



THE WORD OF FAITH

“neither give place...”

-by KENNETH E. HAGIN

This month's message is taken from an evening service that began with the following word from the Lord which set the theme for the evening.

Trials do not come from heaven;
Tests do not come from God.
Yea, the enemy, as you trod the pathway
down here, will put pressure on you
from every side.
Darkness does not come from heaven;
There is no darkness there.
All is light!
But the darkness of life, the trials of life,
come because the enemy stirs up strife.
He would rob you of faith;
He would cause you to doubt.
Yea, he would afflict your body,
and cause you to lose your shout.
He would move in your life to cause you
to be afraid.
He would fill you with fear and depression
as you walk down here.
BUT THE LORD, in His mercy,
doth minister unto His own!
Yea, His eye is on the sparrow;
and he has not forsaken you!
Even in the midst of darkness--in the midst
of the night--in the midst of the storm,
He will cause thee to be at rest and filled
with peace so that there, in your life,
is no fright.
But even in the midst of the storm,
where the winds of adversity blow,
Yea, you can look the enemy in the face
and fill your heart and spirit and mouth
with laughter that is of a holy glee!
Because, you see, the Greater One in
you doth dwell!
He will rise up in you and give illumination
unto your mind, direction unto your spirit
so that ye shall not need to question and
wonder "Why?" BUT YOU SHALL KNOW
That the Lord is on your side!
He'll see you through; He'll lift you up
and establish your goings.

So you can rejoice in the midst of adversity,
You can rejoice in the midst of trial,
You can rejoice in the midst of tests,
And you can praise the Lord all the while!

* *

A spirit of resentment, a spirit of revenge
in the heart of the believer,
Will open the door for Satan to come in.
He will strike you in the night time
When you are asleep upon your pillow
Because you left the door open.
And ofttime afflict you in mind and in body
because you entertained a spirit of revenge
a spirit that was not right...
And so, the door was left open.
An unforgiving spirit
will leave the door ajar.
And surely the enemy walketh about as a
roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
BUT IF THE DOOR IS CLOSED,
he cannot enter in;
But if the door is open, he can come in.
Shut the door on him even now!
Let not a spirit of resentment in your
life abide.
Let not a spirit of revenge about you reside.
Let not an unforgiving spirit draw nigh
unto thee;
But freely forgive....
For you have been freely forgiven!
You will find that you can walk in spiritual
health, mental health, and physical health.
But open the door to the enemy,
and surely you shall defeated be.
CLOSE THE DOOR!
Let your mind be stayed on Him!
Freely forgive from your heart
your neighbor, your friend, your brother,
your sister, your family.
Yea, let no resentment build up within,
Let no spirit of revenge, or that quick
forked tongue that would strike to
cut and hurt.
Let that tongue be sanctified.
Let your words be seasoned with grace;
and soaked in love.
Be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow

to wrath as you walk down here.
And if you will, you will find that
life better will be;
You will find that you will walk in a
greater degree of spirituality.
You will find that the blessings of the
Lord upon you shall reside;
And the enemy, when you resist him,
then will run away and hide!

I hope you didn't just bring
your pitchfork with you tonight
to fork that over to the other fel-
low; but I hope you brought your
shovel to shovel it over into you.
We all need it or the Lord would
not have ministered to all of us.
It is easy to leave the door ajar
and not even intend to.

You know, the Scripture does
say, "Neither give place to the
devil" (Eph. 4:27). And that isn't
written to sinners; it isn't writ-
ten to the world. Paul wrote that
to the saints of God in the church
at Ephesus. And what applies to
the saints of God in Ephesus,
applies to the saints of God in
Tulsa, or wherever they might
live.

"Neither give place to the
devil." What does that mean?
Well, it means that you can--
that it is possible for you to
give the devil place. But it also
means that he can't take any
place in you unless you let him!
You could say it like this, "Don't
give the devil any place in you."

Some have thought, "I'm born
again, I'm blood-bought and I'm
just automatically safe."

Well, there is protection under certain conditions. But now wait a minute, if you were just automatically safe from the onslaughts of the enemy, or from the enemy's having any place in you or getting in in any way, why would Paul have written this epistle?

ACTS 19:1-2, 5-6

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,
2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost, since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost...
5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

This is the church Paul is writing a letter to; the church at Ephesus. And Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, says to these born again, Spirit-filled, prophesying, tongues-talking, and gifts-of-the-Spirit believing individuals, "Neither give place to the devil."

Now if you are just automatically safe from the devil because you are born again, or because you are filled with the Holy Ghost, there would have been no need for Paul to say, "Neither give place to the devil." It would have been foolish to make a statement like that if the devil couldn't have any place or couldn't get into their lives in any way. God said through Paul, "Neither give place to the devil." That means the devil can take a place in us--if we let him.

GALATIANS 6:1

1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

This is actually talking about sins here. You aren't tempted unto faults, you are tempted unto sins. A fault is just a weakness about a person; and we all have faults. The modern translations use the word "sin."

Now this is talking to the church. He addresses them, "Brethren...." Christians, believers, if a man among you....

Now does it say, "If a man be overtaken in a sin...All the rest of you talk about him... All the rest of you tell everyone you meet what he has done... Broadcast it far and wide so you can ruin his reputation and Christian influence...Tell all of your brothers and sisters about it..." Is that what it says? No! But we must have thought it did by the way we act.

".. ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness...." If folks have sinned, God is interested in restoring them. Are you? If you are not, you are not interested in what God is interested in. A lot of people are interested in excommunicating them, in cutting them off.

Our trouble a lot of times is that we try to catalog sins. We put one way up at the top and say, "That is terrible." And we put another way down on the list and say, "That's not too bad." But God doesn't do that the way we do. If you want to catalog sins, turn with me over to the Book of Revelation where God has a little catalog of sins.

REVELATION 21:8

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

He began with, "But the fearful...." How many of us would put that first? Then secondly He said, "and unbelieving...." Did you know we have a lot of unbelieving believers? He mentioned these before He ever got down to the murderers and the whoremongers. We change it around, but God doesn't look at things the way we do.

A spirit of fear is of the enemy. It is not of God. Second Timothy 1:7 says, "For God hath not given us the spirit of

fear (this calls fear a spirit); but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." The Spirit of power, and love, and of a sound mind is the Holy Ghost.

In praying for folks, it is no exaggeration to say that 85% of them have a spirit of fear. A spirit of fear is one of the most predominate things we face today. We are living in an age of fear. And we have opened the door to let that spirit get in. It doesn't make any difference, if you want to get technical about it, just where he is, whether mind, body, or spirit, but if he is in there--he has no business there! It can open the door to other spirits. We can see that principle in Matthew 12:43-45.

Do you know what Job said? He 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).

Just how was it that Satan got in there? Someone said, "It was because God gave him permission." Well, God has given him permission to get in you too, if you will let him. Why did God give that permission? It is because Satan is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4) and you are living in this world.

He has every right because we are on his territory. Adam was the god of this world, but he sold out and committed high treason with Satan. Then Satan became the god of this world. He is here. He took up Adam's lease, and he will be here until Adam's lease runs out.

That's the reason those evil spirits knew Jesus. Sometimes they would cry out, "What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come

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hither to torment us before the time?" They knew that lease was going to run out and that the time is coming.

When the Bible tells us, "Neither give place to the devil," it means that it is possible for us to keep the door closed. Job said, "The thing which I greatly feared..." Satan had to have some avenue, some road to come down to get into Job's life. When you fear, you open the door to the enemy. Fear is not of God!

Let's deal with the spirit of resentment. It is mighty easy sometimes for a wife to be resentful toward a husband, or a husband toward a wife. Oh, you are going to forgive them all right, but you want to pout for a few days first; just sort of make them pay for it. But when you do, you are opening the door for the devil--you are opening the door to ill health. You get rid of that spirit of resentment just as quickly as you can!

The Bible says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medi-

cine" (Prov. 17:22). Your heart is your spirit. A resentful heart is not merry, an unforgiving heart is not merry. Now a merry heart has an effect on you--it works on you like medicine. If that is true on the positive side--then on the other side, an unforgiving heart, a revengeful heart, a doubting heart, a fearful heart would make you sick.

"Neither give place to the devil," means we can keep from it. Learn to speak to those things. Say, "Doubt, I resist you in the name of Jesus. I refuse to doubt. Fear, I resist you in the name of Jesus. I refuse to fear."

You can do it! If you can't then the Bible lied about it. It says, "Don't you give any place to the devil."

You have the authority because Jesus gave you the authority. He gave you His name. And He said, "All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18). Then He immediately delegated that authority on the earth to the Church, to be-

lievers saying, "Go ye therefore...."

Someone said to me, "Brother Hagin, when you preach like that I just feel like I could do anything. I'm going out and look for the devil."

Well, go look for him. You can do it. Go ahead. Instead of you running, you'll put him on the run. Instead of you being afraid of him, he'll be afraid of you because you have found out the truth. You have found out what you can do. You have learned who you are in Christ. You have found out you can be strong in Him, in His power, and in His might.

It is all in Jesus. It is all in the plan of God. It isn't anything we did, it's what He did! He arose victorious over death, hell, and the grave. God raised Him from the dead, and gave Him a Name above every name. And that Name belongs to you and to me.

"In Jesus' Name I resist you! In Jesus' Name I stand against you! I refuse to give you any place in me!"

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Based upon the Word of Jesus, Kenneth Hagin has said in this lesson, "Your prayers and your faith will not work if there is a spirit of unforgiveness about you. If my prayers were not working, this would be the first place I would look." Write for your free copy of this very helpful lesson.

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(Caribbean Room)
7th and Ash

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ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. Mar. 7-10

Western Skies Motor Hotel
13400 Central, S.E.

Thurs. thru Sat. 10:00 am & 7:30 pm
Sunday, Mar. 10 2:30 pm

DALLAS, TEXAS Mar. 17-24

Christ for the Nations Institute
3315 Conway & Kiest

Sunday, Mar. 17 2:30 pm
Mon. thru Sat. 10:00 am & 7:30 pm
Sunday, Mar. 24 2:30 pm

LAWTON, OKLAHOMA Mar. 28-31

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GROWING FAITH

by Kenneth Hagin

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