9:23)

There is nothing too hard for God to do. He can perform the miraculous through you if you will allow Him to do so. He can do wonderful things through your life. He can spread a table in the wilderness; give bread where there is no bread; give meat where there is no way of getting meat; make a light in the heavens where there is no light; give water by a miracle, give shoes (that will grow with the feet) by a miracle; cause the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk, and mend broken heart. He can utterly confuse the enemy and bring victory after victory in any conflict. He can calm the raging seas, speak peace to turbulent winds, and calm the troubled souls of men. **GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL!** He will be to you all you will allow Him to be. **HE WILL WORK IN YOU AND THROUGH YOU, PERFORMING THE MIRACULOUS.**

The Israelites who were led out of Egyptian captivity failed to enter His rest because of unbelief.

“But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” (Hebrews 3:17-19)

These were the Israelites who provoked God by forgetting His wonderful works for them, and although they had seen great miracles they kept doubting God and failed to go through. “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.” (Hebrews 3:12) There is nothing that will discourage you and cause you to stop and turn around and head back toward the world any quicker than an evil heart of unbelief.

THEY FAILED TO GO IN BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF. God said He was grieved with them. If God was so grieved in days gone by with this group of people who turned around and started back because they didn't have enough faith to go on, how much more is He grieved today with the multitudes of so-called ministers, religious leaders, church people, and others who are not going on.

WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD! You will never make it without faith. There is only one thing that will take you on - THE SUPERNATURAL MIRACLE-WORKING POWER OF GOD. From the beginning to the end, this race you are in is a miracle, wrought by faith. AT THE BEGINNING WAS A MIRACLE! AT THE END WILL BE A MIRACLE! ALL THE WAY BETWEEN THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF THE RACE THERE ARE MIRACLES. Jesus is the Author and the Finisher of your faith. He is going to help you finish the journey. You will say "GOD CAN!" and go on with God, or you will fail to go on through after Israel's example of unbelief.

Get on your knees right now and ask God to forgive you for your unbelief. Tell Him you believe He can do anything, and that you are going to trust Him from this moment to the end of your life. Tell Him you are going to answer the call on your life, then GO ON WITH GOD!