

THE WORD OF FAITH

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MINISTERING HANDS

Turn with me to the 4th chapter of the book of Acts. The Lord wants me to demonstrate something to you from the Word of God. We can understand how God works because He works today just like He did in the days of the early church.

In the 4th chapter of Acts, after that Peter and John had ministered to the man at the gate called Beautiful, and he was healed, and they were arrested and taken into custody, and were threatened and commanded to preach and teach no more in the name of the Lord Jesus, the 23rd verse says, "And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord."

At the end of the prayer they prayed it says, in the 29th verse, "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word." They didn't pray and say, "Lord we are going to try to form a committee here and see if we can't go and talk with them. We'll work out something where we can sort of work with them." No sir, bless God, they said, "Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy

holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together."

We need that kind of united praying today. "The place was shaken where they were assembled together." They prayed that God would stretch forth His hand to heal and that signs and wonders may be done in the name of the holy child Jesus.

Christ has become the head of the Church, the Church is the body of Christ. The hands are in the body. Jesus does not lay His hands of healing on anyone today, neither does He stretch forth His literal hand to do wonders and miracles.

Read in the 5th chapter and you will see the answer to that prayer, you will see where the hands are. Notice the 12th verse, "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them; but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing

sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one."

Notice how they were healed. The Lord stretched forth His hand. He answered that prayer. They prayed that the Lord would stretch forth His hand to heal the sick and that signs and wonders would be done in the name of the holy child Jesus. He answered that, and by the hands of the apostles. Peter's shadow became the Lord's hand. As many as his shadow fell on were healed, every one.

We pray that Jesus would minister to people. Jesus is not here in the flesh. Someone said, "He is here in Spirit." That is true in a sense, but in the way you really mean it, it isn't true. People have in their mind, "Well, I know He is not here in the flesh so that I can see Him with the physical eye. But He is here in Spirit, and maybe He is standing right beside this person."

If a man were sitting here blind, we would pray, "Dear Lord, minister to him." Some way or another we have it in our mind that in the Spirit Jesus is right there by him, that He lays His invisible hand on him, and the man's eyes are opened. That is not the way God works. Because we pray and expect it that way, our prayers don't work.

Christ has now become the head of the Church, and we have be-

come the body of Christ. That is what the New Testament teaches, the Church is the body. When He was here on earth, He could lay His physical hand, and He could minister through His physical mouth, speaking unto people. Today He is not here in the flesh, but His body is here in the earth, and He is the head.

Your head directs your body. There is a song book nearby. Your eye sees that song book and passes the information to your head, then your head tells your hand to reach and get that. So reach and get it. Your head directs your body.

Christ is to direct the body. And the hands of the body are not in the head. How many of you folk have your hands in your head? Not a one of you. Your hands are hooked onto your body. So when the Lord stretches forth His hands, the only hands He has are the hands that are in the body.

So you see the Lord has put ministry gifts in the church to minister. When He ascended on high, the 4th chapter of Ephesians says, "He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." What are these gifts that He gave unto men? "He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." Those are the gifts that He gave men.

Did you know men are going to have to give an account unto God for what they have done with His gifts? He gave those gifts to men. That doesn't mean He gave me, because I am a minister, some gift to minister. He called me to that, and put me in that office. It means that my ministry is a gift to you.

You are going to have to give an account unto God for what you do with my ministry. Someone said, "Why you are going to have to give an account to God for your own ministry." In a sense that is true. I will have to give an account for how I use it. But you are going to have to give an account unto God for what you do with my ministry.

The individual church will have to give an account unto God for what they do with the ministry of their pastor. Whether they receive it or not. I pastored nearly twelve years, and we pastors know when people are going to get into trouble because they won't listen to the ministry gifts. Sometimes the hardest thing in the world for a pastor to do is to keep from saying, "I told you so."

They won't listen. "Well, I'm not going to listen to him. Bless God, I've got the Holy Ghost too," Well, you may have the Holy Ghost, but just because you are filled with the Holy Ghost doesn't make you a ministry gift in the body of Christ. The ministry gifts are to minister.

When we understand how God ministers, then we'll cooperate with Him. Then we will receive from Him. Men become the hands of God. They pray, "Lord, stretch forth thy hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus."

But Jesus is the Head of the church, and the head doesn't have any hands. The hands are in the body. It is the body of Christ that does the work of Christ. The whole body ministers to a certain extent, but in the body He has set ministry gifts. Then

He endeavors to minister through these gifts.

He has attempted to minister to folk, and some have accepted it. But others, by not knowing, haven't cooperated. They want God to come down and minister to them personally, but He isn't going to. They think sometimes that you are elevating or magnifying man in saying that God uses men. But my brother and sister, God can't do His work in the earth without men. It would never be done without men.

Couldn't He do it some other way? I don't know, but at least I know this -- this is His way of doing it. In the beginning of creation God made the world and the fulness thereof. And then He made His man Adam. He said, Adam I give you dominion over all the work of My hand.

But Adam sinned and sold that dominion out to Satan. Then Satan became the god of this world. Then the second man Adam came, and He defeated Satan. He arose victorious over death, hell, and the grave.

When He arose He said to His disciples, and to those in the beginning, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." But He immediately delegated that authority on the earth to the church. He said, "You go." He turned all of His work over into the hands of men.

The Lord wanted you to understand how He ministers. There in the Old Testament God endeavored to minister to Israel through the ministry and through the prophets. He said in His Word, "Believe in the Lord your God; so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper."

If you don't believe in the ministry gifts you won't prosper in what is given. The Word says that the word given Israel did not profit them, not being mixed with faith. The word that the prophet or the priest gave out did not profit Israel, not being mixed with faith.

So what we give will not profit you if it is not mixed with faith. That is the reason we preach the Word, to show you how God does minister so you will believe, and you will mix with faith what is spoken and what is ministered. When you do, then you receive.

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Rev. Buddy Harrison, editor

"Love of things has led man to great technological progress---and has hampered his moral and spiritual progress."

FALL CRUSADE

We want to announce again our All Faiths Crusade that is to be held in Houston, Texas, October 23rd thru November 1st. This is our own non-denominational Crusade.

It will be held at the:

Evangelistic Temple
2025 West 11th
Houston, Texas 77008

We are looking forward to seeing all of our friends and trust you are looking forward to seeing us. Make your plans now to attend this meeting.

MONTHLY LESSON

The lesson this month is entitled THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN. The lessons are offered FREE each month to those who write and ask for them. Write for your copy today. If you wait until next month there will be a 25¢ charge per copy.

SPECIAL FALL SEMINAR

The Lord has spoken definitely to me to have a Special Fall Seminar this October to teach Prayer and to pray before the fall elections saying we can change things politically thru Intercessory Prayer. So Monday thru Saturday at 10:00 we will have Prayer School. There will be a teaching session first and then a time to actually pray or to put into practice what we have learned in the lesson. The Sunday afternoon and evening sessions will be a Divine Healing School. We will teach everyone how they can minister to and pray for the sick and each one can have a healing ministry. We will also minister to the sick in these sessions. The dates will be Sunday, October 11 thru Sunday, October 18.

TESTIMONY

We are dairy farmers, and one evening when I was in the milkhouse assembling the milking machine, I was thinking about the fact that you stress that the Holy Spirit is a free gift. I was singing a song of praise to God, and suddenly my words became unintelligible to me. Praise the Lord! I could hardly believe it. I could not stop for about 10 minutes. My teen-age daughter came in to see where I was so long, and we cried and rejoiced together. You see, our Lutheran Church does not teach the Full Gospel, but we know what is going on throughout the world among all Christians, as the Spirit is moving these last days.

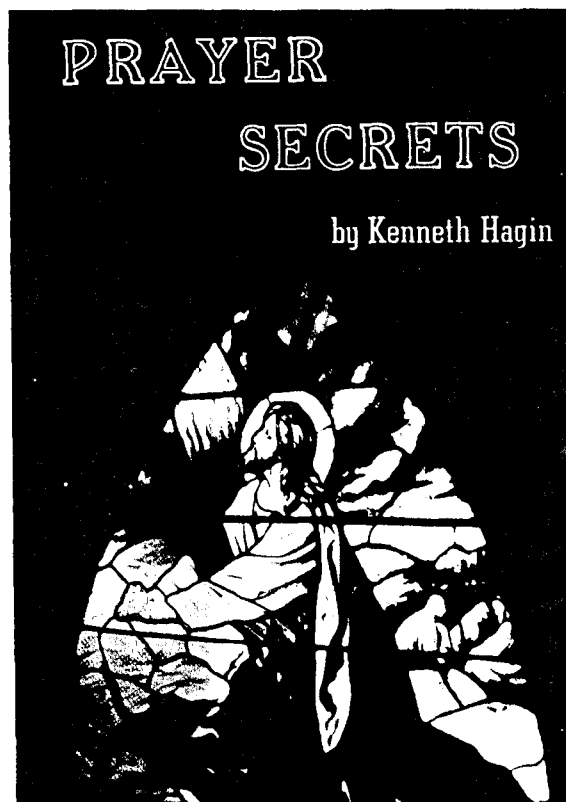
Mrs. K. H. New York

RADIO

LOG

STATION	CITY	DIAL	TIME
KSKY	Dallas, Texas	660	12:00 Noon
KFMJ	Tulsa, Oklahoma	1050	10:45 AM
WJIV	Cherry-Valley-Albany, NY	101.9	9:08 AM
WOIV-FM	DeRuyter-Syracuse, NY	105.1	9:08 AM
WEIV-FM	Ithaca, NY	103.7	9:08 AM
WMIV-FM	Bristol-Rochester, NY	95.1	9:08 AM
WBIV-FM	Weathersfield-Buffalo, NY	107.7	9:08 AM
WBFM-FM	Detroit, Michigan	98.7	9:15 AM
KELR	El Reno, Oklahoma	1460	7:30 AM

Your Gift Book for October



Prayer Secrets

The Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword. Surely we need to know the authority we have when we pray in the Name of Jesus. It's encouraging to know that we can use this authority to bind and block the powers of darkness. We need to know WHO to pray to. In Matthew 18:19 we find we can more than triple our getting what we pray for by agreeing with a prayer partner. These are just a few of the things this book reveals. Send for yours today!

BE SURE AND WRITE FOR YOUR GIFT BOOK TODAY

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