

Enemies
of
TRUE Faith

By Howard Williams

Acknowledgements

My interest in the subject of Faith was born from becoming more acquainted with the Scriptures personally after a disappointing experience with Religion and also experiencing the powerlessness in life and living. I've found that there's a subtle deception to replace Christ with Religion and more specifically Denominations.

In coming to the topic of discussion I have gleaned many thoughts from various speakers and authors on the subject which I've found to be in harmony with the truths as revealed to me in the Scriptures, by the Holy Spirit. I just want to acknowledge that the inspiration was mainly in the thoughts presented and though I may not quote or give credit to each person, I just want it to be known that God is using different parts of the body of Christ to build up other parts, for this I will be forever grateful to our God.

If you've been having a genuine desire to experience the reality of what we've been given in Christ, as recorded in the Scriptures but has been hindered by reasons that are unknown to

you, then I invite you to come on this journey with me as I explore life to identify, “The Enemies of True Faith.”

“All verses quoted are from the King James Version (KJV) unless otherwise stated.”

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the extended family of God that has been instrumental in the completion of this book. First, the cover design and final assembly was done by my Romanian family; editing by a combination of my European, African, American and Jamaican family. May God bless you all!

Dedication

This book is dedicated my wife Karleen, my daughter Karsheena, my son Howard, and to all the truth seekers who have failed to reach the experience of what Christ promised for all whose life are hid with Christ in God. If you've ever longed to experience true Christianity but failed, this book is for you!

Introduction

In my early adolescent years, I was rudely awakened to the fact that my years of religious education had been flawed by a deception that hindered my growth in practical experience of Scriptural things.

I was taught that the doing of the commandments was the key to salvation because to not do them is sin. I tried and got used to failing again and again. I was not made aware that the key to Christianity is faith; to believe in what God did for humanity in Christ Jesus and accept all that he gave us in him. If we can only believe in the already accomplished reality of salvation, then we can experience heaven on earth.

From the knowledge gained in accepting what Christ did for me and in me, I have gained much understanding that has led me to a greater experience.

I have also become aware of the enemies that are around me seeking to destroy my faith and hinder it from growing, as well as things

that were meant to mature and grow me up in him that were totally ignored.

I was never taught much about the gifts of the Spirit and didn't even know what they were or who they were for. Now, I can better understand why Paul says that the gifts were given to the church, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12-13)

I have discovered that there were things in my life that served as hindrances to real genuine faith being demonstrated. In this book I want for us to do an examination of our surroundings, to identify these enemies of faith and also determine whether or not we may be cherishing these enemies as friends, or even excusing their existence without knowing their real danger.

Prepare yourself to be surprised!

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Chapter 1

Blindness

Blindness is the inability to see. There are two realms in which it is necessary to be able to see; these are the physical and Spiritual realms. There is therefore physical and Spiritual blindness.

Physical Blindness

Just for a moment I want you to think about physical blindness. There are many reasons why we lose our sight. There is deterioration of the components in our eyes including blockages, which is represented in a small percentage of people. For the majority of folks, lack of nutrition for the eyes and lack of exercise of the lens muscles are the major reasons for dimming vision and loss of sight.

I fasted for an extended period and found to my amazement that after a week into 10 days my eyesight was worsening. It was hard to read without a magnifying glass. I was surprised that after that fast of over 20 days, when I started to eat again my eyesight improved gradually. It

was a testimony for me that the eyes also need nutrition to maintain proper vision.

There are many exercises that can improve vision and I've seen people who wore glasses for years stopped wearing glasses after learning to exercise the muscles of the eyes. Firstly, there must be a made up mind which initiates the discipline to follow through with the exercises; your sight can improve significantly.

Spiritual Blindness

In the Spiritual Realm there is only one reason for blindness. That reason is ignorance! (Ephesians 4:17-18) This ignorance is based on two main factors.

1. Lack of education. This lack may be due to the fact that our teachers of Spiritual things are lacking in experience in the Spiritual realm.

2. Deception due to believing the wrong things. Jesus said, "If the blind follows the blind then both shall fall in the ditch."

In the book of Revelation, there was a church mentioned named Laodicea. In this church their problem was blindness. The Lord encouraged them to anoint their eyes with eye-

salve that they may see. (Rev 3:18) What was wrong with their eyes? They did not perceive correctly their true state. The reason was that they were not seeing or that they were seeing through wrong eyes, which were those of their leaders. To believe that you're rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing when truly you're wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked is a problem of perception. It is mistaking physical riches and advantages for spiritual benefits.

Spiritual blindness then prevents you from seeing the truth of your privileges as sons and daughters of God and causes you to live as orphans and paupers.

I once heard the story of how an eagle's egg was hatched on a chicken farm. Afterwards it ran around with the little chickens even though it was much bigger than the others. It began pecking in the ground looking for grubs, living the life of a chicken when it was meant to be an eagle.

One day a great big eagle swooped by and saw this eaglet pecking in the ground and shouted, "Hey, what are you doing down there?" The little eaglet answered, "Me? I am a

chicken.” The big eagle said no you’re not a chicken, you’re an eagle. The little eaglet was certain it was a chicken so the big eagle told it to go to the pond and look and see. So off it went to prove the big eagle wrong. When it got to the pond and looked over the edge into the water he saw an image like the big eagle. The big eagle swooped by again and said, “Do you see, you’re an eagle.” The little eaglet asked, “What do I do?” “Go to the top of that hill and jump off and flop your wings,” he was told. So off he went and to his surprise he started flying and soaring the skies, fully experiencing what he was created for.

That story depicts the truth about many of God’s children living like chickens when they’re made to be eagles.

Spiritual sight is so essential for the Christian. Paul says we Christians “walk by faith and not by sight.” (2Cor 5:7) We are conscious of who Jesus has made us to be as revealed in the word.

“A Spiritual mind is one that chooses only to speak what God has said about a situation as exemplified in the Bible.”

We're very conscious about our physical appearance but the most essential part of us is the Spiritual, the part we're least concerned about.

Are you aware of your spiritual vision and how accurate it is?

Is your physical eyesight interfering with your spiritual?

This is an area that we must give focus and consideration and take the counsel of Jesus to anoint our eyes with the eye-salve of the Holy Spirit so we can see and discern properly our true state.

Chapter 2

The Environment

One of the greatest tools of influence is that of the environment. What is the atmosphere of your environment? In fact listen to this verse as rendered in different Bible versions – 1Cor 15:33

(ASV) Be not deceived: **Evil companionships corrupt good morals.**

(BBE) Do not be tricked by false words: **evil company does damage to good behavior.**

(CEV) Don't fool yourselves. **Bad friends will destroy you.**

(Darby) Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

(ESV) Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

(GNB) Do not be fooled. “Bad companions ruin good character.”

(GW) Don't let anyone deceive you. **Associating with bad people will ruin decent people.**

The environment of unbelief destroys faith.

COVID-19

Let's take a look at the Corona Virus Pandemic that has taken over the world and in less than 3 months had the world completely locked down. How have you reacted as Christians? Have we been scared and hoping we are spared?

The governments of the world guided by the health authorities have given guidelines for the entire world to follow. Steps were taken that for hundreds of years never existed!

Mandatory laws were set in place for masks to be worn, social distancing to be observed and the continual washing of hands.

This brought fear and alarm to the entire population and everyone was keen to observe these guidelines as a necessary precaution to avoid catching the virus.

Were Christians among the numbers? Sure, they were! Were Christians able to bring hope to the people because Jesus has given his children immunity? No, they did not because they themselves needed hope.

Am I advocating that Christians should disobey the laws of the government? No, never! I am simply showing how an environmental state can quickly erode faith and allow fear to conquer and control. Christians should obey the law so at least people feel safe that they're not threats to others, but they should be very vocal about the immunity that exists in Jesus and the fearlessness that they have towards all threats. Listen to the beauty of this promise,

“Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.” (Ps 91:5-7)

The promises of God to his people are incredible **if** they can only believe it.

This scenario is a very good example of what the environment can do to those who don't know God nor have any faith in him.

The environment of fear breathing through the media and gripping the planet with bad news will cause hysteria and death.

It is then necessary for the people of God to recognize the threats that are brought upon our faith by the influence of the environment.

There is also the danger that exists when we are not educated about basic things as it relates to health and prevention of sickness and disease. We will fall for misinformation even if it comes from our government.

When we allow ourselves to be easily influenced without thinking about what is happening we are endangering ourselves.

There are areas in our lives in which we leave ourselves open to the knowledge of others, and we are made vulnerable in these areas.

We trust the pastors, the doctors, and teachers. These are the great schools of the day: The church, the hospital and the school rooms.

The influences of these great institutions are far reaching.

Let us look briefly at these environments.

A. The Church

The church is not a place that promotes biblical faith. The present day churches are co-operations and institutions that exist as businesses. They all use the bible but each sect interprets the Bible for their own purposes. Their founders had an experience and a sect is formed based on that experience.

The denominated sect maintains the teachings of its founders, regardless of how ridiculous it is, when compared to the word of God, yet they always have a membership.

Reasons for Church Attendance

People attend church for various reasons among which are: it suites their lifestyle, the more influential people attend, the more educated attend, this sect doesn't have hard rules, it's more convenient than others and it's their family's tradition.

Delegated Superiority

In the “Dark Ages” when the Catholic Church had dominance, they bound the bible in a dead language called Latin that only the Priests knew and could read. So the people had to listen to the priests to hear or understand the Bible. TODAY, in the different Denominational Churches they give us the Bible. Every home has a Bible, maybe every Christian has one, but they tell us we have to know Greek and Hebrew to understand it, so only the Pastors and theologians can explain it because they studied Greek and Hebrew in “School.”

Most amazing to me is that a lot of work was put into translating the English Bible from its original language, so we have a very good translation and yet we still fall for this error that we cannot understand the Bible without knowing the original language.

Recently I had a conversation with an individual regarding the times in which we live and what is happening in the world around us. They were alarmed and said, “The preachers ought to be educating us about these things!”

The Church is as dead to real faith as the world. Faith is a scarce commodity.

It is only when sickness hits that faith is mentioned, which leads us to the next great institution.

B. The Hospital

I once heard a close relative made a comment which was just a revelation of the brain washing they've had. They discovered I was no longer attending, or was still a member of the church we all grew up in. This is what was said in my hearing. "I have to go to Church, because the church is a hospital for the sick and I am full of and sick with sin so I must attend."

I know this question has not been well thought out by many but I will still ask it.

Where did sickness come from? What is the source of sickness?

It is germs, bacteria, viruses?

Doesn't the Bible teach that sickness came into God's creation as a by-product of Sin? (Rom 5:12)

Could sickness ever be God's will for his children? Why was Jesus known as a healer? What did he heal people from? Here's what John says of Jesus, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." (1Jn 3:8)

What are the works of the devil? The works of the devil is sin, which produces sickness.

Are sickness and disease our friends or our enemies?

A man once said, "When I saw for the first time that sickness is not the will of God, everything in my nature rose up to defeat the will of the devil."

Do you know that there are Christians today, maybe even reading this book, who truly believes that God uses and allows sickness on his children to teach them lessons?

As insane as that sounds it is true.

Why have we gotten to such a place? We have grown up in the environment of sickness, seen it at work, seen the devastation it has carried out on our loved ones and we just accept

it as normal. What we now do is to find the slightest hints in Scriptures that shows a person was sick: “Paul left Trophimus sick somewhere... Paul told Timothy to take a little wine for the stomach’s sake... Paul himself was very sick with a torn in his flesh.”

We then conclude that sickness is the will of God. Strangely though, we use every dollar we have to fight against the will of God by going to the doctor and taking medications to destroy God’s will.

Doctors do an awesome job but they are for the unbelievers.

If you don’t have faith – go to the doctor and the hospital to see if they can preserve your life until faith comes.

Don’t ever substitute the Doctors or hospital for God! Never give up reaching forth for the reality of faith because the time is here, only faith will take you through.

Think about the principle at work in us.

There are two principles at work in the entire world:

A. The principle of Sin and death

B. The principle of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

Which of these principles is at work in us?

There are two natural laws at work in our nature. One natural law overrides the other natural law. In just the same way that the law of Aerodynamics overrides the law of Gravity in like manner the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ has set me free from the law of Sin and death. (Rom 8:1-2)

Is this a reality or just a theory? Why is it not working in most Christians? They've refused to believe it and as a result, succumbed to the law of sin and death.

C. Schools

Another of these great institutions is our schools. I remember when I started studying Biology in school. I was taught our origin is from primates. I was told, we developed over millions of years to finally becoming Homo-sapiens – Man the wise one!

As a young man, I spoke about this at the church I attended and asked how we should deal with these lies. Do you know what my church

told me? “We know this is wrong but just write what they tell you to get the grade.”

That was my first experience with compromise and it was not a good feeling. As a young man I quickly realized I could lie to escape a situation and it would be no different from answering a question with a falsehood, to get the grade.

“Even today we still lie to save ourselves from situations.”

I’m not here to tell you what to do with your kids, let each be persuaded in his own mind.

There is also the idea of brainwashing. Let me explain.

I was taught that matter exists in three states. Solid, liquid and gas. (Do you remember that from school?)

Solids can become liquids, liquids can become solids or gases and gases can become liquids but there must be a change in the environment.

Using that principle in real life, I found a BIG flaw. This is just for me and it is just to illustrate the point.

According to science, water is composed of two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen, right? H_2O

Think this through. Hydrogen is a gas and oxygen is a gas and water is a liquid. Can gases become liquid? YES! How can they? They would have to be pressurized. That means they'll have to be kept in a pressurized state to remain liquid.

We see this with our LPG tanks for cooking. The gas is pressurized and while in the cylinder it liquefies, when it is used it returns to the original form as gas and that operates the flame.

Hydrogen is very explosive. If hydrogen is released in the atmosphere it explodes. I have personal experiences doing this in school and that's how I know.

Can water be made? They say yes; I was ready to see it. The place was Youtube – they got H & O together and an explosion occurred and they said it produced water. I never saw the water, neither could they show the water but they said, WE KNOW it happened.

So for me, I don't accept that water is H₂O. It is just one of those mysteries that science can't explain. Yes they may have tested and found hydrogen and oxygen in water and even through the process of electrolysis, hydrogen is released as a byproduct but there's more to it than meets the eye.

So many of the things we've been taught in our schools were to brainwash us and cause us to accept things that when tested, could not be proven. This is done in the name of science with the intention of eliminating God and the story of creation.

Is there any wonder why our universities are producing more Atheists than ever before? It is because we've allowed the government to determine what we teach in our schools without questioning and the results are alarming.

Chapter 3 Undervaluing the Word of God

What does it mean to undervalue? Let's see the dictionary's definition.

To assign too low a value to; underestimate. (from *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition.*)

To have too little regard or esteem for.

To value, rate, or estimate below the real worth. To esteem lightly; treat as of little worth; despise; hold in mean estimation. (from *The Century Dictionary.*)

Is it possible that this definition fitly describes the Christian's position regarding the word of God? Let us re-examine the Word of God.

The Word of God

In every situation and circumstance that has to do with life, salvation, sickness, disease or death we must have an encounter with the word of God. The word of God then is what we need to understand above ALL else.

Who or what is the word of God?

In St. John chapter 1 we get a good description of the word. “In the beginning was the word, and the word was with (The) God, and the word was God.” (John 1:1) Here this verse is telling us that the word was with the God and He was the same nature as God.

In verse 14 of the same chapter it says, *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”* So, the word which was with God at the beginning came to earth as flesh. Who came to earth that was with God?

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Therefore we conclude that the word of God is his son, Jesus the Christ.

While on earth all that came to him and touched him, received benefit and value from him. Luke 8:43-48 – There was a woman who had a menstrual flow that never stopped for 12 years and she came behind Jesus and touched his clothes and power (virtue) flowed out of him to the woman and stopped the flow instantly. Jesus did not heal that woman she took the healing out of him. She touched the WORD of God and power from the word of God healed her.

See most people know of this story with the woman touching Jesus' garment, but entire villages of people received the very same benefits in the land of Gennesaret. It was a massive place as the Scripture record confirms. There were villages, cities and even country sides in that land. He did a mighty work there because all he did was walked through the streets, tracks, paths and the sick people laying on beds and mats on the ground, touched him and were healed.

If you're skeptical you can read about it in Mark 6:53-56.

While the word was Flesh many were blessed by him.

Let's consider an event.

After the feeding of the 5000, Jesus left the place where it happened and boat loads of people came to the spot searching for him. They were in a frenzy searching and took ships to other places and found him in Capernaum. "Jesus, how did you get here?" they asked him, and Jesus spoke plainly to them that they were seeking him because of the food that they ate and were filled.

They had a long discourse because they wanted to do the miracles and crown him king and Jesus gave them the purest gospel of all – **"Eat my flesh and drink my blood."** Many were offended and his disciples murmured at the saying. Here is Jesus' answer to them:

John 6:61-63 – **"The words I speak unto you, they are Spirit and they are Life!"**

The eating of the flesh of Jesus was to absorb his words inside of them and the words would transform them from inside with Spiritual life.

The benefits of the flesh are temporal, while those of the Spirit are eternal.

The Word Became Spirit

Most people have not followed the transformation of Jesus from flesh to Spirit.

Here's a very misunderstood passage:

“Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” (Hebrews 4:11)

Have you ever stopped to consider this verse?

The writer here suggests that we have a rest to enter into and we should labor to have that experience and be careful not to follow the example of Israel by living in unbelief.

He then proceeds to show how we can enter this experience. It is through the word of God.

“For the word of God *is* living and operative, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and penetrating to *the* division of soul and spirit, both of joints and marrow, and a discerner of the thoughts and intents of *the* heart.” V.12 (Darby)

Most people think this is referring to the written (ink on paper) but read on to the rest of that chapter and you'll see that the author is talking about the living word of God Jesus the Christ!

Only he taking his place on the inside, can redeem us from the state of unbelief.

Now it is easier to understand other passages

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7) – The word abiding in us, empowers us! (John 6:56)

The living word on the inside is never dead. It was never ink on paper; it has always been and always will be God's Son Jesus Christ!

The Psalmist in re-counting the goodness of God recorded this:-

Ps 107:19-20 – He sent his word and healed them.

The wise man Solomon saw it this way.

“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.” (Proverbs 4:20-22) –

The benefit of the written word!

James explains it this way

*“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” James 1:22 – **Doers vs. hearers** (Compare Rom 2:13)*

**Are you uncertain of your value
on the word?**

Here’s the real test!

If a doctor’s report has more impact on you than the word of God does, it means you have more value on the doctor’s word than on God’s word.

The key to any report you read is what you believe. The doctor says you’re sick; God says you’re healed. Which report will you believe? Naturally the Doctor’s. How do I know? Because you fill the prescription and follow carefully the instructions.

Some people even compete and boast about their sickness.

“Man the doctor says I have 3 issues!”
“Mine says I have 5!”

“Did you know I take 6 different meds?” “I take 12!”

You don't believe God because there's a lesser value on the word of God than on that of the doctor.

The doctor gives you Medicine to take and tell you 2 tablet 3 times a day and you do it without hesitation. The Pastor tells you to read 3 chapters of the Bible 2 times a day and it is a pain to do.

Here's the problem:

Most Christians say that the Bible reveals God's general will but not his specific will. In other words, God's will for each person is different. Is that true?

When Jesus sent out the 12 disciples in Matt 10, did he give individual work to each or were they all empowered as witnesses?

When he sent out the 70 in Luke 10, did he give to each his own or were all empowered to witness?

On the Day of Pentecost with 120 people present, did each person hear God's individual will or was it an empowerment for the whole body?

So it seems to me that this argument is aimed at preventing us from becoming the witnesses we were empowered to be and find a reason to do nothing. Why aren't we witnessing? Oh we're waiting for God's specific will for our life.

That's going to be a long wait.

I heard a story that in the middle of winter on a snowy bleak day the horn on a car quit working, so the driver drove to the mechanic to get it checked out. When he got to the garage the shutter was closed and there was a sign that read, "Honk for service." That is going to be a long wait!

Understanding how to believe

It is necessary for us to try to understand these verses properly.

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matt 21:22)

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” (Mk 11:23)

What does it mean to believe that you receive? Here’s a story to answer that question.

There was a sister that was training for some time to go to the jungles of Guatemala to witness for Jesus to some tribes. She was preparing for weeks and four days before the trip she came down with a terrible pain to the lower right side of her abdomen. She also had feelings of nausea, so she called a friend who was a nurse and told her what was happening. The friend told her that she should go directly to the emergency room because it sounded like her appendix has ruptured.

This lady was aware that going to the hospital would mean surgery, which would possibly hinder her trip to Guatemala. She prayed over herself for healing and went home. That night she never slept a wink because of constant pain, but she kept the word of God, “by his stripes you are healed” in her heart.

The next morning was church and her husband told her that since she's not feeling well she should stay home, but she said the Spirit convicted her that if she was healed she would go to church so she went to church although she was in pain. When she got to church she just wanted to sit and be quiet but they were having praise and worship and the Spirit convicted her that if she was well she would be singing and dancing so she got up and started singing and dancing even though by this time she was in excruciating pain. After church while heading home her husband asked if she wanted to stop at a restaurant as they always did and even though she had no appetite she was convicted to stop. While at the restaurant the smell of the food just made her want to vomit but she kept believing in her healing and ordered food. Every mouthful she ate was back at her throat. She finally finished her food and started walking back to the car all this time in pain. When she got to the car and her hand touched the door lock, instantly all the pain left her body. She was totally healed.

Did you sight presumption in that story? Did she believe she received healing when she

prayed? I think she did but she had to fight against everything that would say otherwise.

I had a practical experience recently.

I had to repair the starter to my dump truck which weighs approximately 80 pounds or more. After the repairs I had to put it back in place but I was alone. I was lying under the truck flat on my back and I lifted this thing in place and believing it was in the slot, I loosened my grip only to find it falling down full force in my stomach. I tell you, it blew the wind out of me. The worst part is that it had a bolt stud about 2 inches long and that stud plunged into my stomach. My first reaction was to speak over my stomach and cancel the effect of the blow and as soon as I got reoriented I went to my wife, told her what happened and she spoke over me as well. I felt a little dizzy and she said I should sit down a little but I went back to finish the job. It finished up nicely but the area where the bolt landed was still tender. Eventually a bulge emerged and each time I felt it I thanked God for my healing. After a few days I realized the bulge was gone and the tenderness disappeared and I was completely healed.

Some people reading would have done a much wiser thing and would have gone to “Check it out” by an ex-ray to see if any damage was done.

Did you know that most people when they get a symptom spends more time scouring the internet seeking to find out what might be wrong than spending time scouring the word of God for promises against all sickness?

Temptation vs. Symptoms

Temptation is to sin; what symptoms are to sickness.

“Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin.”

If we resist the temptations so as not to sin in the same way we should resist the symptoms so as not to get the sickness.

Rise up against the symptoms, resist them and defeat them in the roots before they turn into sickness.

We undervalue the word of God because of ignorance. We must understand the value of the word to truly appreciate it.

Faith and the Word

Here's an interesting perspective. What produces faith? We'll all agree that according to Paul, "Faith cometh by hearing and the way we hear is by the word of God" right? What does that mean? Where is the faith, what produces it? If Faith is substance and evidence what produces those? The word of God is what produces faith. Faith is in the word. **God has filled his words with Divine Energy.** The word itself has within it the power to do and perform so when we accept that word in us that is what we call Faith. There is in the word of God, (audible or written) creative energy to produce everything the word dictates.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Hebrews 11:3)

"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth... For he spake, and it was *done*; he commanded, and it stood fast." (Ps 33:6,9)

The way we receive that faith is by hearing the word and for us to hear the word it must be spoken. So faith is released when the word is spoken. We must speak the word. That is why Paul says, “...*the word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.*”

“Whatever moves the heart wags the tongue.” We confess with our mouths what we believe in our hearts – that is faith being exercised.

As we preach the word we release the divine energy of God to the people **IF they will ingest and digest the word in the heart. THEN NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE**

Ever heard this quote – “His biddings are his enabling?”

When he told the woman caught in adultery to go and sin no more, it was not just a good advice, in that gentle command there was power given to the woman to overcome this sexual perversion and live right.

Practical story

Matt 14:22-32 – This is after the feeding of the 5000, Jesus sent the disciples in a boat to the other side while he went to pray. While they were on their way they met upon some contrary winds that slowed them down and had them working hard to keep going. During this time Jesus came unto them walking on the water and when they saw him they thought it was a ghost and they cried out from fear but Jesus calmed them down and identified himself. Peter then said to Jesus, “Lord if it be thou, bid me to come to thee on the water” and Jesus said, “come!”

Where was the power to walk on water? It was in a simple word “COME” That simple word had in it his bidding and enabling.

What happened is that Peter heard the word and accepted the word as factual. We’d say he believed Jesus.

Consider that one little word caused Peter to do the impossible. One little word digested by the heart (Believed) had power to perform a miraculous act.

In the very same breath, distractions from that one word caused the opposite effect. THIS

IS THE POWER OF DOUBT – IT CANCELS THE POWER OF THE WORD. (FAITH)

There's a true story of a Christian lady who had breast cancer. She went to church and they prayed over her for healing. She thanked God for her healing and decided she would not go back to the doctor but trust God. As the weeks went by her breast started getting stiffer but she's trusting God and thanking him for her healing. Her friends and church family became concerned because the breast was enlarged so they all started advising her to go see a doctor but she refused. She told them she was prayed for and God had healed her. Even the pastor became concerned and advised her to go back to the doctor. She was surprised that he who prayed for her should now be saying the opposite. Her heart was confident that God had healed her and if that was not true then God can't be trusted.

The situation turned for the worst as gangrene set in and the breast tissues started rotting and draining. A foul odor came from the breast and most of her Christian friends were now concerned that her mind is unstable. They

told her of the threat of death but she was firm in her conviction.

It was on a Sunday morning during praise and worship that her healing was complete and everyone noticed how she was singing and praising God and they knew something had happened. That morning she preached the sermon because she had a testimony about God's goodness and the whole church knew her story.

Her witness spread far and wide and people gave their lives to God because of it.

Giving Thanks

“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” (Phil 4:6)

“Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. *Then* shall the earth yield her increase; *and* God, *even* our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.” (Ps 67:5-7)

I prayed for a dear sister in Germany who had a rare condition of mild heart attacks every

day. She has been prayed for on previous occasions but the problem persisted. I spoke to her about praising and thanking God for her healing because she had to believe to receive. After I prayed for her, I reminded her to give thanks and praise always for her healing.

Months after I prayed for her, her son wrote to me that his mother has not had another attack because she is everyday praising God and giving thanks for her healing. It is amazing what our faith can accomplish when it is grounded in the word and promises of God.

So to believe that you receive when you pray you must begin to give thanks for your answer – KNOWING that you already received what you've asked for or spoken into existence.

If you don't believe the word AND receive the word, you CAN'T be empowered to BECOME what the word says you are.

This is the greatest challenge that faces the people of God. They don't trust the word of God – They don't trust Jesus!

Speaking Faith

Jesus spoke to a fig tree and a day later it was dried up from the roots. He then encouraged the disciples who marveled at what happened, to have the faith of God. (Mk 11:22)

This is how the faith of God works. God speaks and it happens. Jesus has the faith of God. How do we know? Jesus speaks and it happens.

Do we have the faith of God? The only way to test and prove the answer is to examine what happens when we speak!

If we speak and nothing happens then something is inhibiting the faith of God.

Here is the reason as given by Jesus. “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.” v.23

We speak without believing. We say the right words but it's not our belief. Remember

Faith works this way – We confess with our mouths what we believe in the heart.

What produces doubt? “Doubt is a feeling of uncertainty or lack of conviction about certain facts.”

If you’re not certain then you’re in doubt. You cannot speak faith when you’re uncertain. You cannot declare the power of God when there’s lack of conviction.

In the faith filled person there’s certainty, confidence and assurance.

Practical Example

A story was broadcast on Jamaica national television of a hit man who was paid to kill a lady. He went to do the job with his stepson. They both had guns and they went to the lady’s house and kicked the door in and told the lady they were there to kill her. The lady replied with conviction and certainty, “The blood of Jesus is against you!!!” The man selected a bullet in the chamber of his hand gun and squeezed the trigger only to find that the gun did not fire! His stepson realizing what happened attempted the same thing but his gun did not fire either. They

were both astonished beyond measure!! The lady told them again what she said at the beginning, “The blood of Jesus is against you.” The man said by this time he was washing in cold sweat. The lady gave him a chair to sit and she began to talk to him about Jesus and that Jesus needs him in his service.

The man went home confused based on what happened. The stepson insisted on finishing the job by using a machete to hack her to death. The following night he was on his way back but was accosted by the Police and put in jail.

The step-father after examining himself, gave his life to God that very week. He threw away his gun because he came to know someone who’s more powerful.

When you know for certain that Jesus is living inside of you, when you are full of confidence in who you’ve been made to be, then and only then will you reach the place of no doubt in your heart.

How do we reach that place?

It is by constantly renewing your mind with the words and promises of God about what he has done for you and who he has made you to be.

Repetition is the mother of learning so I am not ashamed to say the same things over and over again. I am not worried about being criticized because I am building up my confidence and removing the uncertainty by allowing the word of God (Jesus) to have his place in me.

Jesus repeated the words of Scripture when tempted by the devil. He released the power of the word over his life and his being.

When you believe you will speak the words of God over any situation or circumstance in your life that challenges you as a child of the Living God.

The power in you and through you can only be demonstrated by speaking.

Can a multi-millionaire die from starvation? He can if he doesn't have access to his millions.

Can a child of God with all the riches and bounties of God live like a pauper and die from starvation, wants and sickness? They can if they don't have access to faith in the power of God that comes through Jesus Christ the word of God.

Chapter 4

Abdicating your Authority

The word Abdicate means:

“to renounce a throne, high office, dignity, or function”

This word has specific relations to a King or Monarch relinquishing the authority of his throne or power.

So let us first see the position we’ve been given by God.

John in giving greetings at the start of the book of Revelations included Jesus Christ.

“And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” (Rev 1:5-6)

When there is ignorance regarding identity, it is possible that we can be conquered by that which we have authority over.

The word used is the word “Hath” which is the old English word that means – “in the past” (Already happened)

We have already been made Kings and Priests unto God his father. Today at this very moment we are Kings and Priests!

Who’s a King? *A King is a male sovereign. A King is from a royal bloodline. A King rules with authority!*

How does a King reign? How does he rule or govern?

He speaks and decrees – that is how he reigns, rules and govern.

How do we speak? As men and women from the divine bloodline of God, how do we speak?

Earlier we looked at Jesus encouraging the disciples to have the faith of God. They were to believe the way God believes and it is done.

Consider this passage in Rom 4 where Abraham is discussed. What is awesome in this discussion is that Abraham is vindicated for believing God, he then shows an attribute of God that is rarely talked about. v.17 “... God

who giveth life to the dead and speaks things that be not as though they were.”

As kings under him we ought to be doing the same. That is what he had Abram doing. He changed his name to Abraham but what does that mean?

Abram meant “high father” but he changed his name to Abraham meaning “a father of multitudes” or as the Gen 17:5 says “father of many nations.”

He changed Sarai’s name as well. v.15-16

Every time Abraham called his own name he was speaking things that be not as though they were. Any time a servant, his wife or anyone else would call his name they were declaring things that be not as though they were.

Although the promise came to him 24 years earlier it was never fulfilled until he began declaring those things that be not as though they were.

Once he did that, in 9 months Sarah had a baby.

What do we speak and declare over our lives and that of our children?

What are the things that we utter from time to time?

Are we speaking things into existence or just confessing what our physical eyes are seeing?

Do you know who you are as a child of God? Do you know what you possess inside? Do you know that the resurrection power of God is on the inside of you and that you have the capability of releasing creative energy to bring things into existence that doesn't exist?

Earlier we spoke about a woman who **Spoke** and stopped two (2) guns from firing. She understood who she was and what she has inside, do we?

It is our Spirit that is made perfect the instant we're born again. It is our Spirit that is made one with God. It is in our Spirit that all the power of Almighty God resides.

Do you recognize that there can be a cancer growing just inches away from the power of God and is never destroyed because we've not learnt to release that power through our souls into our bodies? Do you realize that our entire body (Which is the temple of God) can be sick

and riddled with cancer and all sorts of disease and we even die because we're ignorant of who we are and who lives inside of us and what we can DO?

God's intention is to have the church to be his show piece in the world. They are to be magnets to draw men to Christ by demonstrating a reality that exists only in God. His people are to be the light and the ones with answers to all the struggles and questions of life.

Let's get back to our opening verse at the beginning of this chapter – Rev 1:6

The other translations speak of Jesus making us a Kingdom of Priests.

What is the role of a priest?

“One authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion especially as a mediatory agent between humans and God.”

That describes the commonly understood role of a priest, but there's another portfolio in the role of the priests that is not well known and I want to examine that.

(This understanding is courtesy of the late P.D. Clayton.)

Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies. And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead. Then said Joab to Cush, Go tell the king what thou hast seen. And Cush bowed himself unto Joab, and ran. Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cush. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready? But howsoever, said he, let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cush. And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone. And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he be alone, there is tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near. And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, behold another man running alone. And the king said, He also

bringeth tidings. And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and cometh with good tidings. And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed be the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king. And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was. And the king said unto him, Turn aside, and stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still. And, behold, Cushy came; and Cushy said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee. And the king said unto Cushy, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cushy answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is. And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!

would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!” (2Sam 18:19-33)

This is the story of the death of King David’s son, Absalom. The king was not aware of his death and Joab needs to send the bad news to the king. The priest wanted to bring the news but Joab told him he can’t bear bad news so he sent another messenger. After that messenger left the young priest insisted on going and Joab allowed him. The priest used a short cut to overtake the other messenger and reached the king first. What is interesting is that the watchmen saw the priest coming and David said he brings good news but when he came to David and was asked about Absalom he could not tell the truth because it was bad news. It was not until the messenger arrived that David heard the truth that his son is dead.

The priests can only carry good news. The priests cannot report bad news. Why do you think we’ll be priests forever, even after sin ends? It is because we will have the experience of the good news of salvation from sin and the awesomeness of God’s love as a testimony forever.

Let us reach the world with the best news possible – God is love and has already forgiven and redeemed (Saved) the world in Jesus Christ. They need to know that they don't even have to confess their individual sins because God has already forgiven and saved them. All they need to do is accept his salvation and enter into Jesus Christ and begin to enjoy freedom from sin.

Are you carriers of good news?

Do you carry the bad news of your diagnosis? The bad news of your sickness? The bad news of failure? The bad news of all that is wrong? THEN WHOSE PRIESTS ARE YOU?

Or do you carry the good news that God is sovereign and nothing shall be impossible unto you? Do you know that God has said NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE UNTO YOU? Do you know that God has said NOTHING SHALL BY ANY MEANS HURT YOU?

This is the best news when you have lived as the VICTIM all your life and did not know that you were always the VICTOR because of Jesus Christ!

Someone once said:

“Stop speaking to God about your problems and start speaking to your problems about your God.”

My hope and aim is to educate you and me about our privileges and authority as sons and daughters of the Most High God.

To educate people that are already educated poses a problem. To give truth to those in error means those in error must be re-educated. That means for us to receive truth we must let go of the error that we hold to. THAT IS HARD!!! BUT not impossible!!!

“Once there’s a will there’s a way.”

As stated earlier a king reigns by authority over his subjects and his power is in his words. Whatever he says, decrees or declares happen. So start speaking as one who has been given authority. (Mk 13:34)

I want to look back at the first portfolio of a Priest that we defined. Do you remember the definition of a Priest?

“one authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion especially as a mediatory agent between humans and God.”

We are Mediators between humanity and God.

This is the common understanding that we all have and yet this is also our role as a kingdom of Priests.

Listen to this passage! – “...*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.*” John 20:22-23 (NKJV)

Wow, do you realize what that verse is saying? It is one of the most potent verses in the scriptures but one that is rarely read and yet it is absolutely factual.

Those who have received the Holy Spirit have become carriers of Jesus and his Father. When they proclaim forgiveness to someone it is telling that person of something that Jesus already did when he was raised from the dead. Their mission then is to tell others of the forgiveness that exists in Jesus and if they fail to tell them, they've failed in their mission to the world leaving them in their sins.

The sins of the entire world have already been (Past Tense) forgiven – IN JESUS!!

The forgiveness is only in Jesus! If you're not in Jesus you're still in your sins.

The moment our faith can access forgiveness, we should be educated to access healing at the same time because it's the same power of God that does both things.

Here's Jesus' perspective – Mark 2:5-12 – A paralytic man came to Jesus for healing and Jesus forgave his sins. The people were amazed because they believed that only God could forgive sins so they thought he was blaspheming. Jesus asked them, “Which is easier, to say your sins are forgiven or be healed?”

His point being that the same power that forgives sins is the same power that heals.

This is the same idea brought out by James – “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.” James 5:14-15

Notice the first question asked? “Is any sick among you?”

Seems to me that there’s a big difference with James day and our day. Today we would ask – “Is there any that is NOT sick among you?”

Notice that the same power of God heals and forgives. Once the power is accessed you can be completely free from sickness and sin.

Here’s a gem of thought!

The root is the source of the fruit!

If you destroy the root then will also the fruit. (Rom 5:12)

The root is sin and the fruit is sickness.

What God did was to remove with sin from his people and with the same power he took sickness away from us!

Jesus is correct – **IF** you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes!

What if you can’t believe? THEN NOTHING IS POSSIBLE

James is right – The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up!

What about the prayer of doubt? It shall destroy the sick and he shall not be raised up but shall die!

David in the Psalms shows us clearly what God did for us.

Look at how he said it:

“Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.” Ps 103:1-5 – He saves and heals

Our Mission is to tell people where freedom exists – It is **“In Jesus!!”**

Mk 16:15-18 – The great commission.
(Matt 28:18-20)

Matt 17:20 – Nothing shall be impossible to you!

Luke 10:19 – Nothing shall hurt you!

Acts 3:25-26 – Blessed in Abraham!

1Cor 6:19-20 – Carriers of his presence!

2Cor 6:14-18 – Don't mingle with unbelievers!

1Jn 4:4 – We have a greater inside us!

1Jn 4:17 – We re-present Christ in the world today!

Col 3:1-4 – New covenant for a new creation!

The above mentioned list is just a sample of the divine decree upon ALL the children of God in the earth today. We are to be standing our ground and taking the position of authority over the works of the devil in this world.

I once read a quote that is un-debate-able.

“In those early centuries of Christianity, Christianity did not go into the world apologizing. It went to slay the powers of darkness and undo the works of the devil and it lived in holy triumph.”

Why is Christianity different today?

As children of the King of the universe our duty is to serve man with the gospel and stand in authority over the enemy as masters.

“The devil is under our feet because he is under Jesus’ feet.”

If we are ever called upon to release the captives bound by the enemy and we refuse we are abdicating our authority as Sons.

If we stand or sit by while the enemy takes control then we are part of the problem and not the solution.

Listen to these gems of thought:

“If your gospel isn’t touching others, it isn’t touching you.”

“You can teach what you know, but you will reproduce what you are.”

“Sons of God speak, that’s how they reign!”

“You can do without being, but you can’t be without doing.”

“We cannot exercise our faith beyond what we believe to be possible.”

The greatest understanding we can ever achieve is knowing our authority as children of the King. We are royalty!

Here’s a man who was not a Jew or a follower of Jesus but he understands how authority works and when he heard of Jesus and

heard what he was doing, (how he spoke to sicknesses and demons and diseases and they disappeared) he knew that Jesus had authority over these things.

“And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. 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. 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. 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.” (Matt 8:5-10)

This army man understood that Jesus words has power because he himself has a similar experience of how words can effect changes in others who were under your authority. He knew

Jesus had authority over all the powers of the enemy because he heard the stories and was

convicted that Jesus is Lord over the devil. Once the word was spoken it was enough for him. He knew his servant would be healed at that very moment.

Oh that we could know the authority we have in Jesus and allow Jesus to live through us for his glory's sake. The world will become a different place when we step out and begin to demonstrate this reality.

Chapter 5

Not knowing how to Pray

There is no formula to Prayer, prayer is relational

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There is no formula to Prayer, prayer is relational

(Repeating this phrase is deliberate because I want this to be fundamental as we look at prayer.)

Not knowing how to pray is an hindrance to our faith.

Understanding HOW to pray and receive answers to our prayers is the key to building us up in our most holy faith.

The one thing above all else that brings power to our faith life and demonstrates a reality in Christianity is receiving answers to our prayers. This is the greatest witness to a world living in unbelief.

My daughter at one time in her life gave her mom and me the shock of our lives. She told us that she doesn't believe in God. When the shock settled I asked her why she doesn't believe in God. She told us that she cannot believe in a God she's never seen. I thought that was reasonable because I wanted her to be real and not be a fake. So at 10 years old she probably did not experience God in a real way. A few weeks later we went to a river and left pretty late in the evening. My daughter and son were wet and wanted to drive in the back of the Pickup to go home. It was very cold plus with the extra wind it was too much for them to handle so after a while we stopped and they came inside the vehicle.

Strangely, she ended up with an infection in her ear that affected her lymph nodes on the right side of her neck and it got really swollen. One evening it was so swollen that she came to my room and asked me to pray for her neck because it was so painful and she was in tears. (Let me say this. My wife, kids and close friends as witnesses, my kids know of no other solution to any problem of sickness BUT prayer. Since

babies to present age prayer has been the solution.)

She came while I was reading and I just paused, touched her neck and spoke to the pain to go NOW!! I went back to reading but heard her running out of the room and shouting to her mother, “Mommy now I believe in God, look at my neck I can turn it without pain.” She had an encounter with God that registered certain realities and I had the privilege of baptizing her some time afterwards. Today her ambition is to become a missionary.

Luke 11:1 – The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray like John taught his disciples.

Seems John had a great band of prayer warriors and they were known by many people in those days because John taught them how to pray.

So here the disciples wanted to have the wonderful experience of learning to pray like John’s disciples could.

What was their attraction to prayer?

John’s disciples were no different from the Pharisees or the heathens, they were all people

who would Pray in the streets and on street corners praying aloud.

Do you think that John's disciples were getting prayers answered? No, but because John had a mission and a purpose which was about the coming Messiah the attraction to them was greater.

The Model Prayer

Jesus gave them the model prayer. The one we all learned as kids and still as adults we repeat at times. The "our father prayer" Or "The Lord's Prayer" as some may know it.

Now I am here to tell you that the model prayer was an Old Covenant prayer. Can you remember the disciple or converts to Christianity praying that prayer as recorded in the Bible? Can you find anywhere that the disciples or Paul teaching that prayer to anyone since Jesus taught it to them?

That prayer was about the coming Kingdom. It was about God's providence, forgiveness and direction so it added a different flavor to what was around them.

The Pharisees prayed about their favor with God because of their works, John's disciples prayed about the coming Messiah and Jesus' disciples prayed about the coming Kingdom with all the benefits.

The best lessons on prayer came from the teacher himself. It came from everyday lessons as they observed him in communication with his father at nights and in the mornings. As they observed him healing the sick, cleansing lepers, raising the dead and casting out demons. They heard the people as they exclaimed as Mk 1:27 (Luke 4:36). "For with authority commanded ye the demons and they obeyed him."

This was the record of Jesus life and ministry – Acts 10:38

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." (NKJV)

Every person healed by Jesus demonstrated an oppression of the devil. You can make a list of all his healings and you'll see.

Lessons from Jesus

He sat in a ship by the seashore and many came unto him and he taught them. After this something happened Mar 4:36-41.

He was in the ship going to the other side and a storm broke out while he was asleep. After trying to help themselves and could not they woke him and he SPOKE to the wind and waves and there was a great calm.

Look at these other examples to get the idea.

Demons – Luke 4:31-37;

High Fever – Luke 4:38-39

Dumb – Matt 9:32-33; Luke 11:14

Blind – Matt 9:27-30; 12:22; 20:29-34

All diseases – Matt 15:29-31; Matt 4:23; 9:35

Lessons from the Disciples

Did the disciples have an advantage over us? YES – they had firsthand experience according to 1Jn 1:1-3

Were they given a greater measure of the Spirit than we have been given today? Do you understand the question?

Let's read a passage in Luke 9:1-2 "*Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.*" (see also Luke 10:1, 9)

Anywhere you read a command of Jesus to his disciples to preach the Kingdom it was preceded by or followed by the command to heal the sick.

What were we given? All my life the preaching I've heard had nothing to do with the Kingdom and so before they preach or after they preach they would comfort the Sick and tell them God knows best and he's working all things for his glory.

Were we given the same measure of the Spirit as they? Yes

So did we receive as much of the Spirit as they received? No

Why? Because of ignorance or lack of knowledge our faith have not taken the fullness we've been given.

It is not that God is partial but they understood what they've been given and they knew how to use it because for 3 years they watched him demonstrate how it is done.

We've been shown the exact same things that they saw and that is why we have been given the eyewitness report so we can also enjoy what they did and our faith can claim what they claimed.

In fact there's a Blessing pronounced on people like us – John 20:27-29 – “Blessed are they that see not and yet believe.”

The Faith-Prayer Connection

Hebrews 11:6 – The proof that God exist is answered prayers.

What pleases God is the fact that we know him and have a relationship with him and the proof of that relationship is ANSWERED PRAYERS.

How do we understand these commands of Jesus?

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.” John 14:13-14

“And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” Jn:16:23-34

“At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you.” John 16:26

What does it mean to ask? The original word literally means, “To ask; beg; call for; crave; desire; require.”

Check out this usage in Matthew 14:6-9

Herod’s wife’s daughter pleased him with her dancing and he made her a vow to give her whatever she asks or demands. That word ask can also be translated “demand.”

It’s the same word used in Mk 11:24 – Whatever ye desire...

I heard something I've not been able to verify using the internet tools available, but I'll share it anyway.

What I've heard is that there are two missing lines from a passage in the book of John. It's chapter 16:23-24.

This is the passage as recorded in the KJV.

“And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” (v.23-24)

According to the original Aramaic retranslated to English this is what the verse says.

“All things that you ask straightly, directly, from inside my name, you will be given. So far you've not done this because if we ask with our voice we've not done this. Ask without hidden motive, and be surrounded by your answer, be enveloped by what you desire, that your gladness be full.”

What does it mean to feel as if? It means to be enveloped in that thought and desire that you're speaking to. (Mark 11:24)

“Believe that you receive them and you shall have them...”

The idea is not a strange one because that's what he promised in the previous verse – “Say... and not doubt in your heart but believe that what you say shall come to past and it shall come to past.”

Four kinds of Prayer

I believe there are different categories of prayer and I've come up with four.

1. The Prayer of Hope

This kind of prayer is what most people pray and call it faith. We come before God with a request and we hope to get an answer so we appeal to his love, mercy and goodness in an attempt to appease him to answer and we HOPE he does. After we pray we are hoping as we wait to get an answer. We come oftentimes reminding him to please help us!

The next category of prayer is:

2. The Prayer of Desperation

This is the prayer when things get desperate. Our voice is cracking from tears and we are super anxious from inside and we beg God PLEASE hear my prayer and answer me PLEASE because this is serious. My loved one is dying and the doctor gives him a short time to live PLEASE GOD PLEASE!

There's not a shred of faith in that prayer but pure FEAR activated by desperation.

These kinds of experience lead to bitterness and even rejection of God if we get no answer. The giving up of Christianity normally follows. (I could tell you stories!)

The next category is:

3. The Prayer of Uncertainty

This kind of prayer is where majority of people are! It is where we don't know what to expect so we use the faith destroying hammer, "IF IT BE THY WILL." No certainty so no faith! Then we employ the teachings that came out the devil's school. "You know God answers our prayers in three ways. Yes, no or wait." See the only answer we know for sure is if and when he says yes. If he says no or wait you can't tell

the difference. This is how James describes such a person.

“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. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.” James 1:5-8 (see also James 4:8) – The heart is the source of your wavering & double mindedness.

Which brings us to the final category:

4. The Prayer of Faith

This is the only kind of prayer that gets response. Remember there is no formula because real true prayer is based on a relationship that exists with you and God.

What do I mean by relationship? I mean that we KNOW God and are known by him. Do you remember God talking to Satan about his servant Job? Even so in the same way he will be able to talk about you and me as his sons and daughters, if we are known by him.

Do you remember Peter seeing Jesus walking on the water and asked to join him? If Peter did not have a relationship with Jesus do you think he would step out of the boat when Jesus beckoned to him to come? I don't think he would have gone if it was not for the relationship.

The prayer of faith can only flow from the children of God who know their authority and also the power of God and his son that resides inside their own bodies.

What is the biblical understanding of prayer?

I want us to look at the last part of this verse and then the explanation that comes afterwards. *"...the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* James 5:16 – The prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Who is a righteous man? He that heareth and believeth the word of God.

Here's an interesting look at the example James gives, v.17-18.

"Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not

rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.”

When did Elijah pray? Check out the record and there's no evidence that he prays for the rain to stop. There's no record that he prayed for rain to fall. (I Kings 17 & 18)

Instead the record shows that the word of the Lord came to him. (1Kings 18:1)

The best we can say of Elijah is that he simply repeated the word of God that came to him. His life was directed by God through the words that came to him constantly.

So what is prayer? Is it a long list of request to God? Is it a petition to God to change our circumstance?

Or is prayer just taking our place as sons and daughters and spend time in communion with him; learning what the word of the Lord says to us as children and declaring the same promises over our lives and that of our children?

Real prayer means to exercise authority over all the works and power of the Satan. Take

our place as the ones that can encourage, share and impart blessings to the world.

Praying in the Spirit – Praying without words

There's an understanding of prayer that I would like to mention. It is praying in the Spirit or praying from the emotions when words fail. Here's a verse in Romans 8 that explains this phenomenon.

“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.” (Rom 8:26)

What does it mean that, “... the Spirit maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered?”

As I have examined the passage and compared it with other translations this is what I've found to be a good explanation. **“... *the Spirit puts our desires into words which are not in our power to say.*”** (BBE)

Those unspoken words are the groanings that are mentioned in the verse.

Jesus had a similar experience when he went to visit Lazarus after he had died. Read about it in John 11:33, 38.

Here's an example I heard personally.

A young man came to visit our church and he had a powerful testimony. He was from a broken home and living with his father. He went to a Christian school and got involved with bad company and drugs at the school. He was smoking marijuana and very soon was out of control. His father finally asked him to leave home and he was left on his own. He found a little old shed in a faraway community and that is where he was living.

One day he went to a house belonging to an old Christian woman and stole a five gallon bucket of paint. The woman was not home when it happened and the moment she came home she found out the paint was gone. She lived in a rural area and also a closely knitted community. She called out to her neighbors and began talking about the missing paint so a group of neighbors gathered around and started speaking with suspicion of that young man, calling him a thief and encouraging the woman to call the Police. All this time the young man was in the

shed sitting down and hearing all that was being said about him. He had his gun in his hand and he said he had a thought to just step out and shoot all who were talking but immediately as that thought came another stronger thought told him not to be rash but just wait until it is settled and everyone is gone to their home then he should just go and talk to the lady from which he stole the paint.

He decided to obey the later impression and as soon as the neighbors went home he went to the lady and told her he stole the paint because he was hungry so he was planning on selling the paint to get money to buy some food.

Do you know what that Christian old lady did? She came out and hugged the young man and groaned in her spirit three times. No words was spoken just groans.

The young man said he could not tell what happened to him but he knew that something changed in him. She invited him to church and his life changed in so much that he gave up the gun, stopped smoking and is now an evangelist.

What was this old lady's prayer? It was uttered in the spirit and all that was heard was

groans but those groans were words that could not be uttered.

Sometimes we're in situations where words fail us and don't know what more to say and all that can come out is a groan. Sometimes all we can say is Jesus, but the Spirit is able to read the heart and translate those groans to words that makes up our prayers.

God is so awesome that he understands even our deep feelings that cannot be expressed. Praise his wonderful name!

Chapter 6

Unbelief

I recently watched a clip which surrounded the topic of building wealth without focusing on money. I have no other explanation except the Lord directed me there.

The essence of the thought was to talk to people and find out what problems people are facing. Consolidate the problems and find the most common. Once you know the problem then your input is to find a solution. Among the richest men in the world one common thread runs among them all and it is the fact that they provided a solution for the problems that exists in the world. They simply provide a service which is the solution for the problem.

The spirit immediately impressed my heart that the greatest problem on the earth is lack of witness for Jesus. The world has no witness for Jesus and that's why the darkness is on the increase.

I was telling this to my wife and daughter and do you know the first thing my daughter

said? Exactly the same impression the Spirit gave me.

I just want to encourage us to seek with all our hearts to be the solution of revealing Christ to the world. Offer your service in becoming a witness for him today.

It's about time we Christians testify to the truth that out of our belly shall flow rivers of living waters.

I want to make an undeniable point before we get further in this chapter. Please think about this fact carefully. The Lord impressed it on me in a recent conversation.

What you believe is your reality!

So what do you believe at this very moment? What do you believe about God? Do you believe God gives you sickness as a means of teaching you and reaching you? That's your reality.

Do you believe God allows Satan to buffet you to keep you focused on him? That is your reality!

Whatever you are believing now that is your reality. Now please keep in mind that your

reality might not be God's reality. **“We cannot exercise our faith beyond what we believe to be possible.”**

We will never experience more than we can believe for. Until our belief (Faith) is united in the **gifts of God brought to us through Christ** then we'll be missing out on God's perfect plan for us! We'll fall short of the real experience which limits our witness.

Jesus says it this way, “According to your faith, be it unto you.”

Unbelief (Caused by doubt, fear and impatience)

Unbelief is a New Testament word. A quick synopsis of its usage tells a story.

The people from Nazareth displayed it. (Matt 13:58; Mk 6:6)

It was the reason for the disciple's failure in healing the demon possessed boy. (Matt 17:20)

The boy's father was plagued by it. (9:24)

The disciples did not believe he rose from the dead because of it. (Mk 16:14)

Abraham did not stagger at the promise because of it. (Rom 4:20)

It was the main reason for Israel's failure. (Rom 11; Hebrews 3&4)

Lack of the conviction to trust God completely produces the state of unbelief.

What are the things that cause us to lose trust in God?

Let's look at a few.

1. Doubt

What is doubt?

“Doubt is a mental state in which the mind remains suspended between two or more contradictory propositions, unable to assent to any of them. Doubt may involve uncertainty, distrust or lack of conviction on certain facts, actions, motives, or decisions.”

Faith vs. Doubt

If you'll examine some key Bible passages you'll see a clearer view of the impact that doubt has on and in us.

Matt 14:31 – Peter walked on water and then sunk. Jesus says doubt was the reason for Peter’s failure.

I am putting forward an argument at this moment that I want you to consider. Peter had faith. It was his faith that caused him to walk on water. While in the experience of faith something else entered. It was doubt. Now watch this carefully. Jesus said something interesting. “Oh thou of **little faith**, wherefore didst thou doubt.”

Peter had both faith and doubt at the same time. His faith was little but his doubt was great. That is what caused him to sink. His doubt overrode his faith.

Let’s see another example. The man who had a son that from a little boy had epileptic seizures that cause lots of scars from fire and wounds that he sustained. He heard of Jesus and what he was doing how that people were being relieved from sickness and diseases and all manner of ailments even the dead were brought back to life.

Faith rose up in him and he took his son and travelled to find this Jesus because he heard that

Jesus didn't discriminate and he had assurance that today was his day of relief from years of suffering.

He got to the place and found out Jesus was not there BUT no need to worry because 9 of Jesus' top men were around and they could heal the boy. With great anticipation he waited as the disciples tried to heal the boy and it didn't happen. Nothing happened to his faith. What started happening to this man was that doubt started growing. Finally it reached the place where doubt became greater than faith. Let's see what happened next.

Jesus came down from the mountain and saw the crowd and asked what was happening. After being told of the disciples failure Jesus rebuked the disciples for their faithlessness and beckoned the man to bring his son. (Mk 9:19)

Jesus encouraged the man that if he can believe all things are possible.

Notice the man's confession. "Lord I believe, help thou mine unbelief." (Mk 9:23-24)

He had faith and unbelief (Caused by doubt) at the same time. He needed help with his

unbelief because by his own confession he believed.

Here's the final evidence. Jesus, in teaching how to dry up a fig tree from the roots had this to say. "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." Mk 11:23 (See also Matt 21:21)

If thou shalt **SAY**(that is the act of faith – **Speak**) and shall not doubt in your heart (Unbelief).

"But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise...The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach." (Rom 10:6-8)

"...Let the weak say I am strong" (Joel 3:10)

When there's an alternative then there's place for doubting the option of God and the result is unbelief.

Unbelief is caused from a double standard. Let me explain.

Faith is trusting Gods word as the only solution in any given situation, while unbelief allows for other options to be involved.

“Many times we tend to think that the opposite of faith is doubt or unbelief but doubt and unbelief come from believing the wrong person.”

Abraham chose not to believe what the natural senses told him but rather what God said to him. (Rom 4:19)

His body was dead (No erection) and Sarah’s womb dead (No menstruation). **Those were the facts.** What God said would definitely have to reverse those things, **BUT** it was never done before in history, **YET** he staggered not at the promise but was **FULLY PERSUADED** that God was able to perform what he promised.

After God performed that miracle, Abraham’s body became alive again and had Sarah not died she would have had other children. Even after Sarah died Abraham remarried another woman name Keturah and had six more sons – **Did you know that?** (Gen 25:1-2)

What would you have believed in Abraham's day? If you didn't believe what Abraham believed you would never experience the reality Abraham experienced!

2. Fear

What is fear?

“Fear is an emotion induced by perceived danger or threat, which causes physiological changes and ultimately behavioral changes, such as fleeing, hiding, or freezing from perceived traumatic events. Fear in human beings may occur in response to a certain stimulus occurring in the present, or in anticipation or expectation of a future threat perceived as a risk to oneself.”

The acronym - **False Evidence Appearing Real**

Fear is a mental exercise or conviction where you become convinced that something is real when it is not.

Many try to study the fake and the false to be better educated about them, but that is the wrong approach. The only way to know the real is to study the genuine. Spend time with the real and get to know it so well that when the false appear you can detect it.

There's a serious curse pronounced against the fearful.

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”
(Rev 21:8)

The only way to be kept from this state of fear is to be hidden with Christ in God.

Here's another method of ridding yourself of 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.” (1John 4:18)

Where true unselfish love exists, there's no place for fear. Why? The reason according to John is that “...perfect love casteth out all fear.” What does that mean? Where true love exists a bond is developed. Perfect love equates to perfect bonding which indicates that a relationship is experienced that removes doubt, fear or torment of any kind. The conditions that

exists in such a relationship is total happiness, peace and joy.

Get to know him personally and not in a second hand way through your church family.

3. Uncertainty

Here's a passage that deals with the issue of uncertainty directly.

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

Knowing his will is the key to certainty.

I know many people who pray to God making a request then add at the end, “If it be thy will.” That is such a destructive force to faith.

If you don't know God's will, then pray to God to reveal his will to you! After you know the will of God, then you can pray according to his will.

Only when you know the will of God can you pray in confidence and assurance knowing you'll receive what you've prayed for.

Let's look at James' perspective.

“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. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”
(James 1:5-8)

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”(4:8)

The idea of double mindedness occurs because of weighing other options. Once there's uncertainty then there can be no answer.

To waver is to become uncertain. Why does this happen? It happens because there's too much suspicion in the negative. It happens because we listen to others instead of God only. It happens because we're not settled into the truth that God alone can change our situation.

All the examples of people who have trusted God shows they were never disappointed by God because whatever God said he did.

I believe that one of the biggest hindrances to seeing our prayers answered is because we don't know what God promised. Once we become familiar with his promises we begin to see results.

Spend time to know God as he reveals himself to us through his words. This will remove any shadow of uncertainty in us!

Chapter 7

Wounded heart Broken Spirit Bad experience

Many have been wounded in an effort of faith. These wounds which are the bad experiences have become the source of doubt and fear causing us to waver.

According to Jesus it is what is in your heart.

Your heart will determine your destiny. Your heart will determine your health, so what is in your heart? Are you a giver, a blessing, a helper, a server, one involved with other people to lift them up **OR** are you a taker, a complainer, are you a critical person that criticizes everybody and sees only the negative side of life?

We're good at protecting material things, locks on the door, burglar bars to keep us safe, safety deposit box for our money but we don't protect the heart we just leave it open for any bird to build a nest in it and do all manner of things with our hearts. What are you letting in

your heart? What are you meditating on? What are you watching constantly? It is taking root in your heart. (Phil 4:8)

All of the healing we need is available through our reborn spirits which are one with God. Healing comes from within we release it with our actions, our thoughts, our attitude, our words. We act on the word, we speak the word, we think the word; we see the healing. Jesus when he walked this earth he healed all that was outside of him and around him, now Jesus is on the inside so all the power of God to heal us in within us for our healing and it also flows out of us for the healing of the world – “out of your belly shall flow rivers...”

It is not so much that we ask God to release healing, it is already released since Jesus walked on the earth and certainly since he rose from the dead and was glorified and came back with ALL POWER in us!

In each of us there's a gift of healing and as quickly as we can renew our minds from the lies that it holds, we will see healing take place. (Ephesians 3:20) – According to the power that works in us!

Chapter 8

Concluding Thoughts

In this closing chapter here is some very good advice from the Apostle Paul to the members of Christ.

“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. 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.” (Rom 12:1-2)

We are encouraged to sacrifice our lives to the service of God. In ancient times it was easy to sacrifice an animal for the sins of the people. Paul is now admonishing believers to present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God while we are living.

The major part of this sacrificing is to destroy conformity to the world. How much are we conformed? In answering this question we have to evaluate of our lives. If our dependence

is on the world, then there is a necessity for transformation to take place.

James says that, “Friendship with the world is enmity against God.” He says, “if you’re a friend of the world, you are the enemy of God.”

The mind is the wellspring from which flows all the virtues we hold. Transformation must then originate in the mind. To renew the mind we must have a change of focus. “By beholding we are changed...” Once there’s a change of focus, it will result in a change of desires that will activate all our energies directing them to lifestyle adjustments.

Decision Making

I learnt a gem in the form of a poem.

Sow a thought; reap a deed.

Sow a deed; reap a habit.

Sow a habit; reap a lifestyle.

Sow a lifestyle; reap a destiny.

What we are today is a direct result of what has been sowed in our mind and thoughts resulting in our destiny.

The principle of learning since birth is repetition; thus we have the old adage, “repetition is the mother of learning.” Science has discovered the secret of forming new habit patterns which is based on the same principle of repetition.

If you’re able to practice the same things for 21 consecutive days then you’d have formed a new habit. I guess that’s not too hard but it is to choose to do it.

There is still a greater force than that of repetition; it is the emotion of love.

I’ve heard of chain smokers who could not shake the habit but when they meet the love of their life, overcoming the habit takes place overnight and they find the power to quit. Love is a great champion.

Identifying the enemies

Now that we have examined the enemies of true faith, the onus is now on us to seek the anointing of the Holy Spirit to open our eyes so

we can discern if we've trapped by the enemy or we're growing up to the measure of the stature of Christ.

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (2Cor 13:5)

This is very good advice to examine, prove and know if we have the indwelling Christ because if not we are deceived and lost.

“Once to every man and nation, comes the moment to decide,

In this strife of truth with falsehood for the good or evil side...

Then it is the brave man chooses, while the coward stands aside,

Till the multitude make virtue, of the faith they had denied.”

A hero is nothing more than a person who does what everyone else is afraid to do!

Become God's hero today! Choose faith and live like a conqueror!

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven.” (Matt 5:16)