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Holy Spirit in the Now - II

Oral Roberts

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The Holy Spirit In The Now II
by Oral Roberts
THE

HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NOW II

by Oral Roberts
MY PERSONAL WORD TO YOU

Friend, I believe you are in for another spiritual learning experience that will enhance your relationship with Christ in a way you have never dreamed possible through this study of The Holy Spirit In The Now II. I have taken my Bible to form this study on the Holy Spirit. But before you begin to read these lessons, I would like for you to go get your Bible. I believe that you can more successfully study this series of lessons with your Bible at your side.

And as you study, keep in mind that this series of lessons I taught was to a class of approximately 2,500 people. So, of course, these lessons are stenographically reported and only slightly edited in some instances to make the thought clear, or to put it in more logical sequence for the person who was not there to hear it, but will be reading it.

Also, I would like to tell you about the miracle that brought this class about because it is now a part of the established curricula at Oral Roberts University.

It was through the generosity of my good friend, the late J. Arthur Rank, outstanding British businessman, member of the Parliament, and Methodist layman, that the Oral Roberts University's first endowed academic chair on the Holy Spirit was established in the fall of 1972.

I first met Lord Rank in 1967 while speaking at a luncheon of leading Christian laymen and businessmen in London. At the end of the session, as I was shaking hands with various individuals, I was introduced. Although I had heard his name many times and knew of his Christian witness, this was my first time to see him in person. At that time Lord Rank was in his late seventies but he stood tall and straight with a clean look in his eye, and strength and character stamped upon him. I knew I was in the presence of a man of God. I took bis hand and said, "Lord Rank, I'm honored to meet you." Then a curious impulse came upon me and I added..."I pray that God will fill you with the Holy Spirit."

Two years passed before I saw Lord Rank again, at which time I learned he had received the Holy Spirit. He then shared with me how this had transformed his Christian life and how Jesus Christ had become so real to him through the Holy Spirit. He said: "I feel as though Jesus were walking by my side."

Because of his great interest in the Holy Spirit, Lord Rank determined to establish this chair at ORU. However, on the day he was to sign the papers, he passed away. The trustees of his estate honored his desire and set aside a generous sum for the next 5 years for this purpose, with the stipulation that they decide then if they wish to continue this as an annual endowment to endow the chair. I am honored to be the first professor of this course on the Holy Spirit.

As you study these lessons, I pray that God, through the Holy Spirit, will reveal Jesus to you in a way more real than you have ever experienced before.
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YOU CAN HAVE
GOD'S POWER IN YOU

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson:
Acts, Chapter 2

HAVE YOU ever crossed the Continental Divide in the United States? It's located in the Rocky Mountains. When the rain falls at that precise spot one part falls on the western slope and goes downhill to the western part of the United States; the rest falls on the eastern slope and goes downhill to the eastern states. The Continental Divide physically divides the continent of the United States.

This is a term that I think of in reference to the Day of Pentecost. The Day of Pentecost is the great "Continental Divide" of the New Testament. On the one hand we have pre-Pentecost and on the other hand, post-Pentecost.

Before the Day of Pentecost we have the life of our Lord in the flesh. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, by a miraculous conception, and anointed by the Holy Spirit at the River Jordan under the ministry of John the Baptist (Matthew 1:18; Matthew 3:13-17). There we see the holy dove coming and lighting upon Jesus' head. Then He is led and driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness (Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12). There He enters a terrific struggle with the devil, a conflict with satanic forces that continued throughout His life and throughout the life of the Church, even today.

Our Lord went through this tremendous struggle and conflict which ended in the devil offering Him three great temptations. He overcame these temptations with the same things He gives to you and me today:

1. The Word of God
2. His faith in God
3. The power of the Holy Spirit

Our Lord was in the flesh. He was born of a woman. He received His humanity from her body but He received His divine nature from God. This is what we call the mystery of the Incarnation — God in the flesh. God came down in the form of a human being.

Jesus Christ was so much man it was as if He were not God — yet He was so much God it was as if He were not man.

You see, Jesus was so much God it was, in a sense, as though He were not human and yet He was so human — He entered into our humanity so deeply — it was as if He were not God. He was God-man and He called himself Son of man, Son of God. These were the dual natures; yet, the divine part was extremely limited in our Lord. The human part was brought out much more. Why? Because for Jesus to relate God to us He had to enter into our humanity. He had to sit where we sit. He had to feel what we feel. He had to experience what we experience. He had to know what it was like.

Also, as we look at Jesus in His human form we really see God. We cannot see God with the naked eye but as we study the Bible — particularly the four Gospels and the book of Acts which are the sources of original information about the earthly life of our Lord — we see that Jesus is trying to reflect God... to show us what God is like so that we don't have to be scared and frightened of God, as so many were in the Old Testament. Jesus Christ, in a sense, took God and brought Him down on a human level. He brought Him down on a sense level so that we who are born and live on a sense level can better relate to God.

Jesus Christ voluntarily limited himself. That is...

He laid aside His original glory and power which He had with the Father before the foundation of the world. He laid aside His eternal riches.

He became subject to time, to space, and to death.
Our Lord voluntarily limited himself to time—and about 33 years. He limited himself to space—to a certain geographical location on the surface of the earth around Palestine. Jesus could only be in one place at one time, the same as you and I, and being in one place is subject to being in one spot at one time. He limited himself and became subject to death, in the same sense that we are, that He might look it in the eye, meet it face-to-face, submit to it, conquer it, and take away its sting. He arose from the dead, and He shows us that we too will be resurrected and will live forever. Jesus entered human flesh. He did that by the Holy Spirit. He said that He did nothing except by the Holy Spirit. He didn't come in His own name. He said He and His Father are one (John 10:30) and that He could do nothing of His own self (John 5:30). He did all that He did—all of the miracles—by the Holy Spirit.

Near the end of His earthly life Jesus began to talk a lot about the Holy Spirit, saying: "Nevertheless I tell you, it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." (John 16:7) You see, Jesus said, "It's better for you." Those disciples, having lived on the sense level of being able to see Jesus, living in His eye, and even to hear His word, to touch Him with their hands, to live with Him on the sense level, were distraught. They had built their lives around the physical, outward being of our Lord. They had never fully grasped the Christ-nature of Jesus Christ.

You will recall at His death that the disciples forsook Him and fled (Mark 14:50). They could not comprehend the mystery of the Incarnation. When the body of Jesus went off the stage, the disciples thought that Christ was dead, that they themselves would be put to death, so they fled for their lives. You can see a very real relationship between the body and Christ is. If you say, "Oh well, I wish I had lived 2,000 years ago. I wish I could have seen Him and touched Him," then you are wanting to be on a sense level. But Jesus Christ said, "It's better for you that you don't have this relationship because in My human form I'm limited. I voluntarily laid aside My glory, My power, My riches. I became subject to time and space and death, and if you build your life around My physical, visible form you will never fully understand God. You can never understand what you have. You'll never have the inner strength..." Jesus said and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever... He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you (John 14:16, 17).

The Greek word for comforter in this verse is "parakletos"; it's an word for "one who comes alongside to help." Jesus said of the Holy Spirit—"the Paraclete—"He is WITH you, but He shall be IN you." This is a very important point. Had our Lord remained in the flesh, subject to expression of their inner man in tongues... a new tongue. I call this the prayer language of the spirit. It was an opening up of the inner man from the spiritual. They all were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues. It was the beginning of tongues. It wasn't an essence of speaking with other tongues, suggesting a lifelong experience. In 1 Corinthians 14:2 we learn what those tongues were. He that speakseth in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God. That is to say, tongues is not a horizontal experience. It is not man to man. It is vertical—it is man to God. It is coming out of the belly of the inner man (Hebrews 4:12) and is vertical. It is an image of the mind coming to speak with other tongues, suggesting a lifelong experience. In 1 Corinthians 14:15 the apostle Paul says: I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

Paul says that in addition to the human language stored up in the intellect there is another language stored up in the spirit of the man who has been saved, who has been born again, who has believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul said that when he prayed he would pray with the spirit—ewith his spirit. In the second verse of that same chapter (1 Corinthians 14:2) Paul called it praying in the spirit. To understand praying in the spirit we have to begin to consider the understanding also.

In Acts 2:6 Paul says that the Holy Spirit produces a new kind of communication—speaking in tongues. In 1 Corinthians 14:15 the apostle Paul says: I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also: It is important to remember that the devil comes to people in different forms. He may even come as an angel of light. In the New Testament we are told: Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14)

If we will read other translations of this verse we can get a clearer understanding:

Satan disguise him self as an angel of light (Revised Standard Version).

Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. You see, Satan cannot actually become an angel of light. He can disguise himself but there is not a genuineness. He does not become an angel... but he can look like one.

Now Jesus described the devil as the father of lies (John 8:44). Here is the father of lies saying that God disguised himself as an angel of light. How can God become a living soul? He can disguise himself as a living soul, isn't he, living up to his name? The devil said, "It isn’t so, you will not die." Now if Adam and Eve had a dialogue with the devil— which they probably did—they probably said, "But God said that if we eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil we will die. He said that we could eat of any tree in the garden. God is, God doesn’t deny us the privilege of eating it, but He says if we do eat of it we will die. And the devil said ‘That’s not true’.

It’s no different than his approach to us in various forms today in which he says— in so many words—
Jesus was born a whole man. He was born of the virgin Mary but conceived by the Holy Spirit, filled with the Holy Spirit, and He allowed the Holy Spirit to become a man with all the faculties of the whole man. Don’t you wish you could have seen Jesus’ physical body, absolutely free from disease? Don’t you wish you could have seen His face in its whole majesty? Well, of course you can as you read the Bible — especially the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. John says in John 3:34, “Jesus said, ‘Unless a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” John 3:34. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5). John always goes back to the spirit with which man was created. He says, “The walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16). It says, “He filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). Jesus said, “You must be born again.” That is, repent of your sins, renounce the way that you go — your own way. Renounce the way the world operates. Renounce the forces of sin and will God’s will for your life. And He says that you will be born a second time. Nicodemus thought Jesus was talking about reentering his mother’s womb physically. And Jesus said, “No, you are talking about that; I’m talking about you — the spirit, the soul, you — the man inside the body.” So the first step is to be born again. Enter into a newness of life. So that the spirit, the human spirit with which you were created and born, now is renewed. And it all starts when Jesus who was conceived of the Holy Spirit. His body was like an embryo placed in the womb of the young virgin Mary. Then when He was a young man He was filled with the Holy Spirit without measure (John 3:34). Without measure — you couldn’t measure it, it was so great. He said He had come alive, rejoicing, calling God, “my Father.” Jesus said to one group, “Ye are of your father the devil” (John 8:44). But now Jesus is translating us from the kingdom of the devil to the kingdom of the Father and we cry in our hearts, “Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15). That is, we say, “God, You are My Father.” And you say, “I’ve been lost, I’ve been in the darkness, but You’ve given my soul a new life, a new birth. I’m a new creature.”

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

SECOND, JESUS OFFERS US THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT In the third chapter of Matthew, John the Baptist said: That he cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoe’s buckles he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire (Matthew 3:11). That he cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoe’s buckles he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire (Matthew 3:11).

How can we explain baptism? In Acts 1:5 Jesus talks to His disciples. He is now in His resurrected body. He has died, been raised from the dead, and now He is ready to ascend back to His unlimited form — going back to His original glory and power and riches that He had before He became a human being. And He says to them: Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence (Acts 1:5). Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence (Acts 1:5).

That’s the second stage — to be baptized, to be immersed, because that Jesus is now alive again by the Holy Spirit. You receive the person of the Holy Spirit when you are saved or born again. Now these are synonymous terms: saved, salvation, born again. We are talking about the same thing when we use these different phrases. You receive the Holy Spirit when you are saved. That is, you receive a new life. God’s Spirit bears witness with your spirit that you belong to Him (Romans 8:16). But there is no example of a man receiving the Holy Spirit in the Bible. It’s not a He, it’s an it. The Holy Spirit is a He. The Holy Spirit is a person. But the baptism in the Holy Spirit is an it. It’s an experience. It’s the giving of the Holy Spirit himself. When you are immersed in the Holy Spirit, Jesus said... Out of his (Jesus’) mouth shall flow rivers of living water (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; John 7:38, 39). Out of his (Jesus’) mouth shall flow rivers of living water (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; John 7:38, 39).

Christ was still alive, He had not yet ascended, when He said He would baptize with the Holy Spirit. He said for its purpose a releasing of the living waters of God inside you. Immediately you are able to communicate with God with your spirit in a language not known before. When you speak in tongues through the baptism in the Holy Spirit, this is what happens to you. Paul described what will happen: I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing in the new tongue, and I will sing (praise God) with the understanding also (1 Corinthians 14:15). I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing in the new tongue, and I will sing (praise God) with the understanding also (1 Corinthians 14:15).

What is Paul saying? He wanted you to notice that he is not speaking the tongues of a foreign language and putting spirit over mind. He is going all the way back to creation when God made man a spirit in His
own moral and spiritual likeness. Man turned away from the knowledge of good and of evil, and chose to follow evil and chase knowledge. In time, we came to believe the only way to communicate with God perfectly from within, and not simply by speaking in tongues because He and His Father do not do these two things. 

First, you have got to stop speaking in your own language, whether in English or whatever language that you know and speak with. You momentarily stop. 

Second, you have to open your mouth. I think the reason why since Christian people break down. They feel that they cannot have the ability to pray in tongues or praise God in tongues. They are waiting for God to do it. Now God has no need of speaking in tongues himself. Jesus Christ had no need of speaking in tongues because He and His Father are absolutely one. Jesus had the ability to communicate with God perfectly from within, which you and I do not have. In Romans 8:26, it very expressly says: "likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought."

We know that we do not always know how to pray as we want to. Now you cannot say that Jesus Christ, you can say that God does not know how to pray as He ought. We don't know how to pray as we ought. I would be the first to say that I don’t. I am sure that you would also say that. So tongues are an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. As I'm concerned 

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUTPOURED ON THE SAMARITANS

In Acts 8 we find the second record of those who were filled with the Holy Spirit. Philip went to Samaria and his gifts were half Jew and half Gentile. They were a mixed breed. Philip preached Christ to them, and... demons came out of the people... sicknesses were healed... many miracles were done through the name of the Lord Jesus. Right in the midst of this the leading occultist - Simon - came up and professed to believe in Jesus Christ. He was a sorcerer. He had dealt in witchcraft - black magic and things of that nature. If you will read Acts 8 you will find that Simon had that whole town in the palm of his hand. He had deceived them. They thought he was a great man of God. They did not realize he was influenced by a demon. But the Holy Spirit did not allow him to do these things anymore, and the people were delivered from occultism, from witchcraft and things of that nature. Simon himself, the leader, professed in that revival to be converted. Philip did a great job but that was as far as he could go. Then Peter and John came down from Jerusalem to look things over. When they got there, they first examined these new converts to Jesus Christ. They wanted to know if they had received the Holy Spirit and they said, "do you have the baptism of the Holy Spirit?" Simon answered, "I've never seen anyone receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues - the prayer language of the Spirit who does not do these two things."

THE PURPOSE OF TONGUES IS ALWAYS INTERCESSORY

So Peter and John laid hands on these new Christians and they received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now as you will remember no one laid hands on them before the Day of Pentecost, yet here Peter and John laid hands on these Christians and they received the Holy Spirit. What this means is that when we do this, we are opening a channel of prayer for this individual.

THE HOLY SPIRIT MEETS YOU WHERE YOU ARE

The Holy Spirit gives us utterance; He gives His own language. And what is that language? First of all, you don't understand it. Then what good is it? You might ask. The good of it is that it gets beyond your understanding, down where your spirit is, where the deepest part of you lives. Through that language coming, you are saying, "Jesus Christ, you can say, "I have got to do two things. I've never seen anyone receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues - the prayer language of the Spirit who does not do these two things."

THE PURPOSE OF TONGUES IS ALWAYS INTERCESSORY

You are interceding for yourself or you are interceding for someone else. You do not teach or preach in tongues. The baptism in the Holy Spirit with the accompanying tongue through which you pray through your spirit, is available to every child of God. But the gift of tongues is given in 1 Corinthians 13, is not available as a ministry gift to everyone. The method we get outside of our personal prayer life and into the body of Christ is that of the Holy Spirit. We are talking about ministry gifts and not everyone receives the same ministry gift. I will say more about that later in Chapter 15.

SAUL OF TARSUS RECEIVES THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The third record is in Acts 9 and involves Saul of Tarsus, who later became Paul the apostle, and was interested in witchcraft. This Philip gave Ananias a vision of Saul being in the city and having had his heart touched by God. At first, Ananias was frightened because Saul had been killing many Christians and had indeed come to Damascus to find Christians, to bind them, and to take them to Rome where they would be put to death. But the Holy Spirit bade Ananias to go where Saul was residing. Ananias walked in and said, in essence, Brother Saul, I've got to lay hands on you and be sure that you pray for you that you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Saul now again was the laying on of hands. Again, it does not mention that Saul of Tarsus prayed in tongues or spoke in tongues at that moment. We only know from reading 1 Corinthians 14, which is Paul's only organic autobiography as a tongues speaker, that he did - later, if not then - start speaking in tongues.
God is sovereign and unique, and since He made you in His own image He made you sovereign and unique. You are different from anyone else because you are, so God is going to deal with you the way He chooses to deal with you.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUTPOURED ON THE ROMANS

The fourth incident of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is found in Acts 10. It concerns the household of Cornelius at Caesarea. This included soldiers—Roman soldiers—who had worshiped God but knew little or nothing about Jesus Christ having come. But Cornelius was so devoted to God that his giving and prayer had come up before God as a memorial. God sent down an angel and said, "Go for Simon Peter." And they brought Peter and he begins to preach to them.

In fact, this is a great lesson to us in racial understanding because the Jews just didn’t have anything to do with the Romans. The Romans were in the same spot, in many ways, that the black man is in our white society today. But Peter went down there and the Spirit began to speak to him that God is no respector of persons... that God loves everybody. And Peter said:

1 perceive that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).

This happened after Peter had received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. You see, he still was prejudiced. He still had racial prejudice. It’s funny how it has gotten around that when a person receives the baptism in the Holy Spirit, suddenly he is superspiritual... he is super holy, superperfect. I want to tell you that you are the same old human being. You are not suddenly an angel because you have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. You are not suddenly made perfect. You will go on making mistakes until the day you die. You will have prejudices and vices. It is not the fault of the Holy Spirit that you are like that, or that I am. It’s just that we are human beings. We are stubborn and we get vices and prejudices. We make them so important that we live by them.

But finally the Holy Spirit got inside Peter, whom He had already baptized in the Holy Spirit, and showed him that he should have no respect of persons. Now while Peter was preaching he made a statement about repenting and believing on Jesus for the remission of sins. And the Holy Spirit fell on all of them which heard the word (Cornelius and his household). Peter didn’t lay his hands on them or anything. While he was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down and baptized them, and they all began to speak in tongues.

When Peter got back to Jerusalem to report this he was excited about it, but the Jewish elders—all of whom had been baptized in the Holy Spirit—didn’t like it. They didn’t think that the Jews should go to the Gentiles or have any dealings with them. Certainly not on a spiritual basis. Then Peter recounted to them how Cornelius and his household had received the same baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues that they themselves had received on the Day of Pentecost. The elders “pulled their horns in”—excuse the expression—and began to rejoice and praise God. That ended the racial discrimination problem in the Early Church.

I’ve said all along that when you get people baptized with the Holy Spirit and praying from the inner man, it will do more to solve the racial problem than anything else we can do. But it won’t solve it automatically. It won’t be solved just because you’re baptized in the Holy Spirit. You’ve got to listen to God. You’ve got to respond to these feelings you get about human beings. You’ve got to quit looking at people as being white or yellow or brown or black or some shade in between. You no longer think of them like that because we are all made of one blood. Would you say amen to that?

AUDIENCE: Amen.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUTPOURED ON THE EPHESIANS

The last example of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is found in Acts 19. Paul goes to Ephesus and there he finds a small group of men—maybe a dozen—who are disciples. They believed on Jesus through the ministry of John the Baptist. Now let me emphasize what I’ve already said. In the 19th chapter, verse 2, Paul finds these men and he asks:

Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?

And they said:

We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

What this means is that now, many years after the Day of Pentecost, Paul finds a group of people who believed in Jesus way back there before the Day of Pentecost. John the Baptist had told them of the coming Christ, of how Jesus was coming, and they believed. But they had not known any more, or at least not much more than that. That is, they had believed all that they had been taught. Now Paul finds them and he asks them:

Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?

And they say:

We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Paul was very concerned about these Christians who had believed in Jesus through John’s baptism. And we are very concerned about every Christian who missed this gift when they were saved. At the time you are saved you can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Why doesn’t this happen? When you accept Christ you receive the Holy Spirit and you can very scripturally and honestly say, "Yes, I’m a Christian. I have the Holy Spirit." You do have the Holy Spirit but you may have not the dimension of the Holy Spirit—the baptism in the Holy Spirit—that our Lord is talking about and that is talked about in these five examples recorded in the book of Acts... this experience by which you can open up the inner man and the Spirit gives you utterance and prayer and praise that comes out of your inner man.

While it’s not a cure-all, I can tell you personally that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is one of the most soul-satisfying experiences I have ever known. If you receive it you will not be able to fully understand what I am saying. Yet the moment you receive the experience you will understand what I am talking about. You will edify yourself. You will strengthen yourself in the inner man. You will empty out many of the things down there which, through the intellect, are not being emptied out. You will feel a freedom within and you will find a blossoming of your intellect.

yet we keep it shut when it comes to speaking in the Spirit. Is it because we are frightened that if we relinquish the intellect for a moment and get down here into the real us, the real spirit of ourselves, that something bad will happen to us? Is it that we’re afraid that the stored-up language in the inner man is something that we should never express to God? Or is the real reason just simply a lack of teaching?

People always ask me, "Why haven’t we been taught this?"

Well, I wish I could answer that. I wish they could have been taught earlier than they but they have not been. And that’s what I’m here for, trying to teach a little bit. I certainly can’t say that I know it all but I know there’s much more out there. But I can certainly share what I know, and what I’m saying I do know.

Paul was very concerned about these Christians who had believed in Jesus through John’s baptism. And we are very concerned about every Christian who missed this gift when they were saved. At the time you are saved you can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
YOU CAN BECOME
MORE THAN YOU ARE

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson:
1 Corinthians, Chapter 12

There's probably no more powerful statement or encouraging statement in the Bible than this:

Wherefore he said, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men (Ephesians 4:8).

When Jesus ascended up on high—leading everything into captivity—He gave gifts unto men.

**CHRIST GAVE GIFTS UNTO MEN.**

Jesus Christ was a human being. He came down in the likeness of human flesh, conceived and born of the Holy Spirit, through a young woman who was a virgin. His was a supernatural birth by the Holy Spirit.

**JESUS BECAME MAN.** I don't think I can say that to you too often because you will be a human being 24 hours a day... all the days of your life. It's important to stress the humanity of our Lord as well as His divinity... that He was God in human flesh.

This is what you are. In a sense you become the lengthened shadow or the human incarnation of our Lord's life. Just as He was God Incarnate, or God in the flesh, so you become Jesus' life reproduced by the Holy Spirit. The real purpose of the Holy Spirit is to reproduce the life of Jesus in you... to take all those tremendous powers within Him and reproduce them in your life to where Christ actually lives in the NOW... in the flesh... in your flesh and in my flesh, in your spirit and mind and in my spirit and mind, in the whole man. He lives in the NOW and we are doing His works. Here in Ephesians we are told that He gives gifts unto men. He gives gifts unto US...

We are men but we are not mere men.

We are human but we are not mere human.

We are God-gifted humans. We are now in a position to become not only achievers but overachievers.

Some time ago I ran across a report that some doctors released. In this report they said that people, as a general rule, feel good only 20 percent of the time... that they feel bad 80 percent of the time. The report said that the typical human being—however strong he may appear outwardly—struggles all the time with feelings of inferiority. That is, within himself he is saying:

"I really can't do this."

"I can't make my grades as a student."

"I can't put my business over."

"I can't make my marriage work."

"I can't love my parents... I can't relate to them."

"I don't understand my child."

"I can't do my job."

There are feelings of inadequacy that seem to want to build in us... to live in us. As a result we are always in conflict with what we are... what we feel we are... and with what God can make us to become. There's a conflict there.

The Bible says that Jesus has given gifts to men. He gives the gifts of the Holy Spirit to men, dividing them as He will. Turn now to Hebrews 2:4...

God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost (Spirit), according to his own will.

Notice that the writer of Hebrews says that God has given US gifts of the Holy Spirit. Honestly and frankly, it's hard to believe that. I think that most people find it's virtually impossible to believe that they are given a gift of the Holy Spirit. They seem to think it's for someone else. Particularly, they believe that these gifts were given to people 2,000 years ago but today it isn't so... or it isn't so for them at least. It's hard to individualize or personalize to the point that you know God has given a gift in your...
life. Now isn't that true? And the more difficult your life is, the more needs you have, the harder it is to believe the Holy Spirit gives gifts to men today.

There are many gifts that our Lord gives. How do we explain the gifts that Jesus gives? Remember that we are now post-Pentecost. The baptism in the Holy Spirit has been given and the Christian Church has the heritage of the Pre-Pentecost or Pentecostal, to refer to the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Now in Ephesians 3:8 we come to a new word translated as 'charismas.' In the original Greek, in which our New Testament was written, the word gift is charisma. Charisma is a favor or gift of God. It is a favor or gift of God that is given to a person in a common sense. Contemporaries of Paul using charisma in it is used in a common sense. The contemporary use of it is exactly opposite to its real meaning. For example, if we have a public figure who is extraordinarily handsome, articulate, or able and strong, we say, "He has charisma." Or, "He's a great charismatic leader." This term was used particularly in reference to Jesus Christ. Many said He was a charismatic leader." That is true. He had a lot of charisma but that's not the sense in which it's used in this reference.

The word charisma, as it is used by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12, means grace or favor, and the emphasis is NOT upon the person who has it but upon the gift itself. That the Holy Spirit will work to the person is the important thing.

When a person has a gift of God you should talk about the person who has it but upon the gift itself. That the Holy Spirit will work to the person is the important thing.

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I'm emphasizing this because there are people who have been led to believe that if a gift of the Holy Spirit is manifest through a person — such as a gift of healing or a gift of tongues — that he is supernatural. That is, he is a superhuman, superhuman, he never makes a mistake. The implication is that he's the same as God in this, which is absolutely false. Salvation itself is a gift. Salvation has to be a gift. When you receive a gift of the Holy Spirit, you receive that gift of power, such as the gift of healing or the gift of tongues, or the gift of miracles, or the gift of prophecy, it's not because you are somebody special. It’s not becoming you are somebody special because you will continue to be supernatural. Some of the people who are the most mistake-prone have a gift and a lot of people stumble over it. If you're stumbling over this you're making a mistake because that simply judging God by a person. You don't judge God by a person. You're God whether a person is right or wrong. Paul is recognizing that the spiritual gifts — the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom, the gift of faith, the gifts of healing, the gifts of miracles, tongues, interpretation of tongues, discerning of spirits and prophecy — are all being manifested in these new Christians. They are there but they are not understood.

This is probably the most true thing about people today who are Christians — they don't understand the Holy Spirit. They don't understand the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are untaught — or, should I say, we are untaught. We have been given over the centuries, or in your lifetime and mine, to the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Many say, "I've never heard that I could have the Holy Spirit." Others say, "I've never even heard that there are gifts of the Holy Spirit." You seldom ever hear it taught or preached or even talked about. Here we are in a so-called sophisticated, partly civilized, partly Christianized nation — and if we're having problems, consider the problems of these Corinthians who have been converted out of idolatry.

In no way does Paul endeavor to put the Corinthians down. He's just simply dealing with them as born-again, Spirit-filled men and women through whom the gifts are working, but they're not doing a very good job with them.

You know that the apostles, carried away and captured these dumb idols, even as we were led (1 Corinthians 12:2). What Paul is saying is that not only did they work or something at great length and virtue, as wood or iron or copper or gold — a dumb idol — but they were carried away with these dumb idols. That is, these people had been converted out of idolatry, respectable, common, respectable men, as gods as though they had rings in their noses and chains attached to them. The idols had just led them around. This was the background out of which these Corinthians had been saved.

These idol gods were inanimate; they were not human. They were just plain physical. Yet back of them were demonic spirits and these evil spirits were working through these dumb idols. These evil spirits had entered these people and brought them back into this seething world of the occult. The occult had led them into licentiousness, sexuality outside the marriage bond and all kinds of immorality. But back of these dumb idols was worship something that their hands had made out of wood or stone, and they were worshipping this god as though they had rings in their noses and chains attached to them.

It's inside you where Jesus is. All of a sudden, this Corinthians were led about by the idol gods, tied to them. The idols had just led them around. This was the background out of which these Corinthians had been saved.

Some of the gifts of the Spirit were manifested pre-Pentecost in certain individuals but never, never on a "wholesale" basis. Never on a regular use of it is exactly opposite to its real meaning. For example, if we have a public figure who is extraordinarily handsome, articulate, or able and strong, we say, "He has charisma." Or, "He's a great charismatic leader." This term was used particularly in reference to Jesus Christ. Many said He was a charismatic leader. That is true. He had a lot of charisma but that's not the sense in which it's used in this reference.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul wrote this book to new converts at Corinth. Corinth was perhaps the most corrupt and profligate city in the Roman Empire. It was seething with idol gods, the city in the Roman Empire. It was seething with idol gods, worship something that their hands had made out of wood or stone, and they were worshipping this god as though they had rings in their noses and chains attached to them. The idols had just led them around. This was the background out of which these Corinthians had been saved.

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Jewish person who did not believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ. They denied that He was God come in the flesh. They would invade the service and would almost physically attack any man he accuse them. These new Christians didn’t know what to say. These new converts—new Christians—were saying, “Well, that is a Christian expression. I think that a Christian expression that Jesus is accused!”

Paul says, “Nobody who has the Spirit can call Jesus accused.” Neither can they call Him Lord without the Holy Spirit.

At the conclusion of one of my classes on the Holy Spirit, a fine young Christian boy came up to me and said, “Brother, what’s up?” I was telling the students that God works wherever God works, the devil is there to contest. Wherever there is good, evil comes against the good nature. They always go hand in hand. Why? Because until you understand the humanity and divinity of our Lord? Can they say that He was not a man as well as God? Could anybody who has the Spirit call Jesus accused? Can anybody who is a Christian deny the humanity and divinity of our Lord? Can you say that He was not a man as well as God? Could anybody who has the Spirit call Jesus accused? Can anybody who is a Christian deny the humanity and divinity of our Lord?

Paul says, “No, and neither can they call Him Lord except by the Holy Spirit.”

The first Christian confession was this:

**JESUS IS THE LORD**

Then they changed it—it was back there in the first or second century, “King Lord.” That was the first Christian confession. Jesus was Lord. Now, it was upon this foundation that Paul began to explain the gifts of the Holy Spirit, that they are based upon the lordship of the Son of God. That Jesus, the Man, is God in the flesh. He is Son of God and Son of man.

Listen, this is not up to date it is like it was written for us today. Whether you encounter them or not, I encounter people in person and through letters or through television, people who have all kinds of occult beliefs and what have you. I always believe that one part of the Holy Spirit is God but they cannot accept the other part—His humanity. Or they go off into some sort of mysticism or spirits and say that you don’t have to have the name of Jesus Christ at all... that it doesn’t make any difference about Him. I mean that is really rampant in American society right now. Just as there’s a great moving of the Holy Spirit in America and the world today, there is a tremendous revival of the occult, spiritism, and things of that nature. They always go hand in hand. Why? Because wherever God works, the devil is there to contest against the good and this creates conflict. The Christian always lives in conflict. Our Lord lived in conflict and we live in conflict.

Paul went on to say that in addition to the fact that Jesus is Lord, there are many varieties of the gifts of the Spirit. Not there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4).

God is a God of infinite variety. God is sovereign and unique himself. You and I are sovereign and unique within ourselves. But there are so many different varieties of the manifestations of God. Yet, Paul says, “It’s the same God, the same Spirit.” In other words, there is a great variety of gifts but a unity of purpose and a unity of the Spirit. Only God can bring about such a variety and yet bring it into perfect unity.

Later in this chapter Paul illustrates this unity, comparing Christ’s Body—the Body of believers with all the different gifts working in them—to a human body. There is a body—head, nose, hair, neck, shoulders, chest, hips, right down the line—yet there is a unity in the entire body. Variety is in unity. God has not been mechanical. The word of the Spirit is an addition. It comes when your knowledge is insufficient for the situation you’re facing or someone else is facing.

**THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE PURCHASE OF THE OBU CAMPUS**

For example, I was in California in 1961. We’d been struggling with the call of God to build Oral Roberts University. I had no land, we had no money, no faculty, no buildings. We just had the call of God. I knew I was to do it. HOW? I hadn’t been told...

I knew the present campus was the piece of land we needed. Some 10 years before this I had stopped my car down here and with my children I had prayed, “God, hold this piece of ground for us.” It was not for sale. It was owned by an oil family and they didn’t need the money. They had lived here 35 years. Other people had tried to buy it. Developers had tried to secure it for subdivision. Nobody could buy it...

Here I am in California and the Holy Spirit is moving on me. Today the urge is within me... “Pick up the phone. Call Tulsa. Tell your associates to go out and make an offer on that piece of land.” Well, what was I talking to? I stop and think about it and my intellect breaks down. How are you going to buy all that land, with no money, from a man who won’t sell it? But you see, the Holy Spirit was flowing up within me and there was a word of knowledge in there waiting to come out. I was to deliver that word of knowledge over the telephone to one of my associates. The knowledge had to be a WORD of knowledge.

I want to stress that this gift is not a gift of knowledge, it’s a gift of a WORD of knowledge. You have to verbalize any gift, even as Christ had to be born to and I said to him, “Mister,” and I told him what you said. He said, “Yes, my wife and I decided yesterday that this is a tremendous inner knowing: Step to the telephone. Call your associate in Tulsa. Tell him to go out and buy that land.” (I know that I knew that I knew) and you cannot intellectualize it, but down here YOU KNOW. You know that you know, that you know, that you know, that you know.

HOW? It’s an inner knowing. What has happened? The Holy Spirit has just spoken. I’ve pumped my heart of doubt, cleansed it of doubt, and for that moment you couldn’t doubt if you wanted to. I mean it’s like Christ standing there, believing. And—in that moment—you’re in Christ’s stead. You have a faith that’s as unshakable as His. Let me tell you, brother, when you get that feeling, make your deals. I mean start wheeling and dealing. That’s the way to move forward.

That day in 1961 I had that feeling. The Holy Spirit had emptied me of doubt and for that moment I took the first step till I took the first one. That’s the beautiful part about God. It took several days, of course, to draw up the contract and get everything fixed up on the property and by that time my faith had gone into action and we’ve gotten the down payment. That’s a story all by itself.

Now is that an interesting story to you? All right.

**THE GIFT OF FAITH**

How does a gift of faith work? I can tell you what happens to you so you’ll know when you have it. That’s about the only thing you can do. When you have the gift of faith you are supernaturally emptied of doubt. You are not trying to make yourself believe. You don’t say, “Lord, I really believe.” You are not just working yourself up... and holding yourself up to keep from falling. If you are doing this, you’re not in faith. If you are doing this, you’re not in faith.

To be honest with you, I believe all faith begins with doubt. I believe you have to have honest doubts. I believe if you believe everything that comes along, that’s not faith. I believe you have to test it, think about it, pray about it. Have honest doubts.

Here’s how you will know when the gift of faith has moved in; for example, you are struggling to believe and all at once the struggle is over with, and down inside you KNOW, you KNOW.

Do you know what I mean? You have a heart that’s faced with doubt. Somehow your heart is emptied of doubt, you know what I mean? Now, you have this gift of faith and you cannot intellectualize it, but down here YOU KNOW. You know that you know, that you know, that you know, that you know.

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Now is that an interesting story to you? All right.
We had a combination of the gift of faith and the word of knowledge, both of them working together. You can depend on the fact that when one of the nine gifts came, there was another one nearby. They usually come in clusters. I just praise God for it. I mean there's enough of them there to get the job done. In fact, one of them has a lot of big brothers. I found that out.

**MY WIFE AND THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE**

Another example of the word of knowledge: My wife and I were out of the city in a crusade. I had asked her to go home and my kids struggle over this thing through the years because we have four children. Evelyn is a mother and a wife. I'm a father and a husband and I'm called of God to go all over the earth and preach. When she came to me the children would be without her, and she and I were pulled back and forth and we were hurt in our spirits. We wanted to be with each other. We wanted her to be with the children. We wanted me to be with them. The children were hurt at times and my whole family at times. I was going all over the world. Evelyn had yet come completely overcome the hurt that may have been in all of my children because of my travels over the earth. At one time I almost gave it all up because I couldn't be with my family.

Anyway, on this trip Evelyn came in one morning and said, "I've been feeling sad and I can't get away from it. I've got to go home today." I said, "Why, Evelyn?"

She said, "I don't know."

I encouraged her to stay and was a word of knowledge. When Evelyn speaks to me like that I always say, "Honey, you obey the Lord." She then took off and went home. She had not been in the house more than 10 or 20 minutes when one of our children walked in in terrible, terrible need. He was troubled and he came in and sat down and put his head in her lap like he did when he was a little boy and said, "Mother, I'm in trouble. Pray for me." When Evelyn said, "Oral, I have this deep feeling and I can't take notes. I wrote down what one of them told me."

"If he's here tonight he doesn't even know I wrote down what he said. But he played on one of our athletic teams last year and we might know."

"President Roberts, after receiving the infilling of the Holy Spirit I began praying both in the Spirit and with my understanding. It was not long I saw something happening to me both as a student and as an athlete. I am a strong competitor by nature. I'd been doing very well. I saw something happening to me."

Then she knew. She knew why she had to come home. If she was going to be a word of knowledge she had to work harder, much harder. I came to a point where I knew I couldn't make it. That's faith in reverse. When doubt is actualized, it also knows something. It's also an inner knowing. She went on to say:

**The Holy Spirit Increases Our Natural Abilities**

I picked up a couple of letters from the students. They and I are always writing to each other or they're talking to me and they don't know that I slip off and take notes. I wrote down what one of them told me. If he's here tonight he doesn't even know I wrote down what he said. But he played on one of our athletic teams last year and we might know."

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**THE WORD OF WISDOM**

I was at the World Congress on Evangelism in Berlin that Billy Graham held in the '60s. A minister from India came to me and said, "Are you Oral Roberts?"

I said, "Yes." He said, "I've been wanting to meet you. One of the reasons I came was to meet you." I told him I was flattered to hear that, and what could I do for him?

He said, "I've a very, very difficult problem. I've never understood or believed in miracles or that God healed the sick, although I've preached for many years. Here is my problem. Two of my members rushed into the church one day—there where I was—with their child. And this little child was dying. The doctors had just given up. The parents thrust their little child into my hands and said, "Pastor, pray for God to heal him." I was in a dilemma. They'd asked me to do what I didn't believe could happen... to ask God to heal. Before I realized, though, I did pray for him and to my utter amazement God healed him.

And I said, "Well, what's your problem?"

And he said, "My problem is very serious. Did I do right? Did I do right in praying for the little boy?"

My apathy, my thinking, my being half asleep, I heard it inside me and I knew if I would speak it, it would be a word of wisdom and it was this: "You want to ask as if you did pray in praying for the little boy and God healed him?"

And he said, "Yes."

I said, "Why don't you ask the little boy?"

He said, "Oh, oh. Why don't you ask the little boy? Yes, why don't you ask the little boy? Oh, I see what you mean. You have got me and you're going to India and I'm going to have a healing ministry."

All I said was, "Why don't you ask the little boy?" It wasn't something coming out of my intellect. It was by the Holy Spirit. It was a gift of the word of wisdom that in the natural state of man, there are traces of the original creative power apparently still existing.

We have experiences like these... and not only that, even people who don't know Christ have similar types of experiences. Apparently there is a facade in nature—in the natural realm—of the gift of the Spirit. What I mean by that is that they go all the way back to the creation—back to Adam and Eve... when God made man perfect with perfect knowledge and perfect wisdom and understanding. Then man disobeyed God and through sin lost these gifts, but evidently traces of those gifts—that extra knowledge—remain. There are traces of power within people who have never acknowledged God. They seem to be very, very superior. Some call it extrasensory perception or clairvoyance or things of that sort. What ESP is, I know a lot of people who say they do. I do know that people come to a point where they know something and they may say it's ESP, but maybe it isn't, but they KNOW something. I'm talking about people who are not guided by the Holy Spirit. What I'm saying is that in the natural state of man, there are traces of the original creative power apparently still existing.

But we don't have to live merely on that level. We can have the extra added dimension of the Holy Spirit himself. I want Him to manifest in me the gift of the word of knowledge, which is divine, which is supernatural. I want the gift of the word of knowledge manifested in me. I want the gift of faith. I want to go beyond what the natural man is using today. I'm not saying that there are not things that the natural man can do, and say many of them are very, very good, but why stop with that? A gift of the Spirit adds to our natural abilities rather than taking away from them.
If there is one word that characterizes this Christian life it is CONFLICT. God never promised you—a Christian—a bed of roses. It is a life of conflict. Our Lord himself faced conflict. After His baptism at the River Jordan by John the Baptist the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus and He was both led and driven by the Spirit into the wilderness (Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12). There Jesus faced the devil and the three major temptations of His life. And it was conflict for the rest of His human existence.

And so it is with us who serve God. Life is conflict. And for these conflicts we face there is manifested by the Holy Spirit the gifts that reside in our Lord—the various graces and gifts in Him. In this chapter I want to talk about how the first three gifts of the Spirit—the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and faith—work together with the gifts of healing.

THE GIFT OF THE WORD OF WISDOM

The first gift is THE WORD OF WISDOM. Notice it is not a gift of wisdom... a charisma of wisdom. It is a gift of the WORD of wisdom. It is not only a revelation from God but it is something you say. You deliver it to someone. It is not a word of wisdom until you speak it. That is, you deliver it.

THE GIFT OF THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

The next gift as indicated here by the same Holy Spirit is THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE. This is given in a situation where things are getting out of hand. You don’t know what to do. You’ve apparently done all that you can do but you don’t have the facts. The real facts are hidden. Your human mind is unable to comprehend the situation and you wish you knew. Now then, there is a gift of the word of knowledge whereby the Holy Spirit just takes the mind of Christ and reaches into that situation that you’re in and reveals the facts... just lays them open to you. Suddenly you’re in possession of the facts. You know what the real issue is and that becomes a word of knowledge when you speak it.

I’m going to get back to each of those gifts in a moment and give you actual testimonies or illustrations of how they relate to the gifts of healing. I’m briefly going through them now so you’ll be better prepared for the illustrations.

THE GIFT OF FAITH

The next is A GIFT OF FAITH. Now this gift, which is the third gift mentioned, is the one that’s probably manifested more often than any other. It’s probably more active than any other gift in our lives. We need to know its characteristics so we can be in a position for the Holy Spirit to manifest it in us. It’s characteristic is that the Holy Spirit will come to you in a moment when you’re in some kind of crisis or emergency or need and your heart begins to fill up with doubt, confusion, uncertainty. In that moment the Spirit supernaturally empties your heart of doubt. It just cleans it out and instills in you the faith of God. For that moment it’s like Jesus standing there having the faith for you and in you.

IT’S A POWERFUL FAITH.

It’s an inner knowing. You come into a knowing that defies the situation, that defies the facts. I mean, the human facts in the case. You KNOW and there’s no way you could doubt at that moment because Jesus is there believing through you. He’s believing for that situation. He is using your heart, your mind, your being... He is filling you with faith so that you can believe for that situation.

THE GIFTS OF HEALING

Then the fourth gift is in the plural, the gifts of
HEALING IS FOR THE WHOLE MAN

Now please know this, when I talk about a gift of healing, I’m talking about a gift of healing for the whole man, not merely for one part of him. When I first started 27 years ago I made some mistakes along this line. This gift was primarily for the human body, for physical illnesses. Gradually the Spirit began to show me that in the Bible healing is for the whole man — mind, soul, and body. It’s for the whole man, it’s for the problems to be healed.

Sickness takes many forms. We think of sickness in the form of tumor, or some form of something like that. But sickness is anything that brings you into dis-harmony with yourself, with other people, with nature, or with anything. Loneliness is a form of sickness. Loneliness is a form of sickness because through loneliness people lose the will to live, and they die from it. Loneliness can kill you just as much as cancer can kill you. It won’t kill you in the same way but it can have the same effect as far as your life stopping is concerned. I learned that healing taught by Jesus is for the whole man.

Through the years I learned that whole-man healing is really what Jesus is talking about when He uses the term, “Be made whole.” WHOLENESS.

A gift of healing begins within you. There’s a surge of compassion and this compassion takes the form of a hate for what’s wrong with a person. You don’t hate the person, but there’s a hatred toward the thing that’s wrong with the person. You can scarcely restrain yourself. When a gift of healing works through me and I have this compassion, I have a terrible urge to reach forth my hands or if not my hands, to speak to the illness, to speak to the medical science, to speak to the doctor and COMMAND it to go by the power of God. A gift of healing is something that takes hold of you and presses through to grow the corn. It’s not going to be nature, or God. A doctor cannot heal. He can assist nature. Whatever heals is inside. But thank God doctors and nurses are touched by the healing work of God. They can use the word ultimately because all healing skill is ultimately from God. It may not be intended by such individuals to do this power, this word is felt like giving credit to God but ultimately it is God who heals.

Now let’s discuss these four gifts and see how they relate to each other: the gift of the word of wisdom, the gift of the word of knowledge, and the gifts of healing.

A POINT OF CONTACT IS SOMETHING YOU DO AND WHEN YOU DO IT YOU RELEASE YOUR FAITH

I mean the faith that you have for something. You HAVE IT. But it isn’t enough to have it any more than it is enough to have the price of a loaf of bread. Unless you release the money for the loaf of bread the grocer will not release the loaf of bread to you. It’s a double release. Likewise with faith. So that God’s healing power can be released back. In other words, this woman touched Jesus’ clothes with her hands but she touched the points of contact. And He felt it. He felt the power go through Him. Jesus was moved with compassion and He healed the sick. That’s a point of contact.

Jesus was moved with compassion and He healed the sick. That’s a point of contact. A point of contact is something that moved Jesus. I mean it moved the Man. It moved Him toward these people. He wanted to touch them or He wanted to heal them. He wanted to speak to them. He wanted to impart to them life... life... which is what healing is. It’s LIFE. ALL HEALING IS FROM GOD

I have been careful through the years when a gift of healing has worked through me (I would say it has worked millions of times) to make it perfectly clear—or at least to the best of my ability—that I cannot heal. Only God can heal. Only by the Spirit of God can a healing be brought to a human being. I’m not the healer. I would heal if I could. I’d love to heal. But I work with my own hand. I was having a very bad time. You would be amazed how difficult it was 27 years ago to understand this simple fact that so many millions are accepting today as almost commonplace. I was pastoring a church in Oklahoma, and attending Phillips University at the same time. I had an 8 o’clock class. One morning I ran out to catch the bus because I was about to miss it. I remember very clearly I’d not read something in my Bible. I had a habit of never leaving the house without reading something from the Bible. I opened it, and opened it real quick. My eyes fell on John 3. It was like you turned all the lights on in the room. There I read, “Through the water and by the Spirit of God, particularly the New Testament, through so many times those past few months but I had never remembered seeing that verse before.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

When I read that, I didn’t care whether I caught the bus or anything else. I yelled to my wife, “Evelyn, come here.” She said, “What’s the matter?”

She said it loud. I never forget her words. She said, “Oral, is that in the Bible?”

I said, “Honey, you just read it. There it is in the Bible.”

“Did you know it was in the Bible?” she asked.

I said, “No.”

“Oral, do you mean as much as you’ve been reading the Bible that you didn’t know that verse was in the Bible?”

I said, “That’s right.”

In other words, the Holy Spirit had suddenly brought that verse to my mind and as we read it, we became very excited. Through verse something of my whole life was turned around. I began a study of the life of Jesus in the gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—His life as told when Peter said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” As far as we know, no human being had ever said that before. It’s a word of knowledge to him and to all the others—“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

A SCRIPTURE MAY BECOME A WORD OF KNOWLEDGE TO YOU

You can receive a word of knowledge by opening your Bible and a certain Scripture will stand out to you. Maybe you read that Scripture before and it didn’t mean anything or very much to you then. Or maybe you have read it and didn’t remember that you’d ever read it. Maybe you didn’t know it was in the Bible. In 1947 when I was starting this ministry, trying to begin, trying to understand that Jesus Christ is in the now, that He is here in the power of these nine gifts, that I was able to speak to people every evening for that time. You would be amazed how difficult it was 27 years ago to understand this simple fact that so many
Demos Shakarian. Demos is a very wealthy man. He's a Holy-Ghost layman and he was a little reticent. He addressed it to me. It became a word of knowledge.

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17).

Well, now it's been a hundred times and maybe not get anything out of it at all, or maybe you would think it was for Isaiah or for Paul or for Peter. You'll never think it was for you. But that moment it became a word of knowledge to me in the NOW. The Holy Spirit was saying, "Write your name in this passage, Oral Roberts. You obey Me and nothing ever formed against you will have any success."

Now, folks, that's powerful medicine for a young man starting out, not knowing how to bring healing to people, not having anyone to share with and having almost everybody against him. That's powerful medicine. That's a word of knowledge.

**THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE OFTEN WORKS WITH THE GIFT OF FAITH AND THE GIFT OF HEALING**

Before Reverend Bob DeWeese, who stood by my side through the years in the crusades, came with me, his wife Charlotte was dying with leukemia. Bob DeWeese had the best medical care and the best praying people. I mean he combined everything. He did everything that he knew to do and still Charlotte was dying. As he relates the story he says that there was just nothing more he could do. She was just slipping away. She was dying. No matter what medicine, no matter if he prayed in the church or was praying in the church where he was pastoring, it didn't seem to make any difference.

He had a young woman with two children, the wife of a minister, being cut down. What can you do? Bob said one day he got up off his knees and it was just a voice from within him said, "Now is the time."

He knew enough about the Holy Spirit to know this wasn't a voice. He was just a man who couldn't think that he said he didn't know that it was a word of knowledge. He immediately went into his wife's bedroom and said, "Charlotte, I love you." It went to her heart and she knew in a moment's time that she would be healed. A gift of faith entered her heart which is a knowing, a knowing inside. She just rolled the covers back and got out of that bed and into perfect health. When I see Charlotte, especially after I hear her tell knowing, a knowing inside. She just rolled the covers back and she knew in a moment's time that she would be healed. That's something quite a few years he had known that God was going to do something through him. As we walked along that day suddenly he began to pour it all out like a torrent of water. "Oval," he said, "I see an army of business and professional men all over the world being filled with the Holy Spirit. They're laymen - physicians, lawyers - the ministry, priests at all. Many of them have never been inside the church. Many of them don't know God. Some of them are atheists today."

Suddenly I knew that a word of knowledge was being spoken. I said, "Is that right, Demos?"

He said, "Yes."

I said, "Just what do you feel inside?"

And these are his almost exact words. I can't say I've forgotten it. He said, "Way down deep in here I know God's going to do this."

I said, "Demos, do you realize that's the gift of faith?" First you had a word of knowledge that God has shown you this is to happen. Secondly, you now have the gift of faith. You KNOW. Do you have any doubt...?"

"Oh," he said, "no, none. But I did at first." (This is another confirmation to me that real faith usually begins in doubt because faith can stand investigation. It can face the facts and see if they exist, frighten you. They tend to make you disbelieve or to doubt that it can happen.)

He said, "I KNOW. Way down deep in here I know."

That's the gift of faith. It was as if Christ was standing there saying, "I KNOW." That's as far as Demos Shakarian had gotten with the word of knowledge and the gift of faith. Now the Holy Spirit gave him the word of wisdom as said in the Bible text:

I will take off from my crusade (which I was holding in Los Angeles at that time), all the people for whom we've prayed, and we'll announce it in the crusade. Find all the businessmen you can.

He said, "I KNOW."

**Gospel Business Men's Fellowship was born.** That's how.

It has become, in my estimation, the most powerful, effective tool to bring men and women into the Holy Spirit this world has ever known. I mean they have over a half million business and professional people involved. It began with just 21 men more than 21 years ago. Now they can take over the biggest hotels in America, the biggest ballrooms - 5,000 in a ballroom - and they pack it out. Any of you know about the Gospel Business Men's Fellowship? May I see your hands?

Have any of you been blessed by it in some way? May I give you an arm's length to respond."

Well, that's how it got started and nothing can stop them. You know why? Because the thing is built upon the Holy Spirit and upon the unshakable faith - that inner knowing - that God raised them up.

Demos asked for a suggestion for a name. He had all kinds of names but I'm the one that gave him the name. I think it was a word of wisdom. I said, "Name it the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship. I mean, say it. Come right out and say it. The full gospel, nothing held back."

Demos said, "We'll do it."

That's my little contribution to the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship. They've taken it so much further than I thought it could possibly go. To me it's a miracle. I thank God for men like Demos Shakarian who have been a word of wisdom to deliver to him. I said, "Next time you come to the city have me come out."

Demos said, "I have a suggestion for a name."

I said, "Just what do you feel inside?"

Demos said, "Oh, quite a few.

Now listen? nothing could have happened to me much better than that to begin teaching me that while God healed her in spite of my lack of love... healing can be obtained by faith."

Well, now I had a message to deliver to my wife. I had just tough a man of God or cause him to touch her... that I was not in the Spirit. He was teaching me that though I have this gift working in me and I have not love I will not be blessed. I will receive no reward. If I had continued in that kind of spirit, eventually God would have withdrawn himself from me.

I hate to tell you that but it's the truth and I pray the Lord will help somebody with it. What happens is that way that it does not happen through the person's irrationality—which you often get into when you're extra tired, at least I do—when I died to touch the person to get the healing, there came a compassion that was almost putting me completely aloof from her as a person, but coming against the disease. That saw brings me to the real point on the gift of healing.

I said to a great surgeon once, "Doctor, I know how successful you have been because I know some of your patients. But they all say the same thing, that you are a withdrawn kind of person. When you treat them you seem very cold and icy."

He said, "I don't know what you mean."

I said, "Then how can you have such success? Healing has to do with persons as well as sickness, as you know."

He said, "Yes, I know that. When I began as a doctor I was very emotional. I became involved with my patients and too much. I was unable to help them. I gradually learned that I had to develop a hatred against the diseases they..."
I went in and said, "Son, what are you doing in here?"

"What?" He said, "No. All I know is I'm supposed to be healed." We wanted to tell you that Oral Roberts came alive because he knew the gift of faith was now working in that child. He knows something. I said to him, "Willie, I'm tired and I don't know the faith, but I'm tired I don't have as much faith so I don't know if I have the faith to pray for you." He said, "I didn't know about that, Mr. Roberts, but I'm supposed to be healed today." I said, "I tell you what I'll do, Willie. You see my hand?"

He said, "Yes." "I'll put my hand on you and I'll just say, 'Jesus, heal Willie' because that's all about the strength I have left. I will pray if you will really believe."

He nodded his head.

I put my hand on him and the little prayer I said wasn't big enough to heal anybody if you think like most people do that you've got to play big prayers to get healed. So I prayed this little prayer and said, "Bye, Willie" and walked out and went on.

I came back to Roanoke for another crusade about a year and a half later. One night a boy came running up to me. He said, "I'm Willie Phelp." I said, "You're not! There's no way." He said, "I'm Willie Phelps." I said, "Tell me." I had two parents and I said, "Parents, tell me about it. Tell me." Here's the story. Before they came from Lynchburg to Roanoke the little boy had said to his daddy and mother, "Now, I'm going to be healed." (One leg was short and he wore a shoe that was built up. Also he had a flat hip socket.) "I'm going to be well by the 200 people who will promise you to take me downtown and buy me a new pair of shoes because when I'm healed this old shoe won't fit."

And they promised.

So after they left that afternoon and got back to Lynchburg, Willie gave his crutches to his mother and said, "Dad, I'm coming." He reached down and pulled off his shoes — one had a built-up heel — and he walked. The next red-headed boy bought him new shoes. At noon he went to school and almost broke up the class. The little kids many times before had grabbed his crutches and spoken to him. He stood in there and beg for them but this time they all said, "Willie, what's happened?"

And the teacher said, "Willie, come up in front and tell us." He told the story I've told you. He had to walk and walk and the teacher put her hand on his hip where he'd been afflicted and he was really healed.

Then Look magazine came down and visited him and his picture. If you'll go back in the '30s and the first issue of Look magazine you'll see his picture. They found him out playing.

We check on Willie every now and then. He's a growth in the Word and he's been asked by the Lord what did it? I really can't say wasn't it my faith. It was a gift of faith in the child and suddenly I felt a gift of healing go right into him and he was healed by the power of God.

**PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE GIFTS OF HEALING**

**Oral:** On our panel this evening we have Collins Steele, vice-president for physical plant at Oral Roberts University and for many years operations manager for our crusades; Carl Hamilton, academic dean of ORU; and my wife Evelyn.

Evelyn, let's begin with you.

**Evelyn:** You mentioned that no matter how much we seek one of the gifts of the Spirit we cannot get it unless the Lord actually wants us to have it. So how do we ourselves in the position to receive one of these gifts?

**Oral:** Well, let's just read what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:11. Follow after charity (or love), and desire spiritual gifts. DESIRE spiritual gifts. It does not say to seek them. It says desire them. Why would one want to desire them? Because you would have that much of the power of Christ to meet a need in someone's life or maybe in your own life...but more particularly to help meet a need in someone else's life.

It doesn't say seek because the fallacy you fall into in seeking a gift would be that you would not seek the Giver. The Giver of the gift, the Holy Spirit, is much more important than the gift itself. So you must, in my view, never seek a gift. You must seek Him who gives the gift. It says here in 1 Corinthians 12:11 that He divides severally as He wills — as I will or you will.

**Oral:** Do you have a comment or question?

**Collins:** Yes, we had a prayer meeting. Reverend DeWeese and several of the sponsoring ministers and the team members we prayed about it and we decided that this was what we should do. Really I think it was God moving through the gift of wisdom and guiding us in what to do. It was evident that we had done all that we could do in Australia in this location. We were being treated very very mean... You know, Brethren, we were allowed to come and disrupt the meetings. We had no police protection. They stood there with their hands folded.

**Collins:** That is correct. We had done all that we could do in an effort to protect the lives of people and property. Yet the police would allow these people to come in. They even set fire in one of their trailers. It really took the gift of patience to lay hands off.

**Oral:** I remember one night we had an intense Irishman in the meeting who had migrated to Australia. Right in the midst of this mob coming in he jumped up, doubled up his fists, and said, "Come and get me." He said, "I'll take the whole bunch on." He was not a member of our team.

**Collins:** We literally issued written orders through each service for our ushers to abide by...not to touch anyone.

**Oral:** You remember in the '30s when the riots broke out in this country, you had to be hurt before you were killed. It struck us in the '50s. We knew what was all about. But you got me out of that country, and
probably saved my life. Do you think it was the gift of the word of wisdom working?

Collins: I think it was. Yes, it was.

Oral: Do you remember at that time they said they had no laws on the statue books for the protection of ministers of the gospel … that mobs had been going into the churches just like they had come into our tent? After we left they changed the law … they got laws on the books. Later Billy Graham came to Australia and he had one of the greatest crusades of his whole life. He wrote me a letter from Australia, which I treasure. I have it in my possession now. It just broke me up and made me weep. He said he'd met people who had been saved and healed in our crusades and he wanted to encourage me. It took a big man to do that, didn't it?

Collins: It sure did and as great as our crusade was, and was building, it could have never reached the climax that the effect of this reached.

Oral: Yes, because …

Collins: By our leaving early.

Oral: The leaders took us up for after they saw the treatment that the mob and, principally, the treatment that the press gave us. The press aided and abetted this mob. After we left the leaders took up for us and they passed laws. I hadn't thought about that but it sure did and as great as our crusade was, didn't it?

Collins: It was. There was something the Holy Spirit bas to move in whether you're conscious of the Spirit doing it or not. The Spirit has to do it. That I know. It's the most humbling and humiliating ministry in the world.

Oral: Do you remember the night in Jacksonville, Florida, when the little boy who was born without a hip socket came for prayer? The miracle started and all of a sudden I cried out that my right hand was like that. Suddenly I jumped to my feet. I didn't say anything and the crowd jumped up and here they came and completely engulfed the platform and me. People were pushed up in wheelchairs. They came out of the wheelchairs and just kept right on walking. People on crutches just dropped their crutches. Collins, the next day you fellows picked up armloads of crutches and eyeglasses and hearing aids. You remember that?

Collins: Right. Yes.

Oral: It started and stopped in 5 minutes. Do you remember that?

Collins: Yes, yes I do.

Oral: And after that I couldn't do a thing. Explain that to me.

Carl: God is sovereign.

Oral: God is sovereign.

Carl: He moves as He will. President Roberts, when you were talking this evening about the operation of the gift of faith it especially touched my heart. The gift of faith is meaningful to me because the result of it lives at my house and will be 12 years old on July 7. When Carla Jo was a baby she was in an isolation ward at Hillcrest Medical Center. The doctor had told us she was dying … that if her condition did not change for the better she could not live another 24 hours. We got in touch with you. You went to Hillcrest. They dressed you up in a gown and mask and you went back to the isolation ward. Later you told me that you felt impelled to touch the baby but you had been told not to because she was in the oxygen tent. But she put her toe through one of the holes in the end of the oxygen tent and you touched her toe. This was about 5:30 one afternoon. The gift of faith operated in your heart. You knew she would be healed.

At that same time Joyce was on her way home from the hospital. Joyce knew the baby would be healed. My mother was at our house. She came into the room where it was and said, "Carl, I know the baby's going to be all right. God is going to heal her." From that moment, every moment, every day, every week, every year has been a better year. I know about the gift of faith because one of the outcomes of it lives at my house.

Oral: Well, I didn't know you were going to tell that, Carl, but I'm glad you did. Again, it was the Holy Spirit at work. Of course, I've been in other situations like that and prayed and nothing happened. I have to tell the truth just like it is and sometimes you don't know. As Brother Bob DeWeese said, "It wasn't something you did, Oral. It was something the Holy Spirit did."
TWO GUEST SERMONS:

RENEWAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALING IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
by Father Francis MacNutt

CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT THE EARTH
by Rev. Michael Harper

I have invited two well-known charismatic leaders to share in this second semester of THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NOW. They are:

Father Francis MacNutt
and

Rev. Michael Harper

FATHER FRANCIS MacNUTT is a former faculty member of the Aquinas Institute in Dubuque, Iowa. He is also the founder and director of Merton House in St. Louis, which is a center for the charismatic renewal for the St. Louis area. He travels almost constantly in the United States and abroad, participating in symposiums on the restoration of the healing gifts to the Church of Jesus Christ.

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REVEREND MICHAEL HARPER is an Anglican priest from London, England. He is head of the Fountain Trust, a private spiritual organization which is trying to bring the charismatic power of the Holy Spirit into the churches and homes of Great Britain. Michael Harper was ordained to the priesthood in 1955 and received the baptism in the Holy Spirit sometime later. He was inspired of the Holy Spirit to lead this kind of ministry for Christ.

I've personally known Michael now for several years. It was he who was my first sponsor in Great Britain, particularly in London, at the first luncheon where I was a speaker before some of the leaders of that nation, including the late J. Arthur Bank. Lord Bank endowed this first academic Chair on the Holy Spirit at ORU.

Reverend Harper also asked me to speak for a large gathering of ministers from the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal, and other denominations in Great Britain. We have had fellowship in the Spirit over the years.

* * *

RENEWAL OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALING IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
by Father Francis MacNutt

I've just had the privilege of serving on the Bishops' Committee for the study of free spirituality in the United States. We put out a document—it was not just our document but the bishops' document—on the renewal of the American priesthood. In that document it says that priests are beginning to rediscover the ministry of physical healing and inner healing . . . especially as it relates to the Sacraments. Now that is really phenomenal news. Just a few years ago, there would not have been any such kind of document coming from the bishops.

About four weeks after I was ordained I was stationed in a parish in San Francisco. One of my Protestant friends came over to the rectory to visit me. He had his car out front and he wanted me to get in his car and go over to his home and pray for his little boy who was partly blind. Now this had not been covered in my seven years of seminary training . . . what to do in case somebody asks you to pray for healing.

Now part of our Catholic tradition is that we do believe in miracles. We do. But somehow we got the feeling that it would take a very extraordinary person to pray for a healing . . . that you could go to Lourdes, France, or some other shrine and perhaps it would
I happen there. But if you are an ordinary person like myself, a human being, you wouldn't dare launch out and start praying for the sick... that only the saints were able to do that with some success.

So the other day I was given an opportunity to do that when he came to visit me. I didn't. I was very embarrassed. I knew that he was asking me scripturally, but I didn't want to disappoint him. I felt that I was really unworthy to pray for somebody for healing. I didn't know how to explain it to him because after all he's a Protestant. So the best I could do was to ask the names of a couple of priests in the San Francisco area that I thought were pretty holy and were just crazy enough to do something like that.

The next acquaintance I had with the ministry of healing was about 15 years ago when I watched Oral Roberts on television. On those programs he prayed for people and you saw the healings take place. I have to admit to you that I wondered if it was really true. I wondered if this happening would be permanent. I'd never been in Oklahoma. I was away up North and so I never had an opportunity to check it out. But it really was by my Protestant friend that I came into an understanding that... ANY PERSON - EVEN MYSELF - CAN PRAY FOR HEALING WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT MIRACLES CAN HAPPEN.

A lot of our work right now is not standing up in front of people and praying for them. Instead, we are trying to teach people how to pray so that everybody can go on and begin to see the miracles of the Lord take place. Because I am a priest and I've had all kinds of jobs - I was president of the Catholic Homiletic Society and editor of a journal called Preaching - I'm often asked to give priest retreats. There I tell them, "Look, guys, here is what you can do if you've got a little courage. All I'm asking you is, try it and see what happens." After we'd have some opportunity to take place just in the past year, I'm part of a panel of six priests who got together crosswise giving symposiums on prayer for priests. These symposiums are sponsored by the National Federation of Priests Council. When I first went three years ago I was the only one of the six speakers who talked about Pentecostal prayer. This was unusual so I was the last thing on the program. They felt by the end of five days that the men were really championing me. The first time we did it the men got involved with the questions and the arguments and everything that when it came time to voting to break up - I was the last one on the program. It all came like there was unfinished business.

So they moved me up earlier and earlier on the program until finally I was the first one on. One of the six speakers who told about Pentecostal prayer. This was unusual so I was the last thing on the program. It all came like there was unfinished business.

So they moved me up earlier and earlier on the program until finally I was the first one on. One of the six speakers who told about Pentecostal prayer. This was unusual so I was the last thing on the program. It all came like there was unfinished business.
people—especially in Minneapolis—wanted to be cured of his habit of smoking cigarettes. It had come upon him in personal prayer that he should give it up. Not only that, although the prayer group was Catholic, many Protestant friends and family, for example, said smoking was a sin. Of course, for many Catholics, smoking really is a moral issue. If they would see the leader of the prayer group smoking, in between talks, they would be concerned that the Holy Spirit couldn't be in that prayer group. He knew this. So he tried to quit but he couldn't. He got the leaders of the prayer group to pray for him, and he said, "I want you to pray for me for healing." So the leaders of the prayer group, all ten of them, gathered around him and they prayed for him that he would be healed of this habit. The next morning when he woke up he picked up a cigarette, lit it up, and off he was going again.

Every time there was a guest speaker in that city he would invite the guest speaker over to pray for him. Some prayed for deliverance from demons. Some told him to claim his victory because he had already been prayed for. So Jack would claim his victory and the next morning he would light up again. Pretty soon it was getting to be very embarrassing. You can imagine a large prayer group and you are supposed to be the leader and you look out there among these people and you see Joe. He prayed for you last week. Someone else out there prayed for you a month ago. And you get kind of embarrassed. He actually contemplated resigning as leader because he didn't want to give a bad example. One afternoon when we were there we spoke about the Lord's ability to heal us of our emotional scars. We also mentioned the kind of scars that are often and he suddenly got the inspiration. He said, "I know where it comes from. I KNOW. When I was a teen-ager growing up I lived on the farm. I felt that my independence was really taken away from me. There was nothing I wanted more as a young man than to be free. For me, smoking cigarettes at home was a way to escape. For me, smoking cigarettes at home was a way to be free. For me, smoking cigarettes at home was a way to be free. For me, smoking cigarettes at home was a way to be free.

As we were talking about this, all this came back and Jack realized that his smoking wasn't just a thing in itself, but it was connected to his teen-age rebellion and his need for independence. So we prayed for him, and I never have seen anyone act so differently for his relationship with his father that it might be healed. As the Lord healed those deep things within his spirit, the cigarettes smoking just fell away. And he had no problem after that.

So often we find that there is a mystery in these things. The fault isn't with us. We don't know why we are praying for, but often the fault is in ourselves. Sometimes it isn't a sinful fault at all. It's just the fact that you are human beings. We don't know everything about everyone. There is a great mystery connected with human life.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING IS A MINISTRY OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US

As long as we don't try to pretend that we are God and that we know all things, we aren't going to try to blame other people for their lack of faith... but rather say, "Well, there's a mystery here. I really don't understand everything I pray for. I'll talk with you again and will pray for light, that the Lord might reveal His light on this situation," we find that this entire ministry of God is much more effective.

Since I've learned that, I have to say that I don't think I've seen a single person hurt through prayer for healing. Almost always, they think that we don't try to blame other people for their lack of faith... but rather say, "Well, there's a mystery here. I really don't understand everything I pray for. I'll talk with you again and will pray for light, that the Lord might reveal His light on this situation," we find that this entire ministry of God is much more effective.

The way the Lord wanted to cure Randy was by getting Randy to the right doctor at the right time. You never should try to put God in some kind of a binding contract. You never just can say, "Oh, the Lord said to you..." God is not bound by these structures. The Lord is not tied to these structures. So when we do that, we really find that what Dr. Roberts says is true, you can expect to see miracles happen... often completely unexpected miracles... absolutely unexpected. That's the good news of the gospel.

THE FOUR BASIC KINDS OF HEALING

I think I received a very good understanding from the Lord about two months ago of the four basic kinds of healing that can take place. Unless we understand, at least in our hearts, that these are four different kinds, we are going to make mistakes. These are the four basic kinds of healing as I see them.

FIRST, HEALING OF SIN

This is the healing of the things that take place in our body. At least in my heart, that's the way I see these four different kinds, we are going to make mistakes. These are the four basic kinds of healing as I see them.

I'd like to encourage you all not only to pray but to continue to pray and to pray even more for your friends. Usually the first sign that a person has that God is present is when they are healed. If you'll come to the people who are suffering and help them, you don't think that God cares, who doesn't have any faith, and say, "Well, you may not have any faith but Jesus loves you and you know you or it", wonder- ful things will happen.

I'd say once every two months the Lord shows me in a very dramatic fashion that I don't know what I'm praying for. He wants me to know that I don't know all the answers. I'd like to give you an example of that. About a year ago I went to Houston to give a retreat. There was an old-time friend of mine down there who has seven children. After the retreat I went over to his home and there was one child who was sick. She had been through chemotherapy. When I first saw her, you know, my son Randy has asthma real bad. I wonder if you would pray with him." So I gathered the whole family around her and we prayed. When we have sinned is to repent. We need to change and to tell God that we are sorry. If we're short on our neighbor we need to change and to tell God that we are sorry. What hasn't been so clear has been the relationship of that kind of sickness in our spirit to physical sickness.

People are many healed of that. So I had a lot of confidence that she was healed. After a period of time I was in Houston again and I called up Harry. I went over to his home and again had a very good time talking around the table. Harry said, "Hey, did we ever tell you about Randy?

And I said, "No."

Then they all began to laugh. I thought to my- self, well, that's kind of a weird reaction. Then they told me what had happened. After I walked out the door after the retreat I called Randy down to his clinic the next morning. They ran him through some tests and discovered that he had been misdiagnosed. He was put on the proper medication and Randy was cured.

Now was my prayer heard?

Yes. But not in a way that I would have expected. The way the Lord wanted to cure Randy was by getting Randy to the right doctor at the right time.

You never should try to put God in some kind of a binding contract. You never just can say, "Oh, the Lord said to you..." God is not bound by these structures. The Lord is not tied to these structures. So when we do that, we really find that what Dr. Roberts says is true, you can expect to see miracles happen... often completely unexpected miracles... absolutely unexpected. That's the good news of the gospel.
chewing on him. When he did, all the pain left...all that physical pain.

Then I decided to pray for this kind of healing afterwards begin for the first time. I was giving one retreat and there were a number of Catholic sisters there. It was in the early days. I think this one sister came for prayer, God provided for all of them, about 60 people to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. About one o'clock that night one sister came up and she said, "Mama, after you left, she told me that she had a pain back row. She wants to come forward and pray for the baptism in the Spirit but she's frightened." I said I would talk to her and I would talk to her. She was a very stable person. She was an administrator. Something in me told me to ask about her relationship with her father.

Sometimes if a person has a harsh relationship with their father, they think of God the Father in a harsh way. I asked her what her relationship with her father was and she said, "Well, heaven's been no problem there. He died when I was one year old."

What had probably happened was that when she was an old enough to understand other things, and others told her that God had taken away her father. They meant it to be a consolation. You know, "He's OK, he's with God. God took him." But to a little child it's like God had killed her father. Everybody else has a dad, she probably thought, why am I the only one that has no one in my life?

The reason that was explained to her was, God did it. To a little child it doesn't seem fair. No matter what anybody says, it's not fair that the person who should mean the most in your life, next to your mother, is not there. So something in her told her not to trust God because if you get too close to God, He's going to do what happened to your father. She see that? It wasn't conscious. It wasn't anything she had, it was something in her. Something deep she had of getting too close to God.

So we prayed that the Lord would heal her of what had happened when she was one year old, when her dad died. I think we really were praying to get something to her and after we prayed, her whole face changed. She said, "Now I want to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit."

And she didn't have prayer in her home for another month—two years later—and you know, it's beautiful.

So we see that the Lord really wants to heal all those things that have happened to you in the past, that have hurt you, that make you do those things like Paul said, that you don't want to do. Jesus wants to free you from your anxieties and fears.

All of us have these fears that hold us back. Some are afraid that they will never have enough money. I suppose the deepest fear of all is that you are unlovable. Many people feel that God can't possibly love them. I find many people carrying around these wounds from the past—good, sympathetic people—and we don't think they want to do it: they want to do to go back to that situation and ask the Lord to heal it.

THIRD, PHYSICAL HEALING

Now the third kind of healing we all know is physical healing. I suppose the only thing we need to say here is that it often is connected with an inner healing. Arthritis sometimes is connected with the tensions that we have. When you talk about people losing their healing, I don't think it's usually that they have lost their healing and don't have faith. It's simply that the symptom was taken care of, but the deep-down reality, the root cause they carried around deep down in their bodies, wasn't healed so the illness returned.

Many physicians feel that all illness is psychogenic, what they mean by that is that if you get rid of the kind of component in it. For instance, we all carry around tuberculosis germs. Now some people come down with it and others don't. Why the difference? Why are some people susceptible and others are not? Some doctors feel that the thing that makes the person susceptible is his weakness in his spirit.

I talked to an orthopedic surgeon last winter and he said, "A patient can come into my office and all I have to do is look at this. Before he says a word, I can tell with about 90 percent accuracy what the disease will be that will finally kill him. There's something in the cast of a person's face that lets you know the problems he has got, where his weakness is, and how that's finally going to affect him in his body." This is within the terms of the gospel. Jesus didn't come to save souls. No, that's part of it. He came to save PEOPLE. If a man was hurting and you look at him and you said, "I'll not cure his leprosy, but his sins needed forgiveness. He's really got to go back to the Lord and receive healing." I'm sure he did.

FOURTH, THE HEALING OF DEMONIC ILLNESS

Now the fourth kind of sickness is caused by demonic spirits. It took me some time to come to that conclusion. I believed that there were such entities as demons. I read it in the Bible, but I wasn't sure that they really were useful. I thought they were a person like me, that had said, "Okay, I've got this thing going on, I think it's just this evil spirit that causes me to do this." And I could talk to the evil spirit, you command it in the name of Jesus to leave. That was the kind of ministry I never wanted to get into as a preacher. It was just something that didn't say, it's necessary. Sometimes the reason the person hasn't received their healing is because a prayer of deliverance is not needed. On the other hand, I've seen people who will say that all sickness is of that nature. I talked to a young man the other night who was told that his loving mother had proceeded to drive out the demon of acne. Now this is where you really have to be open, you know. Personally, that doesn't appeal to me. I asked him what happened. That's the test. He said, "Well, about four-blits of it went. I just have a few blackheads left." I don't know. My first assumption would always be a more simple assumption unless there is a real discernment. Something more is at stake because that's not the kind of thing that everyone should get into. I don't believe it should be done except by people who have a real ministry of it. And preferably—if there's time—it should be done in private.

These are the four kinds of healing ministries that I know of in my own life. I think it's really important when you are talking to somebody and you are going to pray with them to realize that any one of those four could be needed. I mean any one of those four could be needed and then at some other time all four together. If you know this it will prevent you from jumping to hasty conclusions and saying, "I
CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT THE EARTH

by Rev. Michael Harper

Thank you, Oral Roberts. This is a great privilege for me to come here. This is my second visit to this university. It was a tremendous thrill to have Oral Roberts with us in England last year (1972). I didn't know he was even in the country until he telephoned us from London. I was in the middle of a conference and we had a very big meeting scheduled for that Saturday. We had called one of our big centers for a festival of praise. We hadn't gotten a speaker for the evening session and when I learned he was in London I thought I'd see if he would speak. It was just a long shot. So I asked him over the phone, "Will you speak on Saturday?"

He said, "Sure, I will."

I don't suppose it has ever happened before that on four days' notice one could get a speaker like Oral Roberts to come and by transparency of publicizing the meeting, .at least not that we would have Oral Roberts as the speaker. It was a glorious surprise for everyone. When he and Evelyn arrived we could hardly get them in. The cathedral was filled. We reckoned we had over 3,000 people there... every little speck of space was occupied. People were even sitting on the floor. We had just a tremendous time in Guilford Cathedral.

Well, that had to be at ORU and to be sharing with you about the most exciting subject that anyone could be sharing in today - the Charismatic Movement. I get more and more excited about it. I've been involved in it now for about 10 years.

The tremendous thing about the early Christians is that it was evident for everyone to see that they were Christ's. This is exactly the same thing that is happening, in the churches and in the lives of Christians today so that this glory of God is all locked up inside. Now when we're baptized in the Spirit all that's locked up inside begins to come forth. That's the beautiful thing about it. It's a shining forth and it becomes noticeable that you are a child of God. It's a giving forth of the Holy Spirit. It's for real. That's why so many people all over the world today are getting interested in this movement.

I think a lot of people have come to the end of the road spiritually. They've had so much that's gone by and so much that's unreal and so much that's dull and they want the real thing. You may have seen the great movie, My Fair Lady. In that movie there's a song which I've listened to many times, "I'd like to be a little bit more of a songwriter," and she's singing for the first time. This is the declaration of sympathy for her. She sings the song, Show Me: Words! Words! Words! I'm sick of words. Singing me no songs, reads me no rhymes, don't waste my time, show me. That's what I believe many people today are saying to the Church: "Words, words, words, we're sick of words. We've heard your theology. You've listened to your sermons. Will you please now give us a demonstration. We want to see. Show us." That's what the early Christians did.

THE EARLY CHRISTIANS WERE ABLE TO REACH A WORLD, NOT JUST BY THE WORD BUT BY DEMONSTRATION

Certainly, they preached the Word. They proclaimed the powerful Word of God but it wasn't the Word only. It was in demonstration of the Spirit... in power. The result was people's lives were changed.

I don't want anyone here to think that the Charismatic Movement is just a little peripheral movement. I've just recently been in Australia and one of the church leaders there said to me, "Is this the latest fad? We've had all kinds of fads in the past and all kinds of things that people get hold of that interested them for a few years and then they get turned off that, and turn on to something else." I was able to say to him, "No, Sir. I don't believe that's true. There's a twofold power that has happened in the Church since the Reformation. It could be the last great thing before the great day when Jesus Christ returns to the earth."

THE HISTORICAL LINK BETWEEN THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT AND THE CREATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

I want to draw your attention to the very fascinating link between the Charismatic Movement and the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. I believe when we look at the Word of God we shall see that there is a vital link, a fascinating link, between what's happening to God's people, the Jews, and what's happening to God's people within the churches as the Holy Spirit is being poured out to us.

The history of the Jewish nation is one of the most fascinating histories of any people in the whole world. Hegel, the German philosopher who most has got hold of history and sought to determine how history evolved, said, "I can explain the whole of human history. But there is one thing I cannot explain and that is the survival of the Jews." The great Prussian king, Frederick the Great, was an agnostic. He was in his court one day and very arrogantly announced, "Is there anyone here who can prove to me the existence of God?" There was no one here who can give me proof that God exists?" One of the court very boldly said, "Yes, Your Majesty, God exists and it is a fact."

If you study history you will see this remarkable thing. The only nation, the only company of people, that could have moved all through these centuries without a country of its own is the Jewish nation.

There are two kinds of phases that the Jews have been through. First is the phase in which they have been persecuted. There have been many times when people have tried to wipe the Jewish race out. Hitler wasn't the first one to try and do it. Others have tried to do it before him, without success.

Second, there came a period, a very interesting period in the nineteenth century, when it looked as if the Jewish nation would disappear completely. This was not because of persecution but because the Jewish nation began to assimilate into the other nations. The Jewish birth rate dropped significantly from about 3,000,000 to only 300,000. They were intermarrying and marrying Jews were atheists. They were taking over all the finance houses in Europe. Two-thirds of the professors in Europe were Jewish. Then persecution came again, beginning at the turn of the century, and the miracle began to take place. From just 300,000 there are today more than 20,000,000 Jews throughout the world. There's a wonderful story.

There were two very significant years: 1948, and 1967 which was the year of the Six-Day War. It's very interesting if you notice at the peak of the power of Israel, which was during the reign of Solomon, Israel possessed 12,000 square miles. God had promised Israel 12,000 square miles. Indeed, today, Israel is in possession of more territory than it was in possession of at its heyday when King Solomon was on the throne.

THE GIFTS AND THE CALLING OF GOD ARE IRREVOCABLE

In Romans 11:29 it says that the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. We had a wonderful King James Version says — "without repentance." Tremendous statement. If you will look at the context, you will see it has to do with the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel. God has called the Jewish nation and He will see that that nation survives. Eventually I believe He will see that that nation will turn to Him and the calling of God are irrevocable. God never wipes out His gifts. He never withdraws them.

Therefore, if you begin to see the very fascinating link there is here with the Charismatic Movement. In the Charismatic Movement we're beginning to see the return — on a large scale — of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Let me remind you again of that great event on the Day of Pentecost. When the Day of Pentecost took place two千年 ago, it began to say, "What does this mean? Can you explain to us what this is all about?" And Peter gave a very simple explanation of it. He said, "This has been prophesied. This is not an accident. This is not just a haphazard event. This is something which has been prophesied. This is the fulfillment of a prophecy that goes way back into the Old Testament, into the prophecy of Joel." — It is fascinating, on the day of the Day of Pentecost in the second chapter of Acts, Peter says:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh (Acts 2:17).

The interesting thing here is that Peter alters one word in the Old Testament prophecy. He substitutes that little phrase, "in the last days," for Joel's word "afterward." If you look in the prophecy of Joel you will see that it says: Ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, which hath dealt wondrously with you, and your people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed. And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy (Joel 2:28-29).

What's the significance of those words, "in the last days" and "afterward"? I think it's very simply this. On the Day of Pentecost when Peter said, "Here is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel," it was quite impossible for the Jews to be aware of this fulfillment of that prophecy. God was not on that Day of Pentecost pouring His Spirit upon all flesh because all flesh wasn't there. There were only 120 people gathered there.

The interesting thing is that if you look in the prophecy of Joel it says that the Spirit is to be seen in terms of blessings upon Israel. "My people Israel," God says, "will never be ashamed. It's all because of the blessing on Israel. Well, that was not fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost because Israel was far from blessed on that day. Israel was in subjugation to the Roman Empire. Israel was about to suffer in A.D. 70 the most terrible persecution that it has ever suffered. Virtually the whole of the Jewish nation was destroyed. The Emperor Hadrian, who visited that area some time later, could find only one small village with about 70 people in it that was left as the Jewish nation. Over a million Jews were crucified after the awful siege and taking of Jerusalem. So that was hardly a
time of blessing. It could hardly be said that God's people Israel would not again be put to shame. So Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, changed that word and said, "Now then, this saying is fulfilled on you, as it is written. "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God has made that same Jesus, both Lord and Christ," (Acts 2:36-37). Peter gave a new meaning to the prophecy, "in the last days," referring of course to the whole period between the first coming of Christ and His return in glory. That is the last days. Peter quite rightly is saying that this event that was taking place is not some remote event, not a haphazard event, but the fulfillment of prophecy (Eph 3:5). The age of the Holy Spirit, in which God is going to pour out His Spirit upon His people.

Now do you begin to see the significance of this historically? The interesting thing is that the birth of the Zionist Movement took place at the end of the nineteenth century. That was also the birth of the Pentecostal Movement. That happened at the end of the last century and the beginning of this century. Another interesting matter of this is that 1947-1948 was the beginning of Oral Roberts' ministry. And 1948 was the founding of the State of Israel. Many people, looking back over the last 10 years, will say that one of the most important dates—one of the most important years in the last 10 years—was 1947. That was the year when the Jews entered into the city of Jerusalem. Now, do you begin to see what I'm getting at? Do you see now what Joel's prophecy is being fulfilled. Now Israel is being blessed and now it is possible that the Holy Spirit is coming on all those who put their trust in Him. Everyone, all over the world—all denominations, all churches, all kinds of people. That's exactly what we're seeing. God's people, can do... begin to lift up our heads. We don't need to be ashamed. We can look God in the face. When these things begin to happen, then I believe we can lift up our heads for our redemption is drawing near. God's plans and God's purposes are coming out. His gifts and His callings are irreconcilable. It's a tremendous thing to see God doing this. Over the last 10 years, the Spirit has come faster than the tongue as the Spirit gives them utterance and beginning to manifest the gifts of the Spirit. The Charismatic Movement among the Catholics

I think one of the most significant things is this Charismatic Movement among the Roman Catholics. I have never believed it would take place. I have already mentioned one of the main ones. The fundamentalist churches, particularly here in the United States and elsewhere, are saying the gifts were given just to the Jews and the Word of God had been completed. When the last sentence of the Word of God was written, then the gifts were given. If you're looking for the gifts about Catholics and Protestants there. We're prepared to go and fight about these things. I couldn't believe it... but David Du Plessis has written a book on the Subject.

In 1967 we had the significant beginning of the Catholic Pentecostal Movement here in the United States. Now they reckon there is a quarter of a million Catholic-Pentecostals in the United States alone. There are hundreds of thousands of them, and overseas as well. I met with some of them when I was in Australia recently. It's a beautiful thing to see the way God is working. The Vatican Council opened the door for this. This was not possible in the Roman Catholic Church without the decisions made at the Vatican Council. I think it is amazing to see how God's will is being done without realizing it. Many of those leaders of the Roman Church at the Vatican Council never realized what would happen in their deliberations about charismatic things. Back home in England I've got a very interesting verbatim report of all the statements made by the leaders of the Roman Catholic church at Vatican Council. It's fascinating to find that Roman Catholics advanced the same arguments as others that these gifts of the Holy Spirit were only meant for the early days of the Church—that speaking in tongues, prophesying, healing were given to get the Church started.

Cardinal Simmons, who is one of the best-known Roman Catholic leaders, got up and said, "No, this is not right. These gifts of the Spirit were given to the Church for all time. We ought to be experiencing these gifts of the Spirit." The bishop also said, "Our experience is that when the Church most suffers persecution, that's when we experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit most." The cause is the beginning of this century and it has gathered momentum in the Roman Catholic Church is generally reckoned to be 1967. That was the year when the Jews entered in the State of Israel, the Jewish people, and the prophecies related to them. He reminded us of a very interesting Scripture. Jesus said: When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh (Luke 21:28).

My word! You could hear a pin drop in that conference because we'd all been so excited and thrilled with this fantastic victory of the comparatively small Jewish army over the much larger, more experienced Egyptian army. We'd seen almost the words of the Bible there in the headlines of the newspaper... the very names and places that are sacred to Christians all over the world.

I want to tell you that I believe that's what we, as God's people, can do... begin to lift up our heads. We don't need to be ashamed. We can look God in the face. When these things begin to happen, then I believe we can lift up our heads for our redemption is drawing near. God's plans and God's purposes are coming out. His gifts and His callings are irreconcilable. It's a tremendous thing to see God doing this. Over the last 10 years, the Spirit has come faster than the tongue as the Spirit gives them utterance and beginning to manifest the gifts of the Spirit. The Charismatic Movement among the Catholics

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God has never withdrawn the gifts of the Spirit. God never withdraws what He gives. The Scripture teaches us that when Jesus Christ returns then the gifts of the Spirit will be withdrawn. At Christ's return there will be no sickness and therefore no need for the gifts of healing. When He returns we shall know Him face to face so we will have no need for the gift of the word of knowledge. When He returns we shall be in such perfect union and communion with Him, so there will be no need for the gift of speaking in tongues. These gifts will be withdrawn when they are no longer needed.

But the gifts are needed today more than they've ever been before. I think we have come to realize that our nation's millionaire has not got all the answers to human problems and needs. We're finding that we've been thrown back upon God again and again. I find this as I read what the leaders of the world are saying. If you could get inside those people and get inside their hearts, you would know that they're afraid of what is happening. The Scripture is right, that men's hearts are failing them for fear of the things that are happening upon the earth. They don't know the answers to the problems. The problems are getting more and more complex as society becomes more and more confused.

I believe that God will provide the answers. God is willing to and God will do this by His Spirit. Can you imagine the leaders of some country like the great United States or our own country of Britain or any other nation, having available to them the gifts of the Holy Spirit? If you could have discernment, understanding, words of wisdom, and words of knowledge so the complicated problems of our society could be understood? Is this not a possibility that we can think of?
The Gifts of the Spirit are unlimited in their scope.

I think one of the most important aspects of the manifestation of the power of the Spirit is our understanding that they are unlimited in their scope. I think that those of us who have been brought up in the Pentecostal Movement so often think in terms of the nine gifts of the Spirit. That's quite true as we turn to the 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians. There you'll see Paul lists nine gifts. But Paul never mentions that the gifts are to be limited to only those nine gifts. There are other gifts mentioned in other parts of Scripture.

The Creative Gifts of the Spirit

One very important aspect of this, I believe, is the fresh understanding we need of the work of the Holy Spirit in creation. One of the greatest of Christian hymns is, "Come, Creator Spirit, Come." The Holy Spirit was active in the moment of creation. The Holy Spirit, we're told in Genesis, hovered over the earth and took the chaos that was there and made it into order and beauty. The Holy Spirit made this world beautiful but man has messed up the world.

Man has taken what God has created and made such a mess of it. I believe that God wants us to give to us, by His Spirit, new creative powers which are of tremendous importance.

In his sermon, Bishop Stephen Neill, an Anglican bishop, says he believed that every single person has within him the ability to write, or compose, at least one creative piece that would be memorable. A great many of us aren't able to do and to create what God intends us to do and to create because we're not aware of the mighty creative power of the Holy Spirit.

One of the tragedies, I believe, of history has been the way in which we have taken away the architectural gifts, painting, writing, poetry, and so on--have become so secularized. These great forms of art used to be so much the prerogative of the church. The Christians were inspired to write poetry. Christians were inspired to do those magnificent paintings that became such a common sight in the 12th century, the Renaisance. Christians had this tremendous power of being creative. But Christians have gradually moved out of that area. Sometimes Christians have thought that it's an area of sinfulness or that somehow Christians shouldn't be involved in this creative activity. Gradually, centuries have gone by and the result has been that these whole areas of creativity have been taken over by those who want to use these forms for evil purposes.

The result is that many people today--many Christians--aren't being fulfilled in the way in which they could be.

The Gift of Music

One of the glorious things about the Charismatic Movement (and here I'm mentioning a gift which isn't mentioned as one of the nine gifts of the Spirit) is the gift of music. People are beginning to be creative again in the area of music. I know people whom God is giving the power to write songs or to sing songs and to compose songs--songs that are, I think, going to be sung all over the world. This tremendous new creative power is coming out of the gifts into various forms of important and unimportant gifts. This perhaps stems from the first epistle to the Corinthians. In the end of the chapter Paul writes:

"Covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way." (1 Corinthians 12:33)

I believe that verse has been much misunderstood by people. I think if you look at the original you'll see that in actual fact, the imperative there which says, "Covet one another the best gifts," could also be translated as an indicative, so that it would read:

"You do earnestly desire the best gifts." When this happens in study of the Bible the only way we can determine whether Paul is saying, "Do this," or "You do this," which is the opposite meaning, is by looking at the context. If you look at the context there, I think you may agree with me that the normal translation of this may be wrong. I believe Paul is saying, "You do desire the best gifts." I believe one of the things that is happening and is going to happen more and more in this Charismatic Movement is that the Holy Spirit within us will give us as a new creative desire to do things for His glory.

One of the most interesting experiences I ever had was to baptize a Jewish man. He came to Christ because he was interested in art. He'd been across the whole of Europe and visited all the great art galleries. He told me that over and over again as he looked at the portraits of Christ, he was drawn to Christ. In the end he found it increasingly difficult to look at the face of Christ in those portraits. It was through paintings that that man was drawn to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is by no means the only person.

I believe thousands have come to Christ directly or indirectly through beautiful creative art. This is a whole beautiful area that we could move into. We don't have to be great artists and playwrights and poets and notators. These gifts are still gifts. I remember speaking once upon this very subject in Britain. Afterwards quite a lot of people there came up to me and said, "Well, I have a great gift to make ceramics [or something like this]" but when I became a Christian I gave the gift up." We found many people that had very great gifts that they've given up because they think that Christians ought not to develop those gifts. I'm sure that if you look at the whole Book of the Spirit in you which could be used to the glory of God if only you knew how. Our homes, our apartments, our schools, our churches, our homes are a great beauty so that the very way in which we build the churches, the very way in which we decorate the whole thing can be charismatic, so that when people come in they sense that God is there. This is a new thing that God is bringing forth.

There are all kinds of ways in which God will inspire our creative life. We're going to build up the world, taken over by those who want to use these forms for evil purposes. The result is that many people today--many Christians--aren't being fulfilled in the way in which they could be.

We Ought Not to Classify the Gifts

There's another aspect of this that I would like to share with you, and that is that we ought not to classify the gifts. I think that's another mistake that people have made--this notion of the gifts into various groups of important and unimportant gifts. This perhaps stems from the first epistle to the Corinthians. In the end of the chapter Paul writes:

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The Gifts are Given so the Church May be Edified

This is terribly important to the future, I believe, because the whole of Paul's argument here in these chapters is in the context of the Body of Christ. The whole thing is set in the context of fellowship and community. These gifts are not given for an individual fireworks kind of display...not so that we can build up in wheels. These gifts are given so the Church may be edified. The only distinction that Paul makes at all in these chapters is between the gifts that edify the individual (speaking in tongues for devotional use) and the gifts that edify the Church. Now Paul is saying those are the gifts that we should desire most of all because they edify the whole people. Those are the gifts which I believe we should seek and that I believe will do a great deal to bring the whole range of the gifts of the Spirit but make love your aim." When we make love our aim and that's the motive and the desire of our hearts, the gifts of the Spirit will not divide. They will constructively build up the Body of Christ.

These gifts are sent and they're intended for the Body of Christ; therefore, they are to be worked out in fellowship with other people, not as individuals. The whole New Testament concept is the concept of the church as a body, and that everyone sharing together the gifts that God gives to them. When that begins to happen, it's beautiful. We think we can end on this very simple but personal note:

GOD HAS THE WHOLE OF HISTORY IN HIS HANDS

If God is able to control the whole destiny of a people like the Jews...if God has that control over history...don't you think He can give you what you desire? Don't you think He can give you His gifts? If He can control millions of people like that, can't He control your life? Can't He lead you and show you the way that you're to go? If the gifts and the calling of God are without repentance and irrevocable, if God has called you--whatever that calling may be and whatever it is begining to show you--then God is not going to withdraw that...
calling. He will see you through it, however difficult it may be, however hard it may be. God is going to see the Church through in these last days. These are the last parts of the last days. God has committed himself irrevocably to us. As we commit ourselves irrevocably to Him then I believe we’re in for a most exciting and most glorious time. I believe that the most glorious pages of church history are about to be written. God wants all of you, all of us, to be involved.

5

HOW TO KNOW GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson: 1 Corinthians, Chapter 14

Our subject for this chapter is the gift of prophecy. Prophecy is an inspired utterance by a believer. He is inspired by the Holy Spirit. Prophecy is words chosen by the Holy Spirit, not by the individual’s own learning. It is usually a spontaneous statement, either short or long. It does not come out of something a person has learned ... something he already knows. It is an inspiration, a flash, an intuition of the Holy Spirit himself.

God speaks to men, and has spoken to men, in many different ways since the dawning of creation:

- God speaks through creation. He speaks to us through nature.
- He speaks to us through special acts of providence ... acts of mercy when our life is spared or the life of a loved one is spared. God speaks through some divine intervention, providentially.
- God speaks to us by circumstances that we find ourselves in ... circumstances that sometimes cannot be explained in human terms but, nevertheless, are there for a purpose. Often, if we understand what that purpose is we can change that circumstance. We can cause that circumstance to be rearranged and God will speak to us through that.
- God speaks to us through the Bible ... the holy Word of God. He speaks to us through this Word, written as men were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- God speaks to us when the Word of God is preached.
- God speaks to us through the testimony — in word or song — of other Christians.

These are many ways that God speaks to us but we should remember that He speaks by an inspired utterance. That inspired utterance may be some portion of the Scripture which is spoken under inspiration by a specific person — you or me or someone else. It could take the form of a verse or a part of the Bible. Or it could take the form of words that are not used in the Bible but are not contrary to the teaching of the Bible. It’s an inspired utterance.

Prophecy usually comes at a time when you’re facing something rather critical or strenuous and there isn’t anything that will apparently meet that need in your life. You are dependent upon the Spirit. You are dependent upon some special word to be spoken — a sentence, a statement, either short or long. Those words will be more meaningful to you than anything in the world. They will be more precious than silver or gold. They will be just right. Whether you understand them at that moment is immaterial. There are ways that you may understand them either at that moment or later on.

It’s very important that we understand that the gift of prophecy has been working in Old Testament and New Testament times. It’s been working throughout history. It is working today. What is prophecy?

**PROPHECY IS GOD ACTING ON HISTORY — IT IS HISTORY WRITTEN IN ADVANCE**

It is what God already knows, what God has decreed, what God foresees. He chooses to reveal something that He has foreseen, or to reveal something He has decreed to happen. This is why it is very important for you to understand that.

**PROPHECY HAS TO BE CONFIRMED ON BOTH ENDS OF THE LINE**

That is to say, if you are inspired of God to give a statement of prophecy, an inspired utterance within the Church or to some individual, God not only must confirm that in your heart but also it must be confirmed in the heart of the other person. There must
PROPHECY IS CONFIRMATIONAL... IT CONFIRMS SOMETHING MORE THAN IT DIRECTS

It illustrates this. One of my warmest friends is the Reverend Harold Bredesen who has been a Holy Spirit-filled man now for quite some time. He is a pastor back East in the Dutch Reformed church. We had him visiting here on campus and he said to me, "I'm going to preach. Oral Roberts said it on my heart to build this university. He said words... PROPHECY HAS TO BE CONFIRMED."

They want to believe people are good and not bad. There is no other reason Christians are gullible. We believe, therefore, they are gullible and believe whatever they were told, except what the Lord had said to me, "You build it on the Holy Spirit." Now the check comes at a critical moment when funds were hard to come by. There were people coming at me from all sides and several were saying, "Don't preach on the Holy Spirit so much. You'll drive people away." Now here comes a confirmation to me to keep on preaching on the Holy Spirit and to build the university on the Holy Spirit. And it was backed up with something you could take to the bank. Now that was a prophecy confirming something that was already working in me. Don't you see that God was working on both ends of the line? And God always works on both ends of the line.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1 AND THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

Let's turn to 1 Corinthians 14:1 and read a little bit more about the gift of prophecy:

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

Appropriately, prophecy is to be desired more than any of the other gifts. Notice in this same chapter (verse 39) that it says:

Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

It says here to covet to prophesy because prophecy has a purpose to aid the lives of other people.

He that prophesieth speaketh unto men (1 Corinthians 14:3). Speaking in tongues is vertical: man to God. Speaking in tongues is from your spirit, over your tongue, directly up to God. It is a subjective experience through which you express things not understood by the other people.

PROPHECY IS THE OPPORTUNITY. It is the horizontal experience. It's man to man.

Tongues is from man to God. The interpretation of tongues is God back to man, and man to man. The interpretation of tongues has a great similarity to prophecy. When we get into the discussion of the gifts of tongues and the interpretation of tongues we'll go more deeply into that phase of it. Right now suffice it to say that the interpretation of tongues has a purpose to aid the lives of other people. But God works on both ends of the line. As soon as you start talking about prophecy because both ultimately are man to man.

He that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).

FIRST, THE PURPOSE OF PROPHECY IS TO STRENGTHEN THE INNER MAN

Prophecy lifts us up spiritually. It strengthens our inner man.

SECOND, PROPHECY IS GIVEN TO EXHORT

The purpose is to exhort or to urge. There may be a special word given... an inspired utterance... that you will feel urging you on closer to God or urging you to obey God... urging you to be strong in a moment that you might be discouraged. The Holy Spirit will cause you to be strong, to hold up your head, rather than to give way to whatever temptation is facing you.

THIRD, PROPHECY IS FOR COMFORT

I mean, just plain old calming you down. There isn't a one of us that doesn't need to be calmed down at times. There isn't a one of us that can always be calmed down by somebody other than God. Sometimes it takes a divine intervention. The Holy Spirit has to intervene. The Holy Spirit has to give a special word. We might be facing you but we feel it in our hearts. It has the effect of calming us down. Oh, in the age in which we live, how precious it is to receive a special word of prophecy that has the effect of calming our hearts.

FOURTH, PROPHECY SPEAKS TO THE INTELLECT — THE MIND

But if all prophecy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned (one uninitiated in the gifts of the Spirit, one that doesn't understand the gifts of healing or gift of tongues or gift of prophecy), then when you speak to him in prophecy he is convinced of all, he is judged of all (1 Corinthians 14:24).

WHY? You see, prophecy speaks to the intellect, it speaks to the mind. It speaks to the understanding of the other person. If a person who is either not a Christian or he is a Christian but not there for the right reasons.

FIFTH, PROPHECY MAY COME AS PART OF A SERMON

Many times I've been preaching a prepared message and suddenly it was like I was handed a heavenly bulletin... something I had not prepared or studied. Suddenly a word would come out of me and it would be exactly right for some unsaved person and some person not initiated in the gifts of the Spirit. That person would feel something going down his spine. He or she would respond to it and often they have been saved.

During this semester several of the people in this class have sent us word that they have been converted. Some had never been Christians before. They were just sitting there listening, when a word came to them and a feeling of the Spirit accompanied by that word. They just opened up their hearts and let Jesus in.

Several have sent us word that they began to speak quietly in tongues for the first time in their lives. Others received a direction and a confirmation of something they already felt. Well, that is because at that moment something inspirational happened. Something inspired of the Spirit... something beyond me... something beyond you... was given. But it was surely for you.

Notice in verses 30-32 of 1 Corinthians 14 that it says:

If any thing be revealed to another that setteth by, let the first hold his peace.

If ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

That Paul is saying here is that...

WHEN ONE OF US GIVES AN INSPIRED UTTERANCE, WE ARE TO BE JUDGED — TO BE TESTED...

What we say has to be tested. It has to be evaluated. One of the things you want to be careful about is someone raising them up. Many people do not know they are not seeing people like Paul. Someone does not know or someone who is not willing for his words to be tested — says who wants you to do this and what you've got to do and right now. That person doesn't want you to wait upon the Lord. Don't listen to people like that. That's a very foolish thing. If people are not willing to be judged it is a prophetic utterance completely. I've never been afraid to say no to any kind of prophecy like that because I don't believe in it. I don't believe it is Scriptural. For some of our words to be tested and tried, then can be sure there is something wrong with us and we're not for the right reasons.

Paul says that...
That means, wait upon the Lord. Don’t just take off at the time you do anything you do—not merely prophecy but he feels it. He has to time it. It’s really important to be sincere, honest people who simply either don’t know any better, or they’ve been determined to tell their way through, regardless. And they do a lot of harm.

A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF THE GIFT OF PROPHECY IN THE APOSTLE PAUL’S LIFE

Paul was coming back from one of his missionary trips on his way up to Jerusalem and he stopped at the house of Philip, who had several daughters who were selected by the Church. He himself is a gift to the Church. The prophecy Agabus said:

"54IN THE APOSTLE PAUL’S LIFE

55WE TESTED THE PROPHECY

In a few days we began to test out this prophecy. We had no plans to leave but we drove over to Tula. While we were there we learned that Rev. Steve Pringle had a big gospel tent on the north side of town. We drove over, having known him for several years. We sat in the meeting and when he learned I was there he asked me if I had come to see him. I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "Mr. R, I’ve been praying for you to come. I expected you to come. This is God coming through me." We sat down, and by 9 o’clock, the meeting was begun. Six o’clock came — we were guests that night for dinner — the gentleman who said he was going to buy it didn’t show up. So my friend said, “I’ll wait till 7 o’clock.” Then he said, “I’ll wait till 5 o’clock.” The fellow didn’t show up. I waited till 5, and then he called and said, "I’m going to leave." I was about to preach, then came back to spend the night with this man at his invitation. I certainly didn’t have money for a hotel. When I got back he said, "Orral, this man hasn’t come. Would you like to have this house?" I said, “Oh, I don’t know.” He told me the price and if he could have seen my eyes coming out on items it would have been an experience for him, but he didn’t see it because I didn’t want to buy it. I couldn’t think of all the things that have happened. The UPI picked up the story and the next day across America from coast to coast the name Oral Roaring came. I don’t think it was known for the same reason that man intended for it to be known, but they told the story of what I was doing — that I was going to be the healing of the sick.

People began to fly in from all over America — pastors wanting me to come to their churches, delegations from the churches, and Oral Roaring and I could almost even walk down the street and people would — I’m amazed at how people would just keep us company and interviewer, or even to this day, and Oral Roaring and I just kept being interviewed, and people would — I’m amazed at how people were just killed the way people were treated. We stayed there nine weeks, all summer long, and I guess we could say we slept in the air, or you just keep the people climbing and climbing. There were nights that I’d pray for the sick until 1 o’clock in the morning. You had to catch the airplane that you wanted to get a seat inside the tent. People would bring their own chairs and be outside or have to stand outside.

WE BOUGHT OUR FIRST HOME WITH $25

Well, you see, God began to confirm something. But now he had got me to the point that God didn’t want me in Tula. I examined the airlines and I saw that here’s a city right in the middle of America. There was a big gospel tent on the north side of town, and we were flown in by airplane to be healed. We slept — if we slept well or not — but we got up the next morning and he went uptown and had the papers
Paul was coming back from one of his missionary trips on his way up to Jerusalem and he stopped at the house of Phillipp, who had several daughters who prophesied. The girls manifested a gift of prophecy. While Paul was there for a few days a prophet came in, a man who not only had a gift of prophecy manifest but was a genuine prophet. There are two types that I'm referring to here: One is a person who is a prophet, who is a gift to the church and is to be respected by the church. The second is a person who is not a prophet but through whom a gift of prophecy may be manifested. He or she should not be considered a prophet, but recognized as an individual with a special time gift.

Well, while Paul was there a prophet by the name of Agabus came in. He took one of Paul's garments and said, "Paul, this is what's going to happen to the man to whom I give this garment." Then he said, "Now this is a sign of Agabus' words and the knotted garment signified something which confirmed what he already knew in his heart.

The Gift of Prophecy and the Beginning of this Ministry

In 1947 I lived in Enid, Oklahoma. I was pastoring a small church and attending Phillips University and coming into the climax of my life when this healing ministry was to begin through me. I certainly didn't know much about it. I don't claim to know all about it now but I knew much less then. I had begun to pray for people and to get some healing of the sick. In 1947 not many Christians were talking about the healing Christ and fewer still were laying their hands upon the sick and praying for their healing. There was a neighborhood of mine -- an unchurched, unsaved man -- who had been noticing me while I didn't know that I was being observed. He'd been coming into the church service and sitting in the back, observing me. One day he saw me and said, "Mr. Roberts, I'm not so and I just want to tell you something. I want you to listen to me." By this time he had opened his heart to God and I could tell that he was really sincere. He said, "You're not going to be in Enid much longer. You're going to leave Enid." I said, "Why would I want to leave Enid?" I'd already begun to think about building a university. I had looked at a piece of ground there. I didn't know when my time would come to build it but I wasn't going to leave anything untouched in case that was the time.

He said, "You're going to leave. The message of God's healing power is going to have its place for one little town. It's big enough to fill the world." Although I had looked at pieces of land, in my heart I remembered what God had said, "You are to take My healing power to your generation." Subconsciously I knew that I couldn't do it in one small town, but I didn't take that prophecy as absolutely directional. Although in my heart there was a response to it because God had said, "You are to take My healing power to your generation."
I didn't know many people at that time who were sincere - I think, in the way some people are gifted through the prophetic. I have seen many people who feel inadequate, I think, to judge them, and to judge the person. The Spirit was working in me at the time, that it was going to have to do with the healing of the Body of Christ, the sick Body of the Bride... that I know, in the way some people are gifted through the prophetic. I was born a stutterer. Well, I don't think you can smell it... I said, "Just as you say. Just as you say." So now I said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll take 24 hours and I'll go on... I'm bringing all these big brothers are there to help us. You can expect this."

I said, "The Lord sent me here and the Lord sent me a confirmation but that was..."

I said, "You know why she didn't come?"

He said, "Why?"

I said, "You know why she didn't come?"

He said, "What do you mean?"

I said, "You know why she didn't come?"

He said, "What do you mean?"

I said, "Just as you say. Just as you say."

So now I said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll take 24 hours and I'll go on... I'm bringing all these big brothers are there to help us. You can expect this."

I said, "Go on. Leave me alone. I don't have any time."

And he said, "Well, Broth Roberts, just as you say."

The quality of his voice spoke the sweetness of his spirit and I turned around and I said, "Young brothers, do you think that is this one who is coming and this is this one who is coming, and this is this one who is coming... I thought... I have heard that."... I can smell it."

I said, "I don't have any money. I don't have anywhere to go. I don't have a thing to eat."

I said, "Well, at least this morning, you give me dinner and you give me breakfast, and you'll give me in the morning."

So he agreed.

I called my men and they took charge of him. My minister brother standing by me said, "Please tell me how you know all this."

I said, "Did you see his eyes?"

He said, "Yes, they looked all right to me."

I said, "You look at the eyes of a person who is saying he's doing the work of God. You look at his eyes. There's always something sneaky looking in the eyes of a person who says he's doing the will of God... the work of God with prophecy and things like this -- when he is not sincere, when he's not with God. There's a look in his eyes and there is an odor to him and it's bad body odor. You can smell it, you can smell it."

I said, "This is something special God has given you?"

I said, "I don't know. You asked me and I'm telling you now I picked it up."

Then I picked it up, inside, "I can't tell you what I'm doing."

I said, "I've always believed that wherever there's one gift of the Spirit there are several others hovering around. This man, these brothers are there to help us. You can expect this."

All right, in a few days I made a mistake and I had to apologize. A young man came up to me with a prophecy. I had my mind on something and I said, "Go on. Leave me alone. I don't have any time."

And he said, "Well, Broth Roberts, just as you say."
I was getting ready to preach in a crusade in Fresno, California. I had been there before I was a speaker. I was still in my hotel room getting ready. I've always had a lot of time to get ready for a sermon, but when I preach, I really have to prepare myself from the Bible to preach the gospel. I'd been preparing most of the day and then came this word of prophecy given to me by the Spirit. From within the words stood out like blazing balls of fire:

"IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK!"

I said, "Sure, I believe that." Then suddenly I realized the Holy Spirit was talking to me. "It's later than you think." So my mind went to a Scripture about the second coming of Christ.

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, but only the Father, only (Matthew 24:36).

I said, "You see there? No one knows the day or the hour of our Lord's coming."

Again it came: "It is later than you think and He was speaking to Oral Roberts. 'It's later than you think."

My initial went to the sixth chapter of Genesis where God destroyed the world with a flood because they had resisted God and God's Spirit had ceased to strengthen men. They rejected crystallized opinion against God. Their sins had reached from earth to heaven and their wickedness had filled the earth. It was like all of their opinions against God had come to be one gigantic opinion. It had crystallized like concrete. It had become hardened and unchangeable and God knew there would be only one family who would obey Him so He was going to start all over again. Now God was saying to me, here's a prophetic word for this generation:

It's later than you think. The opinions of men are crystallizing. Nations' minds are hardening against the Lord. God is going to be saved. No nation is going to be saved. Only individuals. Only groups. Institutions will not be saved. Only individuality is one on one on one on one in Christ. in you. You're not going to get America saved. You're not going to get the world saved. IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK.

A THOUSAND PEOPLE CAME FORWARD TO ACCEPT CHRIST

When I went out to speak that night I was like a new bullet in a new gun. When I began to preach the words poured out of my mouth and soul. People sat on the edges of their chairs as if I had made the appeal over a thousand people got up. They climbed over chairs to get down in front to accept Christ. Right in the middle of the sermon, a mother screamed, "My baby has died." It died right in her arms. She rushed down the aisle and threw the baby at me almost tossed it at me and I caught that little baby. By now its body was stiffening. Its mouth was closed.

I never was in such a critical moment of my life. There I had just given a word of prophecy and spoken of the end of that time was nearer than we think. Now right in the midst of a thousand people accepting Christ, a little baby was breathing when a doctor and there wasn't a doctor in the audience. There I stood before 10,000 people with a little baby that was breathing. I thought, oh, Lord, what do I do now?

I held that baby in my arms. I felt the Holy Spirit coming over my body, coming up into my hands, and I touched that little baby. I asked the mother the name and I spoke to that baby. I don't know if its name was Mary I but just use the name Mary to illustrate my point. I said, "Mary, honey, Jesus wants you to live. He wants you here."

By that time I was aware of the crowd. I was just up there with Jesus and that little baby kept speaking to the baby just like it was living. Well, I knew it was living, even though its spirit may have already been with our Lord. The little body was stiff. I knew I could speak to the child and I kept on speaking. Suddenly, there was a jerk and another jerk and the mother screamed and grabbed her baby and the little baby began to breathe and to be all right. I stood there thinking about God. God, how could I ever limit You again?

Maybe that would never occur again. Maybe I could pray for another baby like that and nothing would happen. But when we dismissed the meeting that night after I had prayed for this long line of sick people, there was a confirmation in my heart and it was this: Oral Roberts, it's later than you think and He's speaking to Oral Roberts. Maybe that would never occur again. Maybe I could pray for another baby like that and nothing would happen. But when we dismissed the meeting that night after I had prayed for this long line of sick people, there was a confirmation in my heart and it was this: Oral Roberts, it's later than you think and He's speaking to Oral Roberts.

I said, "You see there? No one knows the day or the hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, but only the Father, only (Matthew 24:36)."

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, but only the Father, only (Matthew 24:36).

I said, "You see there? No one knows the day or the hour of our Lord's coming."

Again it came: "It is later than you think and He was speaking to Oral Roberts. 'It's later than you think."

My initial went to the sixth chapter of Genesis where God destroyed the world with a flood because they had resisted God and God's Spirit had ceased to strengthen men. They rejected crystallized opinion against God. Their sins had reached from earth to heaven and their wickedness had filled the earth. It was like all of their opinions against God had come to be one gigantic opinion. It had crystallized like concrete. It had become hardened and unchangeable and God knew there would be only one family who would obey Him so He was going to start all over again. Now God was saying to me, here's a prophetic word for this generation:

It's later than you think. The opinions of men are crystallizing. Nations' minds are hardening against the Lord. God is going to be saved. No nation is going to be saved. Only individuals. Only groups. Institutions will not be saved. Only individuality is one on one in Christ. in you. You're not going to get America saved. You're not going to get the world saved. IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK.
teaching time. Now there will be groups—who a church service or something like our O.U. vespers services on Sunday night or a small group with just a few people—when a prophecy could be given by a member. One should feel a word of inspiration to give to the other. That could happen at any time, before we come, after we leave. I would say it would be a rare exception if it happened right here during our class. It could. I wouldn't rule it out, but I would say that's not the purpose of the class.

**Evelyn:** Suppose it happens in vespers. How do you know it's a prophecy?

**Oral:** Well, now, that puts the burden and responsibility upon the leaders. Those whom God has put in charge have to know. They have to be men and women of discernment. They have to be people of boldness. They are the shepherds. They cannot be set aside by any individual in that group. For example—men like Bob Stamps, our chaplain, and the student chaplain he has under him. The prophecy I heard the night that I was in vespers were just tremendous. They were in order. They were inspired. Of course, there was not a superabundance of there. There should be two or three at the most and then you move on to something else. When I was at the vespers I was very pleased. Evelyn, and I understand that's the way it goes on a regular basis.

**Evelyn:** This is a special gift but does it have to be given by a special person, right?

**Oral:** Yes. The gift is special but I think most of us and who has the burden of discernment, and I'm glad it's like that because people are the only things God has to work with his gifts.

**Evelyn:** Another thing I wanted to ask you. Do you think prophecy happens in vespers?

**Oral:** I think there's some direction in prophecy. I do. But it's so much more confirmational that we have the Bible in a more general sense and allow the Holy Spirit to take it to the individual's heart. But when you walk up to a person and say, "The Lord says this to you, 'Get on a bus and go to Kalanazono.' " I mean that gets to be a Kalamazoo situation. This will not pass out in the end. That's what I'm saying. There is some direction in prophecy. It is directionally up to a point but unless there's confirmation, Evelyn, here and there, not only what person the giving the prophecy feels, but with me—I've got to feel it. If I don't feel it, it cancels it out. If God doesn't confirm it in my heart.

**Evelyn:** Is prophecy ever judgmental?

**Oral:** Yes and no. You are getting into deep water. It is judgmental, the Word of knowledge but than it is through prophecy. But it's so rare and it's always by someone in the Bible like Peter and John.

It would be someone who's really a leader in the Body of Christ.

**Evelyn:** I had a specific reason in asking you this. I have heard people say, "Thus saith the Lord: You shall do such-and-such." They are very judgmental and it seems that everybody there thought it was a prophecy. It didn't hit me as being a prophecy.

**Oral:** Evelyn, I think the problem is not that the person is trying to be judgmental. They all who person that I've seen do this are very sincere for the most part. They do feel inspired to God to do what they do. I think the problem is that they don't know just exactly how to handle the gift. I think that's true of all of us. There have been times, you know, when I've not knowed how to handle any of the gifts of God I have. I've had to have help. You've always given your help to me, and I appreciate it, but I've had to have other kinds of help. I think all of us who manifest the gifts have to have help. Above all, we have to be meek. The young man who started to give a prophecy to a youth group wasn't of God. I was meek and I knew he was more right than I was. One of the ways you can judge people in the manifestation of a gift is their meekness. They won't force. They won't coerce.

The Holy Spirit is not discourteous. The Holy Spirit is a very courteous gentleman. For example, I was praying one night and finished—and actually finished—the sermon and was making the invitation to the unsaved in the meeting. Someone jumped up and said, "I have a word to you." I said there was no one on earth, just destroying the meeting. People had never heard that. They didn't know what it was. Some of the sinners were turning back to their seats. I asked God to man to be quiet, but he was loud and louder. We didn't know him.

**Evelyn:** Somebody had to come carry him out, I remember that.

**Oral:** Well, I asked two of my men to assist the man so he could prophesy where there weren't so many people listening. The man may have been absolutely sincere but his timing wasn't right. That wasn't the place. Usually I would say, "Not now. Not now." I don't want to offend anybody. I'm not trying to put a person down, it's just that timing is so important. I felt like running out and helping Richard sing tonight but I didn't. It wasn't the timing.

**Evelyn:** You read 1 Corinthians 14:1 which says: "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that that you may profit by them." Does that mean prophecy is the most important gift?

**Oral:** Evelyn, generally speaking the gift of prophecy would be more profitable in more situations than any other gift. I don't believe God is trying to rank it in importance above one of the other nine gifts. I think by its very nature of being an inspired utterance of giving light of knowledge in his heart, that prophecy might have a wider use.

**Evelyn:** You made a statement that prophecy is an inspired utterance from God. Then not every sermon has prophecy in it, right or wrong?

**Oral:** That's a loaded question if I ever heard one. Are you saying, Evelyn, that not all sermons are inspired?

**Evelyn:** No, I'm not saying that.

**Oral:** What does the audience say? Yes or no?

**Response from audience:** Yes and no.

**Oral:** Not all of them are inspired?

**Evelyn:** I often hear you make a statement in one of your sermons that you've never said before. All of a sudden you say, "Boy, that was hot off the wire." Is that a prophecy?

**Oral:** That could be an inspired utterance.

**Evelyn:** But not necessarily.

**Oral:** Of course, I believe you can be anointed by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel. In fact, I believe you to have to. But it doesn't necessarily have to have prophecy in it, though when we are anointed by the Holy Spirit you're very apt to have some inspired utterance, something coming up that you haven't thought of. The Holy Spirit hands you at that moment. I love to hear an anointed man or woman preach the gospel because you can really feel the inspiration. You can hear things that you know are not coming directly from their minds, but are coming out of the Holy Spirit. Haven't you had that experience, something that stood out and was very inspirational that you realize is a form of prophecy too.

**Evelyn:** Now you made a difference between a man or woman who is called of God to be a prophet or prophethis and a gift of prophecy being manifested in a person for the moment.

**Oral:** Yes. I think everybody, every believer, every child of God, may prophesy. They may have this gift manifested in them from time to time but also in prophecy that inspiration. You say it would be a rare exception if it happened right away. I would say it would be someone who's really a leader in the Body of Christ. He or she is a gift of the Spirit and the person—the prophet, the pastor, the evangelist, the teacher—is a gift to the Church. He or she is a gift.

**Evelyn:** All right. I'm going to ask you one more question: You said you were going to speak tonight a little bit on 'prophesying in part' but you didn't get very far with it. The Scripture that came to my mind is in 1 Corinthians 13:9 where it says that now we know in part and we prophesy in part. Does that mean that we just don't have the whole picture? We just do a little hit on this earth and when we get to heaven, when all things are perfect, it will all come to pass? Is that what it means? I've often wondered what it means to prophesy in part.

**Oral:** I think that whatever we do here on earth is in part because we're not perfect. We don't have perfect spiritual vision. For a moment we do. Really in prophecy that inspired utterance is perfect. We ourselves prophesy in part. The prophecy is not necessarily in part. We, our ability to prophesy, our ability to do God's work—we're ability is limited. That's why God calls us upon for dedication, to be sincere, because we are not perfect in everything we do. He says to do your best but not in the sense that people expect perfection. They expect you to be perfect in the way that God would not, but we prophesy in part. I'll be done away with when that which is perfect is come, or when our Lord returns. There'll be no need for prophecy or tongues or the gift of knowledge or the gifts of healing or anything like that because He himself will be here, and in Him is perfection.

**Evelyn:** The very first statement you brought tonight was the stage for teaching on prophecy, which was this: the gifts of the Spirit are manifested to meet needs. I love this because now I see a reason for the gift of prophecy to be given at times when a person is in great distress, trying to find God's will, they try to get something confirmed. Perhaps God said something that we're trying to get confirmed and in this instance I can see that prophecy has a great part in our lives.

**Oral:** It does.

**Evelyn:** Really especially when it reproduces the life of Christ through us.

**Oral:** Well, if it's really inspired and handled right the gift of prophecy will reproduce the Lord's life in our midst.
YOU CAN MOVE INTO A NEW DIMENSION WITH GOD

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson: 1 Corinthians, Chapter 14

IN THIS CLASS I will discuss the gift of tongues and the gift of interpretation of tongues. But before I do I want to talk about...

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE GIFT OF TONGUES

There’s a tremendous difference between the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues, but one is part of the other. The Person of the Holy Spirit comes into your life when you are born again. It is the Holy Spirit that gives you the new birth, just as the Holy Spirit conceived our Lord Jesus as a human being in the womb of the young virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit gave Him His birth in a supernatural way—in the same way your birth into the Kingdom of God is supernatural and is brought about by the Holy Spirit.

Now the Person of the Holy Spirit, who comes in when your soul is saved, has a deeper dimension of Himself. This is called the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It is also referred to as the infilling of the Holy Spirit. These are synonymous terms.

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AN IT...THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS JUST WHAT THE NAME IMPLIES - A PERSON.

The experience I’m talking about is an IT. That’s an important difference to make.

THE BAPTISM IS A DEEPER DIMENSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE

In Acts 2 we have Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost. You will remember that on that day this dimension of the Spirit—the baptism in the Holy Spirit—was first given to man. The one hundred and twenty who were present that day spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4). After this was noised abroad and the crowd was attracted they ceased speaking in tongues. They did not use tongues to teach with. It was a tremendous phenomenon to the crowd and was a great edifying influence to those who had received the gift of the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. But when it came time to teach and preach Peter and the others used their own language just as we would do today. At the close of the sermon—when the great crowd had been convicted of their sins—they asked Peter, “What must we do to be saved?” And Peter replied, “Repent...” Repent means to change your mind...to change your attitude toward God, toward yourself, and toward other people. Peter said:

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38).

YE SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST [SPIRIT]

I believe that you receive this gift when you are saved but the deeper dimension of it is not always manifested. Apparently people don’t know what to do. Some have been taught against the gift of the Holy Spirit. Some have never heard about it. Even though it has been in the Bible all this time—unchanged—thousands of people are only now beginning to know that it is in the Bible and it is for them. What I’m trying to say is that the moment you accept the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of your sins, and believe on Him and are saved by Him...at that moment...the gift of the Holy Spirit comes in. From that moment on you have the divine ability to speak to God from your inner man with your spirit—if you only knew how. You can speak to Him in a new tongue, on a different wavelength than you use intellectually as you speak to Him through your mind. Through this experience of speaking in tongues you can edify yourself or you build up your total personality.
Tongues have been thought by some to be a supernatural experience. It is the wide experience. It is the wide
experience that comes to us. It's not new to God. It isn't new to the
world. Even the American dollar is counterfeited at
times.

The restoration of the ability to speak in tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance, is followed
then by the gift of tongues itself, is directly
to God. We don't speak to God, we
speak to the mind, who is never to man. The interpretation of the
gift of tongues is to man but speaking in tongues itself
is, first of all, a devotional experience. It is for one's
own communication with God.

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto man, but unto God (1 Corinthians 14:2).

Here we have a restoration of man's inner ability to speak directly to God. It goes all the way back to
the Garden Eden days, when man was made in the image of God, according to the way they were to
speak to God. God is the only one with whom a human being has with God. It is not mysterious
to you, God. Most people don't understand it. Most people don't understand it. God is the only one with whom
people would want above all else is to know how to pray, how to speak with God, how to com-
municate with God, how to communicate with God. God will answer back to the prayer, the praise
hehe

If I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth: But I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. (1 Corinthians 14:14, 15...)

For one prayeth, to be understood; but the other prayeth to himself (1 Corinthians 14:2).

Paul even went so far in 1 Corinthians 14:13 to say that if you speak in tongues then you can interpret
what you pray. YOU CAN INTERPRET YOUR OWN TONGUES. But after you have prayed in tongues you can wait a moment, breathing the spirit of prayer, and God will answer you. You can know that, in the spirit, either prayer or praise or the song that you gave. It's a very personal thing that comes through the baptism in the Holy Spirit. How do we know that? Every one is simply autobiographical. If you will notice Paul speaks of "I" often and then goes into "the Church." The moment he starts talking about the Church and about the group he moves from devotional tongues over to the gift of tongues. That's how you can tell.

The TONGUES HAVE TO DO WITH OTHER PEOPLE — DEVOTIONAL TONGUES HAS TO DO WITH YOURSELF. Devotional tongues has to do with your own
bottled up feelings... being able to release yourself... to release all this pent-up stuff that is inside you. You
can know there tribulations and about the group he moves from devotional tongues over to the gift of tongues. That's how you can tell.

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Here Paul is referring to singing in tongues. That is, right out of the Spirit. The Spirit gives you
utterance, there comes the ability to sing in words and in tunes that you haven't learned. It's a tune and it's
a word created by the Holy Spirit. If you've never been in a group that sang in tongues, you've really missed something. There's an edification there that you cannot get anywhere else. The first time I ever heard it in a group I thought it was angels singing. I was with my wife and we looked around and people were singing in the Spirit and suddenly we joined in. We were all singing in the Spirit. The words were not coming out of our intellect but coming by the Holy Spirit out of our spirit and so was the tune. Just as suddenly as it came, it stopped. There was an edification throughout that audience that was priceless indeed.

When we speak in tongues we are speaking to God. We know that when we speak to God that we are either praying or we are praising God. We are communicating with God in our praises (singing here would be the same as praising God). This is a very personal experience. You can have it the moment you will it to have it. If you are saved you have the Person of the Holy Spirit. In John 7:37-39 Jesus said:

If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this speaks of the Spirit, which they believe...
You are saved and have never spoken in tongues, but the Holy Spirit's prayer your spirit is entering into. It is the Holy Spirit taking your shapeless, uniform prayer and putting it into the fewest words and delivering it to God. It is taking everything you feel and long for, inside, and putting it into the fewest words and delivering it to God.

When the interpretation comes, remember it's not a translation. If it were a translation it would have to be word for word, at least the meaning of word for word. But it's not a translation, it's an interpretation. It's giving the sense of the matter.

Let's take the two or three forms of interpretation. One could be an interpretation of what the tongue is — what was said in the tongue to God. In other words, if you wanted to know the depth of the prayer, the direction of the prayer, or the praise that was made in tongues, the interpretation could take the form of that so you would be nodding, "Yes, yes, that's what I wanted to say." It could take another form — that is, a response of God to the prayer or to the praise. That is, God would speak back and here it is almost like prophecy. This is why Paul said: "Greater is he that prophesies than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret (1 Corinthians 14:5)."

Now the moment a person interprets the tongue, the interpretation is on the same level as prophecy. Just as prophecy is addressed to the understanding in your own learned language, so interpretation of tongues is expressed horizontally. It's from God to man. It's an expression coming from God back to my spiritual mind and I speak the interpretation of tongues to you. The tongue is to God but the interpretation is to you. It's coming horizontally. The tongues is vertical — going up. The interpretation is coming back and it's either in the form of prayer, the form of praise, or it is God's response of praise.

God's response could take the form of prophecy. It could take the form of a word of knowledge. It could take the form of a word of wisdom. It could take the form of a word of faith. It could take the form of the manifold gifts of the Spirit, of the body of Christ, and the体系建设 of believers which is the church.

THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

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manifested through me I thought it was just for myself. I was with the group. I felt this need and I began to pray in tongues and then suddenly I realized that it was not even concerned about myself. I was concerned about others. I felt like I had my arms around them. I felt like I was reaching down and putting my arms beneath them and lifting them up to God. It was the sense of the feeling I had as I was praying in tongues. When I ceased I waited a moment and I was able to interpret. I interpreted the need of the person and the response that I had sought back.

TONGUES, LIKE PROPHECY, IS MORE CONFIRMATIONAL THAN IT IS DIRECTIONAL.

You remember when I talked to you about prophecy that I said prophecy usually confirms a direction that God has already begun in your life. It's not a directional thing. If it happens it would be very rare. You'd have to be very careful about it. The Holy Spirit is not going to send me to you and have me say, "I want you to pack up and go to Pakistan." That would be about the rarest thing the Spirit would ever do. The gift of tongues is more confirmational that it is directional. It deals with something that is already dealing with you about. The prophecy or the interpretation will come in the form of a confirmation.

We prayed this morning with a very anxious and ill woman who may lose her life. We prayed quietly in tongues and interpreted and we gave it. She said, "That's exactly the way I've been feeling. The Lord has been talking to my heart but I needed to hear it from you." You see, it was a confirmation. If I hadn't been there and someone else could have prayed for her and done the same thing she would have felt the same way. She would have responded in the same way... "I needed to have this confirmed in my heart by someone else who is close to God." Tongues is often a confirmation or it may trigger something else. You may go directly into prophecy.

Turn to Acts 16:6 and you will notice, "They spake with tongues, and prophesied." They prophesied.

PROPHECY OFTEN FollowS SPeAKING IN TONGUES.

As a matter of fact, what many people think is an interpretation is sometimes prophecy. The interpretation can trigger off other gifts, particularly prophecy. Now let's spend a moment or two on THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A PERSON MANIFESTING THE GIFTS OF TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES.

A person is probably more responsible for these gifts than for any other. Why? Because, first of all, it's his spirit and his cooperation. It's so simple and yet so profound that sometimes we let it frighten us. We say, "Just to think that God would bring me so close to Him that I could talk to Him directly in another language." Some people find that awesome. I find it thrilling, myself, to think that I could get close enough to God that I could interpret. In the first place...

YOU ARE NOT GIVEN A GIFT BECAUSE OF WHO YOU ARE OR HOW SPIRITUAL YOU ARE. YOU ARE GIVEN IT BECAUSE GOD LOVES YOU.

It's given out of God's love. The only one He can give a gift to is a human. And I don't know any perfect humans. So everyone who gets a gift is an imperfect person, an imperfect vessel. That's a real good put-down for us. We don't have a gift exercised in us because we're perfect, because we're super-spiritual.

Some people hear a tongue and interpretation from a person who they don't think may be as close to God as he ought to be, and they get judgmental. They think that speaking in tongues is kind of a reward... that God is rewarding the person for superspiritual living. Well, I'm afraid you're on the wrong track because even in our Lord's life He faced things that were not His will but were God's will. In the gift of tongues He prayed, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39). There are things of God that are not our will. We don't want them. We often are disobedient but if we follow Jesus we will will God's will. We will finally come to the point we will submit ourselves.

Another thought on that—don't ever think that because you pray in tongues thinks you're superior. You're really praying in tongues because you are inferior, because you don't know how to pray through your understanding. You're praying in tongues because you need help. God has baptized you in the Holy Spirit to help you. If you didn't need the help He wouldn't have baptized you. If you were beyond the point of needing supernatural help, you wouldn't have gotten the gift. If it were given on any other basis, it wouldn't be a gift.

HOW THE GIFT OF TONGUES IS TO BE EXERCISED IN THE CHURCH

Turn over to 1 Corinthians 14 and notice that when the gift of tongues is in operation in the Body of Christ—it when the Church comes together—that you are exercising the gift of tongues in rotation. Two or three messages are given and so more. There is not to be a constant flow of tongues in a meeting. I'll tell you one thing. You would have to be awfully far from God, the need would have to be terrible every time you met, in order for the tongues to continue right on through the meeting. If this happens you are kind of making a plaything out of it. Some people like to exercise the gift of tongues because it makes them feel so good. It's like they say, "It feels so good I want to do it again. I want to do it again." But remember, you have a ministry gift and anybody who ministers to other people is under regulation by the Scriptures.

If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret... Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. (1 Corinthians 14:27, 29).

You have to submit yourself to judgment by other Christians. Notice also that your spirit is to be subject to yourself.

The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets (1 Corinthians 14:32).

You have to have self-control. You have to time it. For example, right now would not be a good time to speak in tongues because you'd be interrupting the teaching of the Word and you don't try to teach anybody through tongues. Paul said in this same chapter: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding... than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue (1 Corinthians 14:19).

That is, when he's up teaching, when he's up instructing people, he would use his own language—a language that the audience would understand. I wouldn't dare to use tongues as I teach. You wouldn't understand a word I'm saying so I use my own language, my own understanding, as the Spirit helps me.

Let me bring this first part to a climax by saying that...

THE GIFT OF TONGUES LIKE ANY OTHER GIFT MAKES YOU ENTER A POSITION OF MINISTRY.

The moment you minister to other people you come under rules and regulations. You can't govern yourself. For example, if you're in your own room you can do things that you don't do out in public. The same is true with speaking in tongues for your own edification. You don't have to interpret that. You can but you don't have to. You can be edified just by the tongues. But if you exercise a gift of tongues in behalf of someone else, then you come under regulations. They have to test you. Who are you? What kind of life are you living? The same as with the pastor of the church, they must investigate your life. This is why I would be very reluctant to let someone I didn't know try to give a gift of tongues in a meeting when I am in charge. I'd have to know something about the person. I think that right here in the church we have broken down and the leaders have not always been responsible and strong enough. They're afraid to have the gifts at all for fear they can't control them. On the other hand, some are afraid if they control the gifts, they will disappear. But, my friends, if a gift is genuine it acts better under control just like everything else does. Look at the beautiful rain water coming down in sheets. It can either flood the countryside or you can build dams and control it and irrigate land with it. It's according to the control of yourself, to the way you regulate your life under God.

As for my own self, I feel very much at home in a meeting where a gift of tongues or a gift of interpretation or a gift of prophecy is manifested in the right way, in the right place. I feel much at home. I believe there should be much more informality in the meeting of God's people. We don't get that very often and we're not going to change the institution, so we quit trying to butt our brains out about it and go on about our business. If we get in our own groups and have our tongues, our psalms, a doctrine, a revelation, an interpretation, and have it done under self-control, under discipline and order, it is marvelous. If you've never been in a group like that, one that is spiritually led and under the control of God and join it. You'll be blessed by it.
WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY TO YOU ABOUT THE OCCULT AND EXORCISM?

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson:
Acts 19: 13-20

Paul had a very urgent desire that the followers of Christ would be reinforced by the Holy Spirit and the nine gifts of the Spirit... each of which is a manifestation of the life of Jesus... each of which is a reproduction of that much of the life of our Lord through us in the NOW.

Paul began in 1 Corinthians 12 by saying:
Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant (1 Corinthians 12:1).

In other words, Paul is saying, "I want you to know because being forewarned is to be forearmed." Our very strength that we have as Christians derives from Jesus Christ and these gifts of the Spirit. These gifts are reproductions of the life of Jesus... of His Spirit, of His power, of the way that He lived, of the way that He faced life and delivered humanity.

Now we will discuss that particular gift called the gift of discerning of spirits. The gift is exactly what it says it is:

THE GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS
IS A MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH WHICH YOU OR I, AS CHILDREN OF GOD, CAN DISCERN OR DETECT OR RECOGNIZE A SPIRIT.

This statement of Paul's - among many others in the Bible - is a confirmation of the existence of spirits in the world. There are both good and bad spirits. There is the spirit of God that is in a person and there are satanic spirits, or demons, that either oppress a person or take dominion over him and make that person like themselves, transfusing their characteristics to that human so he becomes like the demon.

Paul's statement particularly refers to the spirits of the world that encloses us. It refers to the world beyond the senses, that is, our five normal senses - touch, taste, smell, sight, hearing - the world beyond that.

Now according to the Bible there are three ways by which information is received by the human being:

FIRST, he receives information through his own human spirit.
SECOND, he receives information through satanic spirits or demons.
THIRD, he receives information from God the Holy Spirit.

Let's begin with the first: receiving information directly into our minds by our human spirit. We are made in the image of God as we've already studied in the book of Genesis. We were made a spirit. After God created the human body out of the earth, He breathed the spirit into this piece of clay and man became... MAN BECAME. He became a living being... he became a living soul... he became a total personality.

Man was made with the power of choice. Were God to have denied man the power of choice then He would have made a robot. Man would have worshiped God all right but he would have worshiped God by force and coercion. God made man incurably spiritual, incurably religious, always reaching out for God, but He also put the power of choice within man's heart so that man could choose God or choose the devil. He could choose right or he could choose wrong.

Man chose to rebel against God. He willed his own will rather than God's will, and there was a fall. Something happened inside of man. The image of God which had been implanted in him was erased and now we have only the shell left. Man may look more or less the same as he did then - we do not know - but the outer man, however much it might resemble the former beauty of the man, is only a shell
because the inside has collapsed. The inner man underlies the external clothing and gives it life and value. In this rebellion against God, God drove man out of Eden, God had angels there at the gate of the garden with flaming swords to prevent man's return. Man went out into the earth. He went out under a curse placed upon him because of his rebellion. He was cursed. However, it is apparent to me and I believe to many other Christians - that traces of man's Edenic perfection still remain in him. There are hundreds of thousands of Biblical references in the Old Testament of this concept. The prophecy of God deals with the way God originally created man and says he was made in the image of God. The prophetess of God predicts, she is always accurate. It would be quite a tribute to an individual to have that absolute accuracy over a period of months or years. We have a description of the fall of an archangel by the name of Lucifer. Now there were three archangels - and there were only three: Lucifer, Uriel, and Gabriel. So Jesus called - he became known as the devil. The devil is a former archangel. This former archangel by the name of Lucifer was the top of the three. We are told here in these two chapters that he was created in perfect wisdom and perfect beauty. If you read closely you will notice that he was the most beautiful of all creatures. Then pride entered his heart and he desired not just to hover over God but to be God... to shake God off his throne... and to take God's place. That's when the war in heaven happened. When that happened, we don't know. It was in the infinite past. It may have been before the earth was made. Maybe after it was made. Lucifer said, in essence, "That is my place. That is where I will actually take God's place. I will be God." (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:13-19).

And God said, in essence, "You shall be cast down to the sides of hell." (Isaiah 14:15). Then in poetic language He describes the fall of Lucifer, how he struck the earth and was brought down. Some believe that's when the earth was filled with chaos and became without form. It appeared to be void of life and universe. We don't know. In Luke 10 Jesus indicated that he was there when it happened. He said: I beheld Satan (Lucifer) as lightning fall from heaven (Luke 10:18).

Jesus said that He saw him and that he fell like a streak of lightning. He fell. Well, each archangel had his own intensity of falling. It's apparent that the intensity and power of Lucifer fell with him because Jesus speaks of the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

It's never been created for man. Jesus himself said in Matthew 25:41 that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. This is why so many of the New Testament writers use the term "hell" in this way, as it were, when he tried to take God's place... when He wanted to become God. Hell is prepared for that kind of being. Hell is prepared for him, this, there's only one place for him. He certainly wouldn't fit in heaven. He would be as unhappy in heaven as he would be in hell. Because in heaven Lucifer was extremely unhappy. He was unhappy while he was in the presence of God. The devil, the saying goes, he has no honor in the presence of God. The devil must have forgotten the Scriptures... or he didn't believe them... or for the fall of man, as is discussed in Genesis, God spoke to the serpent, or the devil, and said:

EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION

There are outstanding traits in each of us. This is where I personally think that ESP comes from. I think that ESP is neither divine nor satanic. I think it can be divinely inspired and be put to a satanic use. But I think within itself extrase nsory perception, the ability to perceive beyond the five senses, can be a gift from God. He may have given it as a result of his original design. There are some rather outstanding people in the world who apparently have ESP. They may not be able to read minds. They may not be prophets or seers but they are in the sense that the Bible talks about a prophet of God or a prophetess of God. It may not come to you as a big revelation. It may come to your own flesh or into his own knowledge and his human wisdom would knock out the total accuracy. We have to beware today, the same way we were warned back to Eden, a trace of that extra power to perceive, to detect, to recognize things that exist beyond the physical realm of existence. Sometimes such individuals can predict — they say — with an accuracy of 50 percent or an accuracy of maybe even as high as 90 percent. Of course, no one knows how accurate they really are. It has never been scientifically checked that I know about. Let's just say for a moment that the accuracy of their predictions over a period of months or years would be 90 percent. Well, that would be an amazing human being. That would be quite a tribute to an individual to have that kind of perception.

The difference between that and being a prophet or a prophetess of God would be this: When the true prophet of God predicts, he's always accurate. When the prophet of God predicts, she is always accurate. The prophet or prophetess of God deals from God's standpoint and can never be swayed as long as he or she is true to their calling. They can never be swayed by external circumstances or events. To give you an example: Elisha, the prophet in the Old Testament, perceived a condition in the heart of a man by the name of Naaman — a general in the Syrian army who had leprosy. Elisha made a long trip to Elisha to be recovered of his leprosy and Elisha told him what to do in order to be healed. He told Naaman to go wash seven times in the River Jordan and his leprosy would be cleansed and his flesh would return to him — it would be like the flesh of a newborn child. He had a rather difficult time of it because he wanted to be received more royally. He didn't want to go and jump in a muddy river. But eventually everything was reason prevailed. He obeyed and was completely healed.

Naaman came back to give gifts to Elisha. The prophet refused them but Elisha's servant, a man by the name of Gehazi, was listening in. When the general left he followed him. He caught up with Naaman and said, "My master has changed his mind. We do have some needs." So the general was glad to give him the gifts. When Gehazi came back Elisha discerned (or perceived) what he had done, with total accuracy. When Gehazi lied to Elisha there came upon Gehazi, apparently leprosy, that Naaman had been cured of. It struck him and Gehazi turned white as snow. He became a leper.

The TRUE PROPHET OF GOD HAS TOTAL ACCURACY

Now it's true that a prophet of God can stray. This is possible. The prophet of God can get so confused a He can choose to use his gift rightly or he can choose to use it wrongly. If he chooses to use it wrongly he'll not have help from God to the extent that he is using it to his own knowledge rather than God's. While he might be able yet to have a high degree of accuracy because of the extra power. Sometimes he may come to his own flesh or into his own knowledge and his human wisdom would knock out the total accuracy. We have to be very careful today. We have to beware.

THE BATTLE BETWEEN CHRIST AND SATAN

This brings us up a whole new interesting line of truth. That is, what is this battle all about anyway? This battle's going on in the world between nations, ideologies, doctrines? It is between men or is it between Lucifer and Jesus Christ?

There is a very interesting idea put forth by some Bible scholars that the three archangels formed a trinity and each one of the three was attached to a member of the holy Trinity. Lucifer was attached to all Christ, Jesus Christ. That's how he became known as the Holy Spirit and Gabriel to the Father. It was the archangel of the Son, Jesus Christ, that fall. And this is why God the Father chose the Son to come to earth, to be born of a woman, to become a human being, to face the devil, and to take on the Son. When Christ, the Son, agreed to come to the earth, to lay aside His kingly glory, to limit himself by becoming a human being and living on the sense level, the sensory level, so the devil would have no way to defeat God once and for all by having Jesus Christ killed. These scholars believe that every demon — every fallen angel — was present at the crucifixion. That all of the forces of the devil, or Lucifer, were marshaled there to see to it that Jesus would be put to death. If this is true — I can't believe it is — then that is when the devil made his greatest mistake. (His first mistake was when he tried to ascend above God's throne and was thrown down. Lucifer must have forgotten the Scriptures... or he didn't believe them... or for the fall of man, as is discussed in Genesis, God spoke to the serpent, or the devil, and said:}

HELL IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE HE HAS THE POWER OF CHOICE. WHEN HE CHOOSES TO USE IT WRONG HE USES IT TO DEUCE GOD...

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I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel (Genesis 3:15).

When God said to the devil that he would bruise the heel of the woman's seed—of the descendant of Eve, or Jesus Christ, the Son of God, He was saying, "You will kill His body. You will bruise His heel. You will put humiliation on His body. You will be successful in that. But while you are doing that He is going to bruise your head. He will stomp your brains out. He's going to reach you at the core of your total personality—the core of your existence. And the cross is ultimately going to blast you out of existence, Devil." As I say, it's an interesting line of speculation. And there may be a lot of truth in it.

CHRIST DESTROYED THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

I know this, that Jesus Christ will blot the devil out. And that is not speculation. The Bible says: "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8)."

When Lucifer fell, the angels fell with him. It's evident that they moved from a celestial heavenly realm to an earthly terrestrial realm. They moved from heaven where it's incorruptible and immortal... where through man's power of choice there is no imperfection... down to the earth where there is chaos... where through man's power of choice he hates and makes war... and where Lucifer and his angels moved and they moved not by invitation only, but by force. I mean, they were kicked out.

This is how man is tempted. In order to give man the power of choice, God voluntarily limited himself. He had to limit himself in order to give man the power of choice. In order for the power of choice to be exercised, there was God on the one hand and Lucifer, or the devil, on the other. Man had two choices. God had to limit himself in order to give man the power of choice, the power of the will, God voluntarily limited himself. He had to limit himself in order to give man the power of choice. In order for the power of choice to be exercised, there was God on the one hand and Lucifer, or the devil, on the other. Man had two choices. God or the devil.

THE FALLEN ANGELS ARE IN CHAINS OF DARKNESS

The fallen angels—having left their first estate, where not even God would spare them in their sinfulness, and having been cast to the earth—evidently lost something else. They lost not only the environment of heaven and the presence of God, but both 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6 say that these fallen angels are reserved in chains of darkness.

Now don't think of these as chains—steel chains—in which they are bound. The chain itself is darkness. Darkness is the chain. That is, they are now devoid of all spiritual illumination and understanding. In one stroke the light that they had was turned to darkness. Now they are creatures of darkness. That is to say, they no longer can have any light. They no longer can worship God. They no longer can be angels of God. They are reserved forever, awaiting judgment and hell.

If you read your New Testament, especially the four Gospels, and read it carefully, you'll notice that sometimes when Christ would cast out a devil from a person that was made a devil, or his angels, He would say to Him something like, "We know who thou art, thou holy Son of God. Hast thou come to torment us before our time?"

THE ANGELS LOST THEIR CELESTIAL BODIES

In Mark 5 when Jesus Christ was facing the man whose name was Legion, referring to the uncounted number of demons, He rebuked Jesus not to send them prematurely into hell. They wanted Jesus, when He cast them out of the man, to allow them to go to the demons. They wanted to have some kind of embodiment. Why? Because it's evident from when they were cast out of heaven they lost their celestialness.

We don't know what the bodies of these angels had consisted of, but we do know that they were celestial. They were heavenly, they were not earthly. They were not human, they were not flesh, as you and I are flesh. Their bodies were not made out of the earth. In fact, they were a great deal higher than man. You read in Hebrews 2:

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels... And we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death... (Hebrews 2:6, 7).

The writer of Hebrews asks, in essence, "If man is made lower than angels, why is God so concerned about him?" Then the writer does not say on, to see Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death. He does not say we see Christ, because Christ was not made lower than the angels. Christ refers to the Son of God. Jesus refers to Him as the Son of man. Christ is the divine. Jesus is the human. The human part. Jesus and the angel part. He was born, with the kind of flesh you and I have. He was tempted and tested the same way I am and the same way you are. He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

You name it and Jesus was tempted and tested by it. He was tempted by a guardian angel who was made lower than the angels who were made lower than the angels because man was made lower than the angels. In order to redeem man, Christ was the ultimate sacrifice by God, by His territory, to face and defeat him, He had to become a man. Therefore, He voluntarily limited himself and became Jesus Christ, man-God and God-man, Son of man and Son of God.

JESUS FACED THE DEVIL WITH THE SAME WEAPONS THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE WORD OF GOD, AND FAITH

Now it's interesting that Jesus used only three methods, three avenues, of receiving knowledge. I said there were three ways that information entered the mind of Jesus. One way was His system which goes all the way back to Eden. Second, by satanic spirits. And, third, by the Holy Spirit. Let's look at Jesus' triumphant progress as human being—what He felt we wanted, who suffered what we suffered, and who was there for us at every point.

He was filled with the Holy Spirit without measure (John 3:34). That was the first thing that happened to Jesus when He received His ministry. He was filled with the Holy Spirit.

The second thing that Jesus did was to have knowledge of how to apply the Word of God. Third, Jesus used His faith.

Let's see how Jesus did this. After He came out of the waters of baptism Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. The devil gave Him three major temptations:

One, to turn the stone into bread if He were God.

Two, to jump off the temple and if He didn't get hurt that would show that He was the Son of God.

Three, to bow down before the devil... to take the easy way out (Matthew 4:1-11).

The third temptation was the big one. In so many words the devil was saying to Jesus, "I know what You want. I know what You came down here for. I was there when You were up there. I know You. I know that You want the world. Well, I have it and I'll give You the world... all its kingdoms and powers and riches. I just ask one thing (it's the same old record... he was just playing the other side) just bow down and worship me."

This was the same thing that Satan had said to God in heaven... "God, move over. I want Your throne. I want You to worship me. I want men to revere me..."

So Satan says to Jesus, "I'll give You a shortcut. You won't have to go to the cross. You don't have to wait... everything's going your way... you don't have to wait for the triumph of God. You can have it right now."

And Jesus Christ said: It is written, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God and shall not thirst." (Deuteronomy 6:16).

He said, "[Devil,] it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve." In essence, He said, "I don't accept you. I don't accept you. I just remind you of what's happened to you up in heaven. It's written. That you shall worship God and you shall not be worshipped yourself." You can say anything to the devil all you want to but be known that he's stronger than you are. But when you quote the Bible to him—he is the Word of God—that's what he heard up in heaven. That's what he heard from Jesus. There's no way that he can withstand, refute what you say.

How did Jesus use His faith? Jesus Christ believed in the ultimate triumph of God. He believed that the devil could not win. He believed that the forces of evil would be ultimately destroyed. He believed that knowledge would prevail and would cover the earth like waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9). Therefore, with that faith in God and the ultimate triumph of truth and righteousness, He said, "I will not accept your shortcuits. I will not compromise. I will still will the word of God. I will obey. I will take the way of God... I will accept only what you are offering Me, but I'll also gain the love and the truth of men."

So Jesus used being filled with the Spirit. He used the Word of God, and He used His faith in God. Now the gift of discerning of spirits was extremely strong in Jesus. He even knew the number of demon spirits that were in a person and He knew their names. He knew what they were, they were fallen angels who had lost their estate and were being used by the devil and the devil and the devil. Now the gift of discerning of spirits is so important to us today is because of the rise of the occult. Now I do not accept the term "occult" as it generally is accepted by society and as it is described in the dictionary sense of the word. I do not believe that there is any such thing as black magic or white magic or witchcraft or Quakers or Ouija boards or anything like that. I do not accept them unless and except demon spirits are behind them. A demon is order to be behind these things these manifestations of man's mind and, generally speaking, they don't go very deep. When they go deep, when they affect the personality of a human being, then there is a demon behind it.

M Y PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH DEMON-possessed People and Exorcism

Now we're going to get into the Bible, into some of my own personal experiences, into the ministry I've had through these more than 27 years, and bring you face to face with things that I have dealt with. We'll also talk about some individuals that Christ dealt with and some individuals that Paul dealt with. Through their lives we'll see the way of the Holy Spirit manifests the gift of discerning of spirits in and among us for our own security.

DEMON-possessed Girl Delivered in Raleigh, North Carolina Crusade

In the early 90's I was in a crusade in the municipal auditorium in Raleigh, North Carolina. At the close of the preaching service I gave an invitation to men and women to come forward to consecrate their personal Savior. Then I began my prayers for the healing of people... that is, the healing of their body or the healing of their mind or the healing of...
some problem or need in their lives. (In our crusades we always had what we called a healing line. Hundreds of people would line up here by the hand with their hand on your shoulder and say, 'We would pray for the healing of these individuals.')

I was asked by a family to go outside and pray for their daughter who was in an automobile because she was not in condition to be brought inside the building. She was a woman and, over a certain car we heard a voice. This voice spoke in a distinct, clear, rather loud, way and said, 'He's approaching from behind the automobile.' We took a few more steps and this voice said, 'It's Oral Roberts.' Then the voice said, 'He's coming on the left side of the automobile.'

By this time I didn't know whether my friend John was going to go on with me or not. I put my hand on his shoulder and said, 'Just hold on. I have been through this type of thing before.'

You remember in the Bible that when the demon in people entered them they were brave because I had been through this type of thing before.

They came to a certain individual who was possessed by a demon. They asked him if he knew who He was. Sometimes they would say, in essence: 'Jesus, we know who thou art, thou holy Son of God.'

Sceva, a Jew, who observed the ministry of Paul. They came to a certain individual who was possessed by a demon. They asked him if he knew who He was. Sometimes they would say, in essence: 'Jesus, we know who thou art, thou holy Son of God.'

The moment I touched her forehead I spoke in the name of Jesus to the demons. They were still running. Enough to save a dozen invisible bands grabbed my hand and managed to pull them off me. The moment I touched her forehead I spoke in the name of Jesus to the demons. They were still running.

Well, as we kept approaching the car the demon — using the girl's voice — said, 'Now, whatever you do, don't let him touch you.'

When I came to the left side of the car she was in the front seat on the right side. I put my head in the open window and she began to cover and to draw around herself over against the other side of the automobile. Her head was down. Her eyes were shut. Her hands were over her head. She had not physically seen it. There was no effort to operate on a sense level of sight, feeling, hearing, tasting and smelling — the sense level upon which all living was. There was no effort at all on that. There was a woman whose eyes were completely covered, whose head was down and yet was able to see me coming. She knew my name. She was able to discern what I was there to do. This demon was telling her, 'Whatever you do, don't let him touch you with his right hand.'

When I reached my hand in, this demon said, 'Don't you touch me!' I was feeling overconfident myself. I couldn't believe that I was a servant of God — and that fact encouraged me because I knew no one was on the side of me. When I reached forth my hand to touch her it was like a dozen invisible hands grabbed my hand and manhandled it. Now, something that I could not see took hold of me. Apparently, this girl was like a cyclone in this country and throughout the world is a direct result of man's repression of himself. It's the spirit that indwells human flesh.

That kind of thinking is having this kind of repercussion and influence. I found a belief in something outside of man. I found a belief, of this normal belief, in something supernatural. There has been a repression of belief in supernatural beings, a repression of belief that we ourselves are spirits, that the real me, the real you, is not the physical at all. It's the spirit that indwells human flesh.

We were in Brazil in 1967 with a group of our own who are called the Brazil Demon Possessed Person Delivering Team. When I reached my hand in, this demon said, 'Don't you touch me!'

I wasn't feeling overly confident myself. I could feel something going up and down your spine. I was very fortuitous — that I was a servant of God — and that fact encouraged me because I knew no one was on the side of me. When I reached forth my hand to touch her it was like a dozen invisible hands grabbed my hand and manhandled it. Now, something that I could not see took hold of me. Apparently, this girl was like a cyclone in this country and throughout the world is a direct result of man's repression of himself. It's the spirit that indwells human flesh.

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Now I had dealt with something in this crusade on a larger scale than I'd ever dealt with before. We had a little crowd there, just sort of hunkering over them and guarding and guiding the best I knew how, I looked over to my left as though pulled by a magnet. There I saw a woman which turned out to be his wife. Immediately through the gift of discerning of spirits I discerned that she was possessed of a demon.

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When she lunged toward me she let out a sort of bloodcurdling scream. There was such a crowd of people that I was unable to speak my word. I had to whisper. But I didn't let her go. I began to pray for her immediately. I had asked God to heal her. I had asked God to heal her. I had asked God to heal her. I had asked God to heal her.

I don't always carry with it the power to cast evil spirits out. It always carries with it the power to discern spirits. But it never has the presence of a demon that is there. You can discern the spirit, whether it's a good spirit, whether it's a spirit of God or whether it's a spirit of a demon, the spirit of the devil. That gift will reveal that. But it may take a gift of faith or gift of healing to bring the healing to the individual.

That gift usually works in clusters. Usually in the work of the nine gifts of the Spirit, they do not work alone. They usually work in clusters. They don't ordinarily work just one at a time. The whole group may be there. I'm for that. But one thing that the gift of discerning of spirits will do, it will tie all the gifts of the Spirit together. The gift of discerning of spirits is to help us know the spirit that is in a person, to know what is motivating him.

Well, this demon in the Brazilian woman spoke directly to me and told me, "You cannot cast me out. I was in Denver in the big tent in a crusade and Pastor Blair of Calvary Temple was the chairman of the sponsoring pastors. He brought this woman and asked me if I would pray for her. He said he'd had a rather difficult time with her—which was the understatement of a lifetime. He stood by her side. I later knew why he stood there—he knew I was going to need help. She was a rather large woman, maybe 5'9" tall and approximately 350 pounds. She had been sent home by the mission board. There were times when she was uncooperative with her. She was a missionary to Africa. She had been sent home because she couldn't see the light. When I would come in she would have a difficulty with her. She had been a mission board. There were times when she was uncooperative with her. She was a missionary to Africa. She had been sent home because she couldn't see the light.

When the demon came out of one person I had prayed for, of all a sudden over to my right at the edge of the tent a man let out a bloodcurdling yell and ran. The demon had struck him and had entered him. The police ran after him, caught him, and brought him back. We had to pray for him and were able to help him. The police ran after him, caught him, and brought him back. We had to pray for him and were able to help him.

I don't want to over dramatize what I'm saying, but if I say it any less I'm not really telling it like it is. I guess I'd have to say that this is the whole story of the woman in Brazil. I had my hand on this woman praying for her. The Spirit moves through my hands. When I try to define that or explain it only confuses me, I can't understand myself. I just know it, and that's it, because God happens to deal with me that way. God may not deal with you that way, or anyone else. God deals with me. The presence of the Lord—the anointing of the Lord—moves through my hand so that I can detect the presence of the Spirit, know what has happened, if it is, or the number of them. Now sometimes it doesn't work that clearly but when it does work clearly I know there has been some demon come and usually have the power to cast them out. I don't always.
THE GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS WAS IN ME LIKE A FLASH

I looked at her and this all began to come out. In Africa she had been alone. Somebody had made a mistake and put her with a tribe where so-called witchdoctor was highly respected. The witchdoctors were extremely powerful and she had gotten involved, probably through curiosity.

EVE TY WAS CURIOUS ABOUT SPIRITUAL THINGS—
WHETHER IT'S GOD OR THE DEVIL—WERE JUST INTRIGUING...WE ARE MADE AS SPIRITUAL BEINGS.

Probably she had gotten curious and had taken a step or two to see what it was all about and got involved to the extent that she got carried away with the power of this witchdoctor. After awhile the power of Jesus Christ was not working in her. Apparently this is what happened. As a result she had this urge to destroy people. It was an overwhelming thing. It was like a hex had been put upon her. It was like a spell had been cast on her. It was a spirit.

It's really a puzzling question when I asked, “Can a Christian have a demon spirit?”

My first answer is, “No, absolutely not!” There's no way a demon can cross the bloodline. Yet, if a person turns away from Christ, he leaves a void. It's like Jesus taught in Matthew 12 that when the demon comes out of the human, he goes and finds another person to move into. There's the possibility of the most dramatic moment of my entire ministry. You could hear them come out. You could hear the gurgling sound in her throat. You could hear them in the atmosphere as they were moving about. The crowd knew it. I knew it. Then all at once her face shone like an angel. She looked at me and she said, “Brother Roberts, Brother Roberts, I'm free. I'm free. Jesus Christ has set me free.”

I don't know whether you believe in old-time shouting religion or not but I'm telling you we tore that place up. We shouted for joy. I mean it was great. I said, “Brother Blass, here she is.”

They walked off triumphantly together. I was spent so I had to close the service. There wasn't anything else I could do for anybody.

I still haven't answered to your satisfaction. I'm sure, the question, can a demon enter a Christian? My answer is, certainly not if a Christian is a Christian. But if we get involved in things that are not of God, apparently things like this do happen.

I Began to call the demons out

There was a demon of sadness, a demon of destruction, whose only satisfaction was to destroy, to hurt someone. When the demon came out it was probably the most dramatic moment of my entire ministry. You could hear them come out. You could hear the gurgling sound in her throat. You could hear them in the atmosphere as they were moving about. The crowd knew it. I knew it. Then all at once her face shone like an angel. She looked at me and she said, “Brother Roberts, Brother Roberts, I'm free. I'm free. Jesus Christ has set me free.”

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Paul's Thorn in the Flesh

I wanted to tell you something about Paul and his thorn. The gift of discerning of spirits in Paul helped him to discern a demon that was trying to destroy him. In 2 Corinthians 12 he speaks of this continual harassment. It was like a pricking thorn in his flesh. Some think it was partial blindness, that he couldn't see well. Some think it was a form of epilepsy, that he would have convulsions. All kinds of theories are put forth—none of which I accept. I don't believe them at all because finally Paul discerns what the thorn is. He says that it was a messenger of Satan (2 Corinthians 12:7). “Messenger” in the Greek is angels, or angel of the devil. It was not a demon inside him but a demon outside him. Wherever he went this demon stirred up the people against Paul and against his ministry, against the gospel. Paul was in danger everywhere he went. He was persecuted everywhere he went. He never got any release. No matter how much good he did he was always thought of as some terrible evil person, a blasphemer. Hebugged it. He weakened his body. It psychologically upset him. It became a thing to him.

Paul prayed...he prayed twice...he prayed three times. He, who could bring miracles for others, could do nothing to get his prayers through. God wouldn't remove it. God wouldn't take it away. But God revealed His purpose to Paul in letting this outside satanic influence buffet him till it was like a pricking thorn in his flesh. God told him what it was—a messenger of the devil to buffet and persecute him. Its purpose was to weaken him physically, psychologically, every way, so he would be a humble man. God said to Paul, in essence, “In the weakness that this produces, My strength will be made perfect, Paul.”

Then suddenly it was a new ball game because through the discerning of spirits Paul saw that God had pulled the devil's fangs and had covered that weakness with glory and power. And he became a tremendous apostle. It was a great experience.

The devil can never be saved but he still has that same urge to destroy God. The only way he can strike back at God is through the highest order of creatures which is man. Because man has the widest powers of expression. He's the only one who has a soul. By entering man, through whom Christ died, the devil can strike back at God and satisfy those lusts. The Bible calls him the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). The Bible calls him the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2). The Bible recognizes that the devil, Lucifer, looks upon himself as god of this world and that men worship him and that this world lieth in the wicked one. This is why Ephesians 6 says:

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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Ephesians 6:12, 13).

Our fight is really with them because the fight that's going on in the world is between Lucifer and Jesus. In order for Jesus to become our Redeemer, He was born of woman and was made lower than angels. But in His resurrection He ascended above the prince of the powers of the air. He ascended above the god of this world, the devil. He ascended far above all kingdoms and power and principalities and the rulers of darkness of this world (Ephesians 1:20, 21). And once again He is above the angels.

Now Ephesians 6:8 says:

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

By following Christ we who were made lower than the angels—even the fallen angels—are lifted far above any angel because we sit with Christ. In 1 John 4:4 the Bible says:

Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

We have one living within—the Holy Spirit—who is greater than the prince of this world. We have at our disposal the gift of the discerning of spirits to assist us in our spiritual warfare. Jesus Christ has conquered Satan!! This is our triumph... our victory!
HOW A MIRACLE CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson:
John 11:40

The gift of the working of miracles has to do with all the gifts of the Spirit. Whereas each one of the nine gifts is a miracle, this gift is a miracle in itself. The working of miracles as a gift deals with a larger issue... with a more complete picture. For example, the gift of the word of wisdom is the Holy Spirit's supernatural power telling you what to do in a moment when you are indecisive or you have less knowledge upon the subject than you should have... you are unable to find a solution to a problem. The Holy Spirit supernaturally implants in your mind a wisdom, a knowledge of God, a way to do it, and gives you a word which you would speak. That word spoken would be a word of wisdom that would deal with a specific situation you are facing.

The working of miracles might include a word of wisdom. A word of wisdom is a miracle but if the gift of the working of miracles were present at that same moment, this gift would deal with a larger issue, a larger picture. It would have larger ramifications. It would be like you would throw a stone or a small rock into a pool of water and the ripples would start spreading and going out. That's the way the gift of the working of miracles happens. It is always a larger move of the Holy Spirit.

THE GIFT OF THE WORKING OF MIRACLES IS A STREAM OF SUPERNATURAL POWER

You will recall in John 7:38, 39 that Jesus said:

He that believeth on me... out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit...)

Rivers of living water will flow out of the inner man. A stream of continuous supernatural power. This is a very beautiful description, in my opinion, of the gift of the working of miracles. More than any of the other gifts, the working of miracles would be more continuously present in your Christian experience, in your ministry gift, in your witness.

There are many miracles mentioned in the Bible. There are some 60 great miracles mentioned in the Old Testament and there are some 40 major or mighty miracles mentioned in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now there may have been many more, and probably were, but these were recorded in the Old Testament and in the life of Jesus. Then there were several mighty miracles recorded in the New Testament, beyond the physical lifetime of Jesus, that were wrought through the apostles, the deacons, and the believers in the Early Church.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CREATING OF MIRACLES AND THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

Paul calls this gift the working of miracles. Notice it is not a gift of the creating of miracles but a gift of the working of miracles. Now that's a very important point to remember. This can be well illustrated through an example in the Old Testament. Elijah, the prophet, the servant of God, was confronted by the prophets of Baal, a false god. Elijah brought them to a moment of decision in which he said:

The God that answereth by fire, let him be God (1 Kings 18:24).

So they built an altar and put on it the sacrifices. All day long the prophets of Baal called upon their god to send fire and consume the sacrifice. Well, it did not happen. It did not happen because Baal did not really exist. He was not really a god. He was a figment of people's imagination. He was something physical that men's hands had created.

When Elijah called upon the Lord God of Israel, God sent the fire streaking down out of the heavens to consume the sacrifice. That happened because God is. God did, because God is. He created the fire because GOD IS. Baal could not because he was not. God could and did, because GOD IS.
God created the fire but the worker of miracles was Elijah. THE CREATOR OF THE MIRACLE WAS GOD. THE WORKING OF THE MIRACLES CAME THROUGH THE FAITH OF THE PROPHET ELIJAH. So, it's not as if God just坐着 and let the working of miracles and the creating of miracles. God is the Creator of the miracle, while He has to have instruments, such as you and me, through whom to work these miracles.

THE GIFT OF THE WORKING OF MIRACLES IS PERHAPS THE MOST SOVEREIGN OF ALL THE NINE GIFTS

That is to say that you will be less able to influence the gift of the working of miracles happening in our lives than we would, perhaps, any of the other gifts. God, more or less, sovereignly moves through miracles. In other words, there are times that God just simply decides that He's going to do something extraordinary. He's going to let this world or a group of people know who's in charge of this, that He is still running this universe. There are times God will step into a situation, stretch out His mighty arm, and do a work so great it just settles the whole issue. There's nothing more to be said or done. God has done it.

I don't mean to say that God doesn't work sovereignly through people. We are told in 1 Corinthians 12 that the Holy Spirit gives all the nine gifts as He wills. As the Holy Spirit desires into the miraculous. He touched something secular - the gift of the working of miracles happening in our these miracles.

The gift of healing is restorative. It has more to do with restoring something in a human body or human life while the working of miracles is more creative. Here Anna was restored through healing in her body but a creative force was released throughout that city, Wichita Falls, Texas, and throughout the United States. She was telling hundreds of thousands of people. God had released the people of Anna, the miracle of the working of miracles and the creative force of it spread far and near.

Anna Williams was a woman who had been in a wheelchair since she was a child. She had lost her ability to walk but God restored her ability to walk. She was able to stand up and walk again. She was able to go back to church and be a part of the church.

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A GIFT OF HEALING IS RESTORATIVE...THE WORKING OF MIRACLES IS MORE CREATIVE THAN RESTORATIVE...IT DEALS WITH BIGGER ISSUES.

There's only one place where Jesus had what is called a failure in miracles. That was in His hometown of Nazareth. It was there that He performed miracles but people rejected Him, that's true, but it was only in Nazareth that it was said:

"And no one could do any mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them" (Mark 6:5).

He could only heal a few sick folk because of the unbelief. Therein lies an explanation of the working of miracles. These people in Nazareth had known Jesus since He was a child. When He came back one of the Nazarenes tried to stop Him from doing a work and from performing some of His great miracles like they had heard He had done in other places. They did not ask this because they believed in Him. They had nothing but cold unbelief. They knew Him as the carpenter's son, as Jesus. They had heard about the miracles He had done in various other places. When the hometown boy has returned and they, "Show us." The Bible says He could not do many mighty miracles. It did not indicate that He did not try. It indicated that He tried.

Many people have said Jesus never failed but unbelief can be the hands of God just as effectively it can in the human being. If a person does not believe the Bible, says do mighty miracles. He could only heal a few sick folk.

There's no question about the gift of the working of miracles because of unbelief, but it was present in a larger sense. Not only did they have unbelief concerning the working of miracles but His miraculous powers, but the people decided that they would kill Jesus. The mob surrounded Him and carried Him to the brow of the hill, upon which the city was built, and attempted to throw Him over the hill to sudden death, but Jesus Christ bound that audience. In some invisible way there was a break out from Him and the crowd was unable to lay a hand on Him. They could not touch Him to injure or kill Him. The Bible says He escaped out of their hands (Luke 4:38-39).

When we think of the ramifications of Jesus being thrown over the hill and killed in that early part of His life, we can see what could have happened to the salvation power to my generation. Christ, the Son of God, on earth preparing ultimately to go to the cross to rise from the dead and become our Lord and Savior. Right in the midst of it a mob of men attempted to kill Him before His time had come. You see, the issue of His appearing in Nazareth and healing those few sick folk was a larger one. This issue of the working of miracles was a larger issue. The Bible says that the healing of Anna was a miracle of the restoration of a woman's body.

The gift of healing is restorative. It has more to do with restoring something in a human body or human life while the working of miracles is more creative. Here Anna was restored through healing in her body but a creative force was released throughout that city, Wichita Falls, Texas, and throughout the United States. She was telling hundreds of thousands of people. God had released the people of Anna, the miracle of the working of miracles and the creative force of it spread far and near.

WOMAN IN WHEELCHAIR WALKS. Later we discovered - as people sent in their newspapers from the various cities of America - that this headline was in virtually all the newspapers of the United States.

We sent a representative to Wichita Falls and met a young woman named Anna Williams, who was other cities that rejected Him, that's true, but it was only in Nazareth that it was said:

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believe that a lot of money is going to come to you personally and we'd like to have our cut.

And I said, "What are you talking about?" I had gone into this ministry because I was called. I prayed for people regardless of their circumstances. I always have, I was praying because of what I felt inside and they said they were spiritually and mentally and I said, "Well, this thing is not of God this is not of God this is not of God and I am not talking about.

This is not the right spirit." The first thing I knew there was doubt and suspicion a lot of people were having about me that I had been my close friends. It dawned upon me that we were not praying at work and that my ministry of healing consisted of a fight even they got off the ground. As I was thinking about it the Holy Spirit came upon the man who was the working of miracles and the Spirit moved through me as I was alone and the Spirit was moving upon me, those two men came before me as clearly as if I were seeing them with my two eyes. I was able to discern the spirit by which they were motivated. The Holy Spirit gave me the vision of a couple of men. "These two men will be bound by the Spirit. They will have no peace or rest until you release them and they will not be able to hurt you or to stop your ministry."

I had never had an experience like that before. In fact, I had never done enough to be opposed that much before. I decided to pray with this wife, Mary Ellen and we were rather frightened at first because we realized the Holy Spirit was dealing with two human beings as well as our friends.

We moved from that particular place, came to Tulsa, and established our headquarters. I was preaching in the streets of Tulsa in a crusade. One night in the healing line, the younger of these two men came. He just fell in my arms and cried like a child. I was able to comfort him by his name and I asked him what was wrong.

He said, "You've got to release me. I'm bound." Not a word had passed between myself and those two men. They had no way of knowing from a sense perception that I knew them. I've been bound. I've had no peace or rest. I'm bound in my spirit. You must release me by the power of God."

It was a great pleasure to lay hands on him and in the name of Jesus ask the Holy Spirit to set him free to release him. And he was released. That was more than 25 years ago. Today, after all these years, he's one of the closest friends I have. He loves this ministry. He extra ordinary ability to talk to men and women and the power they have to ask the Holy Spirit to set him free to release him. Never saw him again until I heard of his death.

Now that was something I didn't do. That was a gift of the working of miracles to put an invisible shield between me and their power to hurt this ministry just as the shield was put up between Jesus and the multitudes of miracles of Jesus that dealt with the larger issue. I keep repeating that because most incidents in our lives are within the framework of a bigger picture. A lot of times what we think is hurting us is not the real issue at all. It's something bigger. It takes the Holy Spirit to know what the larger issue is, to move in and clean the thing out.

THE WORKING OF MIRACLES AND OUR CRUSADE IN FORMOSA

To illustrate this further, we were in a crusade in Formosa which was then known as Free China. We were in the municipal auditorium in Taipei, having packed out crowds every night. We had quite a lot of success but we had two difficulties. One of them was that the Chinese people, both of whom had been our friends.

He was crying so hard his body was shaking. We got caught up with one another until it was like one voice as we were speaking to them to help this man. When we had the healing line that night we could feel a perceptible change in the attitude of the people.

There was now a third thing that I had forgotten about because I had to help hundreds of thousands of soldiers. It was like an armed camp because they were expected to be invaded by Communist China. There were many soldiers in my audience.

By this time in the crusade they were lining the walls with their guns stripped over their shoulders. It was like they were waiting for something to go wrong and they were going to take me in.

CHINESE WOMAN HEALING OF GOITER

Well, this night that I'm talking about, the healing line started. A woman came up with a large goiter on her neck. When I started to put my hands on her, I pulled my hand back and said to the interpreter, "Tell her again. Tell the audience again why I'm praying hands upon you. Tell them it's an act of faith. It's a point of contact for the releasing of your faith."

When I touch you let your faith go to God. Expect God to act in that situation. It's the understanding I'm praying for you and touching you because I love you in the name of Jesus."

I had finished saying that, I looked up and the soldiers had left where they were standing at the wall. They had completely encircled us. Now I was talking about being between the devil and the deep blue sea. I don't know just how I felt, but I knew that we had to have a miracle and we had to have a way. I touched her neck in the name of Jesus and I prayed in an outward voice but let me tell you, my inward voice was praying a lot more than that outer voice. Not only was I praying for God to heal that goiter in that woman, but I was praying for God to save that whole crusade situation. When I prayed for her and asked her to speak and the goiter vanished there was a stampede. I mean a stampede. The soldiers were up all around the building stamped down and pulled all the planks. I jumped to my feet. I had been sitting in a chair. The lady who was holding me down right there in front of me. I didn't know what was going to happen.

Their leader, a lieutenant, ran up and chatted at this woman. I say, chatted because he spoke Chinese and I did not know Chinese. He said, didn't have the gift of interpretation of tongues that night. I assure you he put his hand on her neck and he felt something. He asked her something else. He'd put his hands back on her neck and finally he relaxed and smiled. He said something in Chinese. The interpreters repeated it. When all three get through everywhere released and smiled. Then they all wanted to speak in the healing line.

God broke that crusade wide open. He invited to speak to the army and then a messenger from General DeWesie (my associate evangelist for more than 30 years) came to see me. He asked me to come to the palace and pray with them.

The healing of the woman with the goiter was a miracle but there was a miracle greater than the healing. There was a working of miracles that created a new situation. It was an invasion of that island, a basic issue between nationalities -- between Americans and Chinese.

I've always felt that if we ever get an opening into China with the healing ministry that the healing ministry would have a larger impact upon China perhaps than any other nation in the world, because I saw there an opening up of the Chinese heart. You know, they seem to be an immovable people, it is odd, but when the healing power of Jesus began to fall on those people it was a changed spirit. They rejoiced in a loud voice and they hugged each other. They completely come through and I began to see in a new way the value of the gift of the working of miracles.

THE WORKING OF MIRACLES AND THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR TENT IN AMARILLO, TEXAS

Another incident occurred in the working of miracles dealing with a larger issue happened in 1950. We had our big tent in Amarillo, Texas. Several thousand people were attending on a Sunday night. I had finished preaching and several hundred people had come forward to accept Christ.

I was praying to get the healing of the sick when a violent storm came through the area. In a matter of seconds it touched the tent and it lifted -- poles and all -- like a balloon into the sky. I was carried through the air. I mean I was picked up by this wind from where I was standing on the stage and then I was flying through the air. This is fact. I was laid down by the soldiers right where they would lay a baby down. I was laid on my back looking up. The tent was disappearing and 7,000 people were looking up. I thought they were saying, "I mean we say a word. I jumped up and the first thought I had was my wife, my Richard was a baby at that time. I found those same words. I was perfectly calm. I was speaking and coming and said, "Oral." I say, "I'm all right." When I knew she and Richard were all right I got up and went through the crowd and out onto the parking lot. By this time people were getting out of the tent, working their way through the crowd. The fire department had come. They were chopping holes in the canvas trying to find out if any people were imprisoned. Only two people could be found who had been hurt and they were not hurt seriously.
One of the most interesting — serious and yet funny — things happened. There was a man there in a wheelchair. He had been waiting his turn for prayer when the prince of the tribe came in. He began to yell for help. His people had run off from him. A woman came by, saw him, and she ran back. He said, "I'm crippled. I can't get out of this wheelchair."

She said, "In the name of Jesus Christ, get up and walk."

This is the truth, so help me. He came out of that wheelchair and couldn't stand here and say that was a healing, but I know it was a miracle. The last they saw of him he was running. I'm beginning to like the things I wanted to emphasize. The next morning the Amarillo newspapers came out with a headline —

**SAVING OF 7,000 CALLED A MIRACLE**

I have that in my files. In a long well-written article they described the audience in the midst of the storm. They told of the tent being ripped to pieces, of the big poles supporting the tent going up and down. (If one of those poles went to strike you it would probably instantly kill you.) They told how there was no panicking, how there was a quietness. They said, "Only where God was working could this happen." They told of the two people who had been taken to the hospital but not seriously injured. In fact, they were soon released.

Some people say, three of the spinoffs of this illustrate the gift of the working of miracles. This divine power, sometimes sovereignly given by God, seems to step in like a stream of power at a moment when a basic issue dealing with God and humanity is raised and there seems to be no way to resolve that issue. There I was without a tent and not sufficiently covered by insurance to replace it.

I received a telegram in the mail as I was standing outside the tent. The boy came on his bike. He handed me a telegram from a partner in ministry was over only a year and a half or two years. It was a qui tness. They said working could this happen. As we entered the hotel he and his wife Ruth were leaving for the crusade, so just took us by the arm and said, "Oral and Evelyn, come to our meeting and listen to Billy tell how he was telling us how as a young preacher he had sat in the back of our tent in Florida and watched the healings and believed. He told how he had been taken to the hospital but not seriously injured. In fact, they were soon released.

**THE MIRACLE OF SEED-FaITH**

I believe the working of miracles permeates the entire area of faith in which you and I live. Jesus said in Matthew 17:20:

> If you have faith as of mustard seed, you shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove.

Jesus is speaking of putting a seed of faith in. Of loving and giving. And that is precisely what God multiplies it back. To me, the most exciting thing about being a Christian is this world possibility of miracles — particularly through Seed-Faith — that whatever I give, whatever I do in loving and giving, God will multiply that back in the form of my need. He could take the five loaves and two fishes of the little boy's lunch and multiply it and feed 5,000 hungry men (John 6:1-14). In the same way when I give myself, everything little's a miracle. And when I give back 100 times, 1,000 times, or more, to meet my need. It is a miracle. It is a continuous miracle.

**HOW MAY I FIND MY OWN PERSONAL MINISTRY GIFT?**

Again, there's no way I can separate this from myself. As someone has pointed out, "Truth divorced from experience isn't a gift of God, it's an issue of personal ministry." I think we're more or less made this way. When you pray in tongues or sing in tongues it's a gift of the Spirit. As someone has pointed out, "Truth divorced from experience isn't a gift of God, it's an issue of personal ministry."

**YOU CAN'T GO UNDER FOR GOING OVER**

That was just worth everything. As I stood there looking at the flowers I was wondering if my ministry was over only a year and a half or two years after it had begun. I wondered what was going to happen.

My good friend, Lee Braxton, who had just become acquainted with us, heard about it. He flew from North Carolina to my side in Amarillo, Texas. Lee and I talked. Newspaper people came out to interview me, talking about the miracle, and way down deep I turned to Lee and said, "I'm going to contact people all over this country. We're going to find a way to build a tent that is a miracle in-the-fourth wall. We're going to build a better tent. We're going to have a greater ministry than we've ever had."
inside my heart that He was going to send me with His healing power, I had to have more than that. I had to have more than that. After I was converted and healed and called into the ministry and was preaching for several years, this ache began to bother me. I felt a continuous ache in my heart for people who were sick... people in trouble. When I was a young pastor, I was a visiting preacher. I would go to people, particularly the sick. Many times I'd go to the hospital as many as five days a week to visit people who were ill. When I was there I would not get any of my church members with me to come to their room. I had an ache. There were no dramatic healings through me. Once in a while I would believe maybe a healing was happening but there was no real visible proof. Still, I had this ache. It seemed that there was an inclination within me.

I tend to believe that every person has an inclination toward one or more of the gifts of the Spirit and is pronounced. If you will watch for it, it will grow and develop. It may be that you have a tendency to have faith, to believe easy. It may be that you have extraordinary intuitive force within you that would mean that the gift of discerning of spirits could be hovering near. It might mean that you would have a deep level here in your inner man and you want to express it. It would tell that the gift of discerning you are always wanting to pray deeper inside yourself. I would think then the gift of tongues, or the interpretation of tongues would be very near you. You will have a tendency to gravitate toward your particular gift, or it will gravitate toward you. You may be a person that has powers within you to where you are able to solve problems. You are able to get out of situations and you are able to get things done. So you may be that gift of the working of miracles is just right at the surface of your life. That may be your ministry gift.

I know at the time I was in me in a gift of healing and a gift of faith. I went to bed one night without them being powerful in me and woke up the next morning and they were there.

Discussion with Oral and Evelyn Roberts

Evelyn: Oh, honey, please don't tell that... what you did... Oral. Well, we were visiting in Tennessee in 1948. This was just a few months after I had begun this ministry. We were in the city auditorium having a very fine meeting but I couldn't seem to get any. Anyway, I went out in the front to the podium. I always did hate to see a woman get up and take over, but that's what I had to do that night. Oral: That was Women's Lib away back there. Evelyn: I said to the audience, "My husband has promised to do this with you. And I know, Evelyn," He said, "I don't believe in this stuff." I said, "Why are you here if you don't believe in it?" He said, "Oh, my folks persuaded me to come up here. I know nothing would happen." I said, "Well, it won't do any harm. May I say just a little prayer for you?" I said a little prayer and went on the best I could praying for the others. The next morning, early really, there was a knock on my door. It was the chairman of the crusade and he said, "You remember that old gentleman last night who was blind and insulted you?" I said, "Yes." He said, "This morning he got up just as the sun was coming up. He felt his way out on the porch and it dawned on him that he could see the sun. Brother Roberts, he's healed, he's healed. He's just going from house to house telling about it."

We had him out here at the crusade the next night, of course, to testify.

The real issue in that crusade was that we were receiving offerings every night and for the rent on the building and we were thinking about ourselves. We hadn't got that far. The rent was $100 a week for the building and in seven years we hadn't raised $100. So one night, as I recall, I tried and failed again. I walked off the stage. Then, Evelyn, do you remember what I said?

Evelyn: I remember we were there.

Oral: I remember you went behind the curtain on the stage and disappeared. One of the men who was helping us came and got me in the audience and said, "You'd better come around here. Oral is going to quit and go home."

I said, "What?"

He said, "You know if the Lord doesn't supply his needs he's promised, he's going to quit and go home. He says if he doesn't have enough faith to raise $100 a week in building, then he doesn't have enough faith for anything else, so he's going to quit and go home. You'd better come." I said. "Evelyn: I remember you went back behind the curtain on the stage and disappeared. One of the men who was helping us came and got me in the audience and said, "You'd better come around here. Oral is going to quit and go home."

I said, "What?"

He said, "You know if the Lord doesn't supply his needs he's promised, he's going to quit and go home. He says if he doesn't have enough faith to raise $100 a week in building, then he doesn't have enough faith for anything else, so he's going to quit and go home. You'd better come."

Evelyn: Exactly.

Oral: So I got up and went around there and I said, "Oral, now what is wrong with you?"

And you said, "Evelyn, I can't keep His promise. I must get up here preaching and praying for these people and if He doesn't help me raise this money to pay my bills, I'm not going to preach. I'm going to give up and go home."

And I said, "Why, you aren't going to do any such thing."

And you said, "Well, what are you going to do about it?"

I said, "You just watch me!"

I went out and I never did anything like this. I never did anything. I didn't like the idea. Anyway, I went out in the front to the podium. I always did hate to see a woman get up and take over, but that's what I had to do that night. Oral: That was Women's Lib away back there. Evelyn: I said to the audience, "My husband has promised to do this with you. And I know, Evelyn," He said, "I don't believe in this stuff." I said, "Why are you here if you don't believe in it?" He said, "Oh, my folks persuaded me to come up here. I know nothing would happen." I said, "Well, it won't do any harm. May I say just a little prayer for you?" I said a little prayer and went on the best I could praying for the others. The next morning, early really, there was a knock on my door. It was the chairman of the crusade and he said, "You remember that old gentleman last night who was blind and insulted you?" I said, "Yes." He said, "This morning he got up just as the sun was coming up. He felt his way out on the porch and it dawned on him that he could see the sun. Brother Roberts, he's healed, he's healed. He's just going from house to house telling about it."
seek Jesus and the Holy Spirit would then manifest
the particular gift that you need the most.
Evelyn, let me bring up a subject that’s a little
hard to talk about. Often people approach me and
they want to know how to have a ministry of healing.
They are seeking help, of course, for themselves. I’m
not always responsive, am I?
Evelyn: Hardly ever.
Oral: Now the reason that I don’t do more than I do
is that I believe in the final analysis that your ministry
gift must be revealed to you by God and not by any
man . . . that you have to come into it yourself. For
example, if someone could talk you into it, you would
soon lose it. If you are not convinced in your own
mind that it is there, it won’t stay.
Also, I believe your ministry gift has to be tested.
You have to test it. You have to see if you are kidding
yourself . . . if you are being idealistic, or if you are
trying to be like someone else.
I believe that a person, once he begins to find what
his ministry gift is, has to test it. He has to get
involved with people and their needs. He cannot
hasten the day when God will make him big. He
has to work through it. There are no short-cuts. No
compromises. Finally, I say to myself, ‘‘How can I
communicate this?’’ I don’t know so I usually don’t
say much of anything.

Let’s have one more question.
Evelyn: You talked about a miracle being a creative
force and healing a restorative force. Do you remem-
ber when the mother brought her boy up for prayer?
He was born without a hip socket.
Oral: I did not believe that he would be healed
because healing restores, and there was nothing to be
restored.
But the woman said to me, “I don’t ask you to
have faith, Oral Roberts, I ask you to touch my child
and pray. I will do the believing.”
Evelyn: Right.
Oral: See, she believed for a miracle and God restored,
or created, I suppose, a new hip socket for the child.
At least, the doctors said a hip socket formed there
where there had been none before. I was as amazed
as anybody was, because it was not my faith that did it.
Evelyn: Then that was more than a healing—that
was a miracle.
Oral: Well, yes. A healing is a miracle but the
working of miracles is much bigger than a healing.
It decides a broader issue. What happened through
that miracle has enlarged my vision. After that I
began to pray for people who had things that pre-
viously I did not believe God would heal. It enlarged
my faith and caused me to include a lot more people
in my prayers. That had a great effect, and a good
effect, upon me.
Oral and Evelyn Roberts’ discussions on the Holy Spirit in
the now appear in various chapters throughout this book.