END TIME PUBLICATIONS

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO YOU!

A TEACHING ON FAITH

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Why I Wrote This Book

I wrote this book because the Bible is different from every other book in the world.

When energized by the Holy Spirit, it becomes living and active.

Jesus said, *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.*

The Bible is food for man's spirit.

Throughout the teaching, you will observe that many Scriptures from the Bible are used. They are written out in full with the appropriate references given.

The great benefit of this is that the Word of God is being assimilated into the reader's spirit. And it obviously does away with the need of looking up references in the Bible simultaneously. It is not for a moment inferred that the Bible should not be consulted. Indeed, the greatest compliment you could pay any teacher is to check up on him. I most assuredly invite this. Please pay me the greatest compliment possible. Check up on me.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so.

This book should not be treated in a manner whereby it is read as quickly as possible and then discarded.

In several areas you will find Scriptures repeated. This is to reinforce a particular point.

The only method I am aware of sowing the seed of the Word of God into your life, of allowing the Holy Spirit to fuse it into your spirit, is by meditation and prayerful reflection. By meditation, I do not mean that you allow your mind to become blank, that you become vacant and stare off without purpose into outer space. Rather, meditation is simply thinking, reflecting, pawing over the word, musing.

Psalm 39:3 My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned; then spake I with my tongue,

By this means the Word is transferred from your mind to your spirit. It becomes part of you. From this database, the Holy Spirit can bring it to your remembrance.

Keep this principle embedded in your mind as you explore this material. You will receive the greatest possible assistance from God by doing this.

WHY YOU SHOULD READ THIS BOOK

This book will help you understand the Bible.

The Bible is a highly complex book, though its teachings can be clearly understood and completely mastered.

This book probes the depths of the human spirit as is evidenced by the word, DEEP.

The Spirit searches all things, yea, the DEEP things of God.

The word DRAW is used in connection with worship. The vital principle of, worship DRAWS God is explored here.

The Bible is like a diamond. It has many aspects and shades of meaning. This is important to under]stand in the correlation with the overall teaching of its contents.

We are told that, “Man does not live by bread alone, but by EVERY word that proceeds from the mouth of God

It is essential, therefore, that every word be embraced and clearly understood.

The teaching of the three, earthly, physical, temporary dwelling places of God is a vital aspect in the presentation of this book.

It is with great joy that NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO YOU! is presented.

It is anticipated that a great hunger for the Bible will emerge in every reader that digests these words.

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(a) To emphasise various points in the illustration, and:

(b) To consider the fact that next to the Holy Ghost, repetition is the best teacher.

About the Author

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The Seminar Series

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One Last Thing

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the teaching on Faith.

Faith is a major.

The Christian is saved by faith, he is baptised in water by faith, he receives the wonderful gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit by faith, he operates all the gifts of the Spirit by faith, he grows in God by faith.

Indeed, so vitally important is faith in the Christian's life that God declares, *"What is not of faith is sin."* **Romans 14:23**

The first thing we know about God is that He operates by faith!

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

I well remember the very first message I ever preached ..... "God is a faith God! Without faith it is impossible to please God. The only thing that will move God is faith. Have faith in God." That was 52 years ago. I still believe in the top priority of faith NOW, in fact, even more emphatically than when I first delivered this message.

Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God: for he that cometh to God must believe that he IS, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Faith is only real to God and the person who demonstrates it.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has much to say about faith.

The most important thing to understand about faith is that YOU have it!

Romans 12:3 God hath dealt to every man THE measure of faith. Observe the definite article, THE. All men are equally given the same measure. This includes you.

Natural faith is vastly different from saving faith.

Ephesians 2:8, 9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Understand that your faith is power, when activated into right believing. The

Lord Jesus Christ exhorted us to have faith in God!

Whenever, and wherever faith is preached, the Christian's spirit rises in response and is strengthened and encouraged. The preaching of faith, therefore, is a great necessity.

Nothing achieves and rewards like faith. Because this is so, faith should be majored in every local church: though it should be pointed out that the subject of faith should be held in a correct balance with all other teachings of the Word of God.

Proverbs 11:1 A false balance is an abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight.

True balance can only be maintained by emphasising WHERE and WHAT God emphasises, weighting the teaching in like manner as God does.

Remember, the teaching of faith is to be maintained within the confines of ALL other truths and principles of the Bible.

Though it is evident in some circles of the Body of Christ, the teaching of faith is taken to extreme, at the expense of the overall teaching of the Holy Scriptures, the glaring fact remains - FAITH IS A MAJOR!

This teaching earnestly endeavours to treat the subject of faith in a comprehensive manner. All related material will be considered: all aspects of faith will; be taken into consideration.

Special mention needs to be made in reference to the TRIALS OF FAITH. Oftentimes, when storms assail the Christian, (and they will), should he fail, fall short, go under, or become devastated, he is told that the reason for this is that he simply does not have enough faith. This attitude can be extremely hurtful to a new Christian. Nothing could be further from the truth.

There are times when I have felt that I have been full of faith and the answer was NOT forthcoming. On the other hand, there have been times when I was weak in faith and God has shown His hand and come through.

Through it all, I have adopted the position that every follower of Jesus should HOLD ON! Even should you find yourself going down in a blaze of glory, NOT RECEIVING THE PROMISE: I'd rather fight to the end, that resign myself to fate.

Have you failed in faith? Many before you have trodden the path you now tread.

Hebrews 11:35-39 "Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:"

Consider well, take to heart the underlined words. Meditate upon them and the people to whom they are applied. Consider God's testimony of them - the world was not worthy to have these masters of faith grace it!

Can't you hear some so-called "faith preacher" screaming, "These people have no faith. These people are failures. They can't even believe God for a decent suit of clothes to put on their back. Look at me! I demonstrate my faith by my works. Look at my car. Look at my home. Look at my bank account. And to top it off, look how fast our church is growing and how many thousands are in our congregation.

Whose testimony will you accept? God's or man's? Will you endeavour to please men or God?

Consider well the placing of the verses referred to above! They appear at the apex of the faith chapter. Are these the real heroes of faith?

Take it to heart. Think! Would any dare to raise their voice and assert that these exhibited a lack of faith - specifically in the light of God's testimony of them.

Let this same "faith preacher" minister on these verses from the height of the faith chapter of the Bible. I for one, would certainly like be in attendance.

You see, the distinguishing factor between a winner and a looser is that a looser only knows what to do when he wins. A winner, on the other hand, knows what to do when he LOSES!

In the lesson entitled, "The Trials of Faith", I will relate certain tragedies of faith that I have experienced in my Christian walk with the Lord Jesus. And yet, can they be correctly be termed tragedies - for they have wrought something in my life that nothing else ever could have. They have fashioned in me a determination, a desire, a perseverance, a persistence, a will to win - a fighting back - never to quit, never to give up - NEVER!

Hold on, my Christian friend. You will win some, and you will loose some in the real life of faith. Welcome to the real world. Welcome to the balanced teaching of faith.

I would like to tell you of the personal experience of the teaching of the burnt offering - when something you dearly love is taken from you. But that must be included in the teaching on the Sacrificial Offerings. Suffice to say, "Can you really trust God, and praise God for something being taken you truly have your heart set upon? Can you praise God when you see it go up in smoke? Can you rejoice in the ascending smoke of the burnt offering?"

The key lesson to be learned in all of this is to KEEP GOING. Never quit. Never give up. NEVER.

I'd rather die in the attempt, than sit smugly in the easy chair of inactivity.

I'd rather go down in a blaze of glory, than seek the false security of lukewarmness.

I'd rather die in "faith, not receiving the promise of God," than resign myself to the uneasy mediocrity of the status quo.

Better to attempt and fail, than never attempt at all!

Norman Grubb, writing the biography of C.T. Studd, the mighty, missionary statesman to Africa records, "Attempt great things for God. Believe big things from God."

The powerful evangelist, D.L. Moody, declared, "For years I prayed for faith, but somehow it eluded me. I opened the Bible and began to read, and faith has been growing ever since."

My Christian friend, have faith in God! If your faith in Christ has been negatively affected through a variety of reasons, then this teaching is for you. Allow this season of refreshing in the Word of God to rebuild faith in your life.

Allow the Holy Spirit to rekindle the faith you once knew; allow this time together to be a clinic that will renew your faith, like the majestic eagle renews his strength day by day.

May there be an increase of faith in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 1. WHAT IS FAITH?

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

Faith is substance, not some ethereal nothing, some vague, nebular abstract.

Faith is evidence of unseen things.

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The unseen world, the unseen things, are more real than that which can be seen. Not only so, but the unseen realm is eternal, it is permanent.

For example, electricity, magnetism, gravity.

Hebrews 11:1 *Amplified Version* 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 the assurance. Faith affirms that it is true when there is no physical evidence or manifestation in the natural realm. Faith is its own evidence. Faith is its own confirmation.

Faith is the title-deed. You may own a piece of property, and though having never ever seen it (knowing it exists because you have seen its physical characteristics), it is yours. The title-deed declares it is so. So it is with faith. Faith declares it is so, though having never seen the physical evidence.

Faith is the confirmation. The promise requires no confirmation, Faith is the confirmation. Faith is the proof (of things not seen) Faith is the conviction of their reality.

Now follows the greatest definition of faith that I have ever heard:

FAITH PERCEIVES AS REAL FACT THAT WHICH IS NOT REVEALED TO THE NATURAL, PHYSICAL SENSES.

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

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

Hebrews 11:7 By faith he (Moses) forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Four Types of Faith

1. *Natural Faith*. You sit in a chair, believing that it is going to support your weight. You enter a bus believing that you will arrive at your chosen destination.

It is faith that is generated in the human mind, it is mental assent. We believe in God because of abundant evidence on every hand. We believe in the historical Christ, for history is pregnant with His life.

James 2:19 *Thou believest there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

2 Thessalonians 3:2 *And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men for all men have not faith.*

2. *Saving Faith*

Ephesians 2:8, 9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Romans 12:3 *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

Romans 10:9, 10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

John 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*

3. *Fruit of the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*
Should be more accurately translated faithfulness!

This is the ongoing, developing, growing faith that is found in every maturing Christian.

4. *The Gift of the Spirit*

1 Corinthians 12:9 *To another faith by the same Spirit:*

This type of faith is treated fully in Section 7.

FAITH IS IMPERATIVE FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN

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

2 Chronicles 16:9 *For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.*

Can only be an attitude of faith. God is a faith God. This is what He responds to. It is faith alone that creates the channel for God to meet man. Faith is of the human spirit.

When we say I can feel God, I am aware of His presence, it is in the spirit that this takes place.

THE WORD FAITH IS A NOUN The believer's faith must be activated, doing (word) into believing (verb), otherwise it remains passive, dormant.

FAITH IS BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD

(a) *Logos* The Bible. The general, overall word of God. The Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:11-13,16 *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called the Word of God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

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

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

Psalm 119:105 *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

Psalm 119:130 *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

(b) *Rhema* A quickened word. A specific word ignited in the believer's spirit by the Holy Ghost. A word made alive. A word living, generating faith to receive from God, irrespective of conditions and circumstances.

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

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged word, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words*

that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

INGREDIENTS OF FAITH

Risk Desire

Visualisation Imagination

Timing

The Satanic Bible Anton La Vey

.

Eastern Religions Positive Thinking

Irrespective of what both man and the devil conjure up, there are spiritual, eternal elements of faith. Regardless of what counterfeit measures have been taken by the opposing forces, faith remains FAITH!

Without it man can NOT please God.

Faith in God is absolutely dependent on the Word of God.

KNOWLEDGE

Luke 11:52. *Woe unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.*

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

Isaiah 28:9, 10 *Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little:*

COMPONENTS OF FAITH

Romans 10:8-10 *But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Mark 11:23 *For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

Believe	Confess
Heart	Mouth
Righteousness	Salvation

Like two halves of an apple. Both are vitally necessary. One cannot be emphasised at the expense of the other.

Profession.

Hebrews 3:1*Wherefore holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession (*CONFESSION), *Christ Jesus;*

Hebrews 10:23 *Let us hold fast the profession (*CONFESSION) *of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised:)*

CHAPTER 2. HOW FAITH OPERATES

THE LAW OF FAITH

Romans 3:27 *Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay; but by the law of faith.*

Faith works according to well defined laws, exactly the same as electricity, magnetism, aerodynamics, gravity, etc.

By not understanding this, and how the law works, it is possible that the Christian is merely existing, that he is not living (a life of faith), and violation of the law could be the reason for his weakness, ineffectiveness, failure and impotence in the Christian life.

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

Hearing - the act, sense, and instrument of hearing, the ear. Something that is or may be heard.

What a person listens to affects his believing and consequently his life. Negative words will cause faith to plummet. Positive, faith building words, like the word of God will cause faith to soar, to expand, to explode.

The statement, what you eat today, walks and talks tomorrow, is equally applicable in the spiritual realm. It is because this is so, negative words, evil reports, criticisms, rumours, must be screened, and in the majority of cases be totally and consciously rejected.

The Bible teaches that every person has two sets of ears. These are his natural ears and the ears of his spirit. It is through the latter pair of ears that words reach and affect a person's spirit, both for good and for bad.

Matthew 13:14 *.....By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand.... For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing.....*

This means the people could not understand what was being spoken.

Galatians 3:2, 5 *This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*

Hebrews 5:11 *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.*

2 Timothy 4:4 *And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

The human spirit is akin to a computer. That which is fed into it, is stored into its memory. This knowledge, thus accumulated, is used as a basis for making future decisions. In light of this, how important is it to screen that which is fed into the spirit.

Mark 4:24 *And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear. With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you; and unto you that hear shall more be given.*

In one of our meetings in 1961, (fifty-three years ago), a man came forward to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He was quick to explain that he had real doubts, had been prayed for many times before, and that he wasn't sure if this was the right time for him to receive. The evangelist laid hands on him. He spoke in tongues immediately His doubts were in his head. In his spirit, he obviously wanted to believe, and did so, releasing his faith at the point of contact of the laying on of hands. You see, faith is not of the human mind, but of the human spirit. His doubts were NOT in his spirit. This is why he received, although his mind was not ready to understand what had happened.

Jesus explained the same thing.

Mark 11:23 *For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have what soever he saith.*

Unbelief in the mind is irrelevant. Unbelief in the spirit is totally devastating and will rob a person receiving from God every time.

When we understand, that understanding shall increase. When we do not understand, that is taken away from us, even which we think we have.

Mark 4:25 *For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.*

Matthew 11:15 *He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

This phrase was only ever uttered by the Son of God Himself. It was spoken 14 (2x7) times. Perfect witness.

Matthew 11:14 *John the Baptist is Elijah.*

Matthew 13:9 *The Parable of the Sower.* (**Mark 4:9, Luke 8:8)**

Matthew 13:43 *The explanation of the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares.*

Mark 4:23 *Putting a lighted candle under a bed.*

Mark 7:16 *From the heart proceed the issues of life.*

Luke 14:35 *He that forsaketh not all that he hath, cannot be my disciple.*

Revelation 2:7,11, 17, 29. 3:6,13, 22 Once to each of the seven churches, at the conclusion of Jesus' message.

Revelation 13: 9 The reign of the Antichrist.

Take Heed to HOW ye Hear.

Luke 8:18 Again, the like programming of a computer. Emphasis

2 Timothy 4:3 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

2 Timothy 3:7 *Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Luke 24:45 *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,*

Luke 9:44, 45 *Let these savings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men. But they understood not this saying,*

and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.

Matthew 11:25 ..... *thou has hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.*

Isaiah 42:20 *Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.*

Matthew 13:15 ..... *and their ears are dull of hearing.....*

Matthew 13:19-23 *When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart.....the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he no root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.....he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful ..... he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit .....*

Mark 4:13..... *know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?*

Our understanding of any parable is based upon this, the parable of the sower. It is primary. It is fundamental. Without its understanding, we can proceed no further. Therefore, seek to master it. The key is hearing the word of the Lord; that is, understanding it.

Remember, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. This is the heart of the parable of the sower.

Amos 8:12 *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.*

Notice very carefully what God says. He does not say there will be a famine of the word. There is an abundance of certain aspects of the word of the Lord everywhere. Itching ears. Ever learning, and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

No! The famine is in HEARING the words of the Lord. (Understanding). Not just some of the truths of the word, but all the truths - THE word.

Matthew 4:4 .... *man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

The famine is here now. It surrounds you. The desire for the Word of God among His people is appalling. They simply cannot hear. Hearing the Word of God is what generates faith!

John 8:43, 47 *Why do you not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.*

These were the Jews, our Lord was addressing. They could not hear it. Many of His people today are exactly the same.

John 6:60 *Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?*

John 10:3,27 .... *.the sheep hear his voice My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they foIlow me:*

Matthew 15:10 *And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand:*

Mark 4:33 *And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.*

Mark 8:17, 18.....*perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? And do ye not remember?*

Luke 8:1 .... *they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*

John 16:12 *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.*

Matthew 16:11,12 *How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the*

leaven of bread, but of the DOCTRINE of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

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

Through faith we understand!

2 Peter 2:12 ..... *speak evil of the things they understand not.....*

A marvellous key to human nature. Watch when people speak down - they do not understand.

Acts 8:30, 31.....*Understandest thou what thou readest?...how can I, except some man should guide me.....*

l Samuel 25:3..... *she was a woman of good understanding....*

1 Kings 3:9 *Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.*

1 Chronicles 12:32 *And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; .....*

Proverbs 4:7 *with all thy getting get understanding.*

Luke 2:47 *And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.*

Matthew 13:51, 52 *Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. Then he said unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.*

Luke 2:50 *And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.*

And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

John 8:27 *They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.*

John 10:26 *But ye believe not, because ye are not my sheep, as I said unto you.*

CHAPTER 3. ENDURANCE

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Patience - endurance to things or circumstances, longsuffering. It refers to the quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial. Constancy.
It is translated in the KJV as enduring, patience, patient continuance, (waiting).

The English word is derived from the Latin, indurare, to make hard. To bear, to suffer with patience, to submit, to last, to continue in the same state, to remain, capable of sustaining, continuance, fortitude.

Patience - Latin patior, I suffer or endure. Enduring trials without murmuring or discontent, persevering, calmly diligent.

Notice that faith alone is insufficient to inherit the promise of God!
Hebrews 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Hebrews 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Matthew 24:13 But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved.

Hebrews 6:15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.

Hebrews 12:2, 3, 7 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and set down at the right-hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son

is he whom the father chasteneth not?

2 Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 13:10.....Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

James 1:3, 12 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Romans 2:7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Romans 5:3, 4 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

1 Corinthians 13:7 Love.....endureth all things.

I Chronicles 16:34 O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever.

This phrase occurs 40 times in the Bible! 40 is the number of testing, trial, affliction.

IMPORTUNITY

Luke 11:5-13 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask

bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

The time is midnight - this day! The need is three loaves: spirit, soul and body - the total man being made whole.

The door is shut -don't disturb me. The neglected opportunity.

The need will be met - not because of relationship - but because of persistence, determination.

The same is true in Delilah's relationship with Samson: she pressed him daily with her words!

The continual dropping of water wears away a stone.

Importunity - impudence, recklessness, audacity, shamelessness, disregard of considerations of the man making the request. One who knows no restraint, no deference, imprudent in his relationship with others.

Derived from the Latin, importunus, inconvenient, troublesome. To press or tease again and again with the same request; to urge with unceasing application. Pressing or incessant application for a claim or favour.

How many people, in illustration of this vitally important concept of the Christian life, received the baptism of the Holy Spirit the first time they were prayed for? Perhaps it required many requests of the Lord. This is precisely what Jesus is making reference to here. (This is only the third experience in the Christian's life of faith.)

Luke 18:1-8 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint. Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came to him saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this woman troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto

him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth.

Faint - related to moral behaviour. Desperate. To fail, be weary.

Troubleth - the weariness experienced as the result of effort.
I will give her whatever she requests to get rid of her. She is driving me up the wall with her persistence. Give her what she wants and get her out of here. There is nothing worse than a persistent woman.

Will God "come through" in the end? Absolutely! Each and every time. He will bear long with His people, hence the need for importunity.

Will there be faith on the earth at the second coming of Christ? The pessimists roar NO! - things are going from bad to worse, there is a great falling away.

The correct answer is YES! When Jesus comes again there will be a people on the earth, exhibiting a positive, aggressive, dynamic faith!

Matthew 15:22-28 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel, Then came she and worshipped him saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

There is no greater example of importunity than this. This woman would not, and could not, be swerved from her one major objective - the healing of her daughter. She would allow nothing to sidetrack her.

She faces rejection head on, on four specific occasions; three by Jesus Himself!

How many modern believers would wilt at the first rebuttal. Discouraged, they

walk away claiming, "It is not God's will to heal my child." "God will do it, if it be His will, in His own good time. His own good time."

This is NOT faith. There is certainly no demonstration of endurance, overcoming resistance. What we often observe a caving in, a giving up. Where is importunity? Where is the will to win? Where is deep-rooted desire not to take NO for an answer?

What is the reason for all this? People simply don't know what they want! When they claim they do, they are often "put off" at the first sign of opposition.

Hang in there. Fight back. Demonstrate importunity - and the answer will be yours.

1 Kings 18:41-46 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said,There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass in the mean-while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Go again seven times. What would have happened if Elijah had only prayed once? What if he adopted the attitude of,' Ask God, then praise Him for the answer?' 'I just confess the answer by faith.' 'I'd better give up, nothing has happened after I have prayed once.' 'Perhaps God has changed His mind.'

These are all crocks - they are lame ducks. At best they are very poor excuses for unbelief.

Hold on. If the answer doesn't come the first time, then ask the second. And if it doesn't come the second, go the third, etc. Keep going until!

Remember, you are no different to Elijah.

James 5:16-18 ....The effectual fervent prayer of availeth much. Elijah 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.

Effectual, fervent and availeth. Greek, energeo, to be active and energetic, to prove oneself strong, to effect. Has reference to the inspired prayer of a righteous man enacted by the operation or the energy of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ, you are as righteous as God is righteous. Like Abraham your righteousness is of faith.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Romans 4:3, 5, 9, 13, 14, 16 ..... Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.....for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. For the promise, that he should be heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise is made of none effect. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed;

Galatians 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Your position of righteousness is not influenced by what you feel, but rather by the clear declaration of the Word of God.

Righteousness is the ability to stand before God, the devil or your fellow man, without any sense of guilt, condemnation, lack of any kind, inferiority complex, or fear. This must be a wonderful thing. Indeed it is. This is what Jesus has made you. This is what He has done for you. Believe it. Confess it. It is yours.

Genesis 18:32 And he said, let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

Fifty - Forty-five - Forty - Thirty - Twenty - Ten

Abraham kept on asking!

Genesis 32:26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Deuteronomy 9:18 And I fell down before the Lord, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger.

Judges 16:16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; That he told her all his heart ....

The continual dropping of water wears away a stone. Persistence, consistency, determination. It wins, in the end. Every time!

2 Kings 4:30 And the mother of the child said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.

2 Kings 2:2, 4, 6, 9, 10 I will not leave thee....I will not leave thee.....I will not leave thee.... Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

The condition of the double portion? Seeing Elijah when he is taken from Elisha. This is a hard thing. It shall be, if you see me.

Elijah, deliberately, on three occasions tried to dissuade Elisha from his major objective in life (Notice, it was not the devil that was resisting him). The condition is that he must see him - and yet - this Elijah endeavours to thwart his purpose. Elisha could not be put off for his eye was single. After all, he had waited 14 years until this very point. Why should he let it all slip away now?

He got what he asked for.

Luke 22:44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Acts 12:5, 15, 16 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

PATIENCE

Ecclesiastes 7:8 Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Luke 21:19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Luke 9:62 No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

The believer must, keep pressing forward. If he is not doing this, he will fall backward. There is no such position of neutral in the things of God. Look at your natural hand - your reach has been designed beyond your grasp. So also, in the spiritual realm. If you are not reaching out, you are withering and dying.

The Apostle Paul makes reference to this.

Philippians 3:13, 14 .....but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Forget the past; no amount of remorse changes anything. Concentrate on this very thing. Concentrate on this one thing. Leave everything else alone. This one thing I do - reach forward - stretch - get in there - fight - persist - overcome: The victory is yours.

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able

to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Do it! Do it, NOW!

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession (confession) before many witnesses.

Jude 3. .....ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Men say, I want to see Bible miracles. God says, I want to see Bible faith. Bible faith produces Bible miracles!

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

Believing is going forward!

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

The most effective means of holding fast, holding what you have, letting no man take your crown - defence, is OFFENCE! Let us go on the offensive.

Faith is not passive - it is active. It is not defensive, it is offensive. It is not subdued, it is aggressive.

Jesus Spoke of Four Categories of Faith

l. Faith
2. Little Faith
3. No Faith
4. Great Faith

Balance of Faith and Responsibility

Your faith may be tested in the areas of finance. If you are not working and you are 'believing God to meet all your needs', you are in a state of imbalance. You have a responsibility to pay your bills. You have a responsibility to work. You

must accept the responsibility of paying your way. Get a job, pay your bills, and get out of debt.

SAYINGS

Your faith is power.

Never say die 'til a dead horse gets up and kicks you.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

A winner never quits, and a quitter never wins.

Never say die until hell freezes over.

Words are the thermometer of your faith.

Prayer is the key to heaven, but faith unlocks the door.

CHAPTER 4. CLASSIC EXAMPLES OF FAITH

The Book of **Hebrews, Chapter 11**, is known as the Faith Chapter of the Bible. In it is recorded the mighty works of the "Heroes of Faith."

Verse/s	
4	Abel
5	Enoch
7	Noah
8, 17	Abraham
11	Sarah
20	Isaac
21	Jacob
22	Joseph
23, 24	Moses
29	Children of Israel - Crossing the Red Sea
30	Children of Israel- Fall of the Walls of Jericho
31	Rahab
32	Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jeptha, David, Samuel and the Prophets
35	Women
36	Others

The Bible is full of deeds accomplished by men and women through faith. In fact, every believer is alerted to tremendous possibilities through faith.

Daniel 11:32b *...but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.*

ELIJAH

l Kings 18 21-39 *And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose ye one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under. And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. And EIijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran around about the altar, and he filled the trench also with water. And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of IsraeI, let it be known*

this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.

l Kings 17:41-46 *And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass in the mean-while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.*

JONAH

Jonah 1:17-2:10 *Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. For thou hast cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me roundabout, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me forever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God. When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord. And the Lord spake unto*

the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Jonah had received no direct word from the Lord on which to base his faith. He was not operating on the rhema, but rather the Logos; not the quickened, specific word of the Lord, but the general, written word of the Lord. This is great faith.

ABRAHAM

Romans 4:17-25 *(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

Quickeneth - to make alive: used mainly in the New Testament of raising the dead to life.

Dead - dead, spiritually and naturally; dead works.

James 2:20b, 26 *...faith without works is dead? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works (corresponding actions) is dead also.*

Romans 8:11 *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

Calleth - present continuous tense. Continually calling the things that be not as though they were.

Against hope - desire of good with the expectation of receiving it. Trust. Confidence. Security.

Believed - to believe; to have mental persuasion; to be of opinion.

So Shall Thy Seed Be - descendants collectively traced back to one ancestor; ethical, spiritual fellowship without reference to race; the seed of Abraham, through Isaac.

Weak - powerless

Deadness - mortify; the act of putting to death.

Staggered Not - Separation, to distinguish, decide, judge, discern, make a difference, make to differ, determine, contend, to doubt, dispute, divided in one's mind.

Unbelief - Faithlessness, uncertainty, distrust, a lack of trust in the God of promise.

Giving Glory to God - Recognition.

Being Fully Persuaded - To fill, to fulfill to thoroughly accomplish, to fill up, to be fulfilled, being established, end, reached goal, to confirm with the fullest evidence, be proved fully.

What He Had Promised - To tell, declare, announce message, summons, decree, public announcement, to promise beforehand, promise of assurance.

From the time of the giving of the promise until its fulfillment, 25 years elapsed! And when the promise was finally realised, Abraham was instructed by God to sacrifice it, to put it to DEATH. To this he was willingly obedient, knowing that God would have to raise Isaac from the dead in order to fulfill His promise to him. What a classic example of complete, perfect, Faith.

Genesis 21:12, 13 *And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called. And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed.*

Galatians 3:29 *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise!!!*

The promise to Abraham, is my promise. I need to show forth the faith of Abraham, to see its fulfillment in my life.

THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN

Matthew 15:21-28 *Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then she came and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*

Great faith. Resisted four times. Persisted. Finally came through.

1Timothy 6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

Jude 3 *...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

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

Consider what would have happened in this illustration if this woman had taken "NO" for an answer, if she had given up the first sign of opposition. Consider also where the opposition came from. Three times from Jesus and once from the disciples....God, and the people of God!!!

ROMAN CENTURION'S SERVANT

Matthew 8:5-13 *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 unto them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven: But the children of the kingdom shall be cast into outer darkness: and there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way, and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the self-same hour.

THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD

Mark 5:25-34 *And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of the plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*

This woman had no word from the Lord. She did not know if it was God's will to heal her, neither was she interested! Jesus never knew anything of the miracle until the woman touched Him and extracted the healing virtue from Him.

Again, this illustration shows the need to engage and overcome obstacles if we are to receive of the Lord that which we desire of Him.

JOSHUA COMMANDS THE SUN TO STAND STILL

Joshua 10:12-14 *Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of*

Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves of their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel.

This illustration shows the power of the spoken word of faith.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 Samuel 17:32, 40-52 *And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David and the man that bare the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest unto me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me,and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David unto the Philistine, Thou comest unto me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the hosts of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands. And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took out his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut*

off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw there champion was dead, they fled. And the men of Israel and Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.

THE PARABLE OF THE UNJUST JUDGE

Luke 18:1-8 *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, there was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Luke 11:5-13 *And he said unto them , Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

CHAPTER 5. UNBELIEF

Not NON-belief, (non-existent belief). The fact is, we are believing all the time, either positively or negatively, rightly or wrongly. Unbelief is having faith in the negative, having faith in the impossible, having faith in hopelessness. It is simply faith in reverse.

The ten spies, upon returning from searching the land after forty days, gave their report.

It was the negative aspect of the truth. They, and the people they influenced, (3 ½ million) died for their belief! That they reported the facts, there is no doubt - but their deduction from what their eyes (physical senses) saw, led them to make the wrong conclusion. Joshua and Caleb endeavoured to settle this rampant cancer, the most heinous of all sins (it excluded the people from the land of promise), but it had already taken hold. It was too late. The only hope for the future lay in extracting this element. The people had neither learned to walk by faith, nor to speak correctly with their lips. They died for this. Their belief, (UN-belief), had paid off!

2 Corinthians 5:7 *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*

Numbers 14:28,29 *Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you. Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness, and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me.*

Hebrews 3:7-19 4:1-12 *Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest. Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be*

hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end; While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, and of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus (Joshua) had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Rest of God - Not in observing a Day, But Receiving the Life of the Spirit.

Matthew 11:28-30 *Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Isaiah 28:11, 12 *For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.*

1 Corinthians 14:21 *In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.*

Speaking in tongues for ten minutes is the equivalent or better than a two week holiday!

JESUS MARVELLED TWICE IN HIS MINISTRY

(a) The faith of the Roman Centurion. **(Matthew 8)**

(b) The unbelief of His own people.

Mark 6:5, 6 *And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.*

Teaching the word of God is the remedy for unbelief. It is the only thing that will offset it.

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

D.L Moody said he sought faith in many and varied ways. Somehow the elusive substance remained continually out of reach. He prayed for faith, but faith never came. One day he opened his Bible and began to read. His testimony was that faith grew ever since!

TO BE EFFECTIVE,THE WORD OF GOD MUST BE MIXED-WITH FAITH

Hebrews 4:2 *For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*

THE POWER OF THE MIGHTY WORD OF GOD CAN BE RENDERED UNEFFECTIVE BY TRADITIONS

Matthew 15:1-9 *Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of*

Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded saying, Honour thy father and mother; and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus ye have made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Think about it! The power of unbelief has the ability to neutralise the word of God.

DOUBT

When the enemy attacks the believer, he does so through the avenue of his mind. He,(the devil), must move the Christian off faith (based on the word of God, and the believer's spirit), into the realm of the mind, (thinking, intellect, reasoning). When the Christian stays in faith, he becomes the complete master, the victor, the dominator of the devil. When removed from this solid, impenetratable fortress, he fails, listening to the subtle suggestions, inferences, nudgings, promptings, inspirations of the wicked one. No Christian is exempt from this satanic onslaught.

John the Baptist had real, haunting, severe doubts as to whether Jesus Christ was the Son of God! He had previously introduced him to the world as such.

John 1:29 *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

Matthew 11:2-5 *Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

That settled it for John. This removed all doubts. He understood the King working in His kingdom. He believed that the evidence of the supernatural attested to Jesus being the Messiah.

Peter, one moment spoke under the inspiration of God; in the very next, he found himself speaking that which came from the purpose of the devil.

Matthew 16:16, 23 *And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

Eve, understood in reflection after the Fall, that Satan's first stage in overpowering man, was to move him from faith to reasoning, from the realm of the spirit to the realm of the mind, from the word of God to human intellect.

Genesis 3:1-5 *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

It would have been quite ineffective to approach the candidate head on declaring, "Ye shall not die." But after removing the opposition from faith in the word of God, through the first stage of doubt, it becomes a completely different story.

Deliah knew that her confrontation to overpower Samson, the mighty deliverer , could not be accomplished in ONE, grand slam, operation. It required a four stage approach.

Judges 16:5 *And the lords of the Philistines came up to her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.*

v. 21 The ultimate goal - separation from God - putting out his eyes - destroying his vision.

Temptation works in the same manner. One thing leads to another, until the sin is committed, resulting in separation from God.

James 1:14, 15 *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust has conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death,*

The objective - death - separation from God!

DYNAMIC FAITH

You cannot stop the birds flying over your head, but you sure can stop them making a nest in your hair. In other words, you can't stop doubts, bad thoughts, coming in to your mind, but you can stop them from getting into your spirit. Do not give mind, do not meditate, don't give the time of day to fleeting thoughts. It is only when they become lodged deep inside you, that they can have any power. Remember, there is no sin in temptation. Sin only occurs when temptation is yielded to!

Mark 11:23 *For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea: and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

Doubt in the head is one thing. Doubt in the heart is a completely different thing.

God speaks to the heart. God convicts.

God is specific.

God says, "Do this, this is the way out, this is the answer."

The devil speaks to the mind.

The devil condemns.

The devil is general.

The devil says, "It is hopeless, you are condemned, there is no way out."

OTHER SCRIPTURES RELATING TO DOUBT

Matthew 14:31 *And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*

Doubt caused Peter to sink after having successfully walked on the water.

Matthew 28:17 *And when they saw him they worshipped him: but some doubted.* The Time of the Great Commission

Romans 14:22, 23 *Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

The believer is not to be double-minded, but is to have his mind fixed and stayed in the direction of his conviction.

James 1:6-8 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Make up your mind. Let your eye be single.

Luke 12:29 *And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.*

God will provide. You believe that. Stay with that belief. Don't become swayed to the contrary. Believe God. Believe this word of the Lord Jesus.

Doubt your doubts - believe your beliefs, strongly!

Romans 14:1 *He that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.*

Do not judge his doubtful thoughts.

Daniel 5:12, 16 *Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation. And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of*

gold about thy neck, and make known to him the interpretation.

What is needed in the modern day church is people like Daniel, people that have the ability to dissolve doubts - not create and sustain them.

PRESUMPTION

Taking God for granted. "It's O.K. She'll be right. God understands. He is a God of mercy."

Hebrews 11:29 *By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.*

The Children of Israel's actions were faith. That of the Egyptians was presumption.

Deuteronomy 18:20 *But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*

God-given criteria for judging prophets!

Psalm 19:13 *Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression..*

2 Peter 2:10 *But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.*

Numbers 14:40-45 *And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up to the place which the Lord hath promised: for we have sinned. And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the Lord? but it shall not prosper. Go not up, for the Lord is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies. For the Amalakites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the Lord, therefore the Lord will not be with you. But they presumed to go up unto the hilltop:*

nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and Moses,departed not out of the camp. Then the Amalakites came down, and theCanaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.

Deuteronomy 17:12,13 *And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the Lord thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.*

Numbers 15:30 *But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the Lord; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Because he hath despised the word of the Lord, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off his iniquity shall be upon him.*

Exodus 21:14 *But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.*

CONCLUDING SCRIPTURES RELATED TO UNBELIEF

Matthew 17:19, 20a, 21 *Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.*

Prayer and fasting is an aid to faith

Mark 9:23, 24 *Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*

Mark 16:14 *Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.*

The Great Commission. Jesus then sent these "unbelieving believers" into all the world.

Romans 3:3, 4 *For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest*

overcome when thou art judged.

Romans 4:20 *He (Abraham) staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief: but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;*

Unbelief makes a person stagger at the promise of God. Being strong in faith is that which overcomes unbelief.

Romans 11:20, 23, 30, 32 *Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again. For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.*

The grafting in of the Gentiles through the Jews' unbelief.

John 20:27, 29 *Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless but believing. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.* Believing without seeing is faith.

Psalm 27:13 *I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.*

The world says, “Seeing is believing!”

God says, "BeIieving is seeing."

1 Corinthians 6:6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

1 Corinthians 14:23 *If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?*

2 Corinthians 6:14, 15 *Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part he that believeth with an infidel?*

Luke 12:46 *The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for*

him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

Acts 14:2 *But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.*

1 Corinthians 7: 14, 15 *For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.*

Revelation 21:8 *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.*

CHAPTER 6. TRIALS OF FAITH

l Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 105:17-19 He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: Until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him.

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.... Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

This is an unfortunate and incorrect translation. The word means, test, prove, try. God has never tempted anybody. He never will.

> **Job 23:10** When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.
>
> **Revelation 3:18** I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire.....
>
> **1 Peter 4:12** Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you:

Consider Peter's second most difficult trial.

> **Luke 22:62** And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Wept - to sob, to wail aloud. Other Greek words have the connotation of crying silently.

Bitterly - violently, piercing, sharp, pungent, acrid.

His most difficult?

Luke 22:31, 32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Here is a test so severe, that the only means of bearing up in it, is the prayers of the Lord Jesus. There was nothing in Peter that could sustain him!

And yet, consider the fruit of this chastening of the Lord. It appears that the Peter of the Gospels and the man that wrote **l** and **2 Peter** are two different men. They are the same man - the difference, the development, the maturing, is the result of the trials of faith.

Remember, Peter said that we are not to consider that we are some type of speckled bird, or freak, because we may be experiencing soul shattering testing of our faith. No, no, no! We are simply experiencing the common lot of ALL Christians.

The purpose of God in all of this is not to destroy - but to shake us loose of every evidence of chaff in our lives! His chastening is to yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness in us.

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Psalm 17:3 Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

Psalm 18:30 .....The word of the Lord is tried.

Psalm 66:10 For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.

Zechariah 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried....

Malachi 3:3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer

unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

Matthew 3:11 … he shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Matthew 20:22, 23 … Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptised with the baptism that I am to be baptised with? … Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with.....

Matthew 9:28 Believe ye that I am able to do this?

Matthew 15:21-28 But he answered her not a word … Send her away, she crieth after us … I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel....It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs.....

Hebrews 11:36, 37 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented,

Tempt - to test, endeavour, scrutinize, entice, discipline. It is translated in the KJV assay, examine, go about, prove, tempt, try.

James 1:3, 12 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Romans 5:3 … knowing that tribulation worketh patience.

Tribulation - Latin, tribulum, an instrument for rubbing out corn, consisting of a broad beam of wood studded underneath with sharp pieces of flint or with iron teeth. That which occasions distress or vexation; severe affliction.

2 Corinthians 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

Proverbs 17:3 The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the Lord trieth the hearts.

Psalm 12:6 The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Daniel 12:10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried.....

GOD'S BUILDING

Isaiah 28:16 Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation.....

Luke 6:47-49 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream did beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Job 34:3 For the ear trieth words.....

Hebrews 12:26, 27 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more, I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of those things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.....For our God is a consuming fire …

Isaiah 59:19 When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.

Understand, that the same flood that validated the foundation of the one house, was the very same flood that destroyed the other. There were not two separate floods. God promises a shaking of all that can be shaken. Now is the time to get the foundation straight, to build in materials that will stand the test (of fire).

l Corinthians 3:9-17 … ye are God's building.....as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay, than that is

laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Mustard Seed Faith

Matthew 13:31, 32 The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Matthew 17:20 If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you.

Luke 17:5-10 And the apostles said unto the Lord, INCREASE OUR FAITH. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded of him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

When I first heard of mustard seed faith, I wanted to throw away all my current faith, and acquire this special type of faith at all costs. This is not the truth expressed by the teaching of mustard seed faith. The type of faith is insignificant. Notice the settings of the Lord very carefully.

It is least of all seeds. When it is grown. It is the greatest among herbs. Other people can shelter under its branches. If ye had faith as a grain of mustard

seed. Unprofitable servants. We have simply done our duty.

When in Israel in 1975, standing immediately outside Lazarus' tomb stood a mustard tree. It reached to a height of between 12 and 14 feet. At its base a number of cloves of mustard seeds could be found. Picking up, and examining a clove, the seeds became exposed. I was absolutely amazed. The size of each seed was unbelievably small. I estimated that it would require three or four seeds to cover a pin-head. The secret of mustard seed faith became unveiled. I would keep my faith, irrespective of what type it was. This is not the issue. The issue is size, like, as. Beholding, the great tree, and comparing it with the minute seed in my hand, I had the answer - from the Least to the Greatest!

How small is this seed. Vastly smaller than a carrot seed, beetroot seed, parsnip seed - and yet the growth comparison is unequalled, unparalleled, unrivalled.

What is the path necessary from the least to the greatest? The growth, the expansion?

DEATH

John 12:24 Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 15:2, 4-6, 8, 18 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye bemy disciples. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Notice the progression. Fruit - more fruit – much fruit. Pruning

Mustard seed faith is of no value locked in a glass container, sitting on a prominent place of the mantelpiece, for all to see. Crowing about faith is of no

value either. If the believer is to see an expansion of faith in his own life, he must make himself available to God, allowing Him to dig a hole and sow his faith (seed) in the ground. True faith will germinate, and push skywards, in an earnest endeavour to thrust through every obstacle standing in its destiny of producing much fruit.

l John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith

Jude 3 ..... ye should earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith.....

James 5:11 Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord.

The end of the Lord for Job was a double portion.

What a remarkable man Job was. We often refer to man having faith in God. Here the opposite is true. God is having faith in a man! He places His entire reputation in Job's hands.

Job 42:10, 12 And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

Remember, this is the man who said, "When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

Read the book of Job. Consider it well. Absorb its wonderful lessons of faith. Reflect on the fact that in his testing, God knew what was happening, Satan knew what was happening, but Job was quite oblivious to the overall stage of what was taking place. All he knew, was that one day he got wiped out, that is, except his life. What a remarkable lesson in the life of faith.

Psalm 77:19 Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.

For every three mountain top experiences, there are four valleys!

Song of Solomon 2:1 I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

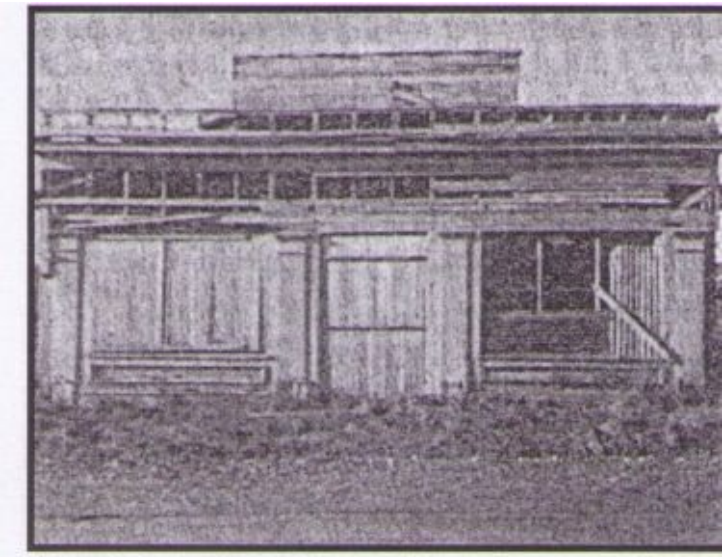
Genesis 22:1-3 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Matthew 3:9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

John 8:33, 37, 39, 40, 44, 55-58 … We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man....I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you....Abraham is our father.....If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father will ye do: he was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it....Yet ye have not known him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him and keep his saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Twelve Examples of the Trials of Faith in My Life

l. Purchase of the Orepuki Church



Would you have given $20 towards the purchase of this magnificent property?

In 1966, I negotiated an intent to purchase a property for a church. The rock-bottom price of the owner was $900. The land area was half an acre, situated one block back from the main road. It would have been a bargain, even at $900. I took photos of the dilapidated premises and sent them, together with my firm an final offer of $200 to the owner. I confidently expected an immediate answer. My expectation was greeted with silence. For three long weeks I waited. It seemed like an eternity.

In an effort to raise money for this project, I requested, "Who will give the first $20 to purchase this property?" I later heard that the feeling among some of the people was, "I'll give the first box of matches to burn it down!"

Finally the answer came, "Your offer of $200 has been accepted."

I carried out most of the initial renovations with my wife, Lois. As the project gained momentum, more and more people became involved. After twelve months of hard, persevering work, our efforts were rewarded. The building was officially opened in October of 1966.

While visiting the church, situated in a town of 150 people, in 1983, plans were under way to extend the main meeting area to accommodate 300 people! Twice the population of the town.

When we first went to Western Southland, several ministers retorted, "Who would ever want to go to that place? What if you ever wanted to leave, who

would go there to replace you?"

Praise God, after 54 years the church is still thriving!



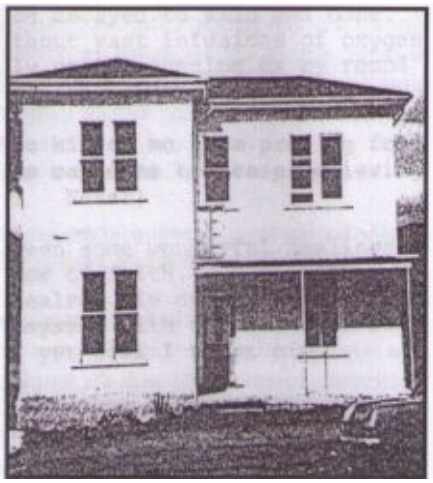
Here is what it looked like immediately prior to its dedication

2. Purchase of the Nelson Church

In an endeavour to purchase a home for our second church we pastored over a period of nine years, I experienced such disappointment that I felt I had been dealt a heavy blow in my stomach - I could feel it literally - it was so bad that upon leaving our solicitor's office, I grabbed hold of a parking meter in a desperate attempt to withhold myself from collapsing on the footpath. He had just greeted me with the words, "The building has been sold right under your nose. A local undertaking firm has bought it"

For several months I had struggled in earnest to acquire the Anglican Church offices and hall. It admirably suited our needs. One moment my faith would be running high, the next it would be dashed to the ground.

I could not believe the news. I have been greeted with other bad news over the years, but nothing ever affected me physically as that news did.



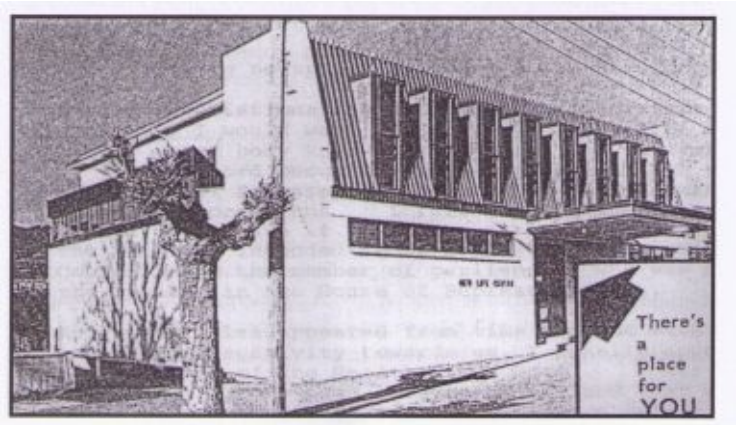
We finally purchased a building which the church recently sold. It has served its people well.

In this building I faced another major trial of the death of one of our finest Christian sisters, Bettina Smith. For many years this dear saint suffered with a disease called emphysema. The whole church spent time in prayer and fasting for her. She never recovered, but grew steadily worse. Loosing weight daily, she decayed to skin and bone. She could not live without vast infusions of oxygen. She died literally on the evening of my round the world trip in 1975.

Does this hinder me from praying for the sick? No! Does this cause me to cease believing in divine healing? Never!

I have seen some wonderful healings in response to the prayer of faith. But whether people are healed or not healed, die or don't die, to me is irrelevant. I align myself with the words of Job, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him."

Besides, God has given a promise that unique healings and miracles are yet to take place.



The Nelson Church Before and After

4. The Purchase of the King George V Memorial Health Camp

The following newspaper articles tell the story.

During negotiations for the acquisition of this property, I would walk all over the land (late at night, so nobody knew what I was up to), claiming it for the Lord Jesus Christ. I claimed each piece where every footstep touched. This was repeated on several occasions. I felt deep inside that God wanted us to have it. As the articles explain, the sale was intended to be blocked by both the City Council, and the Member of Parliament, who was also the Speaker in the House

of Representatives.

As the articles appeared from time to time with increasing negativity towards us, I finally approached the chairman of the Health Camps Board. I was greeted with, "Mr Lowe, please be advised that we are not a government department, and that we refuse to be manipulated by any outside force. The more pressure we get to perform in a certain area, the more our desire will increase to sell this property to you - and no one else but you! Please rest in this knowledge."

And still the negativity increased. And still I trod the land. I was in possession of a piece of information that never made the headlines.

I had inside information that neither the City Council nor the Government had access to.

If God before you, who can be against you.

My Christian friend, GOD IS FOR YOU!

The following two articles appeared in the Nelson Evening Mail on Friday, January, 18, 1974

[Emphasis Added]

Mr Whitehead Moves on Health Camp Sale

The opinion that the King George V Health Camp Board could well have consulted the people of Nelson on the possible future of the Stoke health camp before deciding to sell it to a **church organisation** was expressed in a statement today by Mr. S. A. Whitehead, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Nelson's M.P.

Mr. Whitehead today sent telegrams to the chairman of the board, Mr. A. C. Morcom-Green, in Auckland, and to the board's secretary, in which he says he received **urgent representations** from the Nelson City Council regarding the proposed sale of the camp site.

"I would appreciate an opportunity being made for consultations with the Minister of Health, the Nelson City Council and myself before negotiations are concluded," he said in the telegram.

In a statement today, Mr. Whitehead said he was **concerned with the**

proceedings in which the health camp board was disposing of the Stoke health camp.

“I understand the city council wishes to make representations and on its behalf I contacted Mr. R. Tizard, Minister of Health, this week, to **try and delay any possible final transaction** until interested authorities would be satisfied that the camp will be used in the best interests of the public,” he said.

MINISTER’S REPLY

“Mr Tizard telephoned me this morning to advise that he has made some enquiries but he has no authority to directly intervene in the matter. He said he was just as anxious as I am that a settlement is not made before the city council can make its representations to the health camp board.

“The Youth Hostels Association has made some enquiries regarding possible purchase of the property for its purposes but I am informed that it has not made a definite offer, whereas the **New Life Centre** has made an offer which is evidently acceptable to the board.

“There is no doubt,” continued Mr. Whitehead, “that any capital resulting from the sale will be used in some part of New Zealand for children’s health camp purposes, but I am firmly of the opinion that the King George Health Camp Board could well have consulted the people of Nelson, who contributed so much for the construction, maintenance and operation of the Nelson camp since its inception, before they decide to dispose of it as they propose.”

The five-acre health camp site has been used by the Youth Hostels Association for the past two years. The New Life Centre has undertaken to honour agreements made by the health camp board until March 31.

Plans beyond that date are tentative but consideration is being given to developing the area as a camping site for tents and caravans.

Completion date for the sale was to have been earlier this week.

Halt Called on Health Camp

The Children’s Health Camp Board is to be asked to **defer completion of the sale** of the Marsden Valley Health camp until the Nelson City Council has had an opportunity to consider the matter and to express any views it may have.

The camp is in the process of being sold to the New Life Centre, of nelson, a Christian interdenominational fellowship.

“Will we sufficient information about the conditions of the sale to take any **necessary action** before a sale is completed?” asked Cr. S. J. Marshall.

The town clerk, Mr. H. A. Levestam, replied: “I can assure the council that **everything possible** is being done, and at the highest level, to find out the **details of the sale**.”

The following article appeared in the same paper on January, 30, 1974

Health Camp Sold

The Marsden Valley Health Camp, which has been used by the Youth Hostel Association for the past two years has been sold to the New Life Centre of Nelson.

The chairman of the King George V Health Camp Board, Mr. A. C. Morcom-Green, said in a telephone interview from Auckland today that the five acres of land in Marsden Valley has been sold to the New Life Centre last Thursday.

He would not disclose the money involved in the sale but said it was a “satisfactory sum”.

The New Life Centre will not get full title rights to the land for a six-year period, during which time if they wish to resell the land, it must be sold back the Health Camps Board.

The Centre will also honour all previous agreements which the board had until March 31, this year.

The deputy-Mayor of Nelson, Cr W. C. Kane, and Mr. W. E. Cretney, acting as representatives for the Nelson City Council, met the Minister of Health, Mr. Tizard, and Mr. Morcom-Green last Thursday in Wellington.

Cr Kane and Cr. Cretney will report back to the next meeting of the city council on their meeting with Mr. Tizard.

Earlier reports of the proposed sale had caused some **concern** to committee members of the Nelson branch of the **Youth Hostel Association**.

They feared that the sale would mean Nelson would be without a hostel. However, the New Life Centre has said that it might possibly lease the site to the hostel association.

But there were no definite plans as yet by the Centre as to the future use of the land as it is considering various alternatives.

Mr. Morcom-Green said the land had been **offered to the Youth Hostel Association "but it turned it down".**

As far the Nelson City Council was concerned, he said **it was up to it to protect its own interests.**

The following article appeared on the front page of the Nelson Evening Mail, together with an aerial photograph of the property on Saturday, February, 23, 1974

Centre to Buy Health Camp

The New Life Centre, a Christian interdenominational fellowship, is in the process of purchasing the King George V health camp property in Marsden Valley. The price has not been disclosed.

The health camp, which embrace an area of five acres, is on lease to the Youth Hostel Association of New Zealand which has used it to meet the demand for visitors unable to be accommodated in the restricted space of its leased cottage in Sussex St in the city.

The pastor of the New Life Centre, which was established in Nelson four years ago, is Mr. A. J. Lowe. He confirmed that settlement date for the health camp purchase is tomorrow week, January 15.

The sale has meant problems for the Youth Hostel Association and it is operating on a day to day basis.

The lease on its Sussex St property will expire in September.

The chairman of the association's Nelson branch, Mr. M.A. Rodwell, said today

there had been no plans to negotiate a new lease on the Sussex St cottage from the Diocesan Trust as it had planned to expand the Marsden Valley premises.

But since the branch has learned that the New Life Centre in Nelson is purchasing the Marsden Valley grounds and does not know what its leasing policy will be in the future, Mr. Rodwell releasing the Sussex St property will have to be reconsidered.

One of the problems would be that the association would be responsible for upgrading one fire-retaining wall.

“The house just does not have the space to meet our needs by itself and could be uneconomic to upgrade in that light,” Mr. Rodwell said.

“It is very frustrating with everything being so indefinite at this stage and we can do now is live from day-to-day and hope for the best.”

(Background story page four)

Main body of the article following from the front page.

NCC Concerned About Health Camp Sale

The Nelson City Council this week registered its **disapproval of the secrecy** surrounding the sale of the King George V Memorial Health Camp in Marsden Valley.

The camp, with its buildings and **five choice acres of residential A zoned land**, was sold recently before the council was barely aware of negotiations.

This week the council expressed its concern that such property, to which there had been substantial financial support for many years, should be sold without any consultation with the local body or with local interests.

As far as the council was aware the property was not even placed on the open market where the best possible price might have been obtained.

When the council became aware of negotiations to sell the camp it dispatched its deputy-mayor, Cr W. C. Kane, and the assistant city treasurer, Mr W. E. Cretney, to Wellington to meet the Minister of Health, Mr Tizard.

Also in attendance was the chairman of the New Zealand Health Camp Board, Mr A. C. Morcom-Green, and the secretary, Miss J. G. Thurman.

At its meeting this week the council decided to release a **special report** which had been prepared on the subject.

The report said there were probably questions which would never be fully answered.

“As the financial settlement of the transaction took place on the day of the interview it was doubtful what could be done, but the information obtained in Wellington and Nelson confirms the council’s concern about the sale.

In Wellington:

“Neither the Minister nor the board chairman disputed the fact that the city had contributed to the camp and had a right to be kept informed of the position, but no valid reason was produced to account for the fact that the mayor’s written request had been ignored.

“The Minister summed up the position by saying that there had been a complete failure of communication.

“Only one real excuse was produced and that was the Mr C. J. Cox, who was the local representative on the board, should have kept the council informed, but as the chairman admitted that a Mr Cox was not a member of the board after it was reconstituted in the middle of last year, he would know nothing about the negotiations to sell the property.

“When this matter was raise with Mr Cox he stated that this was the first he knew of the mayor’s request, and did not know that the city had been asked to be kept informed in November 1972 although he was a member of the board at that time.

“Even though the board advised the mayor at that time that the camp would continue to operate on the present basis, and the position would be reviewed from time to time, the board had apparently already been **directed by Cabinet** to sell health camps which did not measure up to certain conditions, and Nelson was one of these!

“When the chairman of the board was asked in Wellington why the camp was sold, he said that it was costing the board $6,000 per annum to hold, and the capital monies could be used better elsewhere.

“Although that did not tally with the statement made to me by the local

committee secretary, Mr B. Cox, that the camp was at least breaking even, we could not dispute it.

“Mr C. J. Cox states that about 18 months ago, Cabinet directed that, unless a health camp was used for the whole year as a health camp, it was to be disposed of or sold.

“According to Mr C. J. Cox, the local camp showed an operating surplus of about $900 in the board’s financial year ended 1973, and should have shown a surplus again in the year ended 1974.

“The fact that it was not a financial burden on the board did not affect the position - as it was no longer fully used as a health camp, it had to be disposed of or sold, if possible, before March 31.

“It would be interesting to know the terms of disposal laid down by the Cabinet,” said the report.

One of the **most puzzling** aspects of the transaction was the very large variation between the valuations of the city valuer and the Government valuer.

The city valuer had valued the property for the Youth Hostel Association at **$40,000**, but had made a deduction of $16,500 due to the special nature of the property, and on the open market it would probably be fair to add this back, giving a value of **$56,500**.

The Government valuer made an up-to-date valuation of **$80,000** for the health camp board which wanted this price for the property.

This very substantial variation in valuations was brought up in Wellington, but no explanation was forthcoming.

The New Life Centre was apparently told that the board would not accept less that $80,000 for the property, and that someone else was interested in it.

As the New Life Centre did not have the cash to complete the transaction, the board disposed of the property to them for $80,000 under an agreement, whereby $20,000 is payable now, $30,000 in three years time, and the balance of $30,000 in six years’ time, with interests at 5 1/2 per cent per annum.

The real result of this arrangement is that, if the **depreciation** of money continues at its present rate as a result of inflation, the New Life Centre is

paying considerably less than the present figure of $80,000, probably **$50,000** to **$60,000** at present values, as well of receiving the benefit of a **very low rate of interest**.

“It is fairly obvious that the board had to give very generous terms to sell the property after the **withdrawal** of the **Youth Hostel Association**.

“The **real sale price** really amounts to little more than the figure stated by the city valuer.

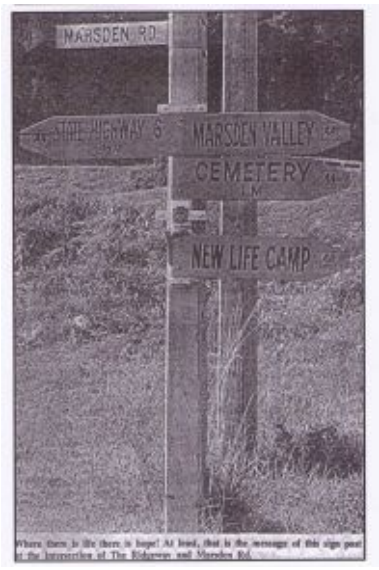
“**No satisfactory answers were obtained** in Wellington to two of the main questions - why the city was not kept informed of the position, and why the property was not offered at any stage to the local authorities who represent the local contributors and committees.

“The only conclusion that can be reached is that the board **had no intention** of doing either of these things and did not do them.”

With the publicity having been completed, the following photograph appeared in the Nelson Evening Mail on Wednesday,

May, 01, 1974

Front Page



Where there is life there is hope! At least, that is the message of this sign post at the intersection of The Ridgeway and Marsden Rd.

5. The Miraculous Healing of Susan Law

Susan had a long history of kidney problems. In a final effort to treat this chronic illness, she was admitted to hospital and placed on a kidney machine. Many times she reached death's door.

I was working on the camp buildings one Saturday afternoon when suddenly there appeared in front of me, the frame of a small woman. It was Erica, Susan's mother. Tears were streaming down her face. She was obviously very distraught about something. Before I could ask her what was the matter, she exploded, "It's Susan. She is so low the doctors have said there is no hope and she has been taken off the machine."

Then, gazing up at me, not uttering another word, a look came over her face that I have seen many times. "Can't you help me? Can't you do something? I don't want my little girl to die."

Reaching for those little hands, I prayed, "Oh, God, here is this mother crying for help. She wants her little girl to live. Your Son said, 'If any two will agree as touching anything they shall ask, it shall be done for them by my Father in heaven. 'Father, I ask that you will heal Susan. I blend my faith with hers. I believe God. Answer the cry of this mother's heart. Answer her faith. Let it be done in Jesus' name."

God miraculously answered this dual prayer. Susan Law was totally healed of her longstanding condition.

Sometime later Susan fell sick of another condition and subsequently died.

This threw me into a spin. God had performed a miracle. Now the girl had died. I struggled over this for a long time.

6. The Case of Joyce Stratford

A longtime friend of Erica's, Joyce had been a devout Christian for many years. She finally sold her home, putting the proceeds into the camp. She worked on staff at the church, fulfilling a long standing dream of hers. She finally lived with us.

Joyce was a fine Christian woman.

She contracted cancer, immediately lost weight, and plummeted to a very serious

physical condition. Though bright in her spirit, and believing that God was going to heal her, she did not improve, but rather grew worse.

At death's door, prayer and fasting by the church was made on her behalf. She did not improve, but finally died.

This thing is not over yet. A great contending fight must be made in an endeavour to see the faith that was once delivered to the saints restored to the church. We must believe God for a complete restoration of His healing and miracle power to the church. I believe as Joyce did. Believing God for healing right to the last. So we failed. Our faith was again severely tested.

7. The Establishing of the First Accelerated Christian Education Day School in New Zealand. (A.C.E.)

Realms of homework, miles of travel, and a testing of faith finally paid off in the establishing of this pilot programme.

The one great lesson learned here was - it all takes time!

We had the facilities (which needed some modification), God wonderfully provided a teacher, we had the required equipment, and agreed to make the necessary adjustments in the curriculum for it to be acceptable to the inspectors of the Education Department. (The inspectors were most helpful and provided assistance in every area).

A public meeting was called at which the mayor spoke. During the course of his address he observed, "When Mr Lowe decides to do something, he gets it done, doesn't he? I would like to see him stand for mayor in this city." To which I responded, "Amen!" He ignored my remark, so I followed up quickly with the political expression, "Here, here!" This immediately caught his attention. He leaned over the podium, stared into my eyes, "I intended this as a compliment Mr Lowe." I replied, "Then I accept it as one, sir."

I had been asked to stand for mayor in the area of our first church.

The school finally opened with 31 students. It subsequently became registered with the government and became a spearhead of both inspiration and government assistance to other churches desirous of commencing a similar programme.

Today the school has an enrolled body of 100 and a substantial waiting list.

The project was fraught with much testing of faith, but endurance, persistence, determination and perseverance paid off.

8. The Major Testing of Faith in My Life

It was in the midst of this hive of activity, and possibly related to the church we inherited because of all the pressure associated with it, I experienced the initial low.

When told by our solicitor, "You need to come up with $2,000. The only place you can get it is at Broadlands, at 18% interest." This was outrageous in 1970, especially in the light that the Health Camp Board financed our purchase of the camp at 5 ½ %. (They had considered interest free, and the Post Office Savings Account interest of 3 ½ %).

I came off that telephone very annoyed, to put it mildly. If I could have got my hands on that previous pastor, I would have killed him! Certainly beaten him up to within an inch of his life! [I subsequently spent a day with him many years later and am very happy to relate I felt not one ounce of animosity toward him. Father had worked His purpose in my life.]

The pressures increased in all types of areas. I found myself going under. Attacks against my mind increased with great regularity. How I kept going in those days I don't know. (Yes, I do - the Lord Jesus was praying for me that my faith fail not. I am totally convinced that this was the only factor that pulled me through) I felt so devastated, so alone. I even doubted if there was a God. I know it sounds terrible. Perhaps it shouldn't have happened. I was in open warfare with Satanic principalities and powers. This is my story. I must tell you how it happened.

My wife would ask, "What's going on inside you? What's wrong with you? What's happening to you?" All I could answer would be, "I don't know." I wasn't trying to put her off, or not want to talk about it. I simply did not know what was happening to me.

In reflection, it was a partial fulfillment of a prophetic utterance by Dr. A. Earl Lee in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, in 1967. "God's going to put you in the fire, you're going to go through some real deep trouble in New Zealand. You're going to find the power of the enemy, but God has to bring you down to your

knees to get that thing that He wants you to use, so He's going to let this happen to you very soon. You'll pray, "My God, deliver me." But He's going to let you go through it, because he wants the fire to burn inside of you. He'll give you authority over demons. You're going to have
a ministry for the sick, like you've never had, by speaking the naked word, and look into the hearts of people, but you're going to pay for it.....Your wife's going to wonder what's happening to you. She's going to ask God to take his hand off, and He's not going to take it off. We're going to hear from you. But your battle is in New Zealand.....

And far worse than this, I was contemplating suicide. Not simply thinking about it - but actually doing it.

Now remember, in all of this, I am not a new Christian, I am a Spirit filled minister. I had been in the ministry for (6 years when the prophecy was given) 10 years!

This is the school of life. No Bible School can prepare you for the ministry in this manner.

Oh, yes! I can identify with Peter. I no longer think it strange concerning the fiery trials that try the Christian. Oh, yes! I believe in the trials of faith.

I am glad those days are passed. I never want to face anything like that again, ever. If there is such a thing as a death experience, this certainly was mine.

9. Land at Carrindale

In 1981, I purchased a piece of land upon which I intended to build a house.

The financing of this purchase was quite remarkable … I bought the land with the developer's own money. We agreed that I would pay off the deposit over 12 months. (Value $18,000). This amounted to $150 per month. The property was in my name for two months when I sold it. It yielded a profit of $12,000!

But, you say, where is the testing of faith here?

The proceeds went into a project I was working on at the time. I believed God had given the money for the building of a house for our family. When I put the money into the project, I felt mean, like I had robbed my family of their home.

I remember looking southward out of the lounge ranch-slider, explaining to

God what had happened.

That day I vowed (silently) that I would make it up to my family. And I did.

10. Excess Baggage of $450

When departing the Brisbane airport in June 1983, I was greeted at the counter with the news, "You are overweight (baggage for 7 people) by $450. How do you want to pay for this, cash or credit card?" I didn't have anywhere near $450, certainly not to 'donate' to some airline. I would have used it when entering another country, but that is another story.

"Bring me your supervisor!", I ordered.

The reply was immediate, "What for, sir, to discuss the method of payment?"

"Never mind what I want to discuss. That is between me and the supervisor."

After 20 frantic minutes, the supervisor appeared.

He took one look at the tickets, one look at me and one look at the developing queue behind us.

Looking at his subordinate, he ordered, "Stop messing this man around. Put these bags through."

When he had gone, the attendant couldn't help adding, "When you get to New Zealand there is no way they will let this baggage through without paying the required excess."

We never did.

11. Entry Into Canada

In July, 1983, Debbie, Ron (son-in-law) and I, flew from New Zealand to Vancouver, Canada, on a one way ticket. I had $85.

The New Zealand authorities offered, "There is no way you will be admitted to Canada on a one way ticket."

"Never mind", I said, "Do what you have to do and let us board the plane."

He did.

I never considered what lay ahead of us until we left Fiji. Then I prayed and

believed God like my life depended on it, all the way to Vancouver.

Arriving at Canadian customs, our queue was being processed by a surly, elderly gentleman. Immediately prior to us passing through, he left his post and was replaced by a smiling, young woman. "That's odd", I thought, "in all my travels I have never seen that happen yet."

Now remember, when travelling to a foreign country you are required to have sufficient funds for three months, and either an ongoing or return air ticket.

We had neither.

The young woman never asked either of these questions.

"What is your occupation?" she probed.

“Minister of Religion."

"World Council of Churches?"

At that very time the WCC was conducting its annual conference in Vancouver.

"No ! "

"You mean there is another church?"

Now if we had to fly on the next flight back to New Zealand, I was going to tell somebody something before I left. I looked her right in the eye, waiting for what was to follow.

Stamping all three passports, she concluded, "Have a great stay in Canada."

And we did. But that also is another story.

Arriving in Canada, I had only one engagement. A camp meeting in Alberta. But from that we became associated with a church; Lois and the rest of the family joined us; and I had meetings nearly every weekend for 13 months.

God is good to His people.

12. The Purchase and Subsequent Loss of Our Motor Home



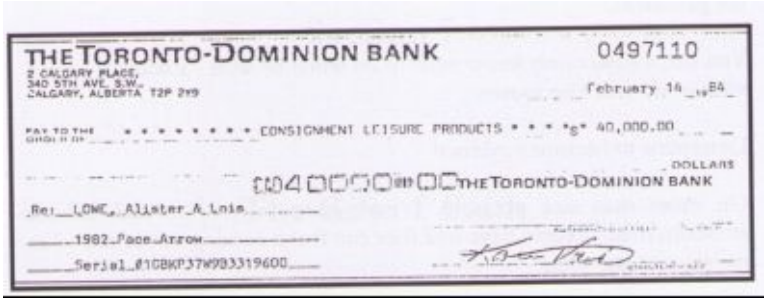
This magnificent vehicle was 34' long. It could be divided into four sections, a double bedroom, bathroom, shower and toilet, kitchen, dining table (convertible to a small double bed, and lounge. It slept seven people. It was equipped with stereo radio, cassette player and CB radio. The lounge (we installed it), was furnished with an air-
conditioner. The front seats were large captain's chairs. It had air horns, a generator, an 85 gallon water tank, two fuel tanks, a heater (central).....like I said, it was a magnificent vehicle.

Oh, what trouble we had trying to get the deposit together. The salesman, where we purchased it, said in all his years he had never seen anyone with their heart so set on something, and having such great difficulty in procuring it. ($20,000)

This surely was a great test of faith. I used to go down to the yard where it was located an sit in it hour after hour - oftentimes in 20+ below temperatures.

It was at this time a minister said to me, "I don't know if it's God’s will for you to have this motor home." I responded, "Did you hear that, Jesus, this man said he doesn't think it's your will for us to have this vehicle. I don't believe him. I believe you. You said that whatsoever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive, and you shall have it. I believe you. That vehicle is mine."

I had entered Canada with $85. I went to see the Loans Manager at a bank, asking God to give me favour with him. A friend of mine went with me. Remember, I only had a one way ticket and the visa was an extended visitor's permit. Here's the result of that interview. Praise the Lord!


THE TORONTO-DOMINION BANK 0497110
2 CALGARY PLACE,
340 5TH AVE. S.W.,
CALGARY, ALBERTA T2P 2Y9
February 14 84
PAY TO THE ORDER OF * * * * * * * * CONSIGNMENT LEISURE PRODUCTS * * * *$* 40,000.00
DOLLARS
THE TORONTO-DOMINION BANK
Re: LOWE, Alister & Lois
1982 Pace Arrow
Serial #1GBKP37W983319600

I have many fond memories created in that motor home. A different manner of living during the North American tour was experienced. I loved every minute of it. It was the vehicle of conveying some of the greatest years and moments of my life!

Then tragedy struck.

While domiciled in Southern California, I never had sufficient income to cover the payments on the vehicle. I had done everything in my power to avert the inevitable. With two payments in arrears, the bank repossessed it. Oh, I felt bad. A victory turned into defeat? There was nothing that could be done.

In the midst of this, the truth of the burnt offering was engraved upon my soul. Is it possible to praise God with a right attitude and a correct motive, when you lose something you dearly love? But this, too, is another story.

The End Result

My philosophy of life is very simple - Overcoming Obstacles.

In my experience - you win some, and you loose some. In my opinion, this is not the important point. You must keep going. You must never quit. You must never give
in, NEVER.

Earnestly seek to display the qualities of holding on, persistence, stickability, perseverance, determination, endurance, never giving up. Remember the race does not necessarily go to the swift, but rather to the persistent.

You see, a looser only know what to do when he wins - a winner, knows what to do when he loses.

Determine to become a winner!

On more than one occasion, I have been referred to and called, a stubborn man. People have said they can feel it coming out of me. Let me say just one thing:

NO ONE WOULD EVER HAVE TRODDEN THE PATH I HAVE TROD WITHOUT IT!

CHAPTER 7. THE GIFT OF FAITH

1 Corinthians 12:9 A GIFT of the Spirit. There is nothing a person can do to merit it. As its name implies, it is a gift.

It functions with, and is similar to, the gift of working of miracles. It is more in a passive function, as the gift of working of miracles is more spectacular. It is often required for the gift of working of miracles to operate.

The two gifts are seen in the following illustration in the life of the Lord Jesus.

Luke 8:22-25 The Storm at Sea

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy, And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying to one another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and the water, and they obey him.

The gift of faith - Let us go over unto the other side of the lake.

The gift of working of miracles - he rebuked the wind and the water, and there was a calm. The gift of faith cannot always be observed in its operation, whereas the gift of working of miracles always can.

The gift of faith is used at a specific time, and in a specific place.

I had 18 men come to my house while pastoring our first church. They roared at me, “We are going to throw you into the river." I was just as much at peace then, when they said this, as I am now.

On another occasion, after a water baptismal service, some men told me they were going to do the same thing. A like experience happened.

The gift of faith is often used in time of danger, when regular faith is insufficient.

Again, it is emphasised that this is a gift. It does not hold the operator in high esteem with God, neither does it stack up points with Him in earning His favour. It is purely and simply a gift!

EXAMPLES OF ITS OPERATION THE EARLY CHURCH

Acts 4:18, 23, 29-31, 8-10, 13 *And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done in the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and spake the word of God with boldness. Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God hath raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*

In this time of persecution, the Christian believers did not pray for God to keep them safe, or to take them home to heaven, but rather they prayed for a continuation of the same thing that had brought jeopardy of their lives, that had placed them in danger. They saw the boldness, the courage, the determination, the purpose of the believers. They heard them speak the word of God with boldness.

Here is a supernatural empowering of exceptional faith over and above that required for normal Christian service. Here is the gift of faith in operation.

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

Daniel 6:16-24 *Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him. Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said unto Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live forever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lion's mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God. And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into theden of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and broke all their bones in pieces or ever they came bottom of the den.*

JOSHUA AND CALEB

Numbers 13:27-33 14:21-24, 30, 35 *And they told him, and said, We came unto the land wither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. The Amalakites dwell in the land of thesouth: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. But the men that went with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants:*

and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkend to my voice; Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it. Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb, the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua, the son of Nun, I the Lord have said, I will surely do it to all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die. And the men which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the Lord. But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still.

PAUL AND THE VIPER ON MALTA

Acts 28:3-6 *And when Paul gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook of the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.*

LAZARUS

John 11:38-44 *Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that wasdead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou*

hearest me always: but because of the people that stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

The gift of faith became the vehicle for the miracle to happen: the gift of the working of miracles raised Lazarus from the dead, it was a miracle that he could stand on his feet, bound with graveclothes.

CONSIDERATIONS FROM HEBREWS 11

Long Range Faith

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

Isaac v 20 *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*

Children of Israel v 29 *By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.*

The Walls of Jericho v 30 *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.*

Abraham vs 17-19 *By faith Abraham when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it is said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called. Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from whence also he received him in a figure.*

The Prophets vs 33, 34 *Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

OTHER EXAMPLES OF THE OPERATION OF THE GIFT OF FAITH

Joshua: The Standing Still of the Sun **Joshua 10: 12-14**

David and Goliath: **l Samuel 17: 40-52**

Elijah: The Challenge of the Prophets of Baal

Note: The gift of faith operated at a specific place and a specific point in time. When the challenge was completed, Elijah ran from Jezebel, (one woman), and sat down under a juniper tree, dejected, despondent, full of despair, requesting that he might die. Had the miracle of fire from heaven been solely Elijah's faith he would not have found himself in this lamentable position.

1 Kings 19:1-4 *And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I not make thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

DELIVERANCE

Many times the gift of faith is required in releasing people from the demonic forces of hell, particularly those cases of longstanding.

GEORGE MEULLER:

(a) Fog bound ship

(b) Care and feeding of 10,000 orphans over a span of 50 years. Never asked for money or other support. Handled over two million pounds.

CHAPTER 8. JESUS AND FAITH

Specific References to Faith

Matthew 8:13 *As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.*
The Roman Centurion's Servant

Matthew 9:22 *Thy faith hath made thee whole.*

The Woman With the Issue of Blood

(**Mark 5:34, Luke 8:48**)

Matthew 9:29 *According to your faith be it unto you.*

The Two Blind Men

Matthew 17:20 *If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed.*

Nothing shall be impossible to you.

The Demon Possessed Boy

Matthew 20:32 *What will ye that I shall do unto you?*

The Two Blind Men

Matthew 21:21 *If ye have faith.....ye shall say to this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.*

The Barren Fig Tree
Mark 5:36 *Be not afraid, only believe.*

The Daughter of Jairus Raised From the Dead
(Mark 5:39, Luke 8:50, John 4:50)

Mark 9:23 *All things are possible to him that believeth.*

The Healing of the Demoniac Son

Mark 10:27 *With God all things are possible.*

The Rich Young Ruler
(Luke 18:8)

Mark 10:52 *Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.*

Blind Bartimaeus Healed

Mark 11:22 *Have faith in God.*

The Barren Fig Tree

Mark 11:23 *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 those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

The Barren Fig Tree

Mark 11:24 *What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye shall receive them, and ye shall have them.*

The Barren Fig Tree

Mark 16:17-20 *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; and they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.....they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord*

working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.

The Great Commission

Luke 7:50 *Thy faith hath saved thee.*

The Woman With the Alabaster Box

Luke 10:19 *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

The Return of the Seventy

Luke 17:6 … *if ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.*

Lord, Increase Our Faith DUTY

Luke 17:19 *Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.*

The Ten Lepers Healed

Luke 18:8 *Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?* YES!

The Parable of the Unjust Judge

Luke 18:41, 42 *What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? Lord, that I may receive my sight. Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.*

The Blind Beggar Healed

John 5:14 *Behold, thou art made whole;*

The Impotent Man Healed

John 9:7 *Go, wash in the pool of Siloam … He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.*

The Blind Man's Sight Restored

John 11:15, 23, 25, 26, 40 … *to the intent ye may believe … Thy brother shall rise again....he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?*

Raising of Lazarus from the Dead

John 12:44 *He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.*

Moral Cowardice of the Leaders

John 14:12 *He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

The Power of Believers

John 14:13, 14 *Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father might be glorified in the Son. If ye ask anything in my name, I will do it.*

John 14:29 *And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.*

Disciples Told Beforehand That They Might Believe

John 15:16 *....whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

Jesus' Friends (John 16:23)

John 16:24 *Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*

Prayer a Source of Joy

John 16:31 *Do ye now believe?*

The Disciples Believe

John 20:29 *… blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

Jesus' Statement to Thomas

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me....*

Spiritual Ability to Reach the World

Revelation 1:8 *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*
(Revelation 22:13)

Revelation 1:18 *I am he that liveth, and was*

dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Jesus the Conqueror of Death

Hebrews 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.*

Jesus the Source Point of the Believer's Faith

JESUS AND GREAT FAITH

Matthew 8:10 *Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*

The Centurion's Servant Healed (Luke 7:9)

Matthew 15:28 *O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.*

The Syrophoenician Woman

(Mark 7:29 *For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.)*

Luke 11:8 *Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of*

his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

Perseverance

Luke 18:3, 5, 8 *Avenge me of mine adversary. I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me....when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*

The Parable of the Unjust Judge

Luke 23:46 *Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.*

THE ULTIMATE STATEMENT OF FAITH. THE TOTAL COMMITTAL OF ONE'S WHOLE BEING TO GOD IN A DEATH EXPERIENCE!

There is no greater example of faith than this. Trust in death - Faith in the resurrection.

Compare Abraham in the offering of Isaac on an altar of wood recorded in **Genesis 22.** Abraham has absolute faith that God will raise Isaac from the death experience to fulfill the promise of God!

Many Christians consider the death experience quite unnecessary, asserting that this concept is negative. Storms, testings and trials are never the lot of the Christian.

Consider these following truths and Scriptures:

The next truth to be restored to the church is RESURRECTION LIFE. **Hebrews 6:1, 2** How can any person experience resurrection life if there has not been a death experience and former life? The very word presupposes death and former life.

In Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones, there began a shaking, a coming together of bone to his bone, flesh, sinews, skin, as a response to the prophetic word. A further word caused the breath of life to enter into them and they stood on their feet an exceeding great army. None would deny that the bones indicated former life and death. The church is experiencing a shaking and a coming together at this present time. There is yet to come a further prophetic voice, "LIVE!" **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

In the prophetic teaching of the Feasts of the Lord, the Day of Atonement was a day of the affliction of the soul. Many of God's people are currently experiencing a variety of attacks and affliction in their minds. Note: the unafflicted soul was cut off from the people. The church has yet to experience the antitypical fulfillment of the Day of Atonement. That this will transpire before the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ there can be no doubt. It will follow Passover and Pentecost, (Salvation and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost), as surely as night follows day. God has been so precise with the former two appointments. He will surely fulfill the prophetic teaching for the church in this hour. **Leviticus 23:4, 26-32**

A remarkable event, or events, transpires in the life of the Lord Jesus. It warrants earnest reflection.

Luke 5:4-8 The Miraculous Draught of Fishes. v.6 Their net brake.

John 21:3-11 v. 11 *Yet was not the net broken.*

Why was the net not broken in the latter miracle? (The breaking of the net speaks of both the inability of the local churches to contain the catch, and also the falling apart of local churches.)

A mighty event took place between the two miracles.

The Death, Burial, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ

153 is the number of the Sons of God. When adding the individual numerals from one to seventeen (the number signifying spiritual perfection) the sum of 153 is achieved. Again, the church, subsequent to the spiritual application of the Day of Atonement (Death and Resurrection), the scheduled time for the appearance of the manifestation of the Sons of God, when attaining spiritual perfection, will behold a harvest of fish incomparable to anything in her history.

> **Ezekiel 47:9, 10** *Everything … whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish … they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.*
>
> **Luke 24:25, 26** *O fools, and slow of heart to believe ALL that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?*
>
> **Luke 24:46** *Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day.*
>
> **Luke 18:31-34** … *all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted upon: And they shall scourge him, and put him to DEATH: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.*
>
> **John 2:19** *Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*
>
> **Matthew 16:21-24** *From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him,*

saying, Be it far from thee Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

And this, immediately following the revelation of, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.'
Oh, how despicable is the cross, death and hardship to the modern Christian.

1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

Galatians 6:14 *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*

Philippians 3:18 ..... *they are enemies of the cross of Christ.*

Notice this verse very carefully. These people are not the enemies of Christ. No! They claimed to love him. They are however, enemies of His cross

Luke 14:26, 27, 33 *If any man come to me, and hate not his father and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

Job 2:10 … *shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?*

Matthew 20:17-19 *And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And*

shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

This is the second occasion Jesus speaks concerning His decease. The disciples refuse to accept his teaching, together with the fact that their Master must die. No, this cannot happen. You are our king! You are our leader. This reveals the desire in man to preserve his own life. Jesus explains, that should he lose it, then, and only then, will he really find it.

There is a part in man that does not want to know. This is as equally strong as his claimed desire to want to know, to willingly pay the price, irrespective of cost. All branches of science are involved - sciences that claim an open mind. Jesus' followers are no different - many of them simply ignore death, negativity and hurt. To them it does not exist, does not even warrant thinking about. Oh, how shallow many of His people are.

My friend, if failure, defeat, death, negativity exist - I don't want to run from it. I welcome life, all forms of life, all the lessons of life. Don't be a flake. Determine to embrace all that life has to offer.

How can you know that Jesus is the lily of the valley, if you are all your life living on top of a mountain. You see, not many people will explain, they dare not even recognise that for every three mountains, there are four valleys.

Don't live half your life. Don't become a follower of men and their doctrines. Rather, seek the things that be of God, that please God, that are of God - even should it encompass death. Remember the Psalmist of old.

Psalm 23:4 *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

1 Samuel 18:19-33 Running Without the Message. Death of the king's son must be integrated in the messenger's life.

Luke 9:43-45 *And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered everyone at all things which Jesus did, he*

said unto his disciples, Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men. But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.

Luke 9:30, 31 *And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.*

The Transfiguration

Luke 22:43 *And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.*

Christ's Agony in Gethsemane. Strengthen means to invigorate. You can only give to another what you have (experienced) yourself! Think on this.

Jesus and Little Faith

Matthew 6:30 *O ye of little faith.* Provision **(Luke 12:28)**

Matthew 8:26 *O ye of little faith.* Calming the Storm.

Matthew 14:31 *O thou of little faith*. Peter Walking on the Water.

Matthew 16:8 *O ye of little faith.* The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Jesus and Asking

Matthew 7:7, 8 *Ask, you shall receive. Seek, you shall find. Knock, it shall be opened. Everyone that asks receives. Everyone that seeks finds. Everyone that knocks, the door will open.* **(Luke 11:10)**

The tense is present continuous. Ask and keep on asking. Seek and keep on

seeking. Knock and keep on knocking.

Matthew 21:22 *And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*

Luke 11:13 *Your heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him.*

John 14:13, 14 *Whatever ye ask the Father in my name, I will do it. If ye ask anything in my name, I will do it.*

John 15:16 *Whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.* **(John 16: 23)**

John 16:24 *Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*

Jesus' Response to the Cry of Faith

Matthew 8:3 *I will; be thou clean.*

Cleansing of the Leper (Mark 1:41 Luke 5:13)

Mark 7:29 *For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.*

The Syrophoenician Woman
(Matthew 15: 28)

Jesus' Initiative in Faith

Matthew 9:6 *Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*

The Man With the Palsy Healed (Mark 2:11, Luke 5:24)

Matthew 10:31 *Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

Encouragement of the Disciples

Matthew 12:13 Stretch forth thine hand.

The Man With the Withered Hand (Mark 3:5, Luke 6:10)

Matthew 14:16 Give ye them to eat.

The Feeding of the Five Thousand (Mark 6:37)

Matthew 15:34 *How many loaves have ye?*

The Feeding of the Four Thousand (Mark 8:5)

Matthew 18:18 *Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

Authority of the Church (Matthew 16:19)

Matthew 18:19 *If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*

Authority of the Church

Matthew 19:26 *With God all things are possible.*

The Peril of Riches (Mark 10:27)

Matthew 28:18 *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:20 *I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.*

Mark 2:5 *Thy sins be forgiven thee.*

The Palsied Man Healed

Mark 3:3 *Stand forth.*

The Man With the Withered Hand

Mark 5:39 *The damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.*

The Daughter of Jairus Raised From the Dead (Luke 8:50)

Mark 6:50 *Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.*

Jesus Walking on the Sea

Mark 7:34 *Be opened.*

Healing of the Deaf and Dumb Man.

Mark 10:51 *What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?*

Blind Bartimaeus (Matthew 20:32)

Luke 5:4 *Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.*

The Miraculous Draught of Fish

Luke 7:14 *Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.*

The Raising From the Dead of the Widow's Son at Nain

Luke 8:54 *Maid, Arise*

Jairus' Daughter Raised From the Dead

Luke 10:23 *Blessed are the eyes which see the things that you see:*

Revelations to Babes

Luke 14:28 *Sit down first, and count the cost.*

Counting the Cost

John 2:5, 7 *Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. Fill the waterpots with water.*

Turning the Water into Wine

John 3:3 *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

The New Birth

John 5:6 Wilt thou be made whole?

Healing of the Impotent Man

John 5:8 *Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.*

Healing of the Impotent Man

John 5:14 *Behold, thou art made whole.*

Healing of the Impotent Man

John 5:8 *Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat?*

The Feeding of the Five Thousand (Luke 9: 13)

John 6:29 *This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*

The Prime Responsibility of Man

John 7:23 *I have made a man every whit whole.*

Healing of the Impotent Man

John 8:7 *He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.*

The Woman Caught in Adultery

John 8:32, 36 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

Jesus the Liberator

John 9:3 *Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents:*

The Man Born Blind

John 10:18 *I have power to lay my life down, and to take it again.*

The Ultimate Statement of Faith

Lazarus

John 11:4 *This sickness is for the glory of God*

Christ to be Lifted up as Moses Lifted Up the Serpent in the Wilderness

John 12:32 *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

John 14:13, 14 *Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.*

Power Given to Believers

John 16:13 *The Spirit will guide you into all truth, he will show you things to come.*

The Work of the Holy Spirit

John 21:6 *Cast the net on the right side of the ship.*

Post Resurrection Appearance of Christ to the Disciples

John 21:22 *What is that to thee? follow thou me.*

Peter's Curiosity

Jesus and Aids to Faith

Mark 7:33 *And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;*

The Healing of the Deaf and Dumb Man

Mark 8:23 *And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.*

The Healing of the Blind Man

John 9:6 *He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with clay.*

The Blind Man Healed

Jesus and Children

Matthew 18:3 *Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

The Illustration of a Child

> **Matthew 19:14** *Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*

Jesus' Attitude Toward Children

Jesus and Devils

> **Mark 1:25** *Hold thy peace, and come out of him.*

Healing of the Demoniac

(Luke 4:35)

> **Mark 1:32, 34** *And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.*

Many Healed

> **Mark 5:8** *Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.*

Healing of the Gadarene Demoniac

> **Mark 9:25** *Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.*

Healing of the Demoniac Son

Jesus and Unbelief

> **Matthew 17:17** *O faithless and perverse generation.*

Healing of the Demoniac Son (Luke 9:41)

Mark 4:40 *How is it that ye have no faith?*

The Storm at Sea

Luke 4:25-27 *But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.*

Jesus Speaking in the Synagogue at Nazareth

Luke 8:25 *Where is your faith?*

The Tempest Stilled

Luke 9:62 *No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*

Three Half-Hearted Followers

John 6:20 *It is I; be not afraid.*

Jesus Walking on the Sea

John 20:27 *Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless but believing.*

Thomas Believes

Jesus and the Trials of Faith

Luke 22:32 *But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and*

when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

The Testing of Peter's Faith

John 12:24 *Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*

The Prediction of Jesus' Sufferings

John 12:32 *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

The Ultimate Testing of Faith

Jesus and the Authority of Faith

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me.....*

Spiritual Ability to Reach the World

Revelation 1:8 *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.* **(Revelation 22:13)**

Revelation 1:18 *I am he that liveth, and was dead: and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Jesus the Conqueror of Death

Hebrews 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.*

Jesus the Source Point of the Believer's Faith

Jesus and the Power of Words (Faith Speaks Words)

Ecclesiastes 8:4 *Where the word of a king is, there is power:*

Matthew 8:16 *He cast out the spirits with his word.*

Psalm 107:20 *He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.*

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

Luke 4:32, 36 *His word was with power. What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.*

Luke 24:19 *Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:*

John 17:17 *Thy word is truth.*

Matthew 4:4 *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*

The Temptation of the Lord Jesus (Luke 4:4) Matthew 4:7,10

Matthew 12:37 *For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*

Speech Reveals Character

Matthew 15:6 *Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.*

Traditions Exalted Above the Word of God

Matthew 21:19 *Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward forever.*

The Barren Fig Tree (Mark 11:14)

Matthew 22:29 *Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.*

The Sadducees Silenced

Mark 4:39 *Peace, be still.*

Jesus' Power Over Nature

Mark 7:9 *Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.*

The Ceremonial Pharisees

Mark 7:15, 20 *There is nothing from without a man that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.*

From the Heart Proceed the Issues of Life

Mark 11:23 *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.*

The Barren Fig Tree

Luke 11:52 *Woe unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.*

Faith is a Large Key

Luke 13:12 *Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.*

Healing of the Infirm Woman

> **Luke 13:16** *And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo,these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?*

Healing of the Infirm Woman

> **Luke 16: 39** *They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

Notice the emphasis of the Lord Jesus on the Word of God - He exalts it above miracles - the greatest miracle in the eyes of man - a dead person being raised to life.

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His attitude holds true right now - He places a Bible before man and asks the question, "What do you make of that?" Any man that does not believe the Bible will not accept the testimony of a dead person who has been raised to life! Oh, how important the Word of God is. It is the foundation of faith.

The Rich Man and Lazarus

> **Luke 19:22** *Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant.*

The Parable of the Pounds

> **Luke 24:25, 27** *O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

The Two on the Way to Emmaus

> **John 5:39, 45-47** *Search the scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even*

Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

The Complete Body of the Holy Scriptures Testify - Reveal - the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6:63 *The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

Spiritual Truth Misunderstood

John 8:32, 36 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

Jesus the Liberator

John 11:39, 43 *Take ye away the stone. Lazarus, come forth. Loose him, and let him go.*

Lazarus

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

Jesus Prays for the Church

John 20:23 *Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

The Authority of the Church

CHAPTER 9. CONFESSION OF FAITH

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith: Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our
profession, Christ Jesus;

Greek, homologia, to say the same. Acknowledgement, profession, confession, recognition.

Jesus Christ is the Chief Priest of our confession. Confession is generally referred to in the negative sense, as in the confession of sin. This is the recognition, the acknowledgement, the saying with the lips, the sin that has been committed. This is absolutely correct.

The same is true also in the positive sense. In this manner, the Christian is agreeing with God, he is saying with his lips that that is to be experienced. He is confessing the Word of the Lord.

CONFESSION BRINGS POSSESSION

Confession is a vital aspect - indeed it is 50% of faith. Linked with this is the primary, foundational, other 50% of faith, belief in the heart - conviction. This top priority in the areas of faith has been somewhat overlooked. Without it, the Christian's confession is merely beating the air. He is simply mouthing words. This has led to catch phrases as, "Blab it and Grab it", “Name it and Claim it", and "Fake it Till You Make It."

The English word confession, is derived from the Latin, confessus, which means fully or entirely acknowledged. The two root words, con, and fateor, mean, I confess, I own. Variations of the meaning are to admit, own, avow, disclose, acknowledge, assent as true. Anything disclosed or acknowledged.

The truth of the Word of God must be fully and entirely acknowledged in the believer's heart (conviction) prior to any speaking of words.

Only when this aspect of faith is firmly lodged in the Christian's spirit, will confession mean anything.

The law of faith explains how the heart may be changed and influenced.

Confession is equally important as belief in the heart.

Mark 11:22-24 Have faith in God. That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart (conviction), but shall believe those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Romans 4:17 God quickens (makes alive) the dead, and calls the things that are not as though they were.

Hebrews 11:1 Faith is.....the evidence of things not seen.

FAITH SPEAKS WORDS

Romans 10:8-10 The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

The word saved, salvation has a multiplicity of applications in the Greek from whence it is derived. It means to save from danger, suffering in the material realm, to deliver from sickness, preservation, spiritual salvation granted immediately to those who believe on Christ, the power of God to deliver from the bondage of sin, the future deliverance of believers at the second coming of Christ, the deliverance of Israel, the blessings of God on those who are in Christ, those who endure to the time of the great tribulation, loss of the believer's rewards at the judgment seat of Christ though not his salvation, to rescue. Deliverance, preservation, protection. It is translated in the King James Version of the scriptures, heal, preserve, save, do well, make whole.

2 Corinthians 4:13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

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

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Words Are the Thermometer of Faith

Numbers 13:26-33 The spies brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. The land surely floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there... And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel; saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and we were in their sight.

The report commenced satisfactorily, then follows nevertheless, and but. Their deduction is - we can't do it; they ate mightier than we are. In God's eyes, this constituted an evil report. The spies were governed by what they saw. They were not governed by faith.

The facts were, there were giants in the land. These people deduced that it was impossible to go against it. This is rank unbelief. They had faith in the giants, more
than they had faith in God. You see, these people told the truth and died for it! However, it was the negative aspect of the very same truth that Joshua and Caleb believed. The basis of the false deduction is revealed. "We see ourselves as grasshoppers." This lie, because they had faith in it, worked in them a low concept of themselves, an inferiority complex, a low self-image, and

consequently low self-esteem. They considered themselves as nothing. This poor self-image was rapidly transmitted to the enemy - they now see us as grasshoppers. We are no match for them.

This bad news rippled throughout the whole congregation of God's people. Bad news travels faster and with more intensity than good news. An evil report will establish itself in the hearts of people far more readily than a good report. Give a dog a bad name and he is stuck with it for life.

Hear faith talking. "Let us go up at once. Let us possess the land. We are well able to overcome it."

The result? All the people murmured against Moses and Aaron, Would God that we had died in Egypt! Would God we had died in the wilderness!

Faith endeavours to overcome the murmuring. The land is an exceeding good land. The Lord will bring us into this land. Do not rebel against the Lord. Do not fear the people of the land. They are bread for us. Their defence is departed from them. The Lord is with us. Do not fear them.

Did faith win over unbelief? Can all the good apples in a box heal the one bad apple? All the congregation desired to stone their positive leaders!

In the midst of this God speaks, "Surely they will not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it. (God said, 'I will smite them with pestilence, I will disinherit them. I will make a greater and mightier people with you, Moses.') But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land, and his seed shall possess it."

"How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmuring of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me."

Now comes the judgment. Pay extremely close attention to what God says. The people are rejected because of their confession, their murmuring, what had fallen from their lips. (But then, isn't this only an expression of what lay deep in the confines of their heart; their conviction; their unbelief?)

"As ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to

you."

There it is. What you sow you will reap. I will give you the fruit of your lips. What you say, I will do.

These people perished, because they had not learned the correct use of the tongue!

"Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun."

"Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness. The men which Moses sent to search the land, who made all the congregation murmur against him, by bringing a slander upon the land. I will do it to all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me."

The manifestation of the judgment? Those men that did bring an evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the Lord. The people mourned greatly. "Let us go up to the land at once. We have sinned," they confessed. Moses warns, "Don't go Up! God is not with you. Your enemies will kill you. You shall fall by the sword, because you have turned away from the Lord."

But they **presumed** to go up to the hill top. The enemy smote them, and discomforted them.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the....word of their testimony.....

In each circumstance in life there are three governing factors:

1. The Circumstance

2 The Word of God

3. The Christian's Confession

The third factor is what decides the outcome of a particular circumstance. What you believe, you will contend for, and the confession of faith, based on the inner conviction in the believer's spirit will sway the outcome.

Examples of Confession in Operation

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light, and there was light.

Joshua 10:12 Then spake Joshua to the Lord … in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still and the moon stayed … and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

Mark 11:14 No man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever.

John 11:43 Lazarus, come forth**.**

Mark 4:39 Peace, be still.

Matthew 8:8 Speak the word only.

Matthew 8:16 He cast out the spirits with his word.

Psalm 107:20 He sent his word, and healed them.

Luke 5:4 Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

Mark 1:25 Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

I will, be thou clean.

Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

Stretch forth thine hand.

Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

According to your faith be it unto you.

Come.

The devil is gone out of thy daughter.

Be opened.

Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

Luke 17:14, 19 Go show yourselves unto the priests. Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

John 8:7 He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

John 9:7 Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.

Luke 13:12 Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.

Luke 18:42 Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.

John 21:6 Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.

Acts 3:6 In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Acts 9:17 That thou mightest receive thy sight.

Acts 14:10 Stand upright on thy feet.

Acts 20:10 Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

Acts 9:34 Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed.

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About The Author



ALISTER LOWE is a Christian Minister with 52 years experience. He lives in Brisbane, Australia.. His major ministry is teaching the Word of God – all of it! He loves seeing Christians grow to a higher level of maturity in Jesus Christ. For more information about Alister, go to lowelegacy.com/bio.

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Books By Alister Lowe

The Faith Generator Series

The Woman at the Well *Probing the Depths of the Human Spirit*

The interview in **John 4** between the Woman at the Well and Jesus Christ is the subject of this pertinent teaching. Two words emerge: Draw and Deep. Deep refers to the recesses of the human spirit and Draw refers to the ability of worship in attracting the Spirit of the Lord.

The Syrophoenician Woman *Confronting Rejection*

Not many people can sustain repeated rejection. This woman bounced back from four rejections: three from the Lord Jesus Himself. No wonder He comments, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt". This is one of the two accounts of great faith, neither of which come from within the church. Jesus marvelled at the great faith of this woman.

What Have They Seen in Your House? *The Fallacy of Trusting Everyone*

In the current climate of Christians being urged to build relationships open in free fellowship with others and trust those they relate to, a stern warning is given. Open to the king of Babylon and all you will experience is "confusion". The Christian is cautioned to exercise some measure of discretion in sharing indiscriminately what God has wrought in the internal treasures of his/her life.

The Bible *Author Unknown*

This teaching was communicated via audio cassette as a required lecture for my Th.D. degree. The author was known to the College Principal who died prior to this work being published. It was delivered at a camp meeting somewhere in the U.S.A. Appropriate recognition and credit for this excellent preaching cannot therefore be given. Should the author come into contact with this booklet due acknowledgement will be given. Should it never be known, due reward will soon be given by the One who sees, knows, understands and records all things.

The Sign of the Queen of Sheba *The Sequel to the Sign of Jonah*

When the queen of the south beheld the magnificence of the kingdom of Solomon, there was "no breath left in her". What she found was breathtaking. In the two related signs stated by Jesus Christ, the Church only remembers the sign of the prophet Jonah. What she saw is applied in a spiritual sense, both to the church and the individual Christian.

Remember Lot's Wife *She Almost Made It!*

Here is a specific instruction from the Lord Jesus Christ. The heart of the teaching is shown: She almost made it. She was so close. And yet, Lot's wife was frozen as a pillar of salt for all time. Some Christians will barely enter the kingdom of God: others will have an abundant entrance.

Qualifications For Priesthood *Requirements For the New Testament Priesthood of All Believers*

The physical qualifications of **Leviticus 21** are treated with a New Testament spiritual application. There is no physical description of Jesus Christ in the Bible. An index of Scriptures used is in the back of the booklet.

How God Speaks Today *Hearing the Voice of God*

This booklet shows the various methods God uses to communicate to His people. It covers the audible voice, the Word of God, messengers, (angelic and human), visions and dreams, controlling circumstances, the witness of ministry, and the most common of all, inner voice suggestion. It shows George Meuller's method for discerning the will of God. An indispensable aid for every Christian.

Choosing a Queen *Qualifications For the Bride of Christ*

Queen Vashti is called to appear before king Ahasuerus. She boldly refuses. The qualifications for her replacement are treated in detail. The spiritual application for Christians also reveals the path for the Bride of Christ.

Buy the Truth *Purchasing Power of the Things of God*

Shows there is a price for truth. We are only willing to pay for that which we place value upon. What is the purchasing power? Having paid the price, the Christian is called upon to never sell what he has purchased. Persuades the believer to emphasise spiritual issues.

Are There Few That be Saved? *Reinforcing the Element of Struggle*

Deals with the apparent evasion of Jesus in answering this question. His response is a classic. Shows that the struggles of life are incorporated in the will of God for every Christian. An encouraging teaching.

The Seminar Series

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This teaching was the most popular and the most in demand throughout New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States of America, throughout the 1980's. Many pastors assert it is the best material they have seen on the subject. Chapters are, You Are at War!, Battle Strategy, The Principles of War, David's Mighty Men, Weapons and Training.

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Subject divisions in this teaching are : What is Faith?, How Faith Operates, Endurance, Classic Examples of Faith, Unbelief, Trials of Faith, The Gift of Faith, Jesus and Faith, and the Confession of Faith. Here is a balanced presentation on the all important component of faith.

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Subjects covered in this teaching are: None Saith Restore!, The Glorious Church, The Restoration of the Church, The Restored Temple, Biblical Illustrations of Restoration, The Double Portion, Prophets of Restoration, The Feast of Tabernacles and the 22 Truths Restored to the Church in 1948.

Go Into All the World *A Teaching on Evangelism*

Chapter headings for this book are: What is Evangelism?, How to Make Friends, How to Lead a Person to Christ, The Ministry of the Evangelist, Hospitality, How To Conduct an Evangelistic Meeting, World Religions, Home Fellowships, and the Local Church.

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This book reveals the divine pattern. There is only one pattern. Whether applied to the historical, portable, structure of God for the Old Testament worshipper in his/her approach to God, of the life of the Lord Jesus, or the processing of the New Testament believer, there is no deviation. The constancy of God is shown. A most amazing teaching. A most practical exercise for every Christian.

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Volume 5: Things That Are to Be, Part 2 *Things That Are To Be Part 2*

Deals with False Cults, The Speech of Rabbi Emmanuel Rabinovich, The Declaration of Interdependence, George Washington's Vision, George Washington's Farewell Address, The Revolutionary Catechism, Two Opposing Systems, Conspiracy, Human Manifesto I, Human Manifest II, Churchill on Magna Carta, The Law, Universal Jurisprudence Heirarchy of Laws, The Crimson Tide Quote, The Australian Money Story, The Military, World War I, World War II, The Korean War, The Six Day War (Israel), The Vietnam War, World War III, Current Military Strengths, The Mystery of Iniquity, The Mystery of God, Central Banking and the Federal Reserve System, Education, Religion, Politics, Economics, Ecclesiastical, Historical and Legal. A comprehensive Scriptural and Subject Index is included for all five End Time Events Series Volumes.

Bible Code Series

Jesus in Genesis *41,085 Encryptions*

The estimated number of occurrences is 42,124. The actual, is 41,085.
The bracketed numbers are the individual occurrences. The next number is the ELS (equidistant letter sequence). Where the number is a minus figure, this indicates the letters of the word appear in reverse. The number on the right is the position of the letter in the Book of Genesis where the word commences.

The first reference of ELS 1 commences in **Genesis 49:18** and concludes in **Genesis 49:18.** It begins in the 75,933rd letter of the Book of Genesis.



The last reference (41,085th), commences in **Genesis 1:6** and concludes in **Genesis 50:23**, with an ELS of 25,881. It begins in the 224th letter of Genesis.

There are 78,063 letters that comprise the entire Book of Genesis.

Jesus in Isaiah *36,079 Encryptions*

The estimated number of occurrences is 37,124. The actual, is 36,079.

The bracketed numbers are the individual occurrences. The next number is the ELS (equidistant letter sequence). Where the number is a minus figure, this indicates the letters of the word appear in reverse. The number on the right is the position of the letter in the Book of Genesis where the word commences.

The first reference of ELS 1 commences in **Isaiah 2:16** and concludes in **Isaiah 2:16.** It begins in the 1670th letter of the Book of Isaiah.



The last reference (36,079th), commences in **Isaiah 1:5** and concludes in **Isaiah 66:18**, with an ELS of -22,066. It begins in the 66,433rd letter of Isaiah. Observe, the negative number employed here showing the word is in reverse.

There are 66,888 letters that comprise the entire Book of Isaiah.

Bible Code: Jesus in Genesis Update *252,708 Encryptions*

Due to the software programme used in the original search for Jesus in Isaiah being updated and becoming more powerful, the occurrences have increased 6.151 times to a phenomenal 252,708 encryptions. They commence with an ELS of 1 and conclude with an ELS of -78,063, this also being the number of letters in the Book of Genesis.

The estimate of occurrences is 252,738: the actual is 252,708.

This has translated into 7,449 A4 pages.

[**Note:** this book cannot be published in Kindle Books on Amazon.com. It is simply too large!]

Bible Code: Jesus in Isaiah Update *223,100 Encryptions*

Due to the software programme used in the original search for Jesus in Isaiah being updated and becoming more powerful, the occurrences have increased 6.184 times to a phenomenal 223,100 encryptions. They commence with an ELS of 1 and conclude with an ELS of -66,888, this also being the number of letters in the Book of Isaiah.

The estimate of occurrences is 223,100: the actual is 223,100.

This has translated into 5,578 A4 pages.

[**Note:** this book cannot be published in Kindle Books on Amazon.com. It is simply too large!]

Other Books

All the Questions of the Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus asked in excess of three hundred questions throughout His life and ministry.

Questions are asked by professionals in all walks of life: doctors in endeavouring to establish a diagnosis, policemen in investigation of their inquiries, lawyers in examination of witnesses, soldiers in interrogation of the enemy, and the religious in seeking to purge 'heresy' from the church, as in the example of the diabolical Spanish and Roman inquisitions.

Do you know what the Lord Jesus' questions are?
Can you answer them correctly?
You alone provide the answers.
What do you say?

The Tabernacle of David and the Temple of Solomon

The Coming Change of Leadership in the Christian Church

History possesses the strange peculiarity of repeating itself. Here is a graphic illustration in the transfer of power from David to Solomon. The Christian Church finds itself in a parallel circumstance in this day. The usurpation of Adonijah, together Joab and Abiathar, provides a comprehensively clear picture of the challenge to the God-ordained ministry of Zadok, Benaiah, Nathan and Solomon. Solomon was not invited to the coronation of Adonijah. But David and Jehovah had chosen Solomon as the succeeding monarch.

One Last Thing...

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