

# ***FAITH THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS***

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Preface.....	1
Chapter 1 Moving Your Mountains .....	1
Chapter 2 The Authority of the Believer.....	4
Chapter 3 Winning the Battle.....	7
Chapter 4 The Basics of Faith.....	9
Chapter 5 Thinking Like God Thinks .....	11
Chapter 6 Talking Like God Talks.....	15
Chapter 7 Violent Faith.....	17
Chapter 8 Looking Unto Jesus .....	21
Chapter 9 Faith for Healing, Blessing & Prosperity.....	23
Chapter 10 What Is It You Want? .....	25
Chapter 11 Convinced!.....	28
Chapter 12 Breaking Out of Fear .....	32

## **PREFACE**

Are you ready to learn some exciting truths and principles of faith? These truths and principles may not all be new to you, however, I believe some of them will be.

These are exciting days to be alive and laboring in the Master's great harvest field. A warm, fresh and vibrant faith will not only keep you alive spiritually (maybe even physically), this kind of faith could make you feel younger.

We know that without faith we cannot please God. (Hebrews 11:6) I would like to offer the suggestion that without faith, we cannot even please ourselves.

I have sincerely prayed that as you read this book your life will take on new and exciting dimensions. I invite you to also ask our Lord for the same.

William F. Hill

## **Chapter 1 MOVING YOUR MOUNTAINS**

What do we believe? Why do we believe it? How can we obtain faith? How can we increase our faith? Which of the following are more important to the building up of our faith?

Miracles? Visions? The Bible? Dreams? Feelings?

Although miracles, visions, dreams, and feelings can help us in our faith walk, these cannot do for us what God's Word can do. We must base our convictions and faith upon the Word of God. We stand on the Authority of God's Word.

The promises of God are greater than any pill of the doctor. Real faith in God is greater than the surgeon's knife. There are many kinds of medicines that will treat our symptoms, and even help us feel better

for a time, but they will not get to the cause of our ailment, and they will not cure us.

Christians who study the Word of God until it causes faith to rise up can be victorious over the devil, sickness, sin, circumstances and worry.

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

**Matthew 28:18**

Notice that this verse does not say **almost all**, but **all**. We must do away with the idea that Satan is almost as powerful as God.

*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

**Luke 10:19**

We must believe that the **power** of God, and the **promises** of God are for today, right now. This power is for the Church of Jesus Christ.

*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

**Luke 1:37**

Who said that? Those were the words of the Angel, Gabriel, and he has been watching God do **great** and miraculous things for forever past.

Notice, Gabriel did not say that all things were possible to God. That would not be such outstanding news to us. Gabriel said that all things were possible with God. Now that is news. What does that tell us? It lets us know that when we link up with the Greatness of God, we can become great.

It tells us that even though we may feel **inferior**, we become **superior** when we allow God to work through and with us. Are you eager for that kind of life?

*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

**Luke 10:19**

We must believe that the **power** of God, and the **promises** of God are for **today**, right now. This power is for the **Church** of Jesus Christ. This power is for the individual believer who will dare to trust God.

*[13] When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*

*[14] And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.*

*[15] He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?*

*[16] And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

*[17] And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

*[18] And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

*[19] And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

**Matthew 16:13-19**

*[19] Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*

*[20] For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

**Matthew 18:19-20**

There is power where the King is, and the King reigns **omnipotent** and **supreme** in the Church of the Lord God. Please note that we do not mean an organization, or a denomination, we mean **the church** which has been bought with the blood of Jesus.

If we read the Bible properly, we cannot believe that both Satan and Jesus reign in the Church.

*And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:*

**Matthew 12:25**

We, as believers, want the power to move mountains. What is your mountain? What stands before you, preventing you from marching through to victory?

The Bible does not teach that Christians should run from problems and circumstances. They are to remain where they are so long as it does not involve them in any sin. We, as Christians are to remain as a

**challenge** to **command** the mountain to move. We will see in these chapters how to move the mountains that stand in our way. Don't run and hide. Don't give up.

Our Christian lives become so exciting when we win important victories. As we grow in faith we do not expect others to do our fighting for us. We always appreciate, and even need the prayers of others, but we must not expect someone else to pray and fast and exercise faith to do what we should do.

Our prayers alone will not **move** or remove our mountains. Our tears will not move our mountains. There must be faith involved. We must get our prayers answered the same way we obtained our salvation, by faith.

*[8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*[9] Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

The devil **has been defeated**. He does not have authority over any believing child of God. You are the temple of God. Do not allow the devil to stay anywhere in your body.

*[22] And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*

*[23] 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.*

*[24] Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

**Mark 11:22-24**

Notice, Jesus said, "Whoever shall **say** unto this mountain." Let's start saying. God spoke the world into existence. Again and again we read in Chapter one of the book of Genesis, "And God said..."

Consider this: Jesus commands us to say to the mountain, but what do we do? We kneel down, turn our back to the mountain, and focus on God.

Then we say, "God, I am in a difficult situation. God, look at this mountain." Then we begin to describe the mountain to God (as if He didn't know). And the more we describe it, the more we instill **fear**, not faith, in our own hearts.

Moses sent out twelve spies to spy out the Promised Land. Ten spies brought back a report of what their **eyes** saw, and how impossible it was to have victory. Two spies brought back a report of what their **faith** saw, and said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it."

Let's not talk about the devil. Let's talk about the promises of God and what He said He will do. Let's confess the **Word** of God and the **promises** of God. Let us saturate ourselves with God's Word.

Look at the instructions God gave to Joshua.

*[5] There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

*[6] Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.*

*[7] Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.*

*[8] This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

*[9] Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

**Joshua 1:5-9**

Let us fill ourselves with the Word of God. It is not visions, dreams, even miracles that build faith, at least not permanently, it is God's Word.

*[5] For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.*

*[6] But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)*

*[7] Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)*

[8] *But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;*

[9] *That 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.*

[10] *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

[11] *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

[17] *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

**Romans 10:5-11, 17**

Let's saturate our hearts, minds, and speech with the Word of God. Let's read it. Let's sing it. Let's speak it. Let's confess its truth, and forever believe it.

## Chapter Two THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

[18] *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

[19] *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

**Matthew 28:18-19**

Notice that Jesus tells us that He has all the power, then He tells us that because He has all power, we should go forth. Those statements in themselves should cause us to sit up and take notice.

That word power, from the Greek word *exousia*, covers a lot of territory. Among other things, it means ability, force, capacity, jurisdiction, liberty, authority and delegated influence.

Christ is passing along a truth to us. What is that truth? Because He has power, we have power. Because He has authority, we have authority. Let's look at additional statements by Jesus that will strengthen that fact.

[15] *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

[16] *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

[17] *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

[18] *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.*

[19] *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.*

[20] *And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

**Mark 16:15-20**

[18] *And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*

[19] *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

**Luke 10:18-19**

[12] *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.*

[13] *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

[14] *If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*

**John 14:12-14**

[5] *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.*

[6] *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.*

[7] *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 15:5-7**

*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

**John 15:16**

*Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*

**John 20:21**

Even as the Father sent Him with authority, He sends us with authority.

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

**Acts 1:8**

The passages of Scripture just given are but a **small** part of God's Word that will help us understand what God has **planned** for us. Now here is the question: Do we want that authority and power from God? Are we willing to go after it and not take the slothful attitude that if God wants us to have it, He will give it to us?

At least part of the **lack of power** in our lives is because we are **lacking knowledge**.

*Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.*

**Isaiah 5:13**

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

**Hosea 4:6**

God's people have somehow lost the **realization** of their **position**. It seems that many times we find ourselves in fear of the devil. Reverend W. F. Kumuyi, pastor of a 70,000 member holiness church in Lagos, Nigeria, had this to say about Christians and the devil:

"You don't know as much as Satan knows. He is afraid of you. The devils believe and tremble. But you are afraid of him because you are ignorant of **who** you and **what** you are. Both of you are afraid of one another, but he has the advantage. He knows you are afraid of him, but **you don't know** he is afraid of you. So he gets the upper hand. But when you realize that every believer has authority, you will change your attitude in praying and you will get more done in **five minutes** than you have done in **five years**."

Some times evil spirits speak through people who are bound, and say, "I know you." That is the evil spirit speaking through them. Consider the following.

[13] *Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.*

[14] *And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.*

[15] *And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?*

[16] *And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*

**Acts 19:13-16**

The evil spirits spoke through people to Jesus, and He would tell them to be still.

[23] *And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,*

[24] *Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.*

[25] *And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.*

[26] *And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.*

[27] *And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.*

**Mark 1:23-27**

Notice the word **authority** in the preceding Scripture. That word authority means **power**. As we have stated before Power is authority. Authority is power. It also means jurisdiction, liberty, and strength.

We as God's people need to use the authority, or **delegated power** Christ has given to us. The necessity of being aware of **who** and **what** we are is extremely important. The Apostle Paul stressed this to the Church at Ephesus.

[15] *Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,*

[16] *Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;*

[17] *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*

[18] *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

[19] *And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,*

[20] *Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,*

[21] *Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:*

[22] *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,*

[23] *Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

[1] *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

[2] *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

[3] *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

[4] *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

[5] *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

[6] *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

[7] *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

**Ephesians 2:1-7**

We have an authority and power that lies dormant within us. Why do we allow ourselves and others to get beat up by the devil instead of us winning the battle over him?

[20] *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

[21] *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

**Ephesians 3:20-21**

*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

**Luke 10:19**

[21] *When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:*

[22] *But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.*

**Luke 11:21-22**

The promises of God are ours. All we need is adequately provided for us by the **finished** and **perfect** work of Jesus Christ at Calvary.

Why is it so hard to believe and have faith? Some people read and study everything they can lay their hands on **except** the Word of God. They listen to everything **except** the Word of God.

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

**Romans 10:17**

We listen to hear all of the latest news over and over again. We spend the least time with the Word of God, when all the **wisdom** we need, all the **knowledge** we need, in fact, all that we need to make us **successful** and **profitable** are in the Word of God.

We need to **saturate** ourselves with the Word of God. Close ourselves in with that Word. We need to **digest** that Word and **close our minds** to every hindrance to our faith and walk by faith in that Word.

Most of us do not value God's Word enough. We read a little in the Bible, **meditate** a little on the promises of God, then we read much Christian literature (about the Bible), or even spend hours reading novels.

[9] *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

[10] *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;*

[11] *And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**Philippians 2:9-11**

The name of Jesus Christ is above every other name. The name of Jesus is above every name of sick-

**ness and disease.** Cancer is a name. Arthritis is a name. Heart trouble is a name, but there is a name above those names and it is the name of Jesus.

Fear is a name. Aids is a name. Poverty is a name, but there is a name above every other name, and that name is Jesus.

### Chapter Three WINNING THE BATTLE

For thousands of years military generals and planners have striven to make sure their troops have the advantage of waging war from **higher ground**. Many hills in history became names well known because so many men died in the taking of them.

Some hills have been taken and lost a number of times. If we would do research, or just think back we can remember names like **Heartbreak Hill, Bunker Hill, or Pork Chop Hill**, and many others. Military tacticians have always wanted the advantage of **waging battle** from higher ground.

We as Christians have that advantage. God has seen to it that we have the advantage of waging war from higher ground. Christ insured by His life, death and resurrection that we have the advantage in battle.

*[19] And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,*

*[20] Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,*

*[21] Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:*

*[22] And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,*

*[23] Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

**Ephesians 1:19-23**

*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

**Ephesians 2:1**

*That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

**Ephesians 2:7**

Jesus Christ is **far above** all principality, power, might and dominion, and every name that is named. The one **down below** with **no weapon** to fight against the Lord Jesus Christ is the devil.

Who has won the battle for us? Who has the victory? His name is Jesus and He has **exalted us** through His death and resurrection. That means the devil is fighting you when **you** are at the top.

*[19] Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

*[20] Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

**Luke 10:19-20**

*No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.*

**Isaiah 54:17**

If there is a weapon of Satan prospering against the child of God, something is out of order. We need to first **examine ourselves** and ask why this is happening. This is contrary to the **Word** of God, thus it is contrary to the **will** of God.

*[4] (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

*[5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**

Notice that Paul said casting down **imaginations**. Part of our problem is that we allow our imaginations to **run wild** instead of casting them down. We dwell on the **problem** rather than the **solution**. We ponder. We mope. We pout. We engage in self pity.

First, let's cast down unprofitable imaginations in our own minds so we can cast down imaginations that are being used against us.

Let us cast down imaginations of **bitterness, grudges and revenge**, both in us, and in others.

Let us cast down every unclean imagination, such as **sexual fantasies** that are immoral and will drain

the strength from our minds and bodies. Let us cast down every imagination of **unbelief, fear and torment**.

A good Biblical example of needing to cast down **unprofitable** imaginations is found in chapter 73 of the book of Psalms. The writer was tormented with envy and almost backslid. Read verses 1-17.

We sometimes **torture ourselves** with imaginations that may be **true**, or **untrue**. Even listening to the news can be depressing. Being around some Christians can be depressing, especially those who constantly complain and speak negatively.

*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.* **Philippians 4:8**

If we put **garbage** in, we will get **garbage** out. Even **conservative** talk shows on the radio can become depressing. You may want to fall asleep each night listening to scripture tapes or CD's. Break that cycle of feeding your Spirit with things that will fight against your victory. Press on to **higher ground**.

We need to eat **faith food** so that we will be strong. And when we do not see immediate results, keep **pressing** the battle. Evil spirits will not give up their strongholds unless they are forced to do so. Keep pressing the battle! Don't give up! Don't be a quitter!

*[21] When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:*

*[22] But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.* **Luke 11:21-22**

*[5] And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;*

*[6] For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?*

*[7] And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.*

*[8] I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.* **Luke 11:5-8**

*[1] And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

*[2] Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:*

*[3] And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.*

*[4] And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;*

*[5] Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.*

*[6] And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.*

*[7] And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?*

*[8] I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?* **Luke 18:1-8**

Real faith continues to fight the battle. Pseudo faith is quick to give up, and then indulge itself in self-pity. Which kind of faith are you going to have?

The **authority** and the **victory** belongs to us. It is ours. And if the devil wants to kick because he is stubborn and rebellious, don't forget, Jesus is standing by.

*[1] Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

*[2] And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

*[3] Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

*[4] No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.* **2 Timothy 2:1-4**

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* **James 4:7**

*[8] Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

*[9] Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

**1 Peter 5:8-9**

Remember, the devil is looking for someone he **may** devour. When he comes to you and says, “May I devour you?” What will your answer be? Remember also, we don’t just **resist** him **once**, but we resist him **steadfastly**. We are **overcomers**, in fact, we are **more** than conquerors.

*Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

**Romans 8:37**

## Chapter Four THE BASICS OF FAITH

Can you remember when you first studied and learned the alphabet? It is so exciting to the small child to be able to say their ABC’s. It was also exciting for us when we came to Christ, and He became our Savior. To think, that He would **freely** forgive us of all our sins and **change** our destination from Hell to Heaven.

It was so wonderful to so many of us, and we thought we could never want for anything else. But we did. Most of us progressed to water baptism by immersion. That was an exciting day.

However, it didn’t end there. Many of us went on to sanctification, then pressed in and were filled with the Holy Ghost. Was that all? No, before too much time went by we learned about the **faith walk**. Let’s talk about it.

We know that **every** believer has faith. We cannot even be saved without faith.

*[8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*[9] Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

In fact, the Bible teaches us that everyone has **at least a little** faith.

*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

**Romans 12:3**

If we pursue this thought a little further, we realize the impossibility of pleasing God without faith.

*But 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**

The highest goal of all of us should be to live a life that is pleasing to God. We will know that we are really growing spiritually when above all else we want to please Him.

*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

**Revelation 4:11**

We must realize that God was not created for **our** pleasure. He is the **Creator**, and we were made for His pleasure. Although it may seem unnecessary to make that statement, we need to realize that many believers feel that God is there **only** to bless them.

Since we already know we cannot bring pleasure to God unless we have faith, let’s look into it. Let’s learn our ABC’s:

A—Ask

B—Believe

C—Confess

Let us also use this acrostic:

A—Ask

S—Seek

K—Knock

*[7] Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

*[8] For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

*[9] Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?*

*[10] Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?*

*[11] If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your*

*Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

**Matthew 7:7-11**

Sometimes it seems that the most difficult part of our faith is believing that God really **wants** us to ask, and then we have trouble believing that God **wants** to answer. It helps us to hold on to God's promises when **we know** He wants to answer.

Most all of us have a friend we can trust. Is God less reliable than our friends? Is God less reliable than a business we have had dealings with? No! His Word is far more reliable than those we have trusted for years.

God tells us to ask. He wants us to ask. He **commands** us to ask. He **delights** in our asking.

Jesus tells us to ask, and if we do not receive immediately, to **keep on asking**. There are those who claim that those who ask a second time, or even several times are asking with unbelief. They are not considering that Jesus taught in His Word to keep on asking.

*[5] And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;*

*[6] For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?*

*[7] And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.*

*[8] I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.*

**Luke 11:5-8**

The word importunity means to **solicit persistently** or troublesomely. We see this again in another passage of scripture.

*[1] And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

*[2] Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:*

*[3] And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.*

*[4] And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;*

*[5] Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.*

*[6] And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.*

*[7] And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?*

*[8] I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*

**Luke 18:1-8**

What is Jesus saying? He is encouraging us to Ask—Seek—Knock. If you do not receive the answer right away, don't give up! That is where the **seeking** and **knocking** comes in. Keep praying! Keep after it!

It is often in those periods of waiting for the answer to come that we examine ourselves to see if something in us is hindering our prayers. During those times of waiting and examining God has an opportunity to draw us closer to Himself.

*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

**Psalm 66:18**

*[20] For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.*

*[21] Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.*

*[22] 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 3:20-22**

We keep on asking. We keep on seeking. We keep on knocking. We keep on believing. These are good times for us as we seek God, and draw closer to Him, and He purifies and sanctifies us. Instead of becoming bitter, or disillusioned, we get closer to Him, and love Him more. And when the answer comes, we are revived.

*Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.*

**Proverbs 13:12**

So we find that not only is our spirit revived, we have also been walking closer to Him.

Let us realize that our prayers are not answered because we pray **louder** than others, or because we **cried** a lot, or because we **felt sorry** for ourselves. Our prayers are answered because we **believe**.

It is true that at times, **because** of our faith we may pray louder, or cry more.

*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**

This matter of the violent taking it by force will be covered in another chapter.

Something is very wrong in Christianity. The church is so sickly. More people pass through the hospitals and clinics than through the Church. The clinics, dispensaries and hospitals receive more people than the churches.

Something else is very wrong. The world has more faith in **false cults** than in the Church. Heathen people have more faith and respect in their witchdoctors than many believers have in the Word of God.

Let's change that! Let's launch out to get more from God. Let us also realize that **purity** before **power** is the scriptural pattern to follow. Purity without power is impotent. Power without purity is dangerous.

How do we get more from God? We give more to God. We give our time to study and pray. We discern what God wants from us, and also what He wants us to have.

*[3] Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.*

*[4] Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

*[5] Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

*[6] And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.*

**Psalm 37:3-6**

There are two schools of thought concerning Psalm 37:4. One is that if we will delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us what we desire. Another is that if we will delight ourselves in the Lord, He will cause us to desire what He wants us to have. It seems to me that either way, we are winners.

*[14] And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

*[15] 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**

The Faith Walk is more than just shouting and dancing around. It is certainly much more than running from meeting to meeting trying to find miracles being performed. The Faith Walk is when we get closer to God and let His presence and His Word **saturate** and **permeate** our lives.

*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**

Notice—not what things you desire when you are wanting to buy a new car, or a new house, or a thousand other things, but what things you desire when you are praying. What things you desire when you are in the presence of God, and tears are running down your face, “Believe, that you receive them, and you shall have them.”

A—Ask

B—Believe

C—Confess

A—Ask

S—Seek

K—Knock

## Chapter Five THINKING LIKE GOD THINKS

*[16] Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.*

*[17] The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.*

*[18] And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.*

[19] *And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.*

[20] *And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.*

[21] *And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.*

[22] *And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.*

[23] *Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:*

**Acts 13:16-23**

In the 22nd verse of Chapter thirteen of the Book of Acts, God gives David an amazing compliment and commendation. Could there be anything greater said about a mere human other than when God told Satan that His servant Job was perfect?

*And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a **perfect** and an **upright** man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?* **Job 1:8**

Then let us consider what the Father said about Jesus.

[16] *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

[17] *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am **well pleased**.*

**Matthew 3:16-17**

What does God think of you and me? If He were to speak about us, and it would be recorded for all time and eternity, what would those words be?

Why would God cause such strong words to be recorded about David?

*And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man **after mine own heart**, which shall fulfil all my will.* **Acts 13:22**

The key to understanding why God called David a man after His own heart is found in the same verse. Let's look at it again.

*And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, **which shall fulfil all my will**.* **Acts 13:22**

What made David such a great man? Why and how was he such a man of faith? And herein lies the answer, he **thought** like God **thought**.

What about you? What about me? Do we care about carrying out God's plan on this earth, or are we **busy doing our own thing**? And if all we care about is ourselves, is it any surprise that God just allows us to struggle?

What does God mean "after my own heart?" Remember, when the Bible talks about a man's heart, it is talking about the **core**, or **center** of a man. It is talking about what he **is**, and what **drives** or **motivates** him. Let's look at David.

[1] *I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall **continually** be in my mouth.*

[2] *My soul shall make her **boast in the Lord**: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.*

[3] *O magnify the Lord **with me**, and let us exalt his name **together**.*

**Psalms 34:1-3**

Can you see it? David said he would bless the Lord at all times. If he had anything to boast about, he wanted God to have the credit and praise for it. And then, in his own words he is saying that he wants someone to **help him** give glory to God. It is no wonder that God, in His Word, referred to David over one thousand times, including three times in the Book of Revelation. Wow, what a man!

Here was a man God could trust to carry out His will. And after the dismal failures of King Saul, David's attitude was such a **blessing** and **pleasure** to God. And remember, that is why we are here on earth.

[10] *The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,*

[11] *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

**Revelation 4:10-11**

Can you see it? Faith is more than just **hype**, or excitement, or good feeling. Faith is an attitude, a confidence, a relationship, a lifestyle. Faith includes faithfulness.

Another great example of thinking like God thinks is found in the attitudes of Joshua and Caleb. Let's look at it.

[1] *And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,*

[2] *Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.*

**Numbers 13:1-2**

[26] *And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.*

[27] *And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.*

[28] **Nevertheless** *the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.*

[29] *The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.*

[30] *And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

[31] *But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.*

[32] *And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.*

[33] *And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

**Numbers 13:26-33**

[1] *And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.*

[2] *And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!*

[3] *And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?*

[4] *And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.*

[5] *Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.*

[6] *And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:*

[7] *And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.*

[8] *If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.*

[9] *Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.*

**Numbers 14:1-9**

See the word **nevertheless** in 13:28. That's like saying "yes, but". In other words it **sounds** good, it **looks** good, but it can't happen.

What is a good report? It is the report that **agrees** with God. What is an **evil** report? It is not thinking like God thinks. Notice the words **rebel not** in 14:9. To have an opinion against God's opinion is rebel-

lion.

Unbelief is a sin that makes God angry.

[1] *Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*

[2] *For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, **not being mixed with faith** in them that heard it.*

[3] *For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have **sworn in my wrath**, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.*

[4] *For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.*

[5] *And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.*

[6] *Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in **because of unbelief**:* **Hebrews 4:1-6**

*But 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**

We **cannot** live in unbelief and please God. Faith is Thinking Like God Thinks, and then **holding on until** we receive. Never give up!

[13] *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

[14] *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;* **Ephesians 6:13-14**

God **boasted** about David because David was determined to find out what God wanted, and then do it, or see that it was done. And David did guide the government according to the **Law of God**.

Can you see it? David said, "My soul shall make her boast in the Lord," and God **boasted often** about David.

David did not allow idolatry or set up a dictatorship. He sought the leading of God in all things of public interest. Let us say it again, faith is more than just hype. It is thinking like God thinks.

Do you think like God thinks? Do you think like God thinks about **sin** and **worldliness**? Do you think like God thinks about **winning the lost**? Do you think like God thinks about **tithing and giving**? Or is there a continual battle going on within you?

[5] *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

[6] *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.*

[7] *For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

[8] *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

**James 1:5-8**

*The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.* **Proverbs 8:13**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*

**Proverbs 9:10**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.* **Psalms 111:10**

*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.* **James 4:4**

Do we think like God thinks? Are we willing to think like God thinks? We cannot learn what God thinks by filling ourselves with the news, talk shows, novels, television, sports, or the internet. We learn to think like God Thinks by filling ourselves with the Word of God.

[1] *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

[2] *But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

*[3] And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.* **Psalm 1:1-3**  
*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

**1 Corinthians 2:16**

Let us ask God to help us think like He thinks.

## Chapter Six TALKING LIKE GOD TALKS

Let us be sure we understand from the beginning of this chapter that God talks about **success, power, peace, healing and blessing**. The devil talks to us about **failures, weakness, torment, sickness, disease, doubt, poverty and fear**.

We need to listen to ourselves talk. If we will pay attention to the way we talk and what we are saying, we can discern to whom we have been listening. Let's look at and listen to what God says.

*[1] 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, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:*

*[2] And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.*

*[12] 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.*

*[13] And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:* **Deuteronomy 28:1, 2, 12, 13**

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.* **Joshua 1:8**

*He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them.* **1 Samuel 2:8**

*[1] Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*[2] But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

*[3] And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.* **Psalm 1:1-3**

*For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.* **Psalm 84:11**

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* **John 10:10**

The preceding Scriptures are only a **tiny** example of the way God talks and what He is saying to us. What we have just read is an excellent reason for us to **read and study** the Word of God **daily**.

Everything **good** comes by faith. Everything evil comes by unbelief. This is the very reason why Satan tries to keep people away from the Word of God. He does not want you to have **daily** devotions. He does not want you to read the Bible because you will begin to develop faith if you do. If we will spend time in God's Word our faith will grow.

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

What we say is important. What we say will shape our lives. Many of us have learned that our words have power. If we sit around and talk about **failure** and **defeat**, and how much power we think the devil has, we will be inviting his presence.

However, if we talk about the **greatness** of God, and how powerful He is, and recall the great **victories** God has **already** given us, we will be inviting the presence of God.

Make no mistake about it, **words have power**. The word “said” appears almost **4,000** times in the Bible. The word “saith” appears over **1,276** times, and the word “spake” about **812** times.

How did God bring the world into existence? He **spoke** it into existence. The words “And God said” appear ten times in Genesis, chapter one. Why? Because this is how God created our world. Now watch this.

[5] *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the **word of God** the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

[6] *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

[7] *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the **same word** are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.* **2 Peter 3:5-7**

The same word that God used to speak our world into existence about 6,000 years ago is keeping the heavens and earth in their orbits even now. Is that power or not? Yes, it is power! We need to be extremely careful how we talk because we can be **blessed** or **defeated** by our words.

[34] *O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, **speak** good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*

[35] *A good man out of the good treasure of the heart **bringeth forth** good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*

[36] *But I say unto you, That every **idle word** that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

[37] *For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*

**Matthew 12:34-37**

Most of the healings and miracles were accomplished by **speaking** the word.

The Children of Israel spent forty extra years in the wilderness because of what they **said**. And what they **said** was **said because** of their unbelief.

[1] *And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,*

[2] *Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.* **Numbers 13:1-2**

*But the men that went up with him **said**, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.* **Numbers 13:31**

*And they **said one to another**, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.* **Numbers 14:4**

Now listen to Joshua and Caleb speak.

[7] *And they **spake** unto all the company of the children of Israel, **saying**, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.*

[8] *If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.*

[9] *Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.* **Numbers 14:7-9**

Notice the difference in the two reports brought back to Moses. One report was **evil** because it **disagreed** with what God said. The **good** report was in **agreement** with what God said.

[1] *Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;*

[2] *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;* **Titus 1:1-2**

*Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.*

**Joshua 1:3**

**HE CANNOT LIE!**

*Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

**Psalms 37:4**

**HE CANNOT LIE!**

*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

**Matthew 7:7**

**HE CANNOT LIE!**

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* **John 10:10**

**HE CANNOT LIE!**

*[16] For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*[17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

**HE CANNOT LIE!**

Can we put our trust in someone who **cannot** lie? Or should we put our trust in humans who lie all the time? If we are going to doubt anything, let us **doubt our doubts**.

Remember, we are studying about talking like God talks. So many times we talk ourselves **out** of victory and **into** defeat. We do this in church, at school, at work, and even at home.

How are most people defeated? Almost always it is because of what we **think**, then confirm it by what we **say**.

We often times become our own worst enemy by what we say. The following statement may seem somewhat cruel, but please give it your sincere consideration.

**MANY PEOPLE DO NOT NEED THE DEVIL TO DEFEAT THEM, THEY ARE THEIR OWN DEVIL.**

Why is such a statement like this made? Because we **defeat ourselves** by what we say. How are people offended? By **words**! We need to realize the **power** of our words. People can be **destroyed** or made strong by **our** words.

*[19] A brother **offended** is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.*

*[20] A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.*

*[21] **Death** and **life** are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

**Proverbs 18:19-21**

*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:*

**James 1:19**

*[2] For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*

*[3] Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.*

*[4] Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.*

*[5] Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!* **James 3:2-5**

*[10] And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

*[11] And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the **word of their testimony**; and they loved not their lives unto the death.* **Revelation 12:10, 11**

*Let the **words of my mouth**, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.* **Psalms 19:14**

Let's learn to Talk Like God Talks! Let us at least be careful to confess about ourselves what God says about us.

*Nay, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him that loved us.* **Romans 8:37**

## Chapter Seven VIOLENT FAITH

*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth **violence**, and the vio-*

**Matthew 11:12**

*lent take it by force.*

There is a time and place for meditation. There is a time and place for **quiet** praying. There is also a time and place for **violent** praying.

Notice, we are not talking about **anger**, or someone losing their temper. Neither are we talking about impatience. It seems the Apostle James knew something about violent praying.

*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The **effectual fervent** prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

**James 5:16**

What is James saying? It could be paraphrased something like this: “The prayer of a just and righteous person, bubbling up and out of them, spurred on by **divine energy** and **holy anointing** with the **zeal** and **desire** of God Himself, to show His great power and **ability** to those who will press the battle”.

Have you ever prayed like that? These are troublesome times. Christians need to get serious and press the battle. This kind of praying does not **offend** God, rather, it **pleases** Him.

Do we have Biblical examples? Let’s look to the Word of God. In fact, let’s go back to the beginning.

*[24] And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.*

*[25] And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.*

*[26] And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.*

*[27] And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.*

*[28] And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.*

*[29] And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.*

*[30] And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.*

*[31] And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.*

*[32] Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.*

**Genesis 32:24-32**

Jacob refused to give up until God gave him an answer, and God honored and blessed him mightily. God is not offended when we pray and refuse to give up. Let me tell you what offends God. **God despises half-heartedness!**

*[14] And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*

*[15] I know thy works, that thou art neither **cold** nor **hot**: I would thou wert cold or hot.*

*[16] So then because thou art **lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

**Revelation 3:14-16**

The Bible has many reports of brave men and women who are honored by God because they dedicated themselves to the task before them. We can look to chapters two and three of the Book of Revelation and see that **every** promise of Jesus Christ was made to the **overcomer** and not to the **quitter**. God despises laziness and half-heartedness. Consider the following.

*[24] Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:*

*[25] And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.*

*[26] His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:*

**Matthew 25:24-26**

*[14] Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.*

*[15] And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows.*

[16] *And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands.*

[17] *And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the Lord's deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.*

[18] *And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed.*

[19] *And the man of God was **wroth** with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.*

**2 Kings 13:14-19**

God is never pleased with a **passive, half-hearted** faith. If we consider those who were called to be prophets or apostles, we will see that God called those who were **already busy**. Notice those whom God commends.

[42] *And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.*

[43] *And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:*

[44] *For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in **all that she had**, even all her living.*

**Mark 12:42-44**

[3] *And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.*

[4] *And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?*

[5] *For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.*

[6] *And Jesus said, **Let her alone**; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.*

[7] *For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.*

[8] ***She hath done what she could**: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.*

[9] *Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached **throughout the whole world**, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a **memorial** of her.*

**Mark 14:3-9**

God is a **mighty** God, and He wants His people to be a **mighty** people. We will never be able to please God with a **weak** devotion to Him.

*And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.*

**Daniel 11:32**

*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

**Isaiah 40:31**

Remember: God receives glory and honor when His people do mighty works. It does not bring glory to God when His people live defeated lives. God will give us His victory when we **consistently press the battle**.

[8] *These be the names of the **mighty men** whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.*

[9] *And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away:*

[10] *He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the Lord wrought a **great victory** that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.*

**2 Samuel 23:8-10**

We **offer** ourselves to God to use in His service. He works mightily through us for **our benefit**, and **His glory**.

[1] *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

[2] *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* **Romans 12:1-2**

[3] *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

[4] *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.* **2 Timothy 2:3-4**

We are at war. A war cannot be fought without effort, even violence. Remember what Jesus said.

*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**

Is there no great work to be done in these last days? Can we see not only the need, but also the great opportunity? Has all of God's **strength** and **miracles** already been used up?

[28] *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

[29] *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*

[30] *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

[31] *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.* **Isaiah 40:28-31**

There is no power shortage with God. He who created the world, and brought all things out of **nothing** is not even tired yet. The problem is finding people who will first believe, then surrender all to Him. Are you one of those who will dare to believe God?

Do you want to be used of God? Are you willing to turn your life over to God? Are you willing to rid your life of the things that hinder you from being mighty for God? We are talking about mighty faith. Faith that will **fight** for that which is right.

[4] *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

[5] *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;* **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**

Can this violent faith, these mighty deeds become part of our prayer lives? So many are missing the **real excitement** of living for God. Can we use this violent faith in prayer?

[26] *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

[27] *And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.* **Romans 8:26-27**

*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**

We are locked in a **life and death** struggle against the devil. Weak, passive prayer and faith will not win the victory.

A great lesson in fervent praying can be learned from the Nigerian Pentecostal Church. When they pray you can literally **see** the fervor they put into prayer, even as they are standing.

While the Pentecostal church in America seems to put the emphasis on singing, shouting, dancing and running the aisles, the Pentecostal church in Nigeria puts the emphasis on the power of prayer. To watch and listen to them as they pray is truly amazing.

*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.* **James 5:16**

You may ask, "Will God help me to do great things?"

[20] *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

[21] *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

**Ephesians 3:20-21**

## Chapter Eight LOOKING UNTO JESUS

*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**

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is often referred to as “The Hero’s Hall of Fame”. It could certainly be described as “The Roll Call of Faith Heroes”. What is faith?

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* **Hebrews 11:1**

William F. Kumuyi in his book The Power of Extraordinary Faith gives the best definition of faith I have ever heard. I will quote from him: When you have not got your expectation or desire met in reality but, having read about it in the Word of God, hope for it, then your faith becomes the reality, the confidence that you already have it even though you are hoping for it.

The big emphasis in Hebrews, chapter eleven is on what faith does. Look at the following verses. “By faith Abel **offered** (v. 4); Noah **prepared** (v. 7); Sara **received** (v. 11); Jacob **worshipped** (v. 21); Joseph **gave commandment** (v. 22); In short, faith **acts!** Faith does something!

As we continue to read on in Hebrews eleven, we see the glory of this amazing chapter continuing to unfold and increase. However, the significant fact is this: the real climax is not reached until we come to verses two and three of chapter twelve.

*[1] 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,*

*[2] 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.*

*[3] For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.* **Hebrews 12:1-3**

We have so many examples pointing us to Christ, let us also **look unto Him**. Let us be certain that while we are **excited** and **encouraged** by these examples of so many heroes, we do not take our eyes off the greatest hero, Jesus Christ. Let’s be sure that we **consider Him**.

The lives of Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Isaac, Moses and others are of little or no value to us **unless** they point us to Jesus. Someone has said, NO LIFE IS GREAT THAT DOES NOT POINT TO JESUS. Your life, my life, **our lives must** point to Christ if they are to be truly great.

*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

**John 5:39**

Unless we see Jesus in the scriptures, we are missing the point. The **Master** lives in every verse. He is the Word!

Satan will go to any means to keep us from looking to Jesus. He wants us to somehow miss seeing Christ. Though we may marvel at and study all of the triumphs of faith listed, unless we go beyond those men to see Jesus, and to consider Him, we have missed the mark.

If we miss **looking unto Jesus**, we are left with exciting events and happenings, but fall short of the power of His faith in our lives. Consider the following.

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**Galatians 2:20**

It is no wonder the Apostle Paul is considered the greatest apostle by many Bible scholars. Paul was not even relying on his own faith, he claimed to be living by the faith of Jesus Christ. He was truly **looking unto Jesus**.

When you are weary, consider Him. When you are overwhelmed, consider Him. When all else fails, consider Him. When your family and friends turn against you, consider Him. When you feel without hope, consider Him.

Remember, He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Remember, He knew what embarrassment and shame was. What did He do? He looked a little farther, beyond the shame, and saw the **joy** that was set

before Him. He counted the shame as nothing, and pressed on to magnificent victory.

Surely, by faith He could see multitudes being saved, and seeing those multitudes, the joy of that vision gave Him the strength to complete the race before Him.

*[10] Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.*

*[11] He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

*[12] Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.* **Isaiah 53:10-12**

*[9] And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

*[10] And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

**Revelation 5:9-10**

Can we do what Christ did? Are we able to get such a joy in our lives that we can press on to sure and certain victory? We can if we will look unto Jesus. We can if we will consider Him.

If Satan can get you to study the Scriptures in the light of some favorite doctrine, or to get ammunition to win some argument, your study will be in vain.

*[3] Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.*

*[4] Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.* **Isaiah 58:3-4**

Let's study the Word to consider Him. Let's saturate ourselves with the Word of God to help others.

*Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?* **Isaiah 58:6**

If your adversary can focus your attention to yesterday's failures, to constantly condemn yourself because of a wrong choice or action, he will keep you from considering Jesus, and you will fail again.

*[13] Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

*[14] I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

*[15] Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.* **Philippians 3:13-15**

Don't rely on your own talents, or special technique, or outstanding ability, **look unto Jesus**.

If you are in need, look unto Jesus. If you are fearful, look unto Jesus.

If you are overcome with sickness or disease, look unto Jesus. Do not dwell on how you feel, or how bad your symptoms are, or even your pain, look unto Jesus. Consider Him. He wants you to succeed.

*[16] When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:*

*[17] That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.* **Matthew 8:16-17**

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.* **Acts 10:38**

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

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SAY I DID MY BEST. WE MUST DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

**LET'S LOOK UNTO JESUS!**

## Chapter Nine FAITH FOR HEALING, BLESSING & PROSPERITY

This chapter will be different from the others. We will go through several scripture references for Healing, Blessing, and Prosperity. In fact, we will go through them twice.

Whatever you do, don't quickly skim over this chapter. Many believers are missing or neglecting a very important part of Bible promises and therefore they are missing out on God's blessing.

As we go through these promises the first time, we will emphasize the blessing part. Sadly, the blessing part is all that many people can identify with. Let's look at these great promises God has given unto us.

*And said, 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**

*And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and **I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.***

**Exodus 23:25**

[15] *See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;*

[16] *In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: **and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land** whither thou goest to possess it.*

**Deuteronomy 30:15-16**

[11] *Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.*

[12] *What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?*

[13] *Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.*

[14] *Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.*

[15] *The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.*

[16] *The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*

[17] *The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.*

[18] *The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*

[19] ***Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.***

**Psalm 34:11-19**

[14] *Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.*

[15] ***He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.***

[16] *With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.*

**Psalm 91:14-16**

[17] ***I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.***

[18] *The Lord hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.*

**Psalm 118:17-18**

[20] *My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.*

[21] *Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.*

[22] ***For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.***

[23] *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

**Proverbs 4:20-23**

[4] *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

[5] *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; **and with his stripes we are healed.***

**Isaiah 53:4-5**

[15] *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

[16] *For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made.*

[17] *For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart.*

[18] *I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners.*

[19] *I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; **and I will heal him.*** **Isaiah 57:15-19**

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: **by whose stripes ye were healed.*** **1 Peter 2:24**

[14] *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

[15] *And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, **we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*** **I John 5:14-15**

***Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*** **3 John 1:2**

Truly, all of these promises are great faith **builders**. As wonderful as these are, they are only a **few** of the **many** promises that God has given us. We serve a **great** and **mighty** and **loving** Heavenly Father.

Now, let us read the **same** Scripture passages with the emphasis on that which is **our** responsibility if we want the Healing, Blessing and Prosperity that God has promised.

*And said, **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**

***And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.*** **Exodus 23:25**

[15] *See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;*

[16] *In that **I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.*** **Deuteronomy 30:15-16**

[11] *Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.*

[12] *What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?*

[13] ***Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile** (deceit, cunning, treachery).*

[14] ***Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.***

[15] *The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.*

[16] *The face of the Lord is **against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.***

[17] *The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.*

[18] *The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*

[19] *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.*

**Psalms 34:11-19**

[14] ***Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.***

[15] *He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.*

[16] *With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.*

**Psalms 91:14-16**

[17] *I shall not die, but live, and **declare the works of the Lord.***

[18] *The Lord hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.*

**Psalms 118:17-18**

[20] ***My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.***

[21] *Let them not depart from thine eyes; **keep them in the midst of thine heart.***

[22] *For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*

[23] ***Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.***

**Proverbs 4:20-23**

[4] *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

[5] But he was wounded for **our transgressions**, he was bruised for **our iniquities**: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. **Isaiah 53:4-5**

[15] For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a **contrite** (pounded out like powder) and **humble** spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

[16] For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made.

[17] For the **iniquity of his covetousness** was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart.

[18] I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners.

[19] I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him. **Isaiah 57:15-19**

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that **we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness**: by whose stripes ye were healed. **1 Peter 2:24**

[14] And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing **according to his will**, he heareth us:

[15] 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**

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even **as thy soul prospereth**. **3 John 1:2**

In chapter ten we will follow up on these promises, and their conditions by considering what we are really after, and what God is wanting from us.

## Chapter Ten WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?

You may say that you want more faith. Why? Or, you may say you want your prayers answered? What prayers? What is the greatest desire of your heart? What is that thing, or accomplishment you long for more than anything else?

We have already seen that with **promises** come **conditions**. We have also seen that God is not some impotent Santa Claus.

We **are** wanting something from God, **all** of us. However, God is also wanting something from us. He wants us to be completely dedicated to Him. He wants us to be sanctified. He wants us to be separated **from** the world, and separated **unto** Him.

If God would appear before you today holding out power in one hand, and purity in the other, then give you **only one** choice, which one would you choose? Believers constantly choose power over purity. Please understand that I am not saying you cannot have both.

Power without purity will surely lead us to contaminate our lives. Purity without power will leave us sadly lacking in the area of meeting the needs of others.

[1] I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

[2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. **Romans 12:1-2**

Is it too much for God to ask that He who **made** us also receive pleasure **from** us? Do we think that God was made for our pleasure, rather than we were made for His pleasure?

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. **Revelation 4:11**

[3] Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

[4] Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. **Psalms 37:3-4**

[14] And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

*[15] 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**

Something has gone terribly wrong with many Christians today. They want what they want. They have focused almost entirely upon gratifying self. They are willing to study, and even memorize scriptures to drive home their demands that God please them.

Many of the **faith crowd** have taken the attitude, if God will meet my **demands**, I will be willing to **consider** His **suggestions**. Can you see it?

We are looking for healings, blessings, and wealth while God is looking for those who will live a holy, sanctified life. When is the last time we wept before God, asking Him to help us to be pure?

God has a quarrel with His church.

*[1] This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

*[2] For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

*[3] Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

*[4] Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

*[5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. **2 Timothy 3:1-5***

The church of Jesus Christ wants to have faith and blessings, but live just as the world lives. We want that **form** of Godliness, but we **deny** the power that will sanctify us and make us holy.

We have seen that the **promises** of blessing carry **conditions** of blessing. If we would pray and believe for a pure lifestyle as much as we pray and believe for wealth, revival would break out in our churches.

So, is it wrong to want blessings? Is it wrong to want healing? Is it wrong to want prosperity? No! God wants to bless us, but He is surely disappointed with our motives. Let's look at His Word.

*But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. **Deuteronomy 8:18***

God does not give us answers to prayer so we can walk in pride and show everyone how wonderful and great we are, but rather how wonderful and great He is. The 28th chapter of Deuteronomy is so good to tell us what God wants. It would be profitable for you to read the entire chapter. You will find **both blessings and curses** listed.

Is God cruel? No! He wants to bless His people so they can bring Him pleasure. It is so much easier to live a holy, sanctified life when we understand that we are here to bring pleasure to God, and not the reverse.

Now here is the amazing truth: When we begin to live to bring pleasure to God, we will have more pleasure and joy in our own lives. We have already looked at Revelation 4:11, now let's look at another scripture that will help us in understanding principles of purity and happiness.

*And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. **Acts 13:22***

Why would God issue such a flattering commendation about David? Look at it. "...which shall fulfill all my will." Do you get it?

God is saying, in so many words, "If I want something done, all I have to do is tell David and he will get it done." Can He say that about you, about me? Let's look at something.

*How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?*

**Psalm 13:1**

David was in a time of distress and he was asking God if He would forget him for ever. And did God forget this **man after God's own heart**? Hardly! David's name went on to be mentioned over 1,000 times in the Bible, including at least fifty times in the New Testament. And one of those times was in the **last** chapter of the **last** book in the entire Bible.

Did God forget David? No, and He will not forget you and me if we will use our faith to live for Him and please Him. Let me say it again, God wants to bless His people so they can bring Him pleasure. God

has a purpose and plan with His blessings, and as we are pleasing Him, we also get to enjoy His blessings.

*[17] Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*

*[18] That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;*

*[19] Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

**1 Timothy 6:17-19**

*[6] But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

*[7] Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

*[8] And God is able to make all **grace** abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

*[9] (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his **righteousness** remaineth for ever.*

*[10] Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and **increase** the fruits of your righteousness;)*

*[11] Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us **thanksgiving to God.***

*[12] For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many **thanksgivings unto God;***

*[13] Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they **glorify God** for your professed subjection into the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;*

*[14] And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.*

*[15] Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

Why do we want blessings from God? Is it **really** for His glory, or is it for our desires only? If God would give you wealth, would you live a more sanctified life?

Do we want to be people of faith so we can do more **for** Him? Or do we want to be people of faith so we can get more **from** Him?

Do you remember the question asked at the beginning of this chapter? What is it that you want? Let's take a few moments to challenge ourselves. Let's examine our own hearts, and that which motivates us.

In the words of an old hymn, let us pray, search me, oh God, and know my heart today. In these lessons about faith we have emphasized the need for faith if we are to please God.

*But 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**

We know that we **must** have faith to please God. Could it be that if we have **more** faith we will please God **more**? In place of having more faith so we can please ourselves more, and pamper ourselves more, it would be a sign of spiritual growth to want more faith to please God and labor more effectively in His harvest field.

It would be a sign of spiritual growth to want more faith to live more holy, to heal the sick, and build God's church. Remember, that's what prosperity is for.

*But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may **establish his covenant** which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.*

**Deuteronomy 8:18**

*[17] Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*

*[18] That they do good, that they be **rich in good works**, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;*

**1 Timothy 6:17-18**

Can God trust us with His blessings? Will the blessings of God cause us to love Him more? Or will the blessings of God cause us to want more of the world, and be more worldly?

In both the Old and New Testaments God lets us know He wants a pure, holy, sanctified people. Many of the great kings in the Old Testament backslid and ended up worshipping the very idols they had once destroyed.

Blessing and prosperity are a greater test for God's people than poverty. Can you pass the test?

*For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

**Leviticus 11:44**

*[15] But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;*

*[16] Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

**1 Peter 1:15-16**

Many people have passed the test of obeying God in tithing and giving until they were so blessed they decided they could **not afford** to put all that money into God's work. It doesn't make sense, does it?

*[8] Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.*

*[9] Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

*[10] 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**

*[6] But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

*[7] Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

Can God trust us enough to give us the supernatural Gifts of the Spirit listed in I Corinthians 12:1-10, or would we become proud and puffed up?

What about it? Are you ready to grow in faith? Will you become one of the few who will grow greatly in faith, yet walk humbly before God and man? Only you can answer that question.

**WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT?**

## Chapter Eleven CONVINCED!

We will never have the strong faith we want to have, and God wants us to have if we are not convinced. We can never become the person God wants us to become if we are not convinced.

God's general, Joshua recognized this problem in Israel many centuries ago.

*[14] Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord.*

*[15] And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

**Joshua 24:14-15**

The prophet Elijah also recognized this problem in the lives of God's people.

*And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.*

**1 Kings 18:21**

The Apostle James could see the same problem in the first century church.

*[6] 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.*

*[7] For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

**James 1:6-7**

The problem is **not a power shortage** with God. The problem is that God's people lack **conviction**. This problem not only hinders our faith, it also hinders a holy lifestyle in Christians.

It seems that God's people today also have an identity crises. Who are we? What are we? Where are we headed?

This identity crises not only hinders our faith, and our lifestyles, it also causes apathy. The word apathy means lack of feeling or emotion, no interest or concern.

It is **convinced** people who will win the lost. It is **concerned** people who will do God's work. It is **passionate** people who will change their lifestyles, and many times in doing so they have changed the **world**.

We can think of people who were convinced, concerned, and passionate who have done great things for

God. There was Martin Luther, John Wesley, David Livingston, William Carey, Mary Slessor, Lillian Trasher, and many, many others.

The unconvinced, unconcerned, and dispassionate will not even have enough faith to change their own lives. They will not believe for revival, healings, miracles, or even their loved ones to be saved because they are not convinced it is God's will.

*Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.* **2 Timothy 3:5**

Can you see why we must be convinced? We must believe God's Word is true. In addition to the definitions of faith already given, let us look at one more. Faith is believing that God is intelligent enough to **say what He means, and mean what He says.**

Are you convinced that God loves you? Are you convinced that God has His hand on your life? Are you convinced that God has a plan for your life?

I have prefaced so many messages around the world with the following. "The greatest thing in all the world is to be a born again, Spirit-filled child of God. And the most exciting thing in all the world is to be actively serving the Lord, and to know that you are in the center of His will for your life." It doesn't get much better than that.

When you become convinced that God loves you, and has a plan for your life, and you begin to follow that plan, you will begin to do greater works.

*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**

The disciples believed those words and went on to prove them to be true. Let's look at just one example.

*[14] And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)*

*[15] 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.*

*[16] 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 5:14-16**

John the Baptist was convinced of who he was. He was also convinced the Messiah was coming in his day. Why? Because God told him so.

*[32] And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.*

*[33] And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.*

*[34] And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.* **John 1:32-34**

Andrew was convinced. He heard John talk of Jesus and decided to follow Him. He even asked Jesus where He stayed, and then went with Him.

*[38] Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?*

*[39] He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.*

*[40] One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.*

**John 1:38-40**

Andrew was so totally convinced that he went to get his brother, Simon Peter. Why? Andrew was convinced that Jesus was the Messiah and he wanted his brother to meet Him.

*[40] One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.*

*[41] He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.*

*[42] And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.* **John 1:40-42**

Can you see how exciting our lives become when we are convinced? It doesn't end there.

[43] *The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.*

[44] *Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.*

[45] *Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*

[46] *And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.* **John 1:43-46**

Philip was convinced and brought Nathanael. Now watch this. Nathanael was a little harder to convince, but he **became** convinced.

[46] *And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.*

[47] *Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!*

[48] *Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.*

[49] *Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.* **John 1:46-49**

When we become convinced, it will **also change us**. When we become convinced, we will also become concerned. Convinced, concerned, passionate Christians live a more exciting lifestyle. They also become **involved**.

Remember: The greatest thing in all the world is to be a **born-again, Spirit filled** child of God, and the most exciting thing in all the world is to **live for God**, and know you are in the center of His will for your life.

Sports, entertainment, alcohol, drugs, worldliness and sin are nothing compared to the joy and excitement of serving God. Is it not truly amazing that God would choose to use us to do His work when He could have used reliable, disciplined angels?

An **unlearned blind** man became convinced one day and gave the **educated religious leaders** an answer they could not deny.

[24] *Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.*

[25] *He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.* **John 9:24-25**

A Gentile centurion was convinced and **even caused Jesus** to be impressed and marvel.

[5] *And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,*

[6] *And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.*

[7] *And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.*

[8] *The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.*

[9] *For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.*

[10] *When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.* **Matthew 8:5-10**

Are you convinced? Can you believe that God wants to bless and use you? If you are convinced, let's look at six steps that can help us all be successful.

### 1. **WE MUST CAST OFF OUR FEELING OF INFERIORITY.**

*For with God nothing shall be impossible.* **Luke 1:37**

Who said that with God nothing shall be impossible? None other than the angel, Gabriel who has been watching God do great and miraculous things forever past.

Notice! He didn't say that all things were possible **to God**, but **with God**. What does that tell us? It tells us that even if **we** are inferior, when we link up with the Greatness of God, we can become great.

*Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.*  
**Joshua 1:3**

Joshua had a vision. Joshua did not ride into Canaan on the back of a huge Arabian stallion, but upon the **promises** of God.

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* **Philippians 4:13**

2. **GET A VISION OF WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO, AND THEN GO TO WORK.**

That great missionary, William Carey said:

“EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD!  
ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD!”

Remember, even convinced, concerned, passionate people must have a vision. You cannot spend much time in prayer and the Word of God and not have a vision.

3. **GO FORWARD KNOWING THAT GOD IS WITH YOU.**

Do not worry and fret about what others do. Don't try to duplicate someone else's ministry. Do what God has called **you** to do.

If you do not know what God has called you to do, spend much time in prayer, the Word of God, and read biographies of great men and women, and then get busy.

Did you get it?

- A. Pray
- B. Read the Word
- C. Read Biographies
- D. Work—At what?

*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.* **Ecclesiastes 9:10**

4. **BE BOLD IN CHRIST!**

*The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.* **Psalm 25:14**

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.* **Acts 4:13**

Do not allow fear to paralyze you! Wesley said, “I am too afraid of God to be afraid of men.”

5. **CONFESS THE WORD OF GOD AND NOT YOUR DOUBTS.**

There is power in the Word of God.

[1] *And again he entered into Capernaum, after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.*

[2] *And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.* **Mark 2:1-2**

Did you notice that? Jesus is the Word! And yet He preached the Word. The Word creates. We need to speak the Word.

[1] *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

[2] *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

[3] *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.* **Genesis 1:1-3**

At least nine times in chapter one of Genesis we read, “And God said.”

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

**Romans 10:17**

6. **REFUSE TO GIVE UP!**

Don't ever quit, never!

**QUITTERS NEVER WIN!**

**WINNERS NEVER QUIT!**

*And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*

**Revelation 2:26**

Every good promise of God in chapters two and three of Revelation is given to those who **overcome**. Quitters don't overcome, they give up.

There is a special quality about God's people who really love Him. They are **convinced**, they are **con-**

cerned, they are **passionate**, and they **stay in the race**.

*For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.*

**Proverbs 24:16**

## Chapter Twelve BREAKING OUT OF FEAR

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

**2 Timothy 1:7**

Fear is a terrible master. Fear will **drive** you to be uneasy and nervous. Fear will also **drag** you down. Fear will drag you down spiritually, mentally, and physically. Fear will keep you from doing the great things you are destined by God to do.

*And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.*

**Daniel 11:32**

That word, exploits, means mighty deeds. God has not called us to be failures. God receives no glory or pleasure when His people fail. God has not called us to be under-achievers.

One has only to read the eleventh chapter of Hebrews to sense the mind of God concerning the lives and deeds of His people. There is a life to live. There are rewards to be won. Forever drive from your mind that your destiny in life is to be looked down upon, even despised, and ultimately fail completely. It is not God telling those things to you, it is the enemy of your soul.

Probably one of the hardest things for us to understand when we are having problems, and feel like a failure, is that all people go through that. No, you are not strange, or weird, or forsaken by God.

*[12] Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:*

*[13] But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

*[14] If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

**1 Peter 4:12-14**

*[11] Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

*[12] Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

**Matthew 5:11-12**

*[7] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

*[11] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*

*[17] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.*

*[26] And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*

**Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26**

*[5] He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*

*[12] Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

*[21] To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

**Revelation 3:5, 12, 21**

And there you have it. Life is and will be a battle. God is not a loser, and neither are we. God will have an overcoming people. The word overcometh alludes to a struggle, or even a wrestling match.

The song says:

“He didn’t bring us this far to leave us.

He didn't teach us to swim to let us drown.  
He didn't build His home in us to move away.  
He didn't lift us up to let us down."

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God is a God of victory! His people are a people of victory. When we walk with God in faith, we are walking in victory.

*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

**1 John 5:4**

Someone has said, "I read the back of the book, and we win." Listen, we don't have to be concerned with beating out other Christians, we just have to stay in the race.

There is something that even us ordinary people can do as well as anyone in the whole world. We can be faithful. In fact, your faith will cause you to be faithful. They work together.

We need to determine to walk right out of the valley of fear and defeat, lift our hands and praise the Lord. Let's make up our minds right now, and determine to be **giant killers**. The battle, you know, is fought in our minds.

*[1] 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,*

*[2] 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.*

*[3] For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

**Hebrews 12:1-3**

#### LET'S SLAY THE GIANT OF DOUBT.

*Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.*

**Matthew 21:21**

Doubt is a Giant who stays on the border of the promised land to terrify anyone who would dare to enter. Many people are defeated by just seeing him there. They give up without a fight.

#### LET'S SLAY THE GIANT OF DISCOURAGEMENT.

Someone has said that discouragement freezes the blood. The children of Israel were ready to give up and go back to Egypt without a fight. Had they lost a battle? Did someone lose their life? No! They gave in to discouragement.

*[1] And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. [2] And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!*

*[3] And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?*

*[4] And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. **Numbers 14:1-4***

*[4] And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.*

*[5] And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.*

**Numbers 21:4-5**

Discouragement is a lack of courage. Someone has said that bravery is when you **are not** afraid. Courage is when you **are** afraid, but you press on and do it anyway. Many of the great men and women we read about today were just like you and me. They were afraid. They did get discouraged. But they refused to give up. Some people will never accomplish anything because of discouragement. Let us not be among that number.

#### LET'S SLAY THE GIANT OF DESPAIR.

*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;*

## 2 Corinthians 4:8

Despair is a Giant who will trample on **all** we hope for. Despair means to lose all hope or confidence.

### LET'S SLAY THE GIANT OF FEAR.

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

**2 Timothy 1:7**

*[16] And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

*[18] 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 4:16, 18**

Remember, God does not give us the spirit of fear, so fear must come from the devil. God gives us the spirit of power, love, and a sound, or disciplined mind.

God gives us **power**, or authority. God gives us **love**. Love drives out fear.

*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**

God gives us a **sound mind**. A sound mind is a disciplined mind. A disciplined mind is one that is not allowed to sit around and worry. A disciplined mind will help us get up and do something about our problems. A disciplined mind will cause us to get busy and overcome obstacles.

We can break out of fear by **filling** our minds with the Word of God. Wicked and immoral thoughts are a **negative drain** on our minds. Hatred and bitterness are a **negative drain** on our minds. Gossip, tale bearing and lies are also a **negative drain** on our minds. Not only are these things sin, they work against our faith.

*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

**Psalms 66:18**

Listen to God's instructions to Joshua, that **great general** of Israel.

*[6] Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.*

*[7] Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.*

*[8] This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

*[9] Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

**Joshua 1:6-9**

Joshua obeyed those instructions and won many battles. Let us break out of fear by **choosing** to obey the Word of God. Let's replace fear with desire, determination, discipline, and diligence.

*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**

*[24] Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.*

*[25] And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

*[26] I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:*

*[27] But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

*But 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**

It is my prayer and desire that you have been blessed and strengthened by reading this book. You may check our website for lessons on faith from this book that you can teach, and other materials.

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