

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO ACT ON GOD'S WORD

--by KENNETH HAGIN

"Fight the good fight of faith...." I Timothy 6:12

(Fifth in a series of Six Big Hindrances to Faith)

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 it and into the right one.

Some folks say, "Well, I'm going to fight the devil." There's no need of that. Jesus has already whipped him. You wouldn't be any match for him anyhow. But Jesus has defeated him for you, so there's no use in your fighting the devil.

And some say, "I'm going to fight sin." Well, there is no need for that because Jesus has the cure for sin. I am going to present the cure for sin. Jesus is the cure. Praise God. He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself according to Hebrews 9:26. So there really isn't any sin problem. There is just a sinner problem and when you get the sinner to Jesus, that cures that.

Now in this fight of faith that we are instructed to fight, there are enemies. If there were no enemies, or hindrances, there would be no fight to it. In this series of lessons, we are looking at six of these hindrances to faith.

Real faith is a child of the knowledge of the Word of God

We have seen that all of these hindrances 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."

People often pray for faith saying, "What I need is faith." But actually what they need is a knowledge of God's Word. When the knowledge of God's Word comes, faith will automatically be there. 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, that 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 it is all true. Praise God.

So you can see that the greatest hindrances to faith are in relation to a lack of understanding of the Word of God. The fifth hindrance that we will look at in this series is one that holds many in bondage. Our faith is held in bondage when we lack understanding about how to act on God's Word.

You see, we try to believe. And it is such a struggle with some folks, as they say, "trying to have faith," or, "trying to believe." All that is necessary, however, is just for us to act on what God says. If we know that the Word of God is true, then it becomes a reality in our lives.

Real faith is a child of the knowledge of the Word of God. It takes no effort whatsoever on the part of the intellect or of the will of man to obtain faith. As soon as the light comes, faith is there. Faith is the concomitant (that which accompanies) of knowledge. As the Psalmist of old said, "The entrance of thy words giveth light..." (Psalm 119:30). As soon as light comes, faith is there. So feed on God's Word. Meditate on God's Word. "Faith comes 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 it is. Someone asked Raymond T. Ritchie, a man mightily used of God in years gone by in the healing ministry, "What is faith?" His reply was, "It is just acting on God's Word." And that's all it is. Smith Wigglesworth would say, "Faith is an act." It is an act. That's what faith is--it is acting on God's Word.

Now many times we make a substitution for faith. We substitute "mental assent" or a mental agreement. For instance, we mentally agree that God's Word is true and we call that believing--but it isn't. You can mentally assent or mentally agree all day long that the Bible is true but it doesn't become real to you until you act on it. It is when you act on God's Word that it becomes a reality.

For instance, you can hold to the resurrection

truth as 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 in the world to you until you can say, "He died for me. He was raised from the dead for me! He arose victorious over death, hell, and the grave--and He did that for me! Praise God forever more! He arose victorious over Satan! He arose a victor! He 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 then, you see, that 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. It won't mean a thing in the world to you until you can say these very words I just quoted concerning the resurrection.

I pastored almost twelve years. And you have the same problems in a church that you have in a home or family, because the church is made up of families. In your own individual families, in your own homes, financial problems and discipline problems arise. In the church you will have financial problems and discipline problems. You will have all the problems that you have where people are involved.

During those twelve years of pastoral work, we faced the problems that you do in your homes and families. The crises of life come to us all. And if, at that time, you do not know how to act on God's Word, you are at a disadvantage.

The board of deacons, greatly concerned, said to me at times when we were discussing problems we faced, "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 saying those words, they sighed a sigh of relief. Because they knew the Bible was true.

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

In the family, different things arise. Now I'm not talking at all here about my immediate family, because we always taught our children to act upon God's Word and they did. But you know, with brothers and sisters and others in the family, things will arise. Sometimes it looks like they are difficult problems and circumstances. And some who are even Christians and even Spirit filled Christians would seem to be overwhelmed and they would say to me, "What in the world are we going to do now?" I would smile and say, "I don't know what you are going to do, but I tell you what

I'm going to do. I'm just going to act like the Bible's true."

I remember one occasion just after my oldest brother had gotten saved. He had gotten saved because I had acted on God's Word and broken the power of the devil over him and claimed his salvation. And he was only a matter of a few weeks old in the Lord when this took place.

I took care of my mother's business for her and I really needed to attend to something for her but I was in a revival in Dallas having two services a day. So my brother said that he wanted to see our grandfather, who was about ninety and just about ready to pass over to the other side, and he would take care of the matter for me.

Now some of this business that needed to be taken care of involved some other kinfolks. When he came back he said, "Boy, I'll tell you, I just about got whipped." Some member of the family had sort of gotten rough with him. He continued, "I told him, 'If you know God or have any kind of a God, you'd better thank Him I'm not like I used to be or I'd already have you whipped.'" (And he would have. He was sure telling the truth.) He went on with what he'd 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. And you just better pray you don't get hurt in my getting you off." Well the fellow didn't get on him, but he did give him a good 'cussing' out.

And so I said, "Oh, Dub, I'll go up there and take care of the business.

"Your trouble is that 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 just had the greatest time in the world putting the Lord to work for me--just letting Him do the work. There is a scripture which says, "...the battle is the Lord's..." (I Samuel 17:47). I let Him fight all the battles. I don't fight any. The battle is the Lord's. But the victory is ours. II Chronicles 20:15 also says, "Be not afraid nor dismayed...for the battle is not yours, but God's."

And so I have never been in a battle. I have been saved thirty-seven years and since I learned about faith and that the Bible says, "For we which have believed do enter into rest..." (Heb. 4:3), I have been in a state of rest.

Grasp what that scripture says, "...we which have believed do enter into rest." It doesn't say that we have entered into a state of fear and fretting, griping, worrying, and fighting. No! It says we have entered into rest.

For almost thirty-seven years I have been in a state of rest. I haven't had any battles. Some

folks battle themselves to death. They're always in a battle. "How goes the battle?" some ask. I always answer with, "The victory is wonderful!" Hallelujah! There isn't any battle, I'm in the victory. Faith always has a good report.

Now back again to what I was saying to my brother Dub. I said, "You just don't know how to put the Lord to work for you. You see, the Bible says in I 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 is true. I want to show you how to practice it."

I continued speaking to my brother, "When the Bible says that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world--the 'He' that is in you is God, the Holy Ghost. And the 'he' that is in the world is the devil himself, who is the god of this world. (II Corinthians 4:4 calls him that.)

"Well I believe that the God Who is in me is bigger than the devil. Don't you believe that? I believe that He is greater, as the Word says."

Now to get the full impact of what is being said here in I John let's look at the first three verses along with the fourth:

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.

-I John 4:1-4

As you see, in the first three verses John is talking about evil spirits and demons and he 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 and demons and every power that is in this world, has already been accomplished for you. The battle has already been fought. You don't have to fight it.

Then he qualifies the statement that you have overcome them and tells you why it is that you have overcome them--"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. "Christ in you, the hope of glory." And He has already defeated all demons, all evil spirits; and all that He did, He did as your substitute. Everything He did is marked down by God to your credit! Let that soak in on you. Can you get that? That's the way

God looks at it.

And really that is the way the devil looks at it. He knows that "you have overcome them." But, you see, as long as you don't know it, he takes advantage of you.

And so I said to Dub, "Greater is He that is in me. 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 that is in them. The love that is in me, because the love of God has been shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5), is greater than the hate that is in them."

Here was this poor old fellow, around ninety years old, about to die and some of the kinfolks were already fussing about who is going to get what. Unsaved people will do that because they are selfish.

I decided to leave after the morning service to drive the thirty miles from Dallas and attend to the business. Before I left, Mama said, "Son, don't have any trouble. I'm not concerned about getting anything. I am only concerned about him (my grandfather and her father) and about his comfort. Don't get into it and have any trouble."

"Mama, 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."

"Well, I don't want you to have any trouble."

I said, "I'm not going to have any trouble. I'll never have any trouble."

My car was parked in my grandfather's drive. The man who had caused so much trouble with my brother lived next door. When his wife saw my car, she came over and called me out to the back porch. Then she began, "I'll tell you, Ken...I'll tell you...." She began talking. And the more she talked, the more she ranted and the more she raved. And you know, I just felt so sorry for her.

I thought, "Dear Lord, dear Lord. Here is this poor old soul, 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 what's left 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 just simply said to the Lord in my heart, "Thank God, the Greater One is in me." And 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 that is in her. As I said, I felt so sorry for her. And I guess that

such a look of love and compassion must have come over my face that, even though she wasn't looking at my face and was looking down as she grew louder with her ranting and raving and plain old Texas cussing, she suddenly looked up at me. And when she did, she just sputtered to a close. Nothing came out.

Then she reached up, took hold 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 mama to be cheated out of anything either."

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

"Oh," she said. "Have you?"

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

She called her husband home off the job. He was so apologetic and just the day before he had been cussing and raising the devil.

Then the husband said, "Well now, we're not so concerned about ourselves...."

I knew they were lying. They were going to institute a suit as soon as the old man died to try and get all of it.

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

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

Boy, he changed his tune to me. He said, "I'll tell you one thing, we're going to see that your mama gets her part."

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

And sure enough, they did. Praise God.

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

If I go all to pieces and fly off the handle like I'm trying to fight the battle, He's not fighting it. And 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 down and go to sleep. Praise God, I don't care what's going on.

In the years I pastored, almost every single church God sent me to was a church that had trouble. Concerning one church in particular, I

guess it's a good thing I didn't know all the "ins" and "outs" about it before I accepted the pastorate. The Lord told me to take it and so I did. I found out later that nobody else would have it. But after we pastored it, God blessed and it came out well. When I left, forty preachers applied for it.

When I accepted it originally I didn't apply for it. I had held a meeting there and the board contacted me, told me their pastor was leaving, and asked me if I would take it. God had already dealt with me before they contacted me, so I took it.

But you know, I didn't have any trouble. I would say to them, "I'm not going to bother about that. It's not going to bother me." I meant that I wasn't going to bother about it even if the deacons were having a fist fight in the churchyard. Just let them go ahead and fight. I wouldn't even go out. When they got it all fought out I would go out and pray with them and get them back and lined up so that we could go on with God.

Faith is an act

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

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.
-I Peter 5:7

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

But, you see, if you are lying awake at night trying to figure out the situation for Him, trying to work out how He can do it, then He doesn't have it, you've still got it.

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

Those who act upon God's Word will get results. You act faith. You talk faith. Your actions and your words 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. Let both your words and your actions agree

Some folks will say one moment, "I'm trusting God to meet my needs. ." Then with the very next breath they say, "Well, it looks like I'm just

going to lose my car. I can't make my coming payments." One minute it sounds like they are talking faith, but in just a few moments their actions prove they were 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."

You see, it sounded in the beginning as if they were talking faith. They even quoted scripture. But what did they do? Really they just mentally assented that that verse is in the scripture. They mentally agreed to its truth, but they didn't act as if it were so. Start acting like God's Word is true!

Jeremiah 1:12 says, "...I 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!

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 praying, it is acting on what God has spoken that brings the result!

Approximately twenty-five 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 instance. If you are associating with people who are full of doubt and unbelief, it is very 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.

The pastor knocked on my bedroom door one morning and handed me a special delivery air mail letter which my wife had just mailed the night before. My wife wrote that both the children were sick and that she had been up with them day and night for several days and was worn out and desperate. Then too, we were in desperate financial straights. You would hardly believe me if I told you.

It so happened that this particular day was the regular visitation day for the church. The pastor and his wife would be spending the entire day visiting so this meant I would have the whole day to myself. Just after they left, I got my Bible and that letter and went over to the church where I knelt down before the altar. I opened up that letter and I read it to the Lord.

"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, bless God, and I'm going to stay out here if necessary all day." (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 it 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, and walking, and beating the altar, and kicking my feet, and everything I had ever seen Full Gospel people do. 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 down.

So 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 it, I said, "Well, bless God, I'm not going to be so easily defeated." So I got up and went back there.

Kneeling before the altar again, I opened that letter up and read it to the Lord and said, "Now 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."

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

In the Old Testament there is a scripture which says, "Be still, and know that I am God..." (Psa. 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 in that your hands and feet are not moving. But it is difficult to keep your mind from moving. Have you ever had 'head' trouble? You have been able to quiet your body but your mind just keeps on going. Sometimes when you get down to pray it is that way.

Well, lying there on the altar, I was finally quiet. My mind was quiet. I am sure now that the Spirit of God had been trying to arrest my attention and get something over to me all that time. But for over three and a half hours I was making so much noise I couldn't hear it. Some

folks never do hear it because they are too busy within their own minds and in their own physical efforts.

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

I felt insulted! Raising up to a seated position I grabbed that letter and began to wave it and say, "Now Lord, I've read it 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 why am I out here acting like this?" I thought that got it told. (But it didn't, any more than you got it told.)

I lay back down on the altar thinking that 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 once what it said. Now this is twice. I'm not going to read it any more. My 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 that 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 the 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 just stopped

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

"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 that those Full Gospel people mean by it, that's what I've got to do. I've heard them say it."

As I thought about it, I said to Him, "Now I think or I guess what I thought was that I was go-

ing to pray until I had some kind of feeling or witness or something like that. Because, You see, I'm 365 miles away from home and I have to have some kind of witness or something, some kind of feeling. I don't know what I meant, but I think that I thought I would know in some way or another when this happened--when the children were healed and when the 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 really got 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. 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 into the idea of keeping my Word."

And then I saw it! I cried, "Dear God, forgive me. I have been running with unbelievers so long it has rubbed off on me. I've picked up some of their habits and 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 I bare their sicknesses?"

I knew He was quoting to me Matthew 8:17, which says, "...Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." And you see, if He took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses, it belongs to us and it belongs to our children, too. So He put it in 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."

(Do you see that now I am acting on His Word? Even though I was praying before, I wasn't acting on His Word. I was in unbelief. It is not praying, it is not struggling, it is not laboring; it is acting on His Word that brings results.)

I said to Him, "That's all the evidence I need, Lord. I want to thank You right now because my babies are both well. Praise the Lord! Hallelu-

jah! 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; you are 365 miles away?”

I said, “Because the Word says, ‘Himself took my children’s infirmities and bare their sicknesses,’ the children are well. Thank You, Lord.”

Then I asked the Lord about the financial need and 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 that’s all the evidence I need. Thank You for it. Thank You my needs are met. Praise God! Hallelujah!”

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 brighter, the sun was brighter, everything was lovely.

The next morning another air mail special delivery letter arrived from my wife. “Everything is all right,” 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, but they were instantly well. Glory to God! And the finances had been met, too. Praise the Lord!

The faith life is the most beautiful life in the world

Too often we want to put ourselves into the battle rather than letting Him fight. We want to help Him. We want to figure out how He can do it. We keep struggling and struggling and struggling--and the job never gets done because we won’t turn it over to Him. He would do it, if we would let Him do it.

One lady said to me, “Brother Hagin, I can see it now. I was overly concerned about my husband. He was lost. I kept nagging at him about going to church, but he wouldn’t go. Well, 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 just going to act on your Word and claim him 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. Every time I thought about it I would say, ‘Thank God I have turned it over to the Lord. He’s working it out.’

“In those three months I did not say one word

to him about God or the church or anything like that. Then one Sunday morning as he sat at the breakfast table reading the paper, I noticed that he was looking around that paper at me as I cleared the table and got him another cup of coffee, etc. Finally, he asked, ‘Aren’t you going to ask me to go this morning?’

“I told him that I wasn’t going to ask him to go at all 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 at all. 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 it. She just said to him, “I’m not even praying for you anymore.” Then she went on and started getting ready. She stated that when she was ready and came out to go, there he was, ready to go, too.

“Maybe I’ll go with you this morning,” he said.

“Just make it light on yourself. 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.

Now she had said to me, “I saw this, that I was really trying to save him myself.” The Lord does use people to do His work, but sometimes without any leading of the Lord we try to do it for Him. We try it because we are concerned, and we should be concerned. But there is a fine line here that we need to differentiate. In praying for my own folks, I didn’t realize where I was missing it until the Lord showed me. When you bring things to the Lord and act on His Word, you get results.

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

Prayer is right and fasting is right, but I saw one day why it wasn’t working. It was because I wasn’t really trusting God to do anything. I was trying to do it myself. It was all labor with me. It was all works. Can you understand that? It was as if I were trying to force God into doing something.

Just as He said to me that day in that church, “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 that that day in regard to my brother.

And I saw this: that as a believer, we have authority and we have power. I stood there in my bedroom and said, "I take the Name of Jesus and 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 His Word. I didn't think about it or pray about it again. Once I settle a case for victory, I don't think about it anymore. However, on two days, Tuesday and Thursday of 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?"

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

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

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

Somebody 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 he would have made it.

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

All you have to do is simply ask yourself the question, "Did God say it?"

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



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