

Faith's Formula

Probing Faith's Secrets

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Faith's Possibilities

*“**B**ut Jesus said unto him, ‘if thou art able to believe, all things are possible to him, the one that is believing’“ (Mk. 9:23, Gk.).*

It's no secret that Jesus Christ our Lord on many occasions declared the absolute invincibility of faith; real, Bible faith.

The Master dealt with realities, not subjective situations.

Our Lord spoke of mountains moved, diseases dissolved and demons defeated.

All of this He attributed to faith; simple, Bible faith.

This book will look into the “whys and wherefores” of this vital, often misunderstood, subject: strictly from the scriptures.

We aim to take faith apart and then put it back together. Using the apothecary of God's Word, we want to sift faith's spiritual makeup, discover its celestial properties, and then, under God, allow it to work in the laboratory of life.

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Faith's Definition

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

A Critical Contrast

I had just finished speaking at an Anglican church in a suburb of Darwin, Australia. I had prayed with folks to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and several had also received the Holy Spirit. God had granted great specificity in the word of knowledge and many had been supernaturally healed of various ailments. There was much rejoicing amongst the people.

Suddenly, someone tapped me on the arm. It seemed several of the brethren wanted me to pray for someone who had not responded to the altar call. A young man was suffering from a rare rash on his arm that would not respond to medical treatment. As is normally my practice, I questioned the man himself to assess his level of faith (in this case regarding Divine healing).

“Do you believe the Lord will heal you now?” I asked.

He hesitated, smiled nervously and looked up into my eyes.

“To be honest with you, no, I don’t,” he replied.

Just then, those who brought him to the front continued to

encourage me to pray for him anyway. I prayed a general prayer for his healing. I didn't expect anything to happen. He didn't expect anything to happen.

Nothing happened.

The Young Girl in Paris

A few weeks after this experience, I was holding meetings at a large, full-gospel church in Paris. The service had ended and I was gathering my things together, preparing to return to my hotel room. As I sat there in the front row, I felt a tap on my shoulder. As I turned around, a young lady asked me, in broken English, if I would pray for her. It seems she had a growth about the size of a billiard ball on her back that caused her pain.

"Do you believe the Lord will heal you now?" I asked her.

"Oh, yes" she replied, and lifted her hands and heart toward heaven, her eyes closed in concentration upon the glory of God.

Suddenly, I slapped her between the shoulder blades and said—in faith—"growth; stop being."

I watched as she slowly opened her eyes, lowered her arms and began to search for the lump on her back. Her eyes grew wide and her mouth dropped open in surprised wonder. Then she broke into a great big smile and threw her arms around me rejoicing, "It's all gone!"

I had a lot to think about as I walked back to my hotel that night.

What accounts for the difference in these two incidents?

Why is it that two similar incidents yielded two very different results?

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Faith...or its lack.

An Overemphasis?

Just here someone may question, “Is there not too much concern about faith in the Christian life?”

In actual fact, the problem is not an overemphasis of teaching on the subject, but, rather, an overabundance of *wrong* instruction in this area.

According to the scripture, it is almost impossible to be too concerned with the development of our faith.

- We are saved by faith (Eph. 2:8-9).
- We receive the Spirit by faith (Gal. 3:14).
- We are healed by faith (Acts 14:9).
- We operate spiritual gifts by faith (Rom. 12:6).
- We resist the devil by faith (I Pet. 5:9).
- We cast out devils by faith (Mt. 17:20).
- We stand by faith (II Cor. 1:24).

Paul sums up the entire matter by reminding us, “the just shall *live* by faith” (Gal. 3:11).

Faith: an Assurance

What exactly *is* faith, then?

Paul gives us a very clear description in the Book of Hebrews, chapter 11.

“Now faith is the substance of things being hoped for” (Heb. 11:1).

This word, “substance,” means an assurance or ground of confidence: something we can walk out upon.

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The story goes that a man was pushing a wheelbarrow across a thin wire stretched across Niagara Falls. Cheering crowds looked on in loud encouragement of the brave man. One elderly lady was particularly animated in her cheering. She shouted repeatedly, "I believe you can do it; I believe you can do it!"

Suddenly, he turned to her and said, "If you believe I can do it, *get in the wheelbarrow!*"

Faith—real Bible faith—will enable us to, "get in the wheelbarrow!"

Faith: a Noun

Faith is a noun; it is the name of something. We either have it or we don't. We can't try to have faith anymore than we can try to have a watch or a new pair of shoes.

Faith is something we have, not something we do.

Believing: a Verb

A related word—believing—is a verb; it is an act of the will. Faith requires believing for its manifestation, but it is unfortunately possible to 'believe' without possessing faith.

For example, one might "believe" (by an act of the will) the text, "By whose stripes ye were healed" (I Pet. 2:24), *while not possessing faith that one is healed, now.*

Similarly, it is possible to possess faith and still not "believe" (release it through action).

Many years ago I worked for a large company one summer. Another young fellow who worked with me shared about some church services he had attended at his local Baptist church. He was not saved, but he understood the plan of salvation.

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I was very intrigued by his telling me of the power of the missionaries who occasionally spoke at Sunday morning services. To quote him, “Boy, could they preach! My knuckles used to get white hanging on to the pew when they gave the altar call to receive Christ!”

Does it sound like he possessed *faith* for salvation?

YES!

Did he “believe?”

NO!

Faith and believing are like spiritual “ham and eggs;” they go together. But they must never be confused or substituted for each other.

Faith: a Conviction

Still another description of faith is a “conviction.”

It is an absolute certainty concerning something in the unseen, spiritual realm.

“Being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]” (Amp).

Once as I was attempting to more accurately illustrate this aspect of faith, I came upon the example of a bank deposit slip.

If I present you with a bank deposit slip for your account verifying that I have placed \$5,000.00 in your account, that bank-cancelled receipt would be similar to faith. At that point you do not physically possess \$5,000.00 in cash in your hands, but the deposit slip assures you that you do, indeed, possess the money just the same!

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Faith is the deposit slip!

Confusion Ends

Aren't you glad that the Lord hasn't left us in the dark concerning this all-important matter of faith?

Isn't it wonderful to know that faith is not some "mystical something" floating around in space?

Faith is either a fruit or gift of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22; I Cor. 12:9). In either case, it comes from God (Eph. 2:8-9).

Faith is the spiritual air we breathe; it is our natural, spiritual habitat.

Faith: Spiritual Understanding

*"Through faith we **understand** that the ages stand framed by God's spoken word, so that the things which are being seen have not been made out of the things appearing" (Heb. 11:3, Gk.).*

Here is yet another helpful description of real, Bible faith.

It is a spiritual, "sixth sense."

Faith is spiritual eyesight or understanding.

It is faith that enables us to see into the spiritual world and live according to its truths rather than the inaccurate and conflicting testimonies of our fallen, physical senses.

According to the Bible, we all possess two sets of ears and eyes: physical and spiritual. A lot of us can see much better, spiritually, with our natural eyes closed!

I have traveled all over the world preaching the gospel. Getting the funds together to make the trips is seldom easy, I

remember praying about raising the needed money for my first short-term mission trip (to England). In the natural, it seemed impossible. Yet, as I prayed (with my eyes closed) I could “see” myself in the airport in Boston. I kept my eyes closed much of the time!

It was great having coffee with the music director and soloist in the airport coffee shop several months later.

Repetition or Revelation?

Some counsel us to simply repeat—parrot-like—the Word to bring about faith. But will simple repetition produce faith?

As I said in another book (*Seven Keys of Successful Ministry [Diploma in the Deaconate]*), when Philip confronted the eunuch in the chariot who was busy reading (and speaking aloud) from the Book of Isaiah, his question was

“Understandest thou indeed the things thou readest” (Acts 8:30)?

Reading, studying, meditating and speaking the Word are helpful and important, but apart from our *understanding* the Word, we will not profit in the area of faith.

How many times did *you* hear the Word proclaimed regarding: salvation, the Holy Spirit, healing, prosperity, spiritual gifts, etc., *before you understood it?*

Did you possess *faith* in these areas prior to your really *understanding* the Word in a particular area?

Aren't you glad that the Word has a way of clearing these things up?

Three Kinds of Faith

As we put faith under the microscope of God's Word, we discover three basic types of faith.

- 1) **Saving faith** (Eph. 2:8-9). This is the faith of the Holy Spirit given to the sinner who comes under the sound of the gospel. It is produced in the heart by the power of God's Word and His Spirit; it is a free gift of grace, as is repentance (Acts 11:18).
- 2) **Faith, the Fruit** (Gal. 5:22). This is one aspect of the Personality of the Holy Spirit Who indwells the believer. It is the faith or trust by which we live our everyday Christian lives; it is faith to walk with God, daily, trusting Him for all of our needs.
- 3) **Faith, the Gift** (I Cor. 12:9). This is a different, but related manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our lives which 'moves mountains' and believes for the 'impossible.' Jesus and Paul both refer to it (Mk. 11:22; I Cor. 12:9; 13:2). It is the faith that not only 'trusts' God for His provision, but receives it—NOW—with absolute certainty. It is the 'faith of God' and operates under His power, for His glory.

More important than labeling the different "brands" of faith, however, is possessing them!

Faith's Source

“**S**o then the faith by hearing, and the hearing through God's spoken word” (rom. 10:17, gk.).

Here is the source of faith: *hearing*.

Did you get that?

The source of faith is not ‘the Word of God.’

Nor is the source of faith “hearing the Word of God.” There are multitudes of “churches” where the “Word is heard”—through public reading—each and every week; but no “faith” is produced.

No; God's inspired Greek text says:

“So then *the* faith (God's faith) by *hearing*.”

This is hearing, not with the physical ear only, but with the spiritual (inner) ear.

This reminds us of what Paul told the Corinthians:

“Now **we** have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, **that we might be knowing** the things having been freely given to us by the (one, true) God” (I Cor.

2:12, Gk.).

Faith is spiritual knowledge and it is the Holy Spirit Who imparts it to us. Praise God!

A Personal Relationship

Faith is the spiritual “stuff of life.” It is the means of sustaining our spiritual lives. And faith—real Bible faith—grows out of relationship. As I mentioned in another book, apart from the fellowship of the Master, the Bible remains a closed book.

“Was not our heart burning within us, while he was talking with us by the way, and while he was opening to us the scriptures” (Lk. 24:32, Gk.).

The disciples on the road to Emmaus had an experience with a Person, not a principle. It was a reality, not a ritual; it was Christ, not a creed.

The word rendered “opening” in the verse quoted above means “explain, expound, to open the mind, the heart, *so as to receive.*”

Praise God! This is just what we need.

Faith requires more than black ink on India paper; it must be the living oracles of God!

The written Word must be quickened by the Spirit and made the living, speaking Word, in order for faith to spring forth in the garden of our hearts.

Hearing or *Hearing*?

It is one thing to hear—physically—the Word of God; it is quite another to really *hear* it—with the spiritual ear—and receive God’s faith thereby.

As we have seen, the eunuch from Ethiopia was seeing the written Word, reading it aloud and therefore “hearing” it, yet he remained unsaved.

Our situation is similar; we must hear the Voice of God with the ears of our hearts. This is the “hearing of faith.”

When once “the light dawns” and “the penny drops,” we shall not wonder about our belief. It will be warm, vibrant and vital, thrilling our beings with Divine certainty.

The Spoken Word: Source of Hearing

“And the (spiritual) hearing, by God’s spoken word” (Rom. 10:17, Gk.).

This phrase from the tenth chapter of Paul’s letter to the Romans takes us another step toward understanding the source of living faith.

According to Paul, spiritual “hearing” comes, not from the written Word alone, but from a spoken word *from* God.

The scriptures speak of God’s Word in at least three ways.

Jesus Christ is the Living Word.

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

And then the Bible speaks of the Written Word.

“Every scripture (graphe, Gk.) is God-inspired” (II Tin. 3:16, Gk.).

In Eph. 6:17, Paul informs us that the Holy Spirit is the Spoken Word.

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“For your sword, take God’s Spirit, which is his Word (rheema, Gk.)” (Eph. 6:17, Laubach).

Jesus is the “Logos.”

The Bible is the “Graphe.”

The Holy Spirit is the “Rheema.”

While the word “rheema” is sometimes used interchangeably with “logos,” there is often a subtle difference in meaning.

“Rheema” has reference to a “spoken word,” “utterance” or “voice” of God.

Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit—our Sword in spiritual combat—is God’s Voice or Spoken Word. We are to wield this mighty Sword by means of prayer in the Spirit (Eph. 6:18, see my books, *Prayer in the Spirit: the Missing Link [Diploma in Ministry]* and *The Perfect Weapon*).

Comparing scripture with scripture, we could very easily translate Rom. 10:17, “So then the faith by (spiritual) hearing, and the hearing through God’s Spirit (Spoken Word).”

Where’s the Word?

The question now naturally arises, “How can we receive such a vital ‘word?’”

The Bible makes it clear that it is our responsibility to *ask for it*.

“It stands written, ‘man shall not live on (physical) bread alone, but on every word (‘rheema,’ spoken word, Gk.) that is constantly proceeding through the mouth of God” (Mt. 4:4, Gk.).

The Master told us:

*“It is the **spirit** that is quickening; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words (‘rheemata,’ Gk.) I speak unto you, are spirit, and life” (Jn. 6:63, Gk.).*

“The just one shall live by faith” the Bible says, and we have discovered such faith comes into our hearts by spiritually “hearing.” This remarkable experience is ours upon possession of “God’s spoken Word.”

First Things First

The words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount take on a new significance in the light of what we’ve discovered about faith.

He admonished us to pray:

“Give us at once the bread: our daily one” (Mt. 6:11).

I used to wonder why preachers quoted this and similar verses while admonishing us not to worry about the temporal issues of life. Why worry about food, clothing and shelter when we can just ask God?

Then I read where Paul cautioned if one didn’t work, neither should he eat (II Thess. 3:10)!

I don’t believe Jesus and Paul belong to different denominations, do you?

It must be that our Lord had reference to something besides physical food.

What we require is spiritual food—living bread—the Voice of God, spoken to us by the Spirit.

This is what Philip gave the eunuch.

This is what preachers are to give to their listeners (Rom.

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10:14ff.).

This is what Jesus gave to the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24:27ff.).

This is what you and I need to fuel our faith. Now we know the source of our faith.

Jesus.

Faith's Development

“*B*ut ye, beloved ones, continually building up yourselves on your faith: the most holy one, praying **in the Holy Ghost” (Jude 20).**

What would you think of someone who wanted to build bigger biceps and then doubled the number of sit-ups they did to accomplish their goal?

Silly, wouldn't you say?

Yet this is just what some believers are doing in the matter of strengthening themselves in the area of faith. It seems we will do almost anything but what the Bible says.

The verse quoted above makes it very clear that we become stronger on the foundation of our faith by *praying in the Holy Spirit*.

Think about it for a minute.

The Holy Spirit is the Author of our faith; either as a fruit of His Personality (Gal. 5:22) or a gift of His Power (I Cor. 12:9).

We have seen that we must ask for the Lord to impart our “daily bread” (word). In other words, we must pray.

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How logical, then, that the combination of these two necessities—the Holy Spirit and prayer—is the Divinely appointed means of developing ourselves in faith.

The phrase translated “building up” in Jude’s letter has reference to the building of an edifice, brick upon brick. Praise God!

God wants us to develop on the foundation of our saving faith—to build a spiritual house—brick upon brick (“word” upon “word”).

Paul’s Plan

“But, now brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I be profiting you, except I shall be speaking to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by teaching” (I Cor. 14:6, Gk.).

Here, Paul describes four different “words from God” which can come through tongues and interpretation. Needless to say, any of these four manifestations could bring spiritual “hearing” resulting in faith for the “hearer.”

However, by comparing his words in I Cor. 14:18 to those quoted above, we see that he enjoyed a private dimension of faith-building communication with God.

“I thank my God, I am continually speaking with tongues more than ye all: yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue” (I Cor. 14:18-19, Gk.).

By including the word *also*, Paul gives us an insight into his own spiritual life; by speaking “ten thousand words in a tongue” out of church, he taught himself.

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The rivers of inspiration coursing through Paul's inner man not only gave him "seed to sow" to others, but also "bread for the eater" to be used in his own life!

Things to Come

Hundreds of times during the last 20 years of ministry, great exploits of faith have come about because I took the time to develop myself in my faith by *praying in the Holy Ghost*.

In March of 1988, I was praying behind the platform before the evening service in Delmas, on the island of Haiti in the Caribbean. As I prayed, God spoke, "I'll do whatever you ask Me tonight." His "spoken Word" brought faith!

Less than an hour later, God supernaturally stopped the rain in front of over 7,000 people!

Again, in late 1983, I went to sleep *praying*. I then had a dream in which I was in the office of one of the most influential pastors in the full gospel movement in Australia (my superintendent had difficulty talking to the man's secretary). I saw the entire conversation including details such as his secretary offering us tea, the color of the furniture, etc. I even "saw" him checking his calendar (in response to my requesting a preaching engagement). After first declining, he then consulted with his secretary and confirmed my speaking at a graduation banquet for his ministry school.

I literally lived this experience out a few weeks after the prayer/dream experience. All details were fulfilled to the letter!

As we sat together in his office, I was inwardly amused to hear the brother say he was sorry, but unable to accommodate my schedule. How (inwardly) elated I was to watch him call for his secretary, recheck his schedule, and then announce my invitation to be his commencement speaker!

Peter's Procedure

Where did Peter find the faith to effect the miracle of Dorcas' being raised from the dead?

*“But Peter, having put them all forth, having knelt down, **prayed**; and having turned to the body said, ‘Tabitha, arise’” (Acts 9:40, Gk.).*

The word rendered “prayed” in this verse carries with it the idea of continued prayer.

If we have Peter's prayer-power, we'll have Peter's faith and produce Peter's results.

Again, the Master stated that the type of faith required to “move mountains” (expel demons, etc.) was not common to the human heart, but could be cultivated by “**prayer** and fasting” (Mt. 17:21).

If it is true—and it is—that “the faith cometh by hearing (spiritually), and the (spiritual) hearing, by a spoken word from God,” and we can seek *and find* such “daily bread” during, and as a result of, praying in the Holy Ghost, *what are we waiting for?!*

God's Spirit quickens God's Word and ministers God's faith; the result is a spiritual explosion where all our needs are met according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus!

Faith's Release

*“**B**ut we having the same Spirit of the faith, according as it stands written, ‘I believed, and therefore have I spoken;’ we also believe, and therefore speak” (II Cor. 4:13, Gk.).*

“For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so the faith apart from the works is dead also” (Ja. 2:26, Gk.).

If we study the Word of God carefully in the matter of faith, we find it is normally released in one of two ways: words or works, saying or doing, proclaiming or demonstrating.

This is where “believing” comes into play. It is our act of “believing” and speaking or acting accordingly, which releases the faith of God in our hearts.

Faith for Salvation

For example, my friend at work from college days refused to “believe” or release his divinely-imparted faith for salvation when the Baptist missionaries gave the altar call. By his own admission, his knuckles were “white” as he gripped the pew. Why did he leave the services unsaved? Because by his unbelief (disobedience) he failed to confess Jesus as his Lord.

Downpour in Delmas

Our ministry team made it a habit to meet for prayer and communion in the hotel before the crusade services each evening while we were in Haiti (March, 1988). One evening before service the Lord ministered a prophetic word that there would be an unusual display of His power that evening. Needless to say, faith was mounting high (Rom. 10:17). We were ready to hear a “rushing, mighty wind,” see “tongues of fire,” or angelic messengers!

Before I preached, the Lord supernaturally stopped the rain in direct answer to public prayer before thousands of people. But that wasn't all. After the message, as I gave the invitation for believers to receive the Holy Spirit, I mentioned what God had promised. The air was still (the rain had stopped); then, fully 2,000 Christians came forward to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I led them in prayer and then said—by faith—“Receive the Holy Spirit.” Suddenly, from over my right shoulder a “wind” blew across the platform and out into the crowd.

In less than 30 seconds, nearly 2,000 Haitian believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in “other tongues” as the Spirit gave the utterance. One of our team heard one Haitian saint speaking English (supernaturally)!

We did our part (prayed, preached and believed).

The believers did their part (responded to the word and came forward for prayer).

God did His part (baptizing them in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4).

The Haitians “released” their faith by “believing” and speaking forth as the Spirit of God enabled them. HalleluYah!

Faith can be released through words.

We, like David and Paul, “*believe and therefore speak.*”

Our Christian lives begin by believing, receiving and *confessing* Christ Jesus as the Savior and Lord of our lives (Rom. 10:9-10).

Creative Faith

*“The same (cripple) was **hearing** paul speaking: who, having steadfastly beheld him, and having perceived that he is having **faith to be healed** (saved, Gk.), **said** with the voice—a loud one— ‘stand upright on the feet: yours,’ and he was **leaping and walking**” (Acts 14:9-10, Gk.).*

Here is a beautiful portion of scripture that tells it all. It speaks of the creative, miracle healing of a chronic condition (the man was lame from the womb) by the spoken “word of faith” acted on by believing deeds (leaping and walking).

Paul and Barnabas were busy preaching the “full gospel” (Acts 14:7), which, undoubtedly, included divine healing.

The crippled man “was hearing” Paul’s proclamation. No doubt, this caused his faith to come alive to the extent that even Paul noticed it.

It was perhaps then that the Holy Spirit whispered to Paul a “word of wisdom” regarding how to effect the man’s deliverance.

Paul obeyed and spoke—boldly—not in his own voice or authority, but in the Voice and authority of the One Who once said, “Light be!” and caused the brightness of a million suns to spring forth amidst the darkness.

In simple obedience, the man did his best and God did the rest!

The Barren Bear

Numerous times in crusade meetings during the last seven years, couples who were unable to conceive children for various reasons have suddenly become pregnant following the “prayer of faith.” I am amazed at the words God puts in my mouth. As I am faithful to say “Let there be a conception,” God’s power heals and restores!

Negative or Positive?

Our words and deeds can be the vehicles for either negative or positive results. In actual fact, the verse with which we began this chapter is a quotation from Ps. 116:10.

Have you read it?

“I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted: I said in my haste, ‘every man is a liar’” (Ps. 116:10, Heb.).

Not a very “good confession” in context, is it?

In truth, not every man is a liar. The psalmist was simply giving into momentary despair. He got back on track, however; and we should “mind our mouths” too (see my book, *Wonder Working Words*).

Let’s use our lips and lives for positive expressions of the grace, love, mercy and power of God.

Our words, when motivated by God’s faith and power, can be tremendous reservoirs of grace to those in need.

After the Altar Service

Our work for the Lord is not always done when we think it is.

Not long ago, after I had finished preaching and praying for

the sick, I sat in the front row of the auditorium to rest. A lady came to my side and told me through halting English (I was in a church in Paris) that she had been bound by evil spirits, that some believers had prayed for her, but that she still felt "bound." As I looked at her crest-fallen countenance, I began to pray (undertone) "in the Spirit" (other tongues). Suddenly, I said "Go free, in the Name of Jesus." She grabbed my arm and collapsed like an accordion, slowly falling to her knees, then flat on her face on the floor beside my chair. In a few moments, she looked up, smiling, with the Light of God on her face.

What if she hadn't sought the Lord?

What if I hadn't prayed and spoken in faith?

"If any is speaking, let him speak as the oracles of God" (I Pet. 4:11, Gk.).

It seems as though Peter practiced what he preached.

" And Peter said unto him, 'Aeneas, Jesus the Christ healeth thee: arise, and make thy bed'" (Acts 9:34).

Peter took the attitude that someone is needed to speak for God, it might as well be him.

What is our attitude?

Wonderful Works

*"Amen, amen, I say unto you, he, the one believing on me, the works that **I** am doing shall **he** do also; and greater than these shall he do; because **I** go unto my father" (Jn. 14:12, Gk.).*

I think Brother Rick had over 15 warts all over his fingers. He came for prayer after a Sunday morning service. His faith was "high." I looked at his hand; suddenly, I slapped his palm in faith and said, "Warts, stop being."

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I saw his hands the other day; they're as natural as yours.

Slapping someone's hands isn't the prescribed treatment for wart removal. They don't have ears either; so it doesn't seem to make sense to "talk" to them. But they're gone, just the same.

It reminds me of a tree Jesus spoke to once (Mk. 11:14).

At the close of the crusade service in the Marrara Sports Stadium (Darwin, Australia), I prayed for the saints to receive the Spirit and also for the sick to be healed. The soloist's mother approached me for prayer concerning a goiter. I was led to touch her throat with my index finger; I don't remember what I prayed. She was excited as she told me it was shrinking under my finger.

I could relate hundreds of similar incidents.

What good is it for God to give us faith if we never release it with corresponding actions of *believing*?

Unusual Leadings

I heard one preacher say, "If God tells you to jump through a wall, your part is to jump; His part is to make a hole!"

God hasn't asked me to do that yet.

Not too long ago, I finished a seminar meeting on spiritual warfare. There were only about 120 people there, but God's power was heavily manifest (there were only about 120 on the Day of Pentecost; great things can happen with a small crowd, if it's the right small crowd).

Maybe it was my accent (I was preaching in Australia), but the saints just lingered (Brother Westbrook tried several times to close the service).

One young lady had fallen under the power and couldn't get

up. She was a little concerned and asked me, "When can I get up?" I told her I didn't know (I hadn't put her down). Finally, I told her when she was willing to stay down, the Lord would probably let her up. As the service went on, she found her seat. Suddenly, I had a "word of knowledge" about a rat. It took a few minutes, but I finally spoke it. This woman had just gone through a painful divorce, she had two "pet rats," some of her only remaining friends, and one was sick (the veterinarian couldn't cure it). I was going to pray for her but she said, "Don't touch me!" (It had taken her a while to get off the floor and back to her seat). I said, "O.K.; take this to them" and shook my hands at her (she was about 25 feet from me). Folks who attended the service can tell you the power of God picked her up out of her seat and knocked her prostrate back three rows. I asked her later what she felt. She said a ball of fire left my hands and hit her with a terrific force, taking her up and out of her seat, then backward over several chairs.

The last I heard, both she and the rats are doing fine.

Isn't that something?

What do you think about a God Who cares so much about us that He sends one of His servants 10,000 miles to minister a specific word and deed to one of His hurting children?

Our Lord promised us power and authority to do the same miraculous works that He did, along with greater ones.

Are we ready, willing and able to do what He asks us to do, when He asks us to do it, that His faith might be released through us to His glory, our fulfillment and the good of others?

Faith and Believing

*"But apart from faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him: for he, the one continually coming to the (one, true) God must **believe** that he is, and that he **becometh** a rewarder of them,*

Faith's Formula

the ones that are continually, diligently seeking him out” (Heb. 11:6, Gk.).

I have studied this scripture in some detail in another book (*How To Get Rich, Quick!*), but it bears repeating that the Lord is not automatically a *Rewarder* (wage-payer) to everyone, indiscriminately. It is only to the select group of those who have faith released by *believing*, or corresponding words or works of belief.

To the believing sinner, He “rewards” salvation.

To the thirsty saint, He “rewards” the Spirit.

To the seeking sufferer, He “rewards” healing.

To the determined demonized, He “rewards” deliverance.

To the puzzled and perplexed, He “rewards” peace.

To the poor, He “rewards” prosperity.

In each and every situation, the Word must be sown in the hearts of the listeners. As this *incorruptible seed* takes root, it must be mixed with faith (believing) by the hearer and then manifested and released with corresponding words or deeds of obedience as the Spirit leads.

Just as the right ingredients, in the correct proportions, mixed in the proper procedure will issue in an explosion in the laboratory, so will faith, ignited by *believing* bring forth the power of Divine supply into the needy areas of our lives. HalleluYah!

Faith's Future

“*B*ut the people that are knowing their triune God shall be strong, and do exploits” (Dan. 11:32, Hb.).

It is my prayer that our spiritual experiment together has resulted in your discovering a great deal of new light in the area of faith.

Hopefully, as we have dissected this stick of spiritual dynamite, you have become aware of just how potent and powerful it is. Through our acquiring and manifesting God's faith, the will of God can be increasingly done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

I hope our time together will not be relegated to a spiritual, academic exercise alone, but will spur you on into real experimentation, right in the “laboratory of your life.”

Faith is not the end—in and of itself—any more than a hypodermic, not the penicillin it contains, is, in the treatment of pneumonia. But it is necessary: vitally necessary, as much as that syringe is.

Resolve to let your life manifest Paul's goal: “from faith to (greater) faith” (Rom. 1:17).

“The just one shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:17).

Faith's Formula

Faith's Beginning

“*By* grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8).

As we come to the close of our study concerning this most important theological and vital truth, I want to provide you with the opportunity to *personally* appropriate the power of the Blood of Jesus in your life, wherever you may require it. Certainly, first and foremost is the necessity of trusting in the merit of Christ's shed Blood in the area of you own, individual salvation. A personal relationship with God can only be initiated through a living, personal act of faith, apart from any “good works” or religious observances we may feel appropriate or necessary. It is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and faith *alone* which will secure our eternal salvation. If you have never experienced the miracle of the new birth, or if you are uncertain of your personal salvation, please pray the following prayer *aloud* and *from your heart*.

“Dear God, I confess that I have sinned. But I believe that you sent Jesus to the Earth. I believe that He lived a sinless life. I believe that He died in my place; I believe He shed His Blood to forgive my sin; and I believe that He was buried and raised from the dead in order that I may have Eternal Life. Lord Jesus, I surrender my heart and my will to you. Come into my heart; come into my life; and make me the kind of person you want me to be. By your grace,

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I'll live for you, all the days of my life. Thank you, Jesus, for coming into my heart. Thank you, Jesus, for saving my soul."

If you were sincere as you prayed the preceding prayer, you are now a child of God! Tell someone *publicly* of your decision!

When You Need a Miracle

As we have seen, the atoning work of Jesus Christ upon the cross purchased a *full* salvation, redeeming us: spirit, soul *and* body. All of the blessings of the atonement come *from* the Blood of Christ but are received by us *through* faith. This faith comes by *hearing* (spiritually) and this spiritual hearing is given to us through a *spoken word from God* (Rom. 10:17, Gk., see my book, ***Creative Faith***). When once this faith has been received into our hearts, we must then *act* on the word or *believe* by means of corresponding actions.

Over the past 30 years of ministry, the Lord has used me as an instrument of His healing and delivering power in a number of different ways including the "laying on of hands," anointing with oil, etc.. We have also had excellent results through the use of "prayer cloths" sent to the sick and afflicted (feel free to write and request one). Just recently, a young woman requested one for her little niece who had fallen from a porch deck, suffering severe injuries to her head and brain. Physicians offered little hope for recovery. After taking the cloth to the little girl and praying for her, she came out of the coma, is awake and aware and currently undergoing physical therapy. She is expected to make a complete recovery.

The information which follows details yet another way God has instructed me to be of assistance to seeking, suffering humanity. I trust you will take a few moments to read carefully the next few pages. Because of the Blood of Jesus shed on your behalf, you may be just *minutes from your miracle!*

Divine Impartation

I have included the following information in this book as well as on our ministry website, at the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Sometime ago, the Holy Spirit informed me that I was about to enter a new phase of ministry. I have been praying diligently that this transition will be smooth and successful. I believe part of it has to do with a renewed emphasis upon the supernatural.

As I have written in other volumes, during my 30 years of ministry I have seen about every conceivable kind of miracle, from opening of blind eyes, to creative ones like making barren wombs fertile and even raising the dead.

Miracles began to take place in my ministry from the beginning (September, 1974), but they increased in frequency and depth after an encounter I had in the summer of 1982. My family and I had spent six weeks in Australia in the spring of that year in an attempt to gain sponsorship from some full-gospel organization there so that we might return to the nation as full-time missionaries. I ministered about 20 times in six weeks in various churches of various denominations. While I was attending a chapel service at L.I.F.E. Bible college in Strathfield, a suburb of Sydney, the Spirit of the Lord impressed me that when I returned to the States, I must see a particular man of God in person before returning to Australia in September.

To make a long story short, this man of God (one of the key ministers in the *Voice of Healing* Revival of the 50's) came to Cincinnati for a week of meetings just prior to our leaving for Australia. I was able to arrange a private conference with the gentleman (after having told him on the phone of my encounter in Australia). While he was cordial and willing to answer my questions, give general advice, etc., it seemed nothing special was taking place during that week of his meetings which I attended. I was a little discouraged when the time for the last meeting—a morning teaching seminar—arrived. After teaching on the subject

of faith, he said, "I'm not going to pray for people today. Instead, I'm going to stand here and anyone with a need, just come up and shake hands with me in faith for your miracle." As I anticipated going up to the front of the auditorium, I assumed he would stop and pray for me, speak a prophetic word over me, etc. However as I filed past him, *nothing happened!*

I returned to my seat, having shaken hands with him, feeling very dejected, knowing he would be leaving the city that afternoon and I would be leaving the country in a few weeks. I couldn't understand how or where I'd "missed it."

A Question of Faith

Just then the Holy Spirit spoke clearly to my heart, "*Did you do what I instructed you?*" I knew I did. "*Did you release your faith when you shook hands with the man of God?*" I knew I did. "*Do you believe you received?*" I sat for a moment and realized I did. Suddenly, my right palm began to tingle and burn. I asked the man of God what it meant as I left the building. He calmly replied, "Ask God." I did and He gave me the verses in Mt. 16:17-19 about the *Keys of the Kingdom* and the power to "bind and loose." My hand tingled and burned for nearly 24 hours.

Divine Confirmation

Upon my arrival in Australia, miracles became startling and commonplace. I ministered in 55 churches, three Bible colleges and several auditoriums during that first 14 months (I've made three additional short trips there since). We were eyewitnesses to healings of: blindness, deafness, cancer, short limbs being lengthened, crippled limbs being made straight, arthritis, diabetes, heart conditions and deliverances from all manner of addictions.

Five months after I arrived in the country I received a long-distance phone call from some colleagues in the ministry to the effect that this mighty man of God had gone to Heaven. Only God could have known and thus orchestrated our meeting in order to

effect a *Divine Impartation*.

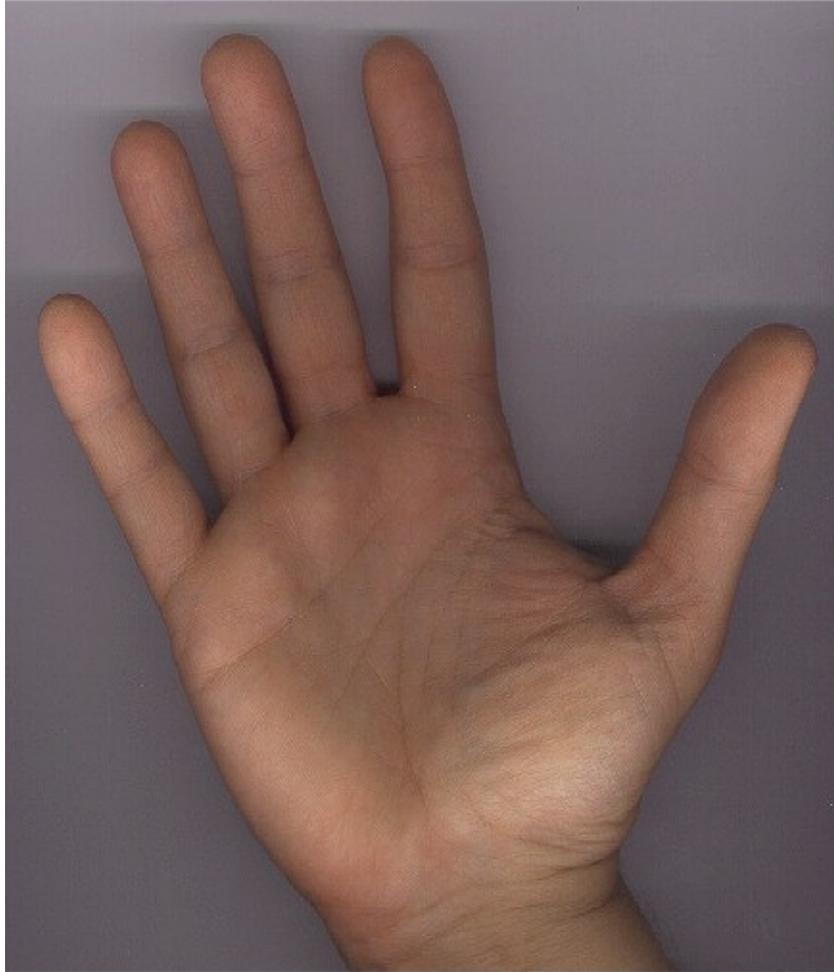
Your Point of Contact

As I have prayed about my authority to *bind and loose*, the Holy Spirit impressed me to scan an image of my right hand and place it on our website as a point of contact for anyone requiring a *miracle*. I am including that image in this publication in the hope of providing the supernatural relief and release you desire to receive from God.

If you believe the natural can become *supernatural* when God gets involved, you, too, can receive your miracle. Moses' rod could become a serpent, opened the Red Sea and brought water from a rock. Elisha's mantle opened the Jordan River. His dead bones resurrected a dead army commander. Peter's shadow, Paul's handkerchiefs and Jesus' clothing were *natural* things that became *supernatural* conduits of Divine Power when God got involved. I urge you to release your faith to God as you place your hand on the photograph of mine on the following page and expect a *miracle*! As the Spirit of the Lord meets your need *by means of a miracle*, be sure to write and testify. Let's pray:

“Father, we come to you in Jesus' Name. Thank you for the keys of the Kingdom, that whatsoever I bind on the earth shall have been bound in Heaven, whatsoever I loose on the earth shall have been loosed in Heaven. Thank you for the commission to use these keys to set people free. I join my faith with this precious one reading this book. I loose them from sickness, disease, pain, infirmity and bondages of any and all kinds. Let them be released from anything and everything that is not of God. May their symptoms be removed from their person as far as the east is from the west. Send Your Word and deliver them from all affliction. Bring them into the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel.”

Faith's Formula



That's it, my friend! Now begin to rejoice & praise God!

“BY THE HANDS OF THE APOSTLES MANY SIGNS AND WONDERS WERE DONE AMONG THE PEOPLE...” (ACTS 5:12)

“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 16:19).

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What Price, Freedom?
At the Master's Feet
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Seven Secrets of Successful Living
Wonder-Working Words
Success Secrets From Sacred Scripture
The Perfect Weapon
Walk with God
Help from Heaven
When You Need a Miracle
The Man Who Wasn't There

ABOUT THE AUTHOR...

Dr. Joseph Kostelnik is founder and president of Gospel Truth Ministries, an apostolic ministry with a three-fold vision: a local church (**White Oak Chapel**), training up and sending out of ministers of the Word (**The Prophetic Voice Institute**), and short-term mission trips to foreign fields as God leads.

He holds a B.A. from Point Park University, an M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary, a Th.D. and Ph.D. from International Seminary, an honorary D.D. from Kingsway Christian College & Theological Seminary and an honorary Litt. D. from International Seminary.

He has served as: pastor, assistant pastor, evangelist, Bible teacher, missionary, author, educator, and media minister. He has ministered in the United States as well as overseas, including: England, Scotland, Australia, France, Greece, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Crete, Haiti and New Zealand and his ministry is marked by the miraculous.

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