

# UNDERSTANDING

## How To Fight The Good Fight of Faith

Kenneth E. Hagin

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in this volume are from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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4And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said,  
Look on us.

5And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive some  
thing of them.

6Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such  
as I have give I thee: IN THE NAME of Jesus Christ of  
Nazareth rise up and walk.

7And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up:  
and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with  
them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising  
God.

9And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

Did you notice that the disciples did not *pray* to the Father in the Name of Jesus to get this man healed? Did you ever notice in reading the New Testament that the disciples did not *pray* for people to be healed? People can be healed through prayer, but the disciples didn't pray for people to be healed. The disciples just exercised their authority in that Name. At the Gate Beautiful, Peter said, "IN THE NAME of Jesus, arise and walk." Peter asked or *demand*ed that the man get up and walk in the Name of Jesus, and the man did!

Do you see this important truth: We have *the authority* to use Jesus' Name! God's power is in that Name! And when we use that Name, it is just as though Jesus were here Himself. All the power and all the authority that is invested in Jesus is in *that Name!* Hallelujah!

You see, you are not demanding anything of the Father. It wasn't God the Father who made that man crippled or who bound him. The devil did that. Jesus' Name belongs to you and if Satan attacks you, you have the right to demand in the Name of Jesus that he leave you alone. If

talk God into saving me. It took me three days and nights." How ridiculous! God's Word says in Revelation 13:8, that Christ was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. Here this fellow was trying to talk God into the notion of saving him, and God had his salvation all planned and figured out before the foundation of the world! Salvation — man's *redemption* — is why the Lamb came. The Bible says, "*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost!*" (Luke 19:10).

Another man said, "I tell you, I thought God was never going to baptize me in the Holy Ghost. I never thought I would get God in the notion of giving me the Holy Spirit."

Oh, my, my, my. It might be funny if it weren't so pathetic. You don't have to talk God into the notion of anything. God is already in the notion! God has already made provision for everything you need. Furthermore, God has given you the Name of Jesus to use for your every need. That Name guarantees an answer!

### **Demanding in Jesus' Name**

An example of demanding in Jesus' Name is seen at the Gate called Beautiful in Acts 3:1-9.

#### ACTS 3:1-9

1Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.  
 2And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;  
 3Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

arise a body of believers who will learn how to take advantage of what belongs to them — and will know how to use Jesus' Name — the Name that is above every name!

pain comes to your body, demand in the Name of Jesus that it leave you. That Name *belongs* to you!

### Believers' Use of the Name

In Mark 16:15 Jesus said, "*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel. . .*" Then He also said:

#### MARK 16:17,18

17And these signs shall follow them that believe [the believing ones]; IN MY NAME shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18They 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 delegated the power and authority in that Name to *the believing ones*. That's us — the Body of Christ! Some have relegated the use of the Name to those specially used of God in the gifts of the Spirit, for instance. But this isn't just talking about evangelists, or pastors, or someone who is used in the gifts of the Spirit. This verse is talking about the entire Body of Christ — the believing ones — they all have the power and authority to use the Name. "*These signs shall follow them that BELIEVE; In my name. . .*" (v. 17). Or as the literal Greek says, "These signs shall follow the believing ones."

There is authority invested in the Name of Jesus. There is authority invested in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of us have touched that now and then. None of us have been able to abide in it like God wants us to.

But I am thoroughly convinced and I firmly believe that in these last days, just before Jesus comes, there will

People often pray for faith, saying "What I need is faith." But actually what they need is knowledge of God's Word.

When the knowledge of God's Word comes, faith automatically comes. You could pray for faith forever, but if you didn't get any knowledge of God's Word, you would never get faith. This is because "... *faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" If you could get faith in any other way, this Scripture would be a lie. And if there is even one Scripture in the Bible that is a lie, then the whole Bible is a lie. But I am glad that the Bible is all true.

You can see that the greatest hindrance to faith is a lack of understanding of the Word of God. The hindrance we will discuss in this chapter is one which holds many in bondage. Our faith is held in bondage because we lack understanding of *how to act on God's Word.*

### Trying To Believe

You see, some Christians *try* to believe, and it is such a struggle for them. They say they are "*trying* to have faith," or "*trying* to believe." All that is necessary, however, is to act on what God says in His Word. If we know the Word of God is true *and* act on it, then it becomes a reality in our lives.

Real faith is a product of the knowledge of the Word of God. It takes no effort whatsoever on the part of the intellect or the will of man to obtain faith. As soon as the light of God's Word comes, faith is there. Faith is the concomitant of knowledge. That is, faith accompanies knowledge. Knowledge of God's Word comes first — then

# Chapter 5

## Understanding

### How To Act on God's Word

*Fight the good fight of faith. . . .*

— 1 Timothy 6:12

The only fight the Christian is called upon to fight is the faith fight. If we are in any other kind of fight, we are in the wrong fight. We need to get out of the wrong fight and get into the right one.

Some Christians say, "I'm going to fight the devil." There's no need to do that. Jesus already defeated him. You wouldn't be any match for him anyway. Because Jesus has already defeated Satan for you, there is no use for *you* to fight the devil.

Some say, "I'm going to fight sin." There is no need to do that either, because Jesus has the *cure* for sin. The cure for sin *is* Jesus, praise God. Jesus put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself according to Hebrews 9:26. So there really isn't *a sin* problem. There is just *a sinner* problem, and when you get the sinner to Jesus, Jesus cures that.

There are enemies in this fight of faith which we are instructed to fight. If there were no enemies or hindrances to faith, there would be no fight to it.

#### **Hindrances to Faith**

We have seen that hindrances to faith exist because of a lack of knowledge of God's Word. Romans 10:17 states, "... *faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*"

a great doctrine (and in some circles that's about all it is — a doctrine or a dogma), but it will not mean a thing to you until you can believe in your heart and say with your mouth, "Jesus died for me. Jesus was raised from the dead for *me!* Jesus arose victorious over death, hell, and the grave — and He did it all for *me!* Praise God forevermore! Jesus arose victorious over Satan! Jesus arose a victor! Jesus conquered Satan for *me*, and therefore Satan has no dominion over me! I'm free! Praise God, I'm free! Satan has no dominion over me! I'm free!"

It is when you believe it in your heart and confess it with your mouth — that is when the resurrection truth in the Word of God becomes something more than just a doctrine, more than just a dogma, more than just a creed, more than just a theory — it becomes a reality to you. The Word of God won't mean a thing to you until you can say these Biblical truths with your mouth, and believe them in your heart. Remember, the people who get answers from God, are those who *act* on His Word.

### **Act Like the Bible Is True**

I pastored almost 12 years and I found that in a church you have the same type of problems that you have in a family, because the church is made up of families. In families, financial and discipline problems arise. In the church you also have financial problems and discipline problems. In the church you have all the problems you have wherever people are involved.

During those 12 years of pastoral work, we faced the same problems you do in your homes and families. The crises of life come to us all. And if, when the crises of life

faith automatically accompanies it.

As the Psalmist of old said, "*The entrance of THY WORDS giveth light...*" (Ps. 119:130). As soon as the *light* of God's Word comes, faith is there. So feed on God's Word. Meditate on God's Word. Feeding and meditating on God's Word will bring the light, and it will bring faith because, "... *faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*"

I use the phrase "acting on God's Word" rather than the terms "have faith" or "believe" because that is what faith actually is: Faith is simply *acting* on God's Word.

Someone asked Raymond T. Richey, a man mightily used of God in years gone by in the healing ministry, "What is faith?" His reply was, "Faith is just acting on God's Word." And that's all it is. Smith Wigglesworth would say, "Faith is an act." Faith *is* an act. That's what faith is — faith is acting on God's Word. Faith is acting like God's Word is true.

#### Mental Assent

Many times we unknowingly make a substitution for faith. We substitute "mental assent" or "mental agreement" for faith. For instance, we mentally agree that God's Word is true, and we think we are believing and that we are in faith — but we are not. You can mentally assent or mentally agree all day long that the Bible is true, but the Word does not become real to you until you act on it. It is only when you act on God's Word for yourself that it becomes a reality *to you*. And it is only when you act on God's Word that you are exercising *faith*.

For example, you can hold to the resurrection truth as

I was unable to because I was in a revival in Dallas with two services a day. My brother Dub said he wanted to see our grandfather anyway, who was 90 years old and about ready to pass over to the other side, so Dub said he would go see the relatives and take care of this matter for me.

Taking care of this business involved dealing with some difficult relatives. When my brother Dub returned after visiting them, he said, "Boy, I'll tell you, I just about got whipped." One of the relatives had gotten rough with him.

My brother continued, "I told this relative, 'If you know God or have any knowledge of God you'd better thank Him I'm not like I used to be, or I would have whipped you already.' " (He was telling the truth; he would have!)

My brother said to this relative, "I'm saved now and I've quit fighting. I'm not going to fight you, but if you get on me, I'm going to get you off me. And you'd better just pray you don't get hurt if I have to get you off me!" Well, this relative didn't fight Dub, but he did give him a good "cussing out."

### **Putting the Lord To Work for You**

I said to my brother, "Dub, I'll go up there and finish taking care of this matter. Your trouble is, you're just a new Christian and you don't know how to put the Lord to work for you."

Through the years, I've had the greatest time in the world putting the Lord to work for me — just letting Him and His Word do the work. There is a Scripture which says, "*the battle is the Lord's*" (1 Sam. 17:47). I let Him fight all my battles. I don't fight any. The battle is the Lord's,

come, you do not know how to act on God's Word, you are at a disadvantage.

In one church I pastored, as we were discussing church problems, the board of deacons said to me, "What are we going to do now?" I just smiled and said, "We're just going to act like the Bible is true." Yes, just act like the Bible's true! And, you know, just by my saying those words, that deacon board sighed a sigh of relief! Because they knew the Bible is true.

If you know God's Word is true and you act like it is true, the Bible will become real in your life. You will bring God on the scene in your life!

In families, different troublesome issues arise. And sometimes among relatives, difficult problems arise also. (I'm not talking here about my immediate family, because we taught our children to act upon God's Word, and they did.)

Sometimes the problems and circumstances which arise in a church seem difficult too. And sometimes Christians (and even Spirit-filled Christians) seemed to be overwhelmed by these problems, and would say to me, "What are we going to do now?" I would smile and say, "I don't know what *you* are going to do, but I'll tell you what *fm* going to do. I'm just going to act like the Bible is true."

I remember one particular occasion along this line which occurred just after my oldest brother had gotten saved. (He had gotten saved because I had acted on God's Word, broken the power of the devil over his life, and claimed his salvation.) He was only a few weeks old in the Lord, when this incident took place.

I took care of my mother's business affairs for her, and although I really needed to attend to something for her,

that is in you than he that is in the world, the 'He' that is in you is God, the Holy Spirit. And the 'he' that is in the world is the devil himself, who is the god of this world. (Second Corinthians 4:4 calls him the god of this world.)

"I believe that the God who is in me is bigger than the devil. Do you believe that? I believe that the Holy Spirit who is in me is greater than the devil who is in the world — just as the Word of God says."

To get the full impact of this truth, let's look at the following verses in First John:

1 JOHN 4:1-4

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

### **The Battle Has Been Won**

In the first three verses, John, talking about evil spirits and demons, said, "*Ye have overcome them.*" Notice that he did not say that you are *going to* overcome these evil spirits and demons. He said that you *have* overcome them. In other words, the victory over evil spirits, demons, and every power that is in this world has already been accomplished for you. The battle has already been fought, and the battle has already been won! You don't have to

but the victory is ours. Second Chronicles 20:15 says, ". . . *Be not afraid nor dismayed... for the battle is not yours, but God's.* " When I put God's Word to work for me, the Word fights my battles for me.

So I have never been in a battle and I have been saved more than 50 years. Since I learned about faith and that the Bible says, "*For we which have believed do enter into rest. . .*" (Heb. 4:3), I've been in a state of rest.

Grasp what this Scripture says: "*we which have believed do enter into rest.*" Notice it does not say we have entered into a state of fear or into a state of fretting, gripping, worrying, or fighting. No! It says we have entered into *rest*.

### **Walking in Victory**

For more than 50 years I have been in a state of rest. I haven't had any battles. I have simply put God's Word to work for me. Some people battle themselves to death; they're always in some kind of a battle.

"How goes the battle?" some ask. I always answer, "The victory is wonderful!" Hallelujah! There isn't any battle; I'm enjoying the victory. Faith always has a good report!

Back again to what I was saying to my brother Dub. I told him, "You just don't know how to put the Lord to work for you. You see, the Bible says in First John 4:4, '*. . . greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*' Now, Dub, I'm going to act like that Scripture is true. I want to show you how to practice the Word — how to put the Word to work for you."

I continued, "When the Bible says that greater is He

the 30 miles from Dallas to attend to this family business myself. Before I left, Momma said, "Son, don't get into any trouble. I 'm not concerned about getting anything. I am only concerned about him (my grandfather — her father) and about his comfort. Don't get into it with the relatives and get into trouble."

"Momma, I'm not going to have any trouble."

"Well," she said, "So-and-so almost whipped Dub."

"I'm not Dub, and they are not about to whip me. The God who is in me is bigger than the devil who is in them."

I said, "I won't have any trouble. I'll never have any trouble."

When I arrived, I parked my car in my grandfather's driveway. The man who had caused so much trouble with Dub lived next door. When his wife saw my car, she called me over to the back porch.

Then she began, "I'll tell you, Ken . . . I'll teU you . . ." And the more she talked, the more she ranted and raved. And you know, I felt so sorry for her.

### **A Child of the Devil**

*I thought, Dear Lord, dear Lord. Here is this poor old soul, she can Y help but have the nature of the devil in her because she's a child of the devil; full of hate and selfishness, worried about what she is going to get and whether someone is going to get more than she is of the property.*

I felt so sorry for her. She couldn't help being that way. She couldn't help having the nature of the devil in her, because she was a child of the devil.

I didn't say a word to her. I simply said to the Lord

fight the battle, because the battle has already been won!

Then John qualifies this statement that the believer has overcome every demon and every evil spirit. These Scriptures tell us exactly how it is that the believer has overcome them. It is because, "... *greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*"

Colossians 1:27 says, "... *Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" You see, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ is dwelling in you. Jesus has already defeated all demons, and all evil spirits. Everything Jesus did, He did as your substitute. Everything Jesus did is marked down by God *to your credit!*

Let that soak in. Can you understand that? That's the way God looks at Jesus' victory. And really, that's the way the devil looks at it too. Satan knows that you have overcome him through Jesus' victory. But as long as you don't know it, he takes advantage of you.

#### The Greater One

So I said to Dub, "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. The God who is in me, the Jesus who is in me, the Spirit of God who is in me — is greater than the spirit of the devil who is in those relatives. Because the love of God has been shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5), the love that is in me, is greater than the hate that is in them."

Here was my grandfather, 90 years old and about to die, and some of the relatives were already fussing about who was going to get what. Unsaved people will do that because they are selfish.

I decided to leave after my morning service and drive

apologetic, and only the day before he had been cussing and raising the devil. He said, "Well now, we're not so concerned about ourselves ..."

I knew he was lying, because I knew they were going to instigate a suit as soon as my grandfather died to try to get all of his property.

He continued, "When my wife called me, she said you had some 'inside information.' "

"I surely do. I do have some 'inside information.' "

He changed his attitude. He said, "I'll tell you one thing, we're going to see that your momma gets her share."

"I'm sure of that," I said.

And sure enough, they did. Momma got her share, praise God.

I believe the Greater One lives in us. I believe He is greater than the devil. I know the Word of God says that, so I must act like it is true. When I begin to act like the Word of God is true, that's when it becomes a *reality* in my life. That is when the Greater One goes to work for me.

If I act like *I* must fight the battle, He can't fight it. If I fight the battle, I am not taking advantage of the Greater One and what He has done for me. Can you see that? So I don't try to figure out the situation. I just lie dov/n and go to sleep and let the Greater One fight my battles for me, praise God. I don't care what's going on, that's the attitude I take.

### **Troubled Churches**

In the years I pastored, almost every church God sent me to was a church that had trouble. Concerning one church in particular, I guess it's a good thing I hadn't

in my heart, "Thank God, the Greater One is in me." I just acted like the Greater One was in me. And He is greater. He's greater than the devil in her. The love of God that is in me is greater than the hatred in her. As I said, I felt so sorry for her.

Although she was looking down as she grew louder with her ranting and raving and plain old Texas cussing, she suddenly looked up at me. I guess such a look of love and compassion must have come over my face that when she looked up, she just sputtered to a close. Nothing else came out of her mouth.

Then she reached up, took ahold of my hand, got down on her knees, and cried, "My God, put your hands on my head and pray for me. A poor old soul like me needs something. Oh, my God, pray for me!"

Until then I hadn't said a word. All I had done was to act like the Bible is true. And it *is* true, praise God! Greater is He who is in me than he that is in the world.

She said, "We don't want to be cheated out of anything, but now we don't want your momma to be cheated out of anything either."

### **'Inside Information'**

"Don't you worry about Momma," I said. "She'll get everything that is coming to her, because, you see, I have some 'inside information.' "

"Oh," she said, "you do?"

"Yes, I do," I didn't tell her what 'inside' information it was. I didn't tell her it was information *inside* the Bible and *inside* me.

She called her husband home from work. He was so

I have done that. God has my cares. He's figured them all out and He is working on them, and I'm shouting while He's doing it! God is doing the work, and I am doing the shouting. Praise the Lord!

You see, if you are lying awake at night trying to figure out the situation for God, trying to work out how He can solve your problems, then He doesn't have your burdens; you still have them.

The faith life is the most beautiful life in the world, and it is the life God wants us to live. ". . . *The just shall live by faith*" (Rom. 1:17). And the walk God wants us to walk is the faith walk. "*For we walk by faith, not by sight*" (2 Cor. 5:7).

It's those who *act* upon God's Word who get results. You act faith. You talk faith. Your actions and your words must agree that you are a *believer*. It will not do you any good to *talk* faith if you are not going to *act* faith. And if it were somehow possible for you to act faith without talking faith, that would not do you any good either. Let both your words and your actions agree.

Some people will say one moment, "I'm trusting God to meet my needs." But with the very next breath they say, "Well, it looks like I'm going to lose my car. I can't make my payments." One minute it sounds like they are talking faith, but within a short time their actions prove they are not.

Some will even quote God's Word and say, "I know the Lord said in Philippians 4:19, '*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*' I'm trusting the Lord to meet all our needs, but it looks like we will have to have the telephone taken out. We can't pay the bill."

known all the "ins and outs" about it before I accepted the pastorate. I didn't apply for the pastorate. I had held a meeting there and the board contacted me, told me their pastor was leaving, and asked me if I would take the church. God had already dealt with me before they contacted me, so I accepted.

I found out later that nobody else would have it. But after we pastored that church, God blessed and it came out well. When I left, 40 preachers applied for the pastorate of that church.

But you know, while I was pastoring that church I didn't have any trouble. Sometimes if problems would arise, I would say to the people, "I'm not going to bother about these problems. They are not going to bother me one bit." I meant that I wasn't going to bother about these petty problems, even if the deacons decided to have a fist fight in the churchyard. I would have let them go ahead and fight. I wouldn't even have gone out to try to stop them. When they got it all fought out I would have gone out, prayed with them, and gotten them back in fellowship so we could go on with God.

### Casting Cares on Him

First Peter 5:7 says, "*Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you.*" Let's look at that in *The Amplified Bible*:

#### **1 PETER 5:7**

**7 Casting the whole of your care — all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all — on Him; for He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully.**

sick. She had been up with them day and night for several days, and she was worn out and desperate. Then, too, we were in desperate financial straits.

It just so happened that the day I received the letter from my wife was the regular visitation day for the pastor of this church where I was preaching. The pastor and his wife would be spending the entire day visiting different members of their congregation. This meant I would have the whole day to myself. After they left, I got my Bible and that letter and went over to the church. I knelt down before the altar, opened up that letter, and read it to the Lord.

### **Struggling in Prayer**

"Now, Lord," I said, "my babies are sick. My poor, dear little wife has been up with them day and night until she is worn out physically. She needs help and rest. Then we are in dire need financially. Now I've come out here, and I'm going to stay out here all day if necessary." (See, I was making quite a struggle out of it.)

"I'm going to pray," I told God, "until I pray through and those babies are healed and these financial needs are met."

Well, I prayed, and I prayed, and I prayed. But it seemed as if the longer I prayed, the further away from the answer I got, and the worse I felt.

I prayed around the altar on my knees. I prayed walking up and down the aisles of that church. I spent about an hour and a half praying, walking, beating the altar, kicking my feet, and doing everything else I had ever seen Full Gospel people do.

You see, it sounded in the beginning as if they were talking faith. They even quoted Scripture. But this was not really faith speaking. Really, they just mentally assented that this verse is in the Bible. They mentally agreed to its truth, but they didn't act as if it were so. In order to get results you must start acting like God's Word is true!

Jeremiah 1:12 says, ". . . / *will hasten my word to perform it.*" The margin of my *King James* translation says, "I will watch over my word to perform it." Well, you may be certain that if you accept God's Word and act on it, He is watching over that Word to make it good in your life!

### **Acting on the Word**

All you need to do is to *act on the Word*. It's deeply important that you learn this simple little lesson, because it is not struggling, it is not crying, it is not fretting, it is *acting* on what God has spoken that brings results!

More than 40 years ago I was holding a meeting in a Full Gospel church in West Texas. I didn't know as much then as I know now, but, on the other hand, I knew more than what I was acting on in this particular instance.

If you are associating with people (even Christians) who are full of doubt and unbelief, it is easy for some of that to rub off on you. And if you're not careful, you will unconsciously pick up some of their statements and attitudes.

The pastor of this Full Gospel church knocked on my bedroom door one morning and handed me an air mail special delivery letter which my wife had mailed the night before. My wife wrote me that both of our children were

but your mind just keeps on going. Sometimes when you get down to pray that happens.

Lying there on the altar, I was finally quiet. My body was quiet, and my mind was quiet. I am convinced that the Spirit of God had been trying to arrest my attention all that time to get something over to me. But for almost four hours I had been making so much noise I couldn't hear Him! Some people never do hear from God, because they are too busy with their own thoughts and their own physical efforts.

When I did get quiet, inside me I heard these words: "What are you doing out here acting like this?" (I realized it was the "still small voice" of the Holy Spirit speaking plainly to me.)

I felt insulted! Rising up to a seated position, I grabbed that letter, and began to wave it and to say, "Now Lord, I've read this letter to You three times. Don't You understand? My babies are sick and my dear little wife has been up with them day and night for two or three days. She's worn to a frazzle. We are in dire need financially. And You ask me why I am out here acting like this?" I thought that got it told! (But it didn't.)

I lay back down on the altar, thinking that should settle it, and I got quiet again. Then on the inside of me I heard, "What are you doing out here acting like this?"

I rose up again, grabbed the letter, and said, "Lord, I've already told You! I read the letter to You three times and told You what it said. I'm not going to read it any more. Don't You understand? My babies are sick. My dear little wife is there by herself. She's been up day and night caring for them till she's worn out. We are in dire financial need. And You ask what I am doing out here?"

I thought, *Well, if it worked for them, it will work for me.* But the only results after an hour and a half were that I had used up so much physical energy, I had pretty *well* worn myself out.

I decided to give it up as a bad job, and went back to the parsonage for a drink of water. But as I sat there and thought about my family, I said, "Well, bless God, I'm not going to be so easily defeated." So I got up and went back to the church.

Kneeling before the altar again, I opened that letter, read it to the Lord, and said, "Now, Lord, I'm determined this time to stay here all day if necessary. I'm going to stay here until I pray through; until I know those children are healed and the financial needs are met."

So I went at it again. And after another hour and a half, I had worn myself out again. Then the third time, I went through the entire process again.

Finally, after almost four hours, I lay down on the wide altar, exhausted. My hands were folded beneath my head and I was staring at the ceiling. But I had gotten quiet.

### **Hearing From God**

In the Old Testament there is a Scripture that says, "*Be still, and know that I am God...*" (Ps. 46:10). Many times we cannot hear what God is trying to say to us on the inside because we don't get quiet before Him. You can be as noisy with your mind as you can be with your hands and feet. It is pretty easy to quiet your body down to be still, but it is sometimes difficult to keep your mind from thinking. Have you ever had "head" trouble? "Head" trouble is when you have been able to quiet your body,

the children were healed and when our needs were met." He said, "Isn't My Word sufficient for you?" "Oh, yes, Lord. You know there isn't anyone in the whole state of Texas who believes Your Word any more than I do. There isn't anyone in the United States — (Then I got really bold.) — there isn't anyone in the world, who believes Your Word any more than I do. You know that I have always been a stickler for Your Word."

"Well," He said, "you are not acting like My Word is so. In fact, you are acting as though My Word were not so. You are acting like you have to talk Me into the idea of doing what I said I would do in My Word. You are acting as though you think that if you pray long enough and loudly enough you might eventually talk Me into the notion of not being a liar, and keeping My Word."

### **His Word Is Sufficient**

And then I saw it! I cried, "Dear God, forgive me. I have been running with unbelieving Christians so long it has rubbed off on me. I've picked up some of their habits and some of their speech. Forgive me. No, I don't need to 'pray through.' I don't need to have any kind of feeling. I don't need any kind of witness. Your Word *is* sufficient for me! That's all I need — just Your Word."

Then He spoke to me on the inside, "Doesn't My Word say *I* took your children's infirmities and / bare their sicknesses?"

I knew He was quoting Matthew 8:17 to me, which says, "... *Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.* " And you see, if He took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses, then health and healing belong to us and

I thought surely that should be enough for Him to understand, and I lay back down on the altar and got quiet again.

Then the third time, on the inside of me, I heard these words, "What are you doing out here acting like this?"

This time I got up off the altar and stood by it, waving the letter before Him. "Lord, I've read You this letter three times. This is the third time I will have told You what it says. Don't You understand? My babies are sick and my dear little wife is at home with them by herself. She's been up with them night and day until she's worn herself out. We have financial needs." And then I stopped.

When I did, inside of me I heard these words: "Well, what did you come out here for?"

### **What's 'Praying Through'?**

"Lord, I came out here to pray through." "What do you mean by 'pray through'?" "Well," I said, "uh, er, uh, well, uh, well, er, uh . . ." As I began to think about it, I realized I didn't know what I meant. So I said, "Whatever it is those Full Gospel people mean by it, *that's* what I've come out here to do. I've heard them say it."

As I thought about it, I said to Him, "Now I guess what I thought was that I was going to pray until I had some kind of feeling or witness or something like that. You see, I'm 365 miles away from home and I'd like to have some kind of witness or something; some kind of feeling that this prayer is being answered. I don't know what I meant, but I think that I thought I would know in some way or another when this prayer was answered — when

### **The Burden Lifts**

The burden was gone. I picked up my Bible, picked up the letter, and went out the door whistling and singing. I tell you, the grass was greener, the flowers were prettier, the sun was brighter, and everything was lovely.

The next morning another air mail special delivery letter arrived from my wife. "Everything is fine," she wrote. She was feeling well and strengthened. Then she told me that the previous morning both of the children — just as if you had snapped your fingers — were instantly well. Both of them! Instantly! The sickness didn't gradually go away, as sometimes happens. They were instantly well! Glory to God! And the finances had been met too. Praise the Lord!

Too often we want to put ourselves into the battle rather than letting God fight for us. We want to help Him. We want to figure out how God can fight our battle. We keep struggling and struggling and struggling — and the job never gets done because we won't turn it over to Him. God would fight every battle for us if we would let Him.

### **A Nagging Wife Reforms**

One lady said to me, "Brother Hagin, I can see it now: I can see how to let God fight my battles for me. I was overly concerned about my husband. He was lost. I kept nagging at him about going to church, but he wouldn't go. Once in a while, if I would nag long enough, he might go on a Sunday night.

"Then I saw that I was trying to save him myself. When I realized this, I simply said to the Lord, 'Lord, I'm

to our children too. So He put it that way: "Doesn't My Word say that I took your children's infirmities and I bare their sicknesses?"

"It surely does," I said.

"Isn't that all the evidence you need?" He asked.

"It surely is. That's all I need. I want to thank You right now for answering my prayer."

### **Acting on the Word**

As soon as I said that — I was acting on God's Word! Even though I was praying before, I wasn't acting on God's Word. I was in unbelief. It's not struggling, laboring, and *trying to believe* that brings results. It's acting on God's Word that brings results.

I said to Him, "Your Word is all the evidence I need, Lord. I want to thank You right now because my babies are both well. By Your Word they are healed. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! Thank You for it now."

Immediately something said to my mind (I recognized it to be the devil.), "Now how can you tell whether or not they are well when you are 365 miles away?"

I said, "Because the Word says, 'Himself took my children's infirmities and bare their sicknesses.' Therefore, my children are well."

Then I asked the Lord about our financial need. He said, "Didn't I say in Philippians 4:19, '*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus!*'?"

"You said it, Lord," I replied, "and Your Word is all the evidence I need. Thank You for it. Thank You our needs are met. Praise God! Hallelujah!"

### 'Helping God'

The Lord does use people to carry out His will on the earth, but sometimes, without any leading of the Lord, we try to do His work for Him. We do this because we are concerned, and we should be concerned. But there is a fine line here; we need to differentiate between helping Him and getting in His way.

In praying for my own relatives, I didn't realize where I was missing it until the Lord showed me. When you bring requests to the Lord *and* act on His Word, you get results.

For example, I prayed for my oldest brother for more than 15 years. Several times I fasted. But the more I fasted and prayed, the worse he got. If my prayers ever made any impression on him, I don't know it. And finally, after 15 years, I was almost ready to give up. But then I began to see what the Bible says.

Prayer is right and fasting is right, but I saw one day why my prayer and fasting wasn't working: It was because I wasn't really trusting God to do the work in my brother's life. I was trying to do it myself. It was all labor with me; it was all works. It was as if I were trying to force God into doing something.

I was doing the same thing with Dub that I'd done the day God spoke to me in that church, and said: "You are acting like My Word isn't so. You are acting as if you have to talk Me into the idea of doing what I have already promised to do."

I saw this in regard to my brother. And I also saw this: As believers, we have authority and we have power. So one day I took my authority as a believer. I stood there in my bedroom and said, "I take the Name of Jesus and

just going to act on Your Word and claim his salvation and forget it. I'm not even going to pray for him anymore.' I just quit all that nagging and for about three months I didn't even invite him to go to church. Every time I thought about his salvation I would say, 'Thank God I have turned his salvation over to the Lord. The Lord is working it out.'

"In those three months I did not say one word to my husband about God, the church, or about anything spiritual. Then one Sunday morning as he sat at the breakfast table reading the paper, I noticed he was looking around that paper at me as I cleared the table and got him another cup of coffee. Finally, he asked, 'Aren't you going to ask me to go to church this morning?'

"I told him that I wasn't going to ask him to go to church at all anymore, and he asked me why I wasn't. So I said to him, 'It may be of interest to you to know that I am not fooling with you anymore about spiritual things. In fact, I'm not even praying for you anymore.'

" 'You're not?' he exclaimed. 'Don't quit praying for me!' "

She didn't tell him that she had turned it over to the Lord and claimed his salvation. She just said to him, "I'm not even praying for you anymore." Then she went on and started getting ready for church. When she was ready and came out to go to church, there was her husband, ready to go too.

"Maybe I'll go with you this morning," he said.

"It's entirely up to you," she said, acting as if she didn't care whether he went or not.

But he went. And he went the next Sunday, and the next Sunday. On the third Sunday he was saved!

been saved.

Smith Wigglesworth said that when you believe God — sometimes God will permit you to be tested right down to the last moment — but He still watches over His Word to perform it.

All you have to do is simply ask yourself the question, "Did God promise it in His Word?"

Is His Word true? Yes, it is, isn't it? Then act like it is and His Word will become real to you!

break the power of the devil over Dub's life and claim his deliverance from the devil and claim his salvation." I picked up my Bible and went out of the room singing and whistling. "Well, that's it," I said. "It is done. Praise God!"

I was acting on God's Word. I didn't think about it or pray about Dub's salvation again. Once I settle a case in victory, I don't think about it anymore. However, twice in the next week, just as plainly as some person speaking to me, a voice came against my mind saying, "Oh, come on now. You don't really think old Dub will ever be saved, do you?"

### Staying in Faith

I had been walking across the room and I stopped. I started to think about it in my mind a little, but I recognized what I was doing, and that it was Satan talking to my mind, so I shut my mind off. If Satan can hold you *in the arena of reason in your mind*, he will defeat you every time. But if you hold him in the *arena of faith*, you will defeat him every time.

I began to laugh on the inside of me, right out of my spirit, and said, "No, I don't *think* he'll be saved. I *know* he'll be saved! Because you see, devil, I have taken the Name of Jesus and broken your power over Dub."

Twice the devil asked me that question and twice I told him the same thing. Within ten days, Dub was saved.

Someone asked me, "What if it hadn't worked that fast?" It wouldn't have bothered me at all. I would have held fast to God's Word and acted on it. If it had taken a hundred years, I would have known Dub would have

This woman had to overcome this obstacle too. She didn't pray that God would *remove* every obstacle; she just walked *over* every obstacle. *She* did something about those obstacles herself with her own faith. She got right into the midst of that crowd. And, of course, when she got to where Jesus was, the obstacle of the multitude thronging Jesus was there.

You could say, then, that the multitude stood between her and healing. Public sentiment stood between her and healing. Some of her own "church" teaching stood between her and getting to Jesus to be healed. But she did not pray that God would overcome these obstacles or remove them for her. She did something about these obstacles herself. With her faith, she persevered through every obstacle.

You, too, will have to do something about the obstacles which confront you and stand in your way of receiving healing. I have heard people actually pray, "Lord, make it easy for me to receive my blessing" — and yet not receive from God. You see, God puts all answers to prayer on a faith proposition. Too many people want God to do it all, leaving nothing for them to do and no part for them to play in receiving from Him. But we do have a part to play in receiving *answered prayer* from God.

And we will have obstacles to overcome just like the woman with the issue of blood did. *We* have *our part* to play because our text says that *we are* to, "*Fight the good fight of faith.*" If there were no hindrances or enemies to faith, there would be no fight to faith.

The Bible tells us, "... *faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*" (Rom. 10:17). Therefore, the greatest hindrance there is to faith is a lack of knowledge of God's Word. It is a mistake to pray for faith when what

## *Chapter 6*

### *Understanding Our Confession*

*Fight the good fight of faith. . . .*

— 1 Timothy 6:12

Sometimes people have said after having a little battle in the area of faith or a little fight in obtaining healing, "If I had just been there when Jesus was on the earth, getting healed would have been easy." However, if you go back and read the four Gospels, you will find that it was not so easy.

Take for instance, the woman with the issue of blood. Jesus said to her, ". . . *Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole.*..." (Mark 5:34). It was not Jesus' faith, or someone else's faith, but it was *her* own faith that made her whole.

To receive her healing, this woman had a number of obstacles to overcome. You know yourself, it's not always the easiest thing in the world to overcome obstacles. First, according to the Book of Leviticus, a woman with an issue of blood was in the same category that a leper was in. She was not supposed to be in public, mixing and mingling with other people. If anyone came close to her she was to cry out, "Unclean! Unclean!" That was her religious teaching.

But this woman got right into that crowd, mixed and mingled with them, and reached right through all those people and touched Jesus' clothes. So she had this obstacle of "church" teaching to overcome in order to receive healing. But she overcame it.

Second, women in that country, especially in that day, did not have the rights and privileges of mixing freely in public which they have in most parts of the world today.

ROMANS 10:9

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus [Jesus is Lord], and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

This confession does not refer to confessing sin. This is confessing Jesus. It is not a negative confession, it is a positive confession of faith.

Now notice another confession found in the next verse:

ROMANS 10:10

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

This, also, is not a negative confession. It is a positive confession. "... *with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*" In other words, we could say that with the mouth man confesses that he is saved.

### **Salvation Demands Confession**

Did you know that no man is ever saved until he *confesses* that he is saved? I don't care if he feels saved — he is still not saved until he confesses that he is saved. God's Word says, "... *with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*" If Christians could ever fully grasp this important truth: *The Bible says* it's with the *mouth* that confession is made unto salvation! So our faith keeps pace with our confession. Faith never rises above *our own confession*.

In a certain Full Gospel church in one of our large cities, the men of the church were in the habit of coming to the church each day for an early morning prayer meeting. An

is really needed is a knowledge of God's Word. If you gain knowledge of God's Word, you will have faith. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Faith will grow as our knowledge of God's Word grows. If faith is not growing, our knowledge of God's Word is not growing. I would be concerned if I did not have a *growing* faith.

It is a tragedy that people can believe God more when they are baby Christians than they can after they have been Christians for years. Instead of growing in faith, it seems as though some Christians deteriorate in faith. This should not be.

### Why Many Fail

We have been looking at six hindrances to faith. Of course, all of these hindrances are related to a lack of knowledge of God's Word. The sixth hindrance to faith we shall look at is the reason many fail in receiving from God. Many fail because they do not understand what the Bible says about "confession."

When we use the word "confession," people instinctively think of confessing sin or confessing failure. And the Bible does say, "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1:9). But that is the negative side of confession. The Bible has *much more* to say about the positive side of confession, that is, about confessing our faith.

For example, confessing Jesus as Lord is the positive side of confession.

saved until you confess it."

"Well, I - I," he stuttered, "I don't much believe I want to do that."

"I want to ask you a question," I said. "Is it correct that you have been coming here for six months, praying and repenting?"

"Oh, yes," he replied, "God knows I have prayed and repented every morning."

"Well, repentance has its place, but you have already done that, and you don't need to keep doing it again and again. Now you are ready for the next step. You see, if there were three steps into this building, just because you took the first step, or even the second, it would not mean you were in the building yet. If there are three steps to take to get into the building, you must take all three before you are inside the building."

(Some people will just take a step or two — and although the steps they take are Bible steps, they don't arrive with the answer because they don't take *all* the steps that lead to the particular provision God has promised.)

Then I said to this man, "You have your Bible. Open it to Romans 10:9.10 and read it aloud."

He read, "*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.*"

I said to him then, "Confess that you are saved."

"No, I don't much believe I want to do that."

(Now, I do things sometimes that startle even me. And in this instance I did one of those things. The Spirit of God came upon me to anoint me to do it. Even as I spoke

unsaved man had been coming to these prayer meetings each morning for six months but had not yet received salvation.

When I came to this church to hold a meeting, one of the men there told me about this unsaved man. "Brother Hagin, I believe you can help him," this Christian man said. I knew I could, because God's Word will always straighten out anyone who will listen to it.

The men who attended these early morning prayer meetings worked during the week and they could not attend the morning teaching sessions we held during the meeting. So they asked me to teach at a Saturday night session for men only. This unsaved man came to the first Saturday night meeting with his Bible under his arm. We were introduced to each other, but we didn't have time to talk before the service began.

People were still coming in to the church, even though it was time to start, so I said, "While others are still coming, we'll have a few testimonies." One or two men testified and then I looked over at this unsaved man and said to him, "Get up and *confess* that you are saved."

That startled him. He said, "Oh! I'm not saved yet."

"I know it," I said, "but you see the Bible says that with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. You will never be saved until you confess you are and make a public statement of it, because Jesus said, '*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven!*' " (Matt. 10:32).

"Yes," he said, "but I don't feel like I'm saved."

"Certainly not. You can't feel something you haven't got. You don't feel saved because you are not saved. You won't feel saved until you are saved, and you won't be

off the seat he shouted, "Whoa! When I said that, *something happened* down here inside me."

I said, "Sure, something happened to you. It is with the mouth that confession is made, and when you made your confession, God imparted eternal life into your spirit. Praise God that's what happened!"

Two nights later he was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues. The following summer, he and his family were on vacation and they stopped by where we were in a meeting.

In talking to us further, he said, "Brother Hagin, when I was trying to get saved, I would go to the church and pray and pray and I meant business. I was as honest and sincere as I could be. Every morning I would cry and repent and then every afternoon after work I would stop by the beer joint and drink with the fellows. But after I just simply made that confession, there was such a change in me. Instantly, I was even delivered from cigarettes. I had been carrying a pack of them in my pocket, and about a week later after breakfast I unconsciously reached for them. It was then that I realized I hadn't been smoking. My wife spoke up and said, 'I've been watching you and you haven't smoked a cigarette in a week.' "

He was a new man. And the inward man was dominating the outward man. Now some people don't have it that easy. That is because they allow the outward man to keep on dominating. They let the body dominate the man on the inside. However, if you will let that new man on the inside dominate, it is easy to keep the flesh under.

This man continued, "I didn't deliberately try to quit smoking. It was just that I was so carried away with the blessings of God and taken up with God that I didn't

the words, I found *myself thinking, Is that coming out of me?* My head had nothing in the world to do with it.")

Suddenly I found myself pointing my finger at him, and with authority and sternness in my voice I said, "I command you! I command you to stand and confess you are saved!"

When I said that, he stood. He looked around about half scared and said, "Well, most of you know that I have been coming here for six months and praying every morning. And God knows I am tired of sin and that I have repented and repented, prayed and prayed, and cried and cried. The Bible does say right here, '*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.*'

"Well," he continued, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for my sins according to the Scriptures. And I believe that God raised Him from the dead for my justification. (He knew what the Bible said about it.) So I just confess Him as my Lord and Savior and confess that I am saved." Then he sat down so fast and hard, you would have thought he had knocked the bottom out of the seat.

To divert attention away from him, I quickly pointed to another fellow and said, "Brother, you stand and testify." He did. Then I pointed to another one and he testified too.

After these two had testified, I looked back at this fellow, and his face was lit up like a neon sign. I said to him, "Brother, you get up again now."

This time I didn't have to prod him. He jumped up as though that pew were wired with electricity. As he jumped

the Bible says they are — or *what* the Bible says they *have*.

Our confessions rule us. That is a spiritual law which few of us realize. Jesus said, "... *whosoever shall say ... 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*" (Mark 11:23).

Notice that last phrase again, "*he shall have whatsoever he saith*." What we say is our confession. What we say is our faith speaking — whether it is on the positive side or on the negative side. Jesus said that whosoever shall *say*, he shall have whatsoever he *saith*.

Did Jesus know what He was talking about, or are these just the words of an irresponsible dreamer? No, they are not the words of a dreamer! Jesus knew exactly what He was saying. What did Jesus say you shall have? He said you shall have "*what you say*."

I tell people all the time, "If you are not satisfied with what you have in life, then change what you are saying. You have created what you have in your life with your own words."

So many people maintain a wrong confession instead of maintaining a right confession. A wrong confession is a confession of defeat, failure, and the supremacy of Satan.

Many people have more faith in the devil than they do in God. They don't mind at all talking about what the devil is doing and what he's going to do in their lives. They talk about Satan and his activities all the time. But try to get those same people to talk about what God is doing and what God will do in their lives, and they say, "Well, I would be afraid to talk about that!" Are they afraid God won't keep His Word? Are they afraid He is a liar? No, God will do everything He said He would do! Praise the

notice I hadn't smoked for a week. I threw that package away and cigarettes have never bothered me since then. And I went right past those beer joints too, and they were never any temptation to me again either."

### **Faith's Confession Creates Reality**

When you make a positive confession of faith, it creates reality in your life. And then you walk in the reality of God's blessing.

Many people struggle because instead of being on the positive side of confession, they are on the negative side. Maintaining a positive confession is always such a battle with them: "Oh, I'm having such a time. Poor ole me."

*Our faith keeps pace with our confession.* Let me repeat: Our faith keeps pace with our confession. Faith never rises above its confession. As I said, I am not referring to the negative confession of sins, but to the positive confession of the Word of God and the positive confession of our faith in God's Word.

If we *confess* weakness, failure, and sickness — we destroy faith. If your need is healing, boldly make your confession that your diseases were laid on Jesus. Then hold fast to that confession. That is where the fight of faith comes in — in holding fast to our confession of faith. Hebrews 4:14 tells us to hold fast to our profession (or *confession*) of faith. When we hold fast to our confession, we bring God on the scene.

The reason that the majority of Christians though earnest, are weak, is because they have never really dared to confess what God's Word says about them. They have never dared confess *what* the Bible says they are — *who*

### Don't Glorify the Devil

I know people wouldn't do it if they really knew what they were doing, but negative confessions and confessions that glorify what the devil is doing are an unconscious declaration that God, your Father, is a failure.

Most of the confessions and testimonies we hear from Christians, glorify the devil and what he is doing. You need to realize, too, that every time you testify, you are confessing *something*. You are either confessing to the supremacy of Satan, or to the supremacy of God. Too many times in church testimony meetings, Christians are unconsciously testifying to the supremacy of Satan by the way they talk.

When you testify and brag on Jesus, aren't you glorifying Jesus? When you tell what God has done and is doing, aren't you glorifying God? By the same token, if you get up and brag on the devil's works, you are glorifying the devil. Some Christians have glorified the devil more than they have glorified God. That is the reason they are in the mess they're in.

When you talk about the devil and what he has done, you are glorifying the devil and his works. When you talk about defeat, you are talking about the works of the devil. Defeat is not of God! God did not intend for the Church to be defeated, did He?

Let's look at what the Bible has to say about this. The Bible declares in Matthew 16:18 that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church. Paul, writing to the Church, said, "... *in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us* " (Rom. 8:37). If he had just said we were conquerors, it would have been enough

Lord! God will keep His Word!

All some people talk about is their combat with the devil and what a time they are having with Satan. They shouldn't have any trouble with the devil, because Jesus has already defeated the devil for them. If they knew the Word of God, they would know that Satan is already a defeated foe.

Colossians 2:15 says, *"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."* Jesus triumphed over them in His resurrection and put them to nought.

Therefore, always talking about your combat with the devil — how he is hindering you, how he is holding you in bondage, and how he is keeping you sick — is a confession of defeat. And as long as you talk that way defeat is what you are going to have.

Many times I have prayed for people who have been healed because of the "mass" or corporate faith present in a meeting, or because of my faith. All symptoms of their former diseases and sicknesses left. Yet, as they went their way, I had a heaviness in my spirit. I knew the same thing or something worse would come back on them. How did I know? Because the whine never left their voices so I knew they would go right back to whining and talking negatively, talking unbelief, and making negative confessions.

A wrong confession glorifies the devil. Talking about what a time you're having with the devil, what a battle you're having, how the devil is keeping you from success, how he is keeping you sick, how he is holding you in bondage, and all the things you are going through — these are all confessions that glorify the devil.

pajamas and a robe and the weather was cold.

His wife, however, did follow them outside. She closed the door as she followed them so her husband could not hear her. Then she said to the evangelist, "Keep praying for him. Keep on praying for him."

The evangelist asked, "Why?"

"Well," she said, "the devil will come back and put that right back on him and he'll have another heart attack."

"Sister, you have more faith in the devil than you have in God! You've just stood right there and told me what the devil is going to do. You said, 'The devil is coming back and he's going to put that back on him. The devil is going to give him another heart attack.' Why don't you say instead, 'God has healed him. The devil is not *going* to put that back on him'?"

She answered, "Oh, I'd be afraid to say a thing like that."

"Why?" he asked.

Whispering, she replied, "Don't you know the devil would hear me?"

Many Christians are the same way, and some preachers are too. I was holding a meeting in the Los Angeles area one year when there was an epidemic of the Asian flu. Headlines of *The Los Angeles Times* said that 2 million people had Asian flu in the Los Angeles area alone.

In the suburb where we held the meeting, there were two high school football teams. The local paper reported that both of them cancelled their Friday night games due to the flu epidemic. One team had a squad of 39 men and not a single one came out for practice. The other squad had 41 men and only two showed up for practice. Our

to make us a success. But, no, the Bible says that we are more than conquerors through Him!

All right, then, let's talk about what we are in Christ. Rather than saying, "Well, I'm just whipped! I'm defeated," get up and tell what the Bible says about you. Say, "I am a conqueror!"

"But it doesn't seem that I'm a conqueror," you may say. It may not seem that it is so, but your confession that you are a conqueror will create the reality of it in your life. Sooner or later you will become what you confess.

An evangelist told me about an incident that happened while he was holding a meeting in a Full Gospel church in a certain city. The wealthiest businessman in town was a member of this church. This man had a heart condition, and while the evangelist was in town, this businessman had a heart attack at home. His wife called the pastor and the evangelist to come and pray for him.

They went to the upstairs bedroom of this man's palatial home where he lay unconscious. The doctor said that he could not be moved even in order to take him to the hospital. The doctor told the man's wife that although they were giving him oxygen and doing all they could, he would never regain consciousness, but would die there in bed.

The evangelist and pastor laid hands on him and prayed, and as quickly as you could snap your fingers, this man opened his eyes and was all right!

He sat up, got out of bed, and walked downstairs to the living room, where he visited with the pastor and evangelist for about 45 minutes.

When the pastor and evangelist rose to leave, he did not go outside with them, as he was still wearing only

with that illness almost before we got home. It jumped on her that fast.

If you open the door, the devil will accommodate you. Job said, "*For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me*" (Job 3:25). You open the door to the devil by being afraid. You open the door to the devil by saying the wrong thing and making the wrong confession.

Then there are also those who say, "I believe I'll just *try* that" only because they have heard someone teach on confession. Well, if you make confessions which are not really your own faith speaking, but are just spoken off the top of your head, so to speak — you will fall flat on your face and the devil will whip you badly.

It is only when you know what God's Word says for yourself and make your confessions of faith in line with God's Word that you cannot be defeated. That is why I encourage people to get into the Word for themselves. Find out what the Bible says about you as a Christian. Underline all the "in Him," "in Christ," "in whom," Scriptures and begin to confess them. Confess, "This is mine because I am in Christ. Because I am in Him, I have the provision of health, healing, prosperity, etc."

Find out what is yours. Find out what belongs to you in Christ. When you make your confession of faith because of what *you* see in God's Word, then, because you have the foundation of God's Word under you, you will never be defeated.

In the natural, when people maintain the wrong confession, naturally their confession of doubt, failure, and unbelief saps the very life out of them and destroys their faith. Their negative confession holds them in bondage.

church building (which seated several hundred) had been full, but when this epidemic hit, so many people got the flu that the congregation was reduced to 40 people.

Someone asked me, "Aren't you afraid?"

I publicly declared, "This epidemic doesn't worry me. I will never have the Asian flu." And I never have.

When I have made confessions of faith such as that, I have had Full Gospel preachers say to me privately, "Aren't you afraid to make statements like that?"

I've answered, "No, why?"

They whispered, "Don't you know *the devil* will hear you?"

"Sure I know he will hear me. I said it for his benefit. He's the very one I want to hear me! There was no need for me to say it for God's benefit. God already knew it anyway. The devil is the one that I wanted to hear it."

### **Fear Opens the Door to the Devil**

A number of years ago my wife and I went to visit someone we had heard was ill. "If you are afraid," this person cautioned, "you'd better not come in here. I've picked up a virus and I've got a bad case of it."

"Don't let it bother you a bit," I said. "I'll never have it."

But my wife said, "Well, maybe I'd better not go in. I might get it."

I told her to make her own choice. She did go ahead and go in with me, but sure enough she got sick just like she said she would. I did not get sick. I pointed that out to her and told her, "You *said* the wrong thing." She had spoken with a hesitancy. She had wavered. She came down

Peter is writing to Christians; he's not writing to sinners. The devil has already devoured the sinners and swallowed them up. He will swallow Christians up if they let him. Now what are we to do about it?

Are we just going to throw up our hands and say, "Well, there's nothing we can do. I'm so weak and unworthy. Poor ole me"? No! A thousand times no!

Are we just to roll over and play dead, saying "He'll go away if I pretend he's not there"? No! We're not to do that.

### **Resist the Devil**

Well, what *are* we to do? Let's read on and do what the Scripture says to do. "*Whom resist stedfast in the faith ...*" (1 Peter 5:9). I like one translation which says, "Whom resist steadfast in YOUR faith." In other words, you resist the devil by your faith in God's Word — your faith in what God said about the devil — your faith in what God said about you. You resist the devil with that! Hallelujah to Jesus!

James 4:7 puts it this way, "*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" "You" is the understood subject of that sentence: "*YOU resist the devil. ...*" It does not say to get someone else to resist him for you. We can help each other temporarily, but in the final analysis there are just some things you have to do for yourself.

James wrote this letter and this particular verse to the Church. But he did not write this letter in the following way: "Word has come to me that our beloved brother, the Apostle Paul, has had great success in casting out devils and in dealing with devils. I suggest you write to him and

But the confession of your faith which has grown out of knowledge of God's Word will defeat the devil in combat every time.

Peter wrote, ". . . *your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom, he may devour*" (1 Peter 5:8).

I think that is as far as some people read. They say, "Whoo, the devil is after me. It says here he is going about like a roaring lion. It seems like I can feel his hot breath on my neck right now. The devil's seeking whom he may devour, and I'm afraid he's about to devour me. You all pray for me that he won't get me." There really isn't any use to pray for people who talk like that, because the minute they started talking that way, the devil had them.

One preacher said to me, "Well, Brother Hagin, I've got the devil on the run!"

"Praise the Lord," I said.

"The trouble is," he said, "I'm running, and he's after me!"

But that's not what the Bible says! Certainly we have an enemy. This verse calls the devil, "*Your adversary*." An adversary is an opponent, an enemy; one who is arrayed against you; one who stands between you and victory, and between you and success.

*"Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about [right down here on this earth because he is the god of this world], seeking whom he may devour."*

If you stop reading right there, that's not a very pretty picture, is it? Yes, if you let him, the devil will try to scare you; and if you don't know the truth, you will get scared, because he walks about *as* a roaring lion. But we are not to stop reading there.

something about him.

### Believe **and** Confess

Find out what belongs to you and rise up and walk in the light of what is yours! The way these things become real to you is by believing them in your heart and confessing them with your mouth.

Romans 10:10 says, *"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* That is not only true concerning salvation, it is true concerning everything you receive from God. Believing with the heart and confessing with the mouth *is the way you must receive from God.*

It is always with the heart that man believes, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation, or the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

It is with the heart that man believes, and with the mouth confession is made unto healing.

It is with the heart that man believes, and with the mouth confession is made unto answered prayer. The Scriptures say this, and I have proved it many times over the years.

The Lord said to me years ago, "I want you to go teach My people faith. I have taught you faith through My Word, and I have permitted you to go through certain experiences. You have learned faith both through My Word and through experience. Now go teach My people faith. Teach them what I have taught you."

I heard a voice from heaven speak those words to me. So I just teach people what I have learned from the Word, and what I have learned from experience. And years ago

get him to do something about the devil for you." No, the Bible doesn't say that. You have just as much authority over the devil as the next person. *You* resist the devil and he will flee from *you*.

I looked up the word "flee" in several dictionaries. I wasn't satisfied with the different shades of definitions I could gather, until I got a dictionary about a foot thick which had more than one page on the word "flee." Under the heading "to flee" I found the definition I liked best. It defined "flee" as: "to flee from, to run from, as in terror."

At the time I was looking into the meaning of this word, a dam broke high up in the mountains bordering France and Switzerland. Billions of gallons of water came rushing down between those mountains and wiped out an entire town. One newspaper article read, "The townspeople are fleeing. ..." These people were running from that deluge as in terror because their lives were in danger.

God's Word says, "*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" He will run *from you* as in terror!

Oh, he's not afraid of you as an individual. But when you find out what your rights and privileges are in Christ; when you find out the Name of Jesus belongs to you and that you have a *legal right* to the use of that Name; when he knows *you* have found out what that Name *will do* — *then he will run from you as in terror!*

Until then, he will hang around, and every chance he gets he will rub your nose in the dirt. He will keep you on the defensive and he will keep you defeated.

*You* resist the devil. *You* do something about him. God has already done all He is going to do about the devil. God sent Jesus, and Jesus arose victorious over the devil. Jesus defeated him for you, and now it is up to you to do

"... *If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole*" (v. 28).

The pastor of this Full Gospel church said to me, "Brother Hagin, I trust that my brother-in-law will receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit while you are here. He has been seeking to be filled with the Spirit for 34 years. There's not a finer Christian in my church."

I didn't say anything to him, but I thought to myself, / *know he will receive*. I knew he would receive because God's Word works. God and His Word are one! God works through His Word and His Word is not bound. If you'll preach the Word of God, it will work!

So that night I preached along this line that you can have what you say. Some of those in the congregation were getting it, but it takes time for people to grab ahold of these things, especially if the congregation has never been trained in the principles of faith. You won't always be able to make some of these principles work in public meetings if the faith of the congregation isn't up to that level yet.

That was the case in this particular meeting. I did not try to minister to this man in public because I knew the faith of the congregation was not up to that level. Instead, I went back to the prayer room, to talk to this man individually because he came forward to receive the Holy Spirit.

I said to him, "If I understand correctly, you've been seeking the Holy Spirit for 34 years."

He said, "That's right, I sure have."

"Well," I said, "did you hear the text, Mark 11:23, where Jesus said, '*... he shall have whatsoever he saith.*'?"

He said, "That's right."

"Do you believe that?"

"Yes, it's all in there."

as I was learning these truths, I put them to the test. God's Word stands the test!

If you really believe a thing in your heart and say it with your mouth, you will have it. Why? Because *Jesus* said you would in Mark 11:23. Some say, "I confessed something and I don't have it." I don't mind telling them, "Either you or Jesus is lying about it because Jesus said, '*. . . Whosoever shall say . . . 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.*' "

Usually, though, if you let people talk long enough, they give themselves away. They'll say, "Brother Hagin, I want you to know I did exactly what this verse said and it just does not work."

"Well, if it doesn't work, then Jesus told a lie about it," I say to them.

They stop and say, "That's right, Jesus didn't lie, did He?"

"No."

Then they usually admit, "Well, I sort of wondered if it would work anyway."

You see, they were indefinite in their believing in the first place about whether or not it would work. To get confession to work for you, you are going to have to believe the Bible is so. Be specific in your believing. Find Scriptures that promise you what you need and confess the Word!

I remember I was holding a meeting in a Full Gospel church years ago. I was teaching from Mark 5, about the woman with the issue of blood, and that believing with the heart and confessing with the mouth is the way you receive from God. The woman with the issue of blood *said*,

didn't try it, he did it!" He said, "Well, I'll do it then." When he got to the same place in his confessing what he believed in his heart, he began to speak in tongues too. You see, he confessed with his mouth and believed with his heart that he received the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit gave him utterance.

I tested things out purposely. For example, another time I was in a home meeting with some denominational people who didn't have the teaching Full Gospel people have along these lines. I wanted to put God's Word to work and prove this principle — that you can have what you say. So I did not tell these people or even suggest to them that when they received the Holy Spirit they were to talk in tongues.

Nine people wanted to receive the Holy Spirit that night. I simply sat down with them and said, "Let's see what the Bible says about receiving the Holy Spirit." We looked at Scriptures in the Book of Acts and then I had all of them pray a prayer after me. I never told them that they were going to talk in tongues. I didn't even mention tongues or that tongues was the Bible evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In unison they all prayed, "Father, because I believe it in my heart, and I say it with my mouth, I am now filled with the Holy Spirit." Eight out of the nine people instantly started talking in tongues. They weren't taught to; they had never heard anyone talk about tongues. They just obeyed the Word of God! It proved to me beyond all shadow of doubt that when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will speak with other tongues.

*"With the mouth confession is made unto . . . ,"* and *"He shall have whatsoever he saith."* These phrases from

Then I asked him, "Will you do what I tell you to do?"

"I will if it's easy," he replied.

It seems everyone is looking for something easy! I told him, "It's the easiest thing you ever did in your life. Just stand right there and let's join hands and agree together as one. I am going to pray a prayer according to God's Word, and you pray it after me. But don't just say it. Don't just pray it out of your head — let your heart agree with it. Because, you see, the Bible says, '*. . . whosoever shall say . . . and shall not doubt in his heart. . .*'" (Mark 11:23).

He said, "All right, I'll do it."

So I started praying and he followed me. I prayed, "Heavenly Father, I thank You because I have been born again, and I am Your child. I thank You because salvation is a gift. The Bible says, '*By grace are ye saved through faith*' (Eph. 2:8), and I have received salvation in faith. Now, Father, the Word of God also teaches that the Holy Spirit is a gift, and by faith I now receive the Holy Spirit. I believe in my heart, and because I believe in my heart I say with my mouth, 'I receive the Holy Spirit. I am filled with the Holy Spirit.' " He followed me in this prayer. Then I just quoted Acts 2:4, and he repeated it after me. "Father, Your Word says, '*And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*' I believe that in my heart." As he said this, he instantly began to talk in tongues. One simple little prayer of believing in the heart and confessing with the mouth, and this man was filled with the Spirit after seeking this experience for 34 years!

There was another man standing by watching us, and he said, "Brother Hagin, I'd like to try that." I said, "It won't work then. It won't work if you just *try* it. This man

God's Word say the same thing using different words. You are not going to have victory by confessing defeat, are you?

I do not believe in defeat, so I never talk defeat. I do not believe in failure, so I never talk failure. I do not believe God is sick, or that He is a failure, or that He is defeated. He has never been a failure or defeated and He never **will** be. So why should I believe in and talk defeat, failure, and sickness?

### **Confess Your Faith**

I don't believe that Jesus is sick, do you? I don't believe that Jesus is defeated, do you? I don't believe that Jesus is a failure, do you? I believe Jesus is the Healer, and because He is the Healer, I have health. I believe that I am more than a conqueror through Him who loved me and gave Himself for me.

I believe if Christians will find out who they are and what they are in Christ, they will rise to the level of what belongs to them!

The trouble is, however, that some people are looking at things from the natural — from a *physical* standpoint. God is looking at things from a *spiritual* standpoint. But some Christians keep looking at themselves from the physical and they see this world of darkness and, consequently, they walk by sight and not by faith. They think defeat, they talk defeat, and then they are defeated! And they sing those old unbelieving songs such as, "Here I wander like a beggar through the heat and through the cold." These are the things that defeat Christians.

Find out what the Bible says and begin to confess, "This is what I am in God. This is who I am in Christ."

You see, I do not believe that Christ is sick. There should not be any sickness in His Body! I don't believe

that Jesus is defeated or that He is a failure. I believe that He is a conqueror! And that is why the Bible says, ". . . *we are more than conquerors through him that loved us*" (Rom. 8:37).