

WHAT FAITH IS

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LESSON 1

Jesus said that if we can believe, all things are possible to him who believes. We have a wonderful God, a God whose ways are past finding out and whose grace and power are limitless. Everything depends on our believing God. We cannot rest upon our feelings. We cannot do anything without a living faith. All things are possible for us in God when we believe.

God's plan is the following: if we will only believe, we will see the glory of God ([John 11:40](#)). God wants to bring us all to a definite place of unswerving faith and confidence in Himself.

In [Mark chapter 11:12-14](#), we see where Jesus was hungry and He saw in the distance a fig tree covered with leaves, so He went to see if He could find any fruit on it; because in the fig tree, the fruit appears at the same time as the leaves. But when He came up to it, He found nothing but leaves, because the fig season had not come yet. And He spoke to it. He talked to a fig tree. He said, "No one ever again shall eat fruit from you." And His disciples heard Him talking to the fig tree. In verse 20 it tells us that the next morning, as they were passing along, they noticed that the fig tree was withered completely away to its roots. And Peter remembered what Jesus had done the day before; how He had talked to the fig tree and cursed it. He said, Master, look! The fig tree which You doomed has withered away!

Now, listen carefully to what Jesus said to him and He is saying the same to us, today: Have faith in God constantly! One translation says have God's kind of faith! Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! And does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him! Jesus said, I'm telling you this for a reason--so that when you pray, believe--be confident and trust Me--that whatever you ask for, it is granted to you, and you will get it!

Have faith in God. So what is faith? [Hebrews 11:1](#) tells us that faith is the

substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **Mark 9:23** tells us that faith is believing. Faith is what you believe. God's faith is based on His Word. So, to have God's kind of faith, we must base our beliefs on His Word.

Did you notice how Jesus used His faith? He talked to the fig tree! He believed that what He said would come to pass and He spoke it out. This is how faith works for you. Believe in your heart and speak it out of your mouth. What do you have to speak? God's Word.

Faith is heard in your words and seen in your actions.

In Moffatt's translation of the New Testament, **Hebrews 11:1** reads, "Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see." The first part of this verse in The New English Bible reads, "Faith gives substance to our hopes." Another translation says, "Faith is the warranty deed that the thing for which you have fondly hoped is at last yours."

The Spirit, through Paul, is simply telling us that faith is laying hold of the unrealities of hope and bringing them into the realm of reality. You hope for finances to meet the obligations you have, but faith gives you the assurance you'll have the money when you need it. You hope for physical strength to do the job you must do, but faith says, "**The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**" (Ps. 27:1).

Faith, we know, grows out of the Word of God: "**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**" (Rom. 10:17). Faith says the same thing the Word of God says. Unbelief, on the other hand, is taking sides against God's Word. It is sad that there are so many "believers" who talk unbelief, thus taking sides against the Word of God. Then they wonder why God's Word doesn't work for them.

One of the best ways to find out what something is, is to find out what it is not.

First, faith is not hope. Too often people are just hoping they will receive an answer to prayer. But it's not hoping that gets the job done; it's believing.

Now faith is. If it's not now, it's not faith. Hope is always future tense--

pointing to the future--but faith is always now. Faith says, "I'll receive right now. I have it now."

When it comes to receiving what you need from God, the principles of faith are the same in any area, whether for receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, healing, an answer to prayer, or finances. If you learn the principles of faith, it is easy to receive whatever you need from God.

Brother Hagin tells a story about how years ago, he conducted a tent meeting in Waco, Texas that illustrates the difference between hope and faith. He had been preaching about the laying on of hands to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and for receiving healing. When he called for people to come up and receive from God, the first man in the line had come to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He asked him, will you receive now as I lay my hands on you and pray? The man said, Well, Brother Hagin, I sure hope so. Brother Hagin told him, You won't.

That made him angry. Well, Brother Hagin had meant to help him, not anger him, so he added, You don't receive from God through hope; it's by faith that you receive. The man said, I don't know whether I'm going to receive or not, so I'm just not going to say I am. So Brother Hagin asked him, If I offered you a dollar bill, would you say, "I don't know whether I can receive it or not?" No, certainly not.

Well, God offers you a gift which is just as easy for you to receive as a dollar I might offer you. The man said it had been about 13 years that he'd been seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit and he still hadn't received yet, so he didn't know whether he would receive now or not.

He got quite upset about it, so Brother Hagin hugged his neck and said, Brother, I'm here to help you. It wouldn't do a bit of good for me to lay my hands on you and pray for you. In fact, under these conditions, I could lay my hands on your head until I wore every hair off, and you wouldn't get anything. I suggest you sit on the front row to watch and listen to what is going on, and you'll see the difference between believing and hoping.

He prayed for several people for healing, and then came to a young woman who wanted to receive the Holy Spirit. He asked, Are you a Christian? I'm a member of the Baptist Church, she said. He said, You could belong to any church and not be a Christian. It's not being a member of a church; it's

being born again.

Yes, she declared, I know that. And I have been born again. Well, fine, He said. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? And do you believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit? (Having a Baptist background, he knew they don't all believe that.)

I certainly do, she said. It's in the Bible. Then he asked her, Will you receive the Holy Spirit now when I lay my hands on your head and pray?

I certainly will, she responded. You know, I sat here tonight and followed every Scripture you gave as you preached, and it's all in there. It's in the Word--the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit. I certainly will receive.

He saw she was ready. He saw faith in operation. He reached out his right hand to lay it on her forehead, but before he could touch her, she threw up both hands and started speaking in tongues.

Then he turned to the man who had been observing on the front row and asked, Now do you see the difference between just hoping you will receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and really believing you will? Yes, he said, I guess I do.

He returned three nights later. That night they had another service for laying on of hands on the sick and for receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Again, he was the first man in line.

Brother Hagin said, I see you're back. Yes, he replied, I'm back. And I'll tell you something--I've changed my hope into faith. Just put your hands on me and I'll be filled with the Holy Spirit right now!

He reached out his hands and had hardly touched him before both of his hands went up and he began speaking in tongues.

It makes such a difference when you really believe God and don't just hope you'll receive from Him. You see, that man hadn't actually been seeking for 13 years; he had just been hoping he'd get the Holy Spirit. You don't receive by hoping.

Jesus said, "Whatever things you desire, when you pray, BELIEVE that you receive them." Here is how to tell whether you are really believing God or just hoping: Hope is future tense. But if you are seeking healing, it's not in the future you want to be healed; it's right now--especially if you are in pain.

If you are seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you don't want to be filled in the future; it is now you want to receive. If it's salvation a person wants, it's not in the future he wants to be saved; that may be too late.

It seems that we always stumble over the same stumbling stone when it comes to receiving things from God; We hope He hears our prayers. We hope to be healed. We hope to receive the Holy Spirit. Even if you say, "I believe I'll receive it sometime," that is still hope. You're calling it belief, but it's hope because it's in the future.

Notice what our text says, "NOW faith is..." That's present tense. If it's not now, it's not faith. Faith is present tense. Hope is future tense. Get in the right tense; get in the present tense. Some people are always believing God is going to do something for them, but faith believes that He has done and is doing.

Even when it comes to healing, many people say, "I don't understand why I haven't received my healing. I know God promised to heal me." Confusion comes when you don't rightly divide the truth of God's Word. God has not promised to heal you at all. What? Doesn't the Bible say, "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses? Isn't that a promise?"

NO, that is not a promise. It is a statement of fact which tells us something that has already happened.

Some will quote **1 Peter 2:24: Who his own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed.** Doesn't that promise healing?

NO, that doesn't promise healing. It tells you what belongs to you.

Let me give an example: There was a woman in her 70's who hadn't walked in four years because her knees had worn out. Due to the lack of

exercise, she had become rather large. Brother Hagin was trying to minister healing to her, but she kept getting louder and louder with her “praying”. She couldn’t even hear him tell her to rise and walk in the Name of Jesus. What was she “praying”? O dear Lord Jesus, please heal me. Lord, I know you promised to heal me. You know what a burden I’ve been to my family. I can’t do one thing for myself. Dear Lord, please heal me. Please heal my limbs. Please let me walk. Oh, please, please, please!

After several attempts to quiet her, Brother Hagin grabbed her by the shoulders and commanded her to shut up in the Name of Jesus. She did.

Sister, he said, did you know you are healed? She looked up at him wide-eyed and asked, Oh, am I? He opened his Bible to [1st Peter 2:24](#), handed it to her, and asked her to read the verse aloud. She read, Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed. Read that last clause again, please, he said. By whose stripes ye were healed, she read. Now, is were present tense, future tense or past tense? It’s past tense, she replied. Then if you were healed by Jesus’ stripes, you are now healed, aren’t you? Yes! She answered, I am! Now, Just lift your hands and look right up to Jesus and begin to praise Him. Praise Him because you are healed--present tense--not going to be--you are. She looked up, and in a simple, childlike manner she said, Dear Lord Jesus, I’m so glad I’m healed. She hadn’t walked a step yet--she had no evidence of healing whatsoever--yet she said, “I’m so glad I’m healed. Dear Lord, You know how tired I got sitting around. Thank God, my knees are well. My limbs are healed. I’m so thankful! Then he said to the congregation, Let’s thank God with her because she is healed--not going to be--but is healed.

Most of the crowd raised their hands and praised God with her because she was healed. Some probably said, She’s not healed; she hasn’t walked yet. She hasn’t taken a step.

Our text, however, says, ...faith is the evidence of things not seen. If you’re going to wait until you see something before you believe it, that isn’t faith at all.

Turning to her, he said, My Sister, arise and walk in Jesus’ Name! Immediately that woman jumped off the altar like a 16 year old girl and walked, leaped and ran, praising God!

Everything that is not of faith, is sin, because we know that the only thing that pleases God is faith. (Rom. 14:23). God wants to bring us into harmony with His will so that we will see that if we do not believe all of the Word of God, something in us is not purely sanctified to accept the fullness of His Word.

Here's the key: If I pray just once for something and don't get it, I start changing. I start changing because if I pray and that prayer isn't answered, there will have to be a change before the answer comes. And I know there can't be any change with God; He never changes. So if there's any changing, it has to be on my part. Therefore, if I pray and do not receive, then I start changing.

Many people put their human wisdom in place of God, and God is not able to give the best because the human is confronting God. God is not able to get the best through us until the human will is dissolved.

People say, "I want things to be tangible. I want something to appeal to my human reasoning." God's response is that everything that you cannot see is eternal. Everything you see now will fade away and will be consumed, but what you cannot see, what is more real than you, is the substance of all things: God in the human soul. Mightier than you by a million times.

If only we knew the power of God. We have a present God. We have a living faith, and the living faith is the Word. The Word is life, and the Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Heb 13:8) We can trust Him. We can be confident that He will do what He says He will do.

The Holy Spirit wants us to clearly understand that we are a million times bigger than we know. Most Christians have no conception of what they are. God wants something to be in you that could never be unless you cease to live for yourself. God wants you to live for Him, to live for others. Lord, give us the revelation that You are more eager to answer than we are to ask.

We need to realize that we cannot substitute hope for faith and get answers from God. But don't misunderstand me; If you keep hope in its rightful place, it is blessed, wonderful, beautiful, and a reality to you.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, And now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:13). He did not say that

the others aren't important; he said the greatest of the three is love. Each one of them has its place. You can't substitute love for hope, and you can't substitute hope for faith.

Yet, many people are trying to receive an answer to prayer on hope instead of on faith. Anything that points to the future or looks to the future is hope and not faith. Faith is now. Believe God's Word--that's your evidence of things not seen.

Can you recognize faith in this story related by Smith Wigglesworth? I was in Belfast one day and saw one of the brothers of the assembly. He told me about an old woman who fell and broke her leg and how the doctors did not set the bones properly and so she fell and broke the leg again. The doctors sent her home with no hope of getting better, there was nothing more to be done for her. He took me to her house, and there was the woman lying in a bed on the right-side of the room. I said to her, "Well, what about it now?" She said, "They've sent me home incurable. The doctors say that I am so old that my bones won't knit. There's no strength in my bones. They could not do anything for me, and they say I will have to lie in bed for the rest of my life." I said to her, "Can you believe God?" She replied, "Yes, ever since I heard that you had come to Belfast, my faith has been quickened. If you will pray, I will believe. I know there is no power on earth that can make the bones of my leg knit, but I know that nothing is impossible with God." I said, "Do you believe He will meet you now?" She answered, "I do." It is grand to see people believe God. God knew all about this leg and that it was broken in two places. I said to the woman, "When I pray, something will happen." Her husband was sitting there; he had been in his chair for four years and could not walk a step. He called out, "I don't believe. I won't believe. You will never get me to believe." I said, "all right," and laid my hands on his wife in the Name of the Lord Jesus. The moment hands were laid upon her, she cried out, "I'm healed!" I said, "I'm not going to assist you to rise, God will do it all." She arose and walked up and down the room, praising God. The old man was amazed at what happened to his wife, and he cried out, "Make me walk, make me walk!" I said to him, "You old sinner, repent." He cried out, "Lord, You know I believe." I don't think he meant what he said; anyhow, the Lord was full of compassion. If He marked our sins, where would any of us be? If we'll meet the conditions, God will always meet us if we believe all things are possible. I laid my hands on him and the power went right through the old man's body. For the first time in four years, those legs received power to carry his body. He walked up and

down and in and out of that room. He said, "Oh, what great things God has done for us tonight!"

The plan of God is so marvelous that if we would only believe, all things are possible!

LESSON 2

Faith is not a product of sense knowledge. It is not a product of intellectual faculties. It is born of the recreated human spirit. Whether we want to face it or not, the fact is: there is no love in the natural human heart, and there is no faith in the natural human heart. Faith and love spring from the recreated human spirit. Until a person has received Eternal Life, which is the nature of God, they cannot be a faith person; and they cannot be a love person. They will only have a Sense Knowledge faith.

God is a faith God. Faith is His nature just as love is His nature. Love is the mother of faith; faith springs out of the roots of love. And love can only come from its source, the Father's heart.

So, when we are born again and receive the nature of God, that nature begets in us faith, and we build our faith by feeding on God's Word. His Word is the only source of strength for the recreated human spirit; the only source for building faith. Faith cannot be built by abstract reasoning. It is only built by acting on the Word, letting the Word live in me as it did in Jesus.

By doing the Word, we build faith in our spirits. We become a doer of the Word. The Word becomes a part of our very being. We absorb it in our daily life, and it builds into us the faith of God.

The reason faith is so difficult is that sense knowledge has gained the ascendancy in our educational and religious life. Sense knowledge has all come through our physical contact with the world. We have learned to trust so utterly in our eyes, our ears, the sense of touch, of smell, and the sense of taste, that spiritual things are hard to understand. It is easy to believe in things you see.

Faith is independent of sense knowledge. The Bible demands faith in things the senses cannot apprehend. Hebrews 11:3 tells us that the worlds

have been framed by faith through the Word of God. By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the Word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which appear.

That explains the first verse, Now, faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen, or faith is giving substance to things hoped for. Hope is not faith. Faith is always now. Hope is always future.

God said, let there be, and the sun, moon, and stars came into being.
He said, let there be an earth, and the earth came into being.
He said let there be light, and there was light.
He said let the earth bring forth, and the earth brought forth.
Faith is the mightiest force in the universe. It is the creative ability of God. It is the creative ability of man. Animals act by instinct, not faith. Man acts by faith. Man was created in the image and likeness of the Faith God. He is created in the image of love. He is created in the image of faith.

Whether you recognize it or not, man's entire life, from the time he becomes conscious as a babe, until he steps off into the unknown, is a faith life; one has faith in his senses, the other in God.

Brother Hagin tells a story about this woman evangelist who preached in the early days--back in the healing revival of the 1940's and 50's. In one of her meetings, she ministered to four people in wheelchairs. To all four she said in a quiet voice, "Arise and walk in Jesus' Name!"

And they all got up and walked--except the fourth one.

The fourth person said, "I can't walk." The evangelist said, well, the others couldn't walk either, but they are walking now." The cripple person said, "I know they did, but I can't walk. I haven't walked in years. I can't walk."

The evangelist had to walk away and leave that person sitting there, still in unbelief. You see, when those first three began to act upon what was told them, results were forthcoming. When you act upon what God's Word says, or act upon what the Holy Spirit may speak to your heart, results are forthcoming. That is faith!

We see that this is the way Jesus operated. Let's read John 5:1-9. Notice that Jesus was listening to what the Holy Spirit was saying about this man.

How else did Jesus know that he had a deep-seated and lingering disorder? He was operating in the gift of the Word of Knowledge and the gifts of special faith and the working of miracles. The man had no faith. Jesus was listening for directions from the Holy Spirit and when He heard them, He acted upon them and the result was a miracle for the cripple man who had no faith; but he was willing and obedient to do what the Lord commanded. The moment that man responded in obedience, faith came to him and he received his healing.

Faith is the thing that brings success. Doubt is the thing that brings failure. God is love. He works by faith. It is faith that works by love. He is a faith God. Man is the crowning work of faith. Being created in the image of love, he must live by faith. Man is a faith creation. When reason usurps the seat of faith, man becomes a failure.

The bolder the faith, the greater is the success. Faith wins. We can take as the slogan of life Matthew 19:26: But with God all things are possible. Unite with Mark 9:23: All things are possible to him that believes.

1 John 4:4: Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. Who is in you? It is God! Then to the God who is within you, all things are possible. If you give that God within you liberty, let Him loose in you, you become limitless in your realm. All things are possible to him that believes. The Greek word there for "believe" means "a believing one". That is a child of God, a believing one.

You and God are linked together. You become invincible. You see a glimpse of this in the great men of faith--God and man linked together, doing the impossible.

We know that every step out of love means sin, and every step out of faith means weakness and failure. The word, "believing" is a verb. The word, "faith" is a noun. Believing is acting on the Word. Faith is the result of this action.

Brother Hagin tells another story about a woman who attended his church who had arthritis and was in a wheelchair. The doctor had told her some years before that her body would eventually become rigid and she wouldn't be able to move. She would become confined to a wheelchair, her body fixed in a sitting position. This came to pass. Her body was stiff as a board.

She and her husband never missed a service. Now, Brother Hagin could pray for this woman and she would receive instant healing for such minor ailments as the flu or a cold. But, she never asked for prayer for arthritis. She had witnessed people in the church who had been healed of very serious ailments and she understood that it is God's will to heal her, too. One afternoon a small group of members of the church went to her house to pray for her, determined to see her delivered from that wheelchair. As they prayed, Brother Hagin saw exactly what God wanted to do. He told everyone to stand back and no one touch her. Then he pointed a finger at her and commanded her to arise, in the Name of Jesus Christ! Everyone there witnessed the power of God lift her up out of that chair. She sat suspended in mid-air above the wheelchair! She could move her arms and immediately she reached down with those little, crippled hands for the wheelchair. The moment she did, she fell back down into the chair. As she did, Brother Hagin said to her, "Sister, you don't have an ounce of faith, do you? You don't believe that you will ever be healed of arthritis, do you?" She blurted out, "No, I don't. I'll die and go to my grave with it." And she did. She would have been healed if she would have cooperated with God's healing power. Every joint in her body would have been loosened and she would have begun to walk if she would only have obeyed the command. If she only would have acted on the Word.

Too many people think that God's power--healing power, Holy Spirit power--is going to move on them and make them do something whether they want to do it or not. No! That wouldn't be the Holy Spirit; that would be an evil spirit.

Evil spirits force, drive, and compel you to do things. But the Holy Spirit urges, prompts, or gives a gentle push. Then it is up to you to respond. It is up to you to obey.

Faith, then, is acting and speaking the Word of God. Sense knowledge speaks the word of man, and faith speaks the Word of God. Sense knowledge man acts upon sense knowledge. The faith man acts upon the Word of God. Faith is giving substance to the thing that you had long hoped would become real. Hebrews 11:1, in one translation reads, "Now faith is the title deed to the things hoped for".

Hope never gave a title deed, but faith is the title deed. When you believe the Word, anxiety and fear leave you. As long as you hope, you will be filled

with anxiety and worry. **Mark 11:22**, Jesus challenges us to have the God kind of faith. He had it.

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou taken up and cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that what he says will come to pass; he shall have it.

There are two things to notice: He believes in his heart, and he believes in his words. You believe in your heart, and then you believe in the words on your lips. That gives you power over demons and disease and circumstances.

Mark 11:24: All things whatsoever you pray and ask for, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them. They have not been in your possession, but it is just as real as though they were. Faith counts the things that are not as though they were and they became. (**Romans 4:17**)

Abraham counted that Sarah was able to give birth to a child when she was ninety years of age, and she became the mother of Isaac. Abraham believed that his body would be rejuvenated, and it was.

Romans 4:19 is God's commentary on this: "And without being weakened in faith he considered his own body now as good as dead (he being about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, looking unto the promise of God, he wavered not through unbelief, but waxed strong through faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform."

Faith in you will conquer as faith in Jesus conquered. When you say, "In the Name of Jesus, disease depart from this body", you have confidence in Jesus' Words in your lips as Jesus had confidence in His Father's Words in His lips, and the healing takes place. Faith comes by daring to act upon the Word. Your fear to act upon the Word is unbelief gaining the ascendancy.

Brother Hagin tells of another story about a woman who wanted to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. She came twice to the prayer line and both times the Holy Spirit came upon her, but she did not yield and receive. She left so disappointed. As Brother Hagin was leaving the meeting, he noticed her sitting in her car. He went over to her and opened his Bible to Acts 2:4.

He handed it to the woman and asked her to read it aloud. She read, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Sister, he asked, who does the Scripture say did the speaking with tongues? She replied, It says the Holy Ghost did. Brother Hagin asked her to read it again. He asked her the same question and she gave the same answer. He asked her to read it again, about four times, before she caught on that something must be wrong, so she began to read slowly. As she read, she saw it--THEY SPOKE--not the Holy Spirit. She said, I always thought the Holy Spirit did the speaking. Brother Hagin asked her if she sensed the Holy Spirit and the power of God come upon her and did she want to say something that wasn't English when hands were laid on her? She said, absolutely and it was all I could do to keep from it. You're not supposed to keep from it, he told her. You're supposed to cooperate. When the Holy Spirit gives you utterance, you must have faith to act. Immediately she began to speak in a most beautiful tongue. Faith is acting!

Faith is an action, a changing. If we dare to believe God's Word, He moves and changes situations. Our purpose is to let the Holy Spirit glorify God through us. Only believe! (**Mark 5:36**) It will be to you as you believe. (**Matt. 9:29**)

John 14:12-13, Jesus tells us that he that believes on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto the Father. And whatsoever you shall ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. The word "ask" here in the Greek means "to demand". You are not demanding it of Jesus, but you are demanding it as Peter demanded the man at the beautiful gate to rise and walk. You are demanding sickness and pain to leave bodies in the Name of Jesus.

He said, "That the Father might be glorified in the Son." **John 15:7** tells us that if we abide in Jesus, and His words abide in us, we can ask whatsoever we will, and it shall be done unto us. Satan has taken advantage of us. Disease and sickness has made an invalid out of us. Circumstances has gained the mastery and made a slave instead of a master of us. Now you abide in Him, and let His Word abide in you. Let that Word abide in your lips and contend with your sickness and you will become the master again. You simply insist that that thing is not for you. You will not stand for defeat any longer. You can look the adversary in the

face and say with quiet assurance, “satan, you are defeated. In Jesus’ Name I demand my rights.”

John 16:24: “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My Name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be made full.” Your joy cannot be made full while loved ones are sick, while men and women are held captives of the adversary. Your joy cannot be made full unless you can see the will of the Father wrought in the lives of men and women around you. Go, then, and take what belongs to you in that Name.

We cannot be ordinary people; God must be glorified in us. God intends us to be an extraordinary people with this wonderful life of faith. By faith, we are bound to almighty power and equipped for service.

The Lord would have us to be walking epistles of His Word, Jesus is the Word and is the power in us, and it is His desire to work in and through us His own good pleasure. We must believe that He is in us.

There are boundless possibilities for us if we dare to act in God and dare to believe that the wonderful virtue of our living Christ shall be made manifest through us as we lay our hands on the sick in His Name.

The Holy Spirit is grieved with us because, when we know these things, we do not do greater exploits for God. Does not the Holy Spirit show us wide-open doors of opportunity? Shall we not let God take us on to greater things? Shall we not believe God to take us on to greater manifestations of His power? His call for us is to forget the things that are behind, and reach forth unto the things which are before and to press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

LESSON 3

Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things we hope for, being the proof of things we do not see and the conviction of their reality (faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses).

Faith is what you believe. The God kind of faith, which is what Jesus tells us to have, is believing God’s Word. The Bible is God’s Word. In times past, there was a saying, “The Bible is God’s Word. I am who it says I am. I can do what it says I can do and I can have what it says I can have. If God said

it, then I believe it. That settles it.”

We can't have the God kind of faith without knowing what His Word says. How can you believe something that you don't know? How can you believe in the healing power of God if you don't know that God's Word promises healing to you? How can you believe for financial provision if you don't know that God's Word tells us that poverty is a curse and you have been redeemed from that curse? If you don't know about all the promises that God has made to you in the Bible, then how can you believe them? It is vital for the Christian believer to study God's Word. Commit it to memory. Renew the mind with it. Believe it in the heart and speak it out the mouth.

We release faith according to **Mark 11:22 - 24**. And Jesus, replying, said to them, Have faith in God constantly -have the God kind of faith. Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! And does not doubt at all in his heart, but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him. For this reason I am telling you whatever you ask for in prayer, believe-trust and be confident-that it is granted to you, and you will get it.

Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing what is told, and what is heard comes by the preaching of the message that came from the lips of Christ Himself. Faith is released through our words and manifested-or revealed and seen- through our actions.

Let's look at the life Jesus lived while on this earth. What did He believe? He believed **Genesis 1:26** which told Him that God made man in His image and likeness, and that man was given dominion--complete authority--over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth. We know Jesus believed this because we heard it in His words and saw it in His actions. Jesus ruled and reigned over anything and everything that was in this earth. Any circumstance that arose and every demon that He encountered was subject to His authority.

Because Jesus believed **Genesis 1:26**, He was able to release His faith to calm the seas, talk to the wind and have it obey Him, multiply the loaves and fish to feed a multitude, walk on the water, cause fishing boats to start sinking because of the magnitude of fish being caught--and at a time when fish were not supposed to be caught! Demon spirits were terrified every

time He came around them. He cast them out with just a Word. Jesus acted like He really believed that He was the one who had dominion. He acted like He really believed that He had all authority to rule the earth. We heard His faith in His words and saw His faith in His actions.

Jesus believed **Isaiah 61:1-2** which told Him that the Spirit of the Lord God was upon Him, because the Lord had anointed and qualified Him to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor and the afflicted; He had sent Him to bind up and to heal the brokenhearted; to proclaim liberty to the physical and spiritual captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord--the year of His favor--and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.

Throughout the Gospels we see Jesus preaching about the Kingdom of God--how God has restored mankind to the good position they enjoyed before the garden fall. Faith came to the people as he preached. Faith was released through His Words. Healings manifested as He cast out demon spirits, rebuked fevers, touched lepers, stuck His fingers in deaf ears and spit on dumb tongues. Blind eyes were opened and dead people came back to life!

We must understand what faith is to be able to operate the way Jesus did, but we don't increase our faith by studying faith. We increase our faith when we study the message that Christ preached, which is the Kingdom of God.

It was God personally present in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against them their trespasses, but canceling them and committing to us the message of reconciliation, which is the restoration of favor. (**II Corinthians 5:19**)

II Corinthians 6:16 tells us that we are now the temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in and with and among them and will walk in and with and among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Verse 18 goes on to say that God will be a Father to you, and you shall be His sons and daughters. The Kingdom of God is all about one big family. The family of God. That was His original plan for mankind. He wants a big family.

We are sons and daughters of the Most High God! As such, we are to rule and reign in this earth the way God told Adam and Eve to have dominion over all the earth and everything that is in the earth. We could look at earth as God's family business. He has delegated to His children the authority to operate the business according to His business plan. His plans are found in the Bible.

Smith Wigglesworth gives an excellent example of how to carry out Father's plans concerning the prayer of faith. Smith believes [James 5:15](#), and the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. He tells this story:

A Baptist minister came to me and said, "The doctor says that this is the last day that my wife has to live." I said, "Oh, Brother Clark, why don't you believe God? God can raise her up if you will only believe Him." He replied, "I have looked at you when you talked and have wept and said, "Father, if You could give me this confidence, I would be so happy." I said, "Could you trust God?" I felt that the Lord would heal her. I sent word to a certain man and asked if he would come with me to pray for a dying woman, and I believed that if two of us would go and anoint her according to [James 5:14-15](#), she would be raised up. This man said, "Oh, why do you come to me? I could not believe, although I believe the Lord would be sure to heal her if you would go." Then I sent word to another man and asked him to go with me. This man could pray by the hour. When he was on his knees he could go around the world three times and come out at the same place. I told him that whatever his impression was, to be sure to go on and pray right through. We entered the house. I asked this man to pray first. He cried in his desperation and prayed that this man might be comforted after he was left with these little motherless children, and that he might be strengthened to bear his sorrow. I could hardly wait until he was finished; my whole being was moved. I thought, "What an awful thing to bring this man all this way to pray that kind of prayer!"

What was the matter with him? He was looking at the dying woman instead of looking at God! The Lord wants to help us right now to learn this truth and to keep our eyes on Him.

When this man had finished, I said to Brother Clark, "Now you pray." He took up the thread where the other man had left off and went on with the same kind of prayer. He got so down beneath the burden I thought he

would never rise again, and I was glad when he was through. I could not have borne it much longer. These prayers seemed to be the most out-of-place prayers that I had ever heard; the whole atmosphere was being charged with unbelief. My soul was stirred. I was eager for God to get a chance to do something and to have His way. I did not wait to pray but rushed up to the bed and tipped the oil bottle, pouring nearly the whole contents on the woman. Then I saw Jesus just above the bed with the sweetest smile on His face, and I said to her, "Woman, Jesus Christ makes you whole!" The woman stood up, perfectly healed, and she is a strong woman today.

May God help us to get our eyes off the conditions and symptoms, no matter how bad they may be, and get them fastened on Him. Then we will be able to pray the prayer of faith.

You can never pray the prayer of faith if you look at the person who is needing it; there is only one place to look, and that is to Jesus. Jesus is the Word. Look to the Word. Find the promise in the Bible and believe it. Speak the Word and act on the Word.

The scriptures tell us that the entrance of God's Word gives light. It gives understanding to the simple. Putting that together with Proverbs 20, we find that His Word must enter into a person's spirit before it can bring understanding to his or her simplicity. **Romans 8:29** tells us that God foreknew and predestined us to be conformed into the image of His dear Son. We are not going to end up the way we are now! God is not through with us. He is going to brood over our lives. He is going to speak His Word into our lives. And before He is through with us, we are going to change! Old things are going to pass away, and we are going to accept new things! We are in a transitional mode, and before God is through with us, we will be transformed by the power of the living God! Glory to God!

God has predestined us to be conformed to the image of His dear Son. That means, you are to be just like Jesus. Many people think when we all get to heaven, we will be just like Jesus. Well, that is true, but the sad thing is, you won't cast out any devils in heaven. You won't raise the dead in heaven. You won't heal the sick in heaven, and you won't get anyone saved in heaven. If you want to be like Jesus, you should start right here and now.

God's Word comes into your spirit to give understanding and revelation so your spirit man, your heart, can say, "Yes, I can see that. Yes, I receive that." And your heart knows the truth. The Bible says, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

That means, you will be free from what you used to be. We used to be in a fallen state. Now we are victorious children of God. We used to be inferior, bound up, imprisoned, and insignificant when we faced the mountains and the challenges of the world. Now, we overcome and move those mountains, because the truth has set us free from what once held us hostage!

Romans 12:2 tells us to be not conformed to this world, but be transformed... That word implies a metamorphosis. That word takes you from the place where you used to be a worm or a caterpillar to a place where you are transformed into a beautiful butterfly. That word is a literal, outward manifestation of an inward miracle. How does it happen? God said, ...be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.. Or your thinking. That means, as a man thinks in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7). You can be changed by what you think!

Do you know that every word that proceeds out of your mouth has initially been thought of in your heart? Isn't that what the Bible says in Proverbs 23:7? For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he... The Word of God also says, ...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Matthew 12:34. That means, what a person meditates upon, he eventually speaks out. If he thinks murder, he talks murder. If he thinks theft, he talks theft. If he thinks filth, he talks filth. That means, a man's words are an audible manifestation of his heart's silent meditation!

God's Word became a visible incarnation that sowed the seed, revealing His heart's meditation. This means, the Bible encompasses the thoughts of God on paper! God has made available to man His thought life as well as His plans! Why? Because what you meditate upon is spirit and life when it is from God; but it is spirit and death when it is from the devil.

The Word said concerning God's intentions for you: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature... 2 Peter 1:4. That means, God's promises must come into your spirit. Then your spirit must see that light, think upon

it, meditate upon it, and believe it. Before long, that promise begins to fill every part of your spirit. It is a miracle in the making!

It gives you a vision about who you are in Christ, what God holds for your future, and how many angels are working with you. Do you know we outnumber the devil and his demons? When we meditate on God's promises, they fill us with the very power of God; then, when we speak them, our words pack the same power to bring God's will into manifestation.

When we give our lives to Jesus and forsake our old ways then we have walked away from the realm of darkness, and we have tapped into the realm of light. We can now know, have, and think the thoughts of God. How? If we put His Word in our heart, we have just put His thoughts in our heart. If we put His promises in our spirit, we have just put His ways in our spirit. The Spirit of God says, "For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?" We have! "We have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:16. What does God's mind think? God's mind never thinks defeat. He never worries about the devil for a moment. He never worries about heaven being overthrown, and He never worries about paying His bills. God's mind always thinks in line with His creative Spirit.

PRAYER OF HEALING:

Jesus was a Holy Ghost man just like I can be. He was a man of authority, and He gave me His authority. I release the power of the Word of God through my life and my spirit, and I say yes to the thoughts of God. I will not fail. I am a miracle in the making!

Healing is available for me today. Miracles are available for me today. Power is available for me today. I draw on these things. I receive these things. I expect these things to build up in me and give me the ability to overcome the storms of life, the mountains of opposition, and the obstacles of the adversary.

When I pass through the storm waters, I will not be overcome! I will say to the wind and the waves, "Be still!" I am not going to stand before my mountain as if my hands were tied. I am going to say to that mountain, "Move out of the way, mountain!" I will not be hindered or stopped by obstacles that the adversary throws in my way. I will say, "Greater is He that

is in me than he that is in the world! Get thee behind me satan!” In Jesus’
Name! Amen!