

February 1974

THE WORD OF FAITH

Spiritual Forces

--by Kenneth Hagin

EPHESIANS 6:12

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The mightiest forces in the world are spiritual. They are not electricity, or dynamite, or the atomic or hydrogen bombs--but unseen and unheard spiritual power.

It amazed and in a sense, staggered me when I first saw this fact--that a Spirit had created material things.

Jesus declared, "God is a Spirit..." (John 4:24). And the Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

It amazed me to realize that Unseen Ability had brought into being everything we know upon the earth in the natural realm by just simple saying, "Let there be..."

Then I realized that spiritual forces are mightier than anything our senses have ever known. Words are more powerful than bombs and tanks. Spiritual forces are the greatest forces in the world.

God is a Spirit. And man, created in the image of God, is a spirit being. Man has a soul and he lives in a body, but he is an offspring of God; a spirit being.

God is a Spirit. And the Bible says that angels are spirits, and that demons are spirits. Man, who is a spirit, lives in the midst of spiritual forces.

In the new birth, man's spirit becomes united with God. The new birth is a rebirth of the human spirit. "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit" (I Cor. 6:17).

Then (since our spirits are united with God) our combat with the spiritual forces we read of in Ephesians 6:12, as a believer, should always be with the consciousness that these wicked powers are conquered--aware that they are dethroned powers and that Jesus conquered them for us!

They hold sway over man only because man does not recognize that he has been set free and that dominion over demon forces has been placed in his hands.

When Jesus arose from the dead, it was because He had conquered all the forces of hell and stripped them of their authority. He had broken their dominion over the human spirit. And that victory, thank God, belongs to you and to me.

Several times the Book of Hebrews uses the expression that Jesus "sat down." You don't "sit down" until the job is finished. And Jesus didn't "sit down" until the job was finished.

Jesus "sat down" at the right hand of the Father. He did so

because redemption had been consummated, deliverance had been effected. The "new creation" came into being and He gave the "new creation" the legal right to the use of His Name.

The new creation is two-fold in nature. First, it is **you** and I, individual members of the Body of Christ who are new creatures by virtue of the new birth. But, then too, the new creation is also the Body of Christ that is on the earth today, of which we are all members.

Each of us individually are new creatures and the whole group together is a new creation; something which never existed before. There was no Body of Christ on the earth in the Old Testament. And there was no spiritual Body of Christ on the earth in the four Gospels. The only body of Christ here then was His physical body. The spiritual Body of Christ is here now.

I CORINTHIANS 12:27

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

We are the Body of Christ, it says here. We are not "trying to be" a member of the Body of Christ--we are the Body of Christ.

I CORINTHIANS 12:13

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body....

This is not water baptism nor the baptism in the Holy Ghost.

This is talking about when we are born again. When you are born again, you are put into the Body of Christ by virtue of the new birth.

I CORINTHIANS 12:12

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

This spiritual body is a new creation. Second Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature..." The margin of my King James reads, "a new creation." One of the modern translations reads, "he is a new species." One that never before existed. Certainly others were Christians before you, but as far as you are concerned you are a new creation which never before existed. You became a new man in Christ Jesus.

Now the new creation came into being when Jesus ascended on high and began His ministry at the right hand of the Father. There He is the Mediator between God and man. Until He began His ministry at the right hand of the Father, man could not reach God as we do under the new covenant. The new creation came into being--and He gave the new creation the legal right to use His Name.

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth," He declared, and then He continued, "Go ye therefore...." (See Matt. 28:18-19.)

Jesus conquered Satan for us. His victory over the adversary was our victory. We are conquerors today because of what He did.

And we enter into this victory by grace. We have but simply to repeat the Name of Jesus and demons are defeated.

We have not yet appreciated as we should the fact that our enemy is defeated and that our fight is a "faith fight". The New Testament tells us to "Fight the good fight of faith" (I Tim. 6:12).

The only fight we are told to fight is the faith fight. Ephesians 6 does not tell us to fight these evil spirits. It tells us to stand against them. And we are told just what to do and how to stand against them. You stand against them in faith--you do not fight them.

The Bible says, "...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith...." (I Peter 5:8-9).

What does that mean, "Whom resist stedfast in the faith"? It means that you stand on what you believe. You say that you believe the Bible so stand your ground and say, "I believe the enemy is defeated by Jesus Christ, and in Christ I am a new creature. I stand my ground and refuse to be defeated for the Name of Jesus belongs to me."

You are dealing with unseen forces, spiritual forces. But, thank God, those spiritual forces are defeated!

This is the faith fight. It is our taking for granted that Satan is defeated that makes us masters! It is acting on God's Word as though it were true that makes us victors!

We have lived too long in the realm of the flesh--the sense realm--depending upon what we see with our physical eye, or hear with the physical ear, or feel with our hands or our "feelings." For that reason, it is so difficult for us to grasp the reality of the unseen. We have depended too long on that which is seen.

Human reasoning and sense knowledge will try to hold you in the realm of things seen, felt, and heard. But you just step out in faith upon God's Word because you know that your combat is with unseen forces.

Know this, that your faith is in what God's Word says. Real faith in the Word requires no sight, no feelings, nothing but the Word. Real faith says, "God said it and it is true. I take my stand upon the Word."

When you stand upon the Word of God to face the unseen forces, your weapons are effective.

You have the Word of God. Ephesians 6:17 tells you to take "...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...."

And you have the Name of Jesus which has all authority in heaven and earth and hell.

And you have the shield of faith. "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked (Eph. 6:16).

You are told to take the shield of faith. This is something you do. It isn't something God does for you. Some are praying, "God, give me the victory over the devil." He isn't going to give you victory over the devil. If you are waiting on Him to do it, you are wasting your time.

However, if you will just pick up the sword of the Spirit, the Name of Jesus, and the shield of faith, and go out against the devil, you will put him on the run. You do something about it. Thank God, you can!

The sword of the Spirit is not like the literal, physical, material sword such as a Roman soldier would have taken in his hand. You have to take this sword with your mouth. It is the Word of God.

Jesus gave us an example of how we are to use the sword of the Spirit when He was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. Satan came to Him saying, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread" (Matt. 4:3).

Jesus answered, "It is written...." He met Satan with the

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sword of the Spirit! He said it. "...He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

The devil then took Him up on the pinnacle of the temple and said, "...cast thyself-down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."

Jesus said, "It is written again...." Sometimes you have to tell the devil, "It is also written...."

The greatest victories I have won have been when I stood against him with all my physical senses saying, "The battle is lost." But I stood my ground against him and said, (even when he quoted half-scriptures and portions of scriptures to me) "It is also written...."

"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me" (Matt. 4:8-9).

"Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the

Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matt. 4:10).

In Luke's account we read, "And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season" (Luke 4:13). Yes, he came back. And he will come back to you, too. But, when he does, you can be ready for him again with the sword of the Spirit, the Name of Jesus, and the shield of faith! You will do it!

We are going out against the forces of darkness just exactly as Jehoshaphat and Judah went out against the hosts which came against them in II Chronicles 20. They did not have a sword or javelin. All Jehoshaphat did was to draw up the people into battle array to sing a song of victory. God defeated the enemy.

Demons know that they are defeated foes. When we know it and act upon it, then we see the results immediately. It is a fearless confidence in the Word of the Lord that really conquers.

Power over demons is just as real as our power over the forces of nature. Men on earth have built mighty dams and have harnessed the forces of nature, gaining control and power over them. Man is a master. And God has given us mastery over demons.



RADIO NEWS

NEW STATION;
San Diego, California

XEMO 860 3:45 pm

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Hot Springs, Arkansas KXOW-FM 106.3 10:45 am & 7:30 pm
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CRUSADE SCHEDULE

LOS ANGELES, CA. Jan. 31-Feb. 3
Crenshaw Christian Center

9550 Crenshaw Blvd.
Inglewood, California

Thursday, Jan. 31 7:30 pm
Friday, Feb. 1 10:00 am & 7:30 pm
Saturday, Feb. 2 7:30 pm
Sunday, Feb. 3 7:00 pm

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA Feb. 10-13
Long Beach Auditorium

(Concert Hall)
300 East Ocean Blvd.

Sunday, Feb. 10 2:30 pm
Mon. thru Wed. 10:00 am & 7:30 pm

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA Feb. 14-15
Royal Inn

1855 South Harbor Blvd.
Thurs. and Fri. 10:00 am & 7:30 pm

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA Feb. 24-Mar. 3

El Cortez Hotel
(Caribbean Room)
7th and Ash

Sunday, Feb. 24 2:30 pm
Mon. thru Sat. 10:00 am & 7:30 pm
Sunday, Mar. 3 2:30 pm

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HONOLULU, HAWAII Jan. 23-26

Hilton Hawaiian Village
771 Amana Street

LOS ANGELES, CA. Breakfast, Feb. 2

Rodger Young Center
936 West Washington Blvd.

MONTHLY LESSON

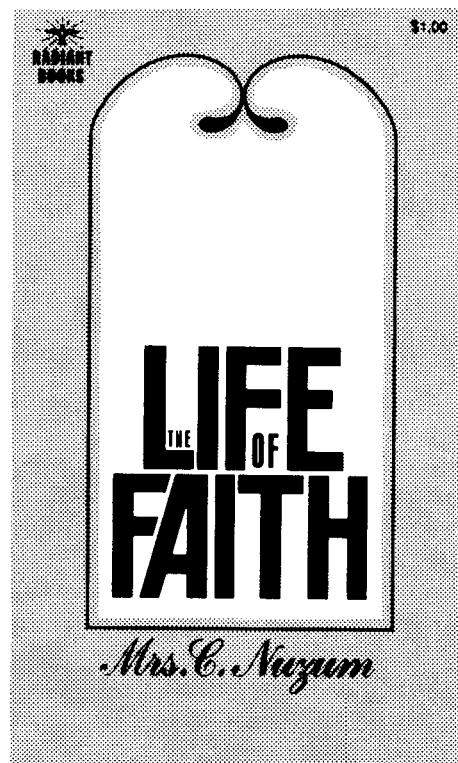
"MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH
IS OF THE HEART"

Write our office for your free copy of this month's lesson. The Bible speaks of believing with the heart. The faith Jesus spoke of is of the spirit, the heart, the inward man. This lesson will help you understand the difference between "head faith" and "heart faith." Faith will work in your heart with a doubt in your head. Understanding this fact you will not be defeated by darts of doubt thrown into your mind.

The Life of FAITH

by MRS. C. NUZUM

Highly esteemed by Kenneth Hagin this was the first book he read as he began his walk of faith besides his Bible. Because it has made such an impact upon his life and ministry, we would like to share it with you. It will be sent this month to those sending any offering who request the book by title. Chapter titles include: Remember Thy Creator - Strength - Faith and Love - Endure - Things That Be Not - Resisting The Devil - A Pure and Holy Life - God's Will - The Power of the Blood of Jesus - Whatsoever We Ask - Great Reward.



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