Reconciled – Kenneth E Hagin (or Jr)

After Jesus arose from the dead, He said, "All power (or authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth" Matt. 28:18).

Then He immediately took the authority given to Him in the earth and delegated it to His Body. He said to us, "... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel (good news) to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

What is the Good News He wants us to tell? We have preached a gospel—but not The Gospel. It may come as a shock to you as it did to me when I first discovered it, but here is what it is:

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17,18

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

What is the ministry of reconciliation?

CORINTHIANS 5:19 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Let's read that 19th verse again from the Amplified New Testament:

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19 (Amplified N.T.)

19 It was God (personally present) in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against (men) their trespasses (but cancelling them); and committing to us the message of reconciliation of the restoration to favor.

God has committed this message— the message of reconciliation and the restoring to favor— to us. He wants us to tell sinners. Not that if they will be good and cry half the night, or if they will do penance half a year, that He might eventually have mercy on them and do something for them. No! He wants us to tell them that God Almighty has already cancelled out their debt! He is not holding one thing against them!

Someone said, "Well, if He isn't, then they will all go to Heaven." No, they are still children of the devil.

They must become children of God in order to enter Heaven.

But He "has" cancelled out their trespasses. He is not "going-to."

Can't you see we have never told them? Folks have gone out and beat the poor old sinner over the head and then wondered why he quit coming to church. An old hog would have enough sense to quit coming if someone took a ball bat and beat his head every time he came up to eat. You do not find anywhere in the Bible where God told us to go out and club the sinner. They are already under conviction.

And then, may God have mercy on some preachers and pastors. They have preached to the saints as if they were sinners. They think they are supposed to keep them under conviction and keep them praying at the altar. It is good for folks to pray, but you don't have to beat them over the head to get them to pray. Much of the time people don't know whether they are saved or not. They go to church, and go home condemned. They want to hear the truth. I am convinced that if the full truth were given as it should be, people would run over themselves getting in.

Now let's continue reading verse 20, still from the Amplified New Testament:

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20 (Amplified) 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We (as Christ's personal representatives) beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor (now offered you) and be reconciled to God.

Just come and lay hold of it! Just come and take it! Don't come and cry half the night. Don't come and see if you can talk God into the idea of doing something for you. He was personally present in Christ already doing something for you. "Come and lay hold of this divine favor (now offered you) and be reconciled to God." That is the Gospel! That is the Good News!

Paul says in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

The Hebrew and Greek words for salvation imply the ideas of deliverance, safety, preservation, healing, and soundness.

Do you see that when your debts are cancelled, you can be healed? Sickness came as a result of sin, not necessarily your sin, but Adam's sin in the beginning. We all fell heir to it.

But see now what has happened. Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power .... "

What is the power? The Gospel is the power! It is the power of God unto salvation. The Gospel is the power of God unto deliverance, unto safety, unto preservation, unto healing, unto soundness. This refers to both spiritual and physical healing and soundness.

Now we can understand something in the following passage. Barnabus and Paul went to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia and the surrounding regions.

ACTS 14:7-10

7 And there they preached the gospel.

8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet And he leaped and walked.

What did that? Some power Paul had because he was an apostle? No. Paul didn't heal that man. It says the man had faith to be healed. Where did he get the faith? Verse 7 tells us, "And there they preached the gospel."

That man heard Paul tell them the Gospel—the Good News. What was Paul telling? He was telling him that God was personally present in Christ Jesus, restoring the world (that included this man) into favor with Himself, not counting up or holding against him his sins but cancelling them out. And that now, because He has cancelled them out, Satan had no more authority to rule over him with disease and sickness, but that he could be delivered from the penalty and result of wrongdoing.

He heard Paul and he believed it. Paul looked toward him and perceived that he had received the message and had faith from hearing the Word. So he said, "Stand upright on thy feet." And the man leaped and talked. It is just that simple.

Let's go back now to Mark 16 where Jesus told us, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." We have established what the Gospel is. Jesus went on to say,"... preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Just come and lay hold of this favor so freely offered. Of course, if a man rejects it, it won't do him any good. He is a child of the devil, even though God has cancelled out his sins against him. And because he is a child of the devil, he will have to go to hell when he dies. But if he lays hold of it, then he is born again and becomes a child of God!

Then going on with what Jesus said:

MARK 16:17,18

17 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; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe

...Follow the apostles? No. ...Follow the early Church? No. ...Follow certain people such as evangelists, prophets, pastors, teachers? No. He said they shall follow, "them that believe." These signs will follow those who believe, who accept this Gospel.

Jesus mentioned five signs. Each one of these things now restored to the Believer, originally was lost as a result of the curse on man and on the earth.

First, God made Adam the god of this world. God made the world and the fullness thereof, and He gave Adam dominion over all the work of His hands. Adam committed high treason and sold out to Satan—then Satan and evil spirits began to dominate the earth.

But now, when you hear and believe the Gospel something happens. Believers can exercise authority over the devil, in Jesus' name.

"In my name shall they cast out, devils."

That simply states that every believer has authority over the devil. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). You can put him on the run. If the devil invades your home, cast him out. You have authority over evil spirits.

The devil is the one who stops money from coming in to you. The money you need is down here on this earth. God is not a counterfeiter. He is not going to counterfeit five or ten dollar bills and rain them down from heaven. That would be wrong. It is not God who is withholding from you, it is the devil.

The Lord told me several years ago, as I was complaining about needed money not coming, "I can't do anything about it. It is up to you. You command it to come in Jesus' name. You use the authority. You say, In Jesus' name, Satan, take your hand off my money.'

"You can even speak to the angels," He told me, "and they will go to work for you because they are ministering spirits, sent to minister for those who are the heirs of salvation."

HEBREWS 1:14

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

God is trying His best to get us to see the truth, and rise up in the light of that which is ours and go forth in power. Many are waiting on God to do something. He is not going to do anything. He has already done all He is going to do at the moment about the situation. "They will cast out devils," Jesus said.

"... they shall speak with new tongues

What does the Bible say about speaking with tongues?

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2

2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

Weymouth's translation of that verse says, "He talks divine secrets." 1 CORINTHIANS 14:14 14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my

spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

Now, let's go back to the beginning. Before Adam sinned, he walked and talked with God. God is a Spirit. When God came down into that garden, you couldn't see Him in the same way we see one another. God didn't just come walking up and then He and Adam went walking along like two men. God is a Spirit.

Adam did not see God with his physical eye. He did not talk to God out of a natural mind. Nor did he contact God with a physical hand. But he did walk and talk with God. Adam, the real man, the inner man, the spirit, walked and talked with God.

You see, when man sinned, it was then that his body began to dominate him. Before that his spirit dominated him, the real man, the inner man. Adam and Eve had no clothes on, and they didn't even know it. They didn't know evil and sin. And Adam walked and talked with God. God came down in the cool of the day and they talked secrets. But man lost that because of the curse which came as a result of sin.

In the Gospel, however, man is reconciled to God, restored—and one of the signs that Jesus said would follow the Believer is that he will speak with new tongues!

Many prayers prayed out of men's heads don't reach any higher than the ceiling. But you can be sure of one thing, if any man speaks in an unknown tongue, he speaks not unto men but unto God.

God has devised a supernatural, divine means of communication with Himself whereby we have that walk with God. "Howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." He speaks divine secrets!

No, we are not "going-to" walk with Him. We walk with Him now. We talk with Him now.

Paul said, "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth." Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). When I am talking in tongues, my spirit is in direct contact with the Father of spirits, God.

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Some have said, "I don't see any need of it." If they understood the Gospel and the reconciliation of man's spirit to God, they could see it.

"They shall take up serpents."

This does not mean that Believers

are to handle snakes or serpents just to prove something. It has reference to being accidentally bitten as Paul was on the island when that viper came up out of the fire and fastened itself to him. He just shook it off, because, through the Gospel, we are redeemed.

The serpent, because of the curse put on him, is in the condition that he is in today. When Satan is eliminated from the earth, then there shall be nothing that will hurt or destroy. But, we have a power and an authority NOW over Satan. Satan is called a snake, too. This literally means that if a snake bites you, you can shake him off; but it also means that you have authority over that old snake, that old serpent, Satan.

"And if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them."

All that God made in the

— beginning was good, nothing would hurt or destroy. That all came when the devil became the god of this world. It need not affect us though, because although we are in the world, we are not of the world. We have the authority!

"They shall lay their hands on the sick and they shall recover."

This means exactly what it says. Every believer has the authority to lay hands on the sick and expect them to recover. Jesus said, "... they shall recover."

Jesus said that all five of these signs shall follow Believers. And all of those things restored to Believers came about originally as the result of the curse.

GALATIANS 3:13

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

He has redeemed us from the curse! We are not under the curse! That is what He did for us. That is what belongs to us.

It is ours NOW. You don't have to cry and pray and fast for three weeks and promise that you'll do better, if He will just give it to you. It all goes with the Gospel! It is just as much yours as your hands and feet are. All you have to do is to start using it. The hour is NOW. HEBREWS 1:1-14

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;

12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Jesus is up there now sitting on the right hand of God. We are expecting Him to come back. But I want to ask you a question. How long is He going to sit there? "... Until I make thine enemies thy footstool."

The only way in the world God is going to overcome the enemy is through the Body of Christ, the Church.

The last enemy to be put under foot, we are told, is death itself, physical death. The Church is going to demonstrate in these last days that She has authority even over death. And that will bring Him back. He is going to sit there until "thine enemies be made thy footstool."

Do you think that the poor little old struggling, crawling Church is going out defeated, whipped? No! Oh, no! Every believer may not see it but the Spirit has said unto me:

Now is the time, this is the hour, and this is the beginning of it. In these last days there shall arise a company of Believers, men and women, Who will know their authority and who will exercise their authority over the enemy. . . .