1977

Holy Spirit in the Now - III

Oral Roberts

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalshowcase.oru.edu/holyspiritnow

Part of the Biblical Studies Commons, Christian Denominations and Sects Commons, Christianity Commons, Curriculum and Instruction Commons, and the Higher Education Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalshowcase.oru.edu/holyspiritnow/15

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Oral Roberts University Collection at Digital Showcase. It has been accepted for inclusion in Holy Spirit In the Now by an authorized administrator of Digital Showcase. For more information, please contact mroberts@oru.edu.
The Holy Spirit
In The Now V
by Oral Roberts
THE
HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NOW V

by Oral Roberts
MY PERSONAL WORD TO YOU

Friend, as you study each lesson I'd like you to use your Bible. Please keep in mind that a class of approximately 2,500 people listened to this series of lessons. They have been only slightly edited to make what was said clear to the reader.

I would like to tell you about the miracle that brought about this class which is now part of the established curricula at Oral Roberts University. The first endowed academic chair on the Holy Spirit was established in the fall of 1972 through the generosity of my good friend, the late J. Arthur Rank, outstanding British businessman, member of Parliament, and Methodist layman.

I first met Lord Rank in 1967 when I spoke to a group of Christian businessmen in London. Although I had heard his name many times and knew of his Christian witness, this was the first time I saw him in person. Lord Rank was in his late seventies, but he stood tall and straight, a man of strength and character. I knew I was in the presence of a man of God. I took his 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 the Holy Spirit had made Jesus Christ so real to him. 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. He passed away, however, on the day he was to sign the papers. The trustees of his estate honored his desire by setting aside a generous sum for this purpose for five years. Then they will decide if they wish to continue 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.

[Signature]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>GOD HAD A NEED TO GIVE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>HOW TO GET INTO THE RHYTHM OF FAITH</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>HOW TO RECEIVE THE MIRACLE THAT WILL MEET YOUR NEEDS</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ARE YOU RICH TOWARD GOD?</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ONE FOOT ON EARTH, ONE FOOT IN HEAVEN</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SEED-FAITH LIVING IN OUR HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>THE LOVE OF GOD</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by Dr. Robert Frost, guest speaker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>THE GOOD SEED AND THE BAD SEED</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>HOW TO TAKE A BAD SEED AND TURN IT INTO A GOOD SEED OF FAITH</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>WHAT IS FAITH?</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by Dennis Bennett, guest speaker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>THE PRAYER LANGUAGE OF THE SPIRIT</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>MAKE THE MARCH OF FAITH</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Lord Jesus tells us about God in words that no human being ever said before. Now these words of Jesus are very familiar to many of us who were raised in the church. But I’ve been given what I think is a revolutionary concept of these words. Jesus is describing God to us, so that we can understand Him better. He wants us to understand how God works and how He does things. Then we can learn to do things like He does and really find the miracles He wants us to have. Jesus said in John 3:16:  
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jesus said these words to a man by the name of Nicodemus, a man who was searching for God, who wanted meaning in his life, who wanted some of the miracles that he had observed in the life of Christ.  

When Nicodemus reached out that night to ask Jesus questions about God and about life, Jesus said to him, “You must be born again.” That was a statement Nicodemus found difficult to understand. Jesus finally said to him, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (Read John 3:1-21.)

Now what was Jesus trying to say about God? I think He was trying to show us that God undertook the greatest Seed-Faith project in all history, that God himself was facing a need in His own existence, startling as that may sound. Does God have needs? Did God have a need at that moment? I’ll say He did. God was sowing a seed for a desired result. God focused His love into giving, which brought about the very thing that God himself desired for human beings and which met the great need of God, the Creator of all the universe.

GOD GIVES FIRST

First, Jesus begins with the word GOD. God who scooped out the bed for the ocean, who flung the stars from His fingertips and sculptured the mountains and hung the earth on nothing — God. But what does this mean to me...to me in my existence, with the problems I have to face every day of my life? What does this mean to me? Jesus said, “God so loved...God so loved the world.” God loved the world. And the world is mean. The world is full of murder, ugliness, death, and people who will slit your throat. The world didn’t care whether God existed or not. The world didn’t even believe there was a God. The world was not interested in God. The world had made no expression toward God. God loves this world, made up of human beings in their ugliness and meanness, of whom the Bible says, “All have sinned and gone astray.” God loved that world.  

It’s the kind of love that’s so very hard for me to understand. That God would love the world, and love the world first, before the world ever loved Him back, or loved Him at all. God so loved...That little word so sounds deep and tender. For God so loved the world that He gave; He made His love an act of giving. God is saying here that love is nothing unless it is translated into action, into something you do, something that rolls out of your being toward someone else. He so loved that He gave His only begotten Son. He spared not His own Son. He could have given any one of millions of angels. But He gave His only begotten Son.  

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

You know, I think we are sometimes like the antique dealer who was always looking for bargains. When he came to a certain little town he went into a store where he noticed a cat drinking milk from a bowl in the middle of the floor. As he watched the beautiful cat he suddenly noticed that the bowl was an antique worth a lot of money. And he thought, I’ll bet you this ole boy doesn’t know that’s an antique. Maybe I could buy that for little or nothing.  

So he walked up and said, “Mister, that’s a beautiful cat. I’ve been needing a cat. I wonder if you’d sell me that cat.”
The storekeeper said, "Sure, I'll sell you anything I've got. Just give me the money and the ear's yours." After paying him, the dealer picked up the cat and began walking back. "What a beautiful cat!" he said. "Oh, by the way, I notice he's drinking milk out of an old bowl. He's used to it and the old thing's not worth much, I believe." I'll just pick it up and take it with me.

The merchant said, "You put that bowl down! That's the best cat-seller I ever had." He was a fellowman. But at the same time I think we often expect something for nothing. Or we find ourselves cheating or trying to catch someone off guard so that we can take advantage of him.

God gives His best

Jesus said that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. That's really hard to take in. Now God has blessed Evelyn and me with four children—two sons and two daughters. Back in the '50s when my children were small, God gave me a vision while I was sitting in our living room watching the sun come up as real as life. And I found myself to stirred and moved by it that I wept.

With my eyes wide open, I saw myself sitting while my children were playing in the yard. Suddenly I heard my older son, Ronald David, scream. You know how children have different ways of crying out. Sometimes they just kind of cry and sometimes they're really crying. When they're in trouble their voices have a special ring. That's how my son's cry, "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy!" sounded.

I jumped up and ran outside just in time to see two men grab him, throw him into the car, and drive away. He's my little son, Ronald David, to a cross which they were trying to put upon him. But God touched me so deeply I thought God's going to act in the way He chooses and at the time He thinks it's best. I think He'll meet you in your need. In His way, which is always better than your way. Once God meets the need, even though it may be different from what you had anticipated, you may say, "It's better than anything I could have imagined." Never once has God done less—He has always done more.

Expect a miracle

Night before last I lay in bed praying for a certain person who is dear to me, God touched me so deeply I couldn't think about anything but the prayer. I found myself saying, "God, I'm going to make a certain commitment to You. I'm going to give a certain thing to You. I'm going to focus my giving upon that person—for that person to want the keys of Seed-Faith, the keys of a new life."
And now that I've given, I find myself expecting a miracle.

In Matthew 1:21 the angel of the Lord said: And he shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for he shall save his people from their sins.

What's the name that the angel of the Lord said this child would have? JESUS. And why did the angel say His name would be Jesus? Because He was going to save us from our sins. That's it, isn't it? You see, in the very name that God gave His Son, He was expecting miracles. "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

God was not just giving to the wind. God was not merely giving as a scattered seed. God was giving for a purpose. God was giving to save His people. "For he shall save his people from their sins." In the Greek language the words save and heal come from the same root word. "Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for he shall save [and heal] His people..." Now there is God expecting miracles.

You see, many people come to church expecting God to do great spiritual things there, but they don't expect Him to do great things in their personal lives. If God is powerful enough to save the soul, He's powerful enough to heal the body. He's powerful enough to help you with your finances, your business, your job, your very life. I think your giving should be directed toward a purpose, a desired result. You should give in expectation of miracles.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

THREE MIRACLE KEYS

The first key of Seed-Faith is: God is your source. Second: Give first, and give your best. And the third miracle key is: Expect miracles. I want to share these three miracle keys of Seed-Faith with you. I shall start at the beginning and go through to the end of the Bible, book after book, experience after experience in the Bible, working out the three keys of Seed-Faith. Say the three miracle keys:

1. God is my Source.
2. I will give, and give first.
3. I will expect many miracles.

HARVESTTIME

Expect the seeds you plant to be multiplied, to become a harvest. Expect the love that you give to be multiplied back to you. I promise you, on the authority of the Word of God, that God is going to meet needs in your life that have never been met. God is going to make a way for you where there's never been a way. God is going to prosper you in ways you never dreamed that you could prosper. God is going to change you with His Spirit. Fill you so full of His Spirit that you'll be an entirely different kind of human being. You'll be a take-charge kind of human being. You'll face your problems and your needs with your shoulders squared and your head up. You'll believe God for miracles. I believe that things you now think are impossible will suddenly become possible, because God so loved you that He gave. You will so love that you can give and focus your giving upon a desired result.

PRAYER

Father, in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who You gave because You so loved us, I pray for many miracles to happen. I pray that God will loose you from bondage to self and open you to giving and loving so that your whole being will explode with God's love. I pray that you will start giving and start expecting the miracle that will meet your need. I pray for that miracle to begin now. Through Christ I believe and I know it's going to happen to you. Amen and amen.

PANEL DISCUSSION

EVELYN: God holds out His precious gift of life eternal to us. Can we refuse it?

ORAL: Yes, we can say no to Him, because we are free moral agents. God gave us the power of choice. If we want to we can spit at God; many people do, you know.

EVELYN: Is this gift of eternal life automatic for the whole human race?

ORAL: No, the very moment we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God. Evelyn, I can just hear you saying, "And how can we know? How can I know Jesus has saved me?"

EVELYN: I know that I know that I know that I know that.

RICHARD: I was going to make a comment about God having a need. It's hard for us humans to think of God having a need.

ORAL: In what way do you think He had a need?

RICHARD: Because, like you said, He lost man in the garden of Eden. Satan came in and stole man away.

ORAL: But it was man's choice, man's own will.

RICHARD: And God had a need to get man back. I'm just saying it's difficult to understand, and yet at the same time it makes it easier for us to understand God, because all of us have needs. And to realize that He has needs...

ORAL: This is why God became a man. He entered flesh, He came down in the form of Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ became a man. I'm talking about a man, not some superangelic being. Jesus Christ was a man. He was one hundred percent human. He felt everything that you feel. He faced every temptation you and I will ever face. Jesus took the place of the sinless Jesus Christ was here on earth, God walking around in human form, subject to everythi
I am very much aware of the various types of individuals and their particular needs. Students face academic problems, problems of relationships, problems of finance. Business people wrestle with problems that the workingman sometimes doesn't understand. I know about the problems of working people. Will the job last, will they get the raise they deserve and need to pay their bills? Doctors and nurses have an entirely different set of problems because they deal with people on a one-to-one level. Housewives have problems caring for their family and home. Ministers of the gospel have a different set of problems because they deal with people's spiritual problems.

**HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET YOUR NEEDS MET?**

How are you going to find a solution for the problem that is absolutely about to wipe you out? When someone says he doesn't have a problem, I don't believe it. I believe everybody has a problem, or he is a problem, or he lives with one. 1 Kings 17 talks to the NOW of your existence.

And Elijah (who was a prophet) the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab (Ahab was the king of Israel at that time), As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. Elijah was saying, "God is going to withhold the rain." And it was withheld from Israel three and a half years because the king and the country were in disobedience.

And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thy face eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh (meat) in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. (First He commands the ravens to feed him, now He commands a widow woman to feed him.)

So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake (I have no bread) but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse (vessel): and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. Did you ever feel like you wanted to die? Did you ever feel that things were so futile and desperate that you might as well die? Then you begin to understand her situation.

And Elijah said unto her, Fear not. Go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after (birds) to feed thee there. (Notice God said, "I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.") So he went and did according unto the word of the Lord: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh (meat) in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.
and the king, Jezebel, there had been a general backsliding among the people. They were leading the people into idolatry. Because of that, Ahab turned against Elijah and threatened his life. God said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth."

I have a favorite few. Elijah is a prophet of God. Sure, God's going to take care of Elijah. But what about me? I'm just me. What about ME?

I stay here in this little city of Zarephath. I'm going to depend on the bread and oil that sustain me. I'm going to take care of Elijah. But what about me? I'm just me. What about ME?

I got to have a miracle. I've got to have more than a miracle. I've got to have a new life. I've got to understand God and then accept the new life that God gives me. I've got to have the new life-changing process so that God can reestablish your life and put it on an even keel. You need God to help you for the rest of your life.

Then this man said, "I'm starting in Seed-Faith." I'm going to give a story. I said, "Well, I want to tell you a story." and I began to tell the story about the widow of Zarephath that I'm sharing with you now.

When I consider the economy of the country, the mood of the people, and my small resources, I want to throw up my hands. I want to run and hide. I want to say, "God, no, I can't do this." I have said, "I stay here in this little farm house at the edge of town I'll die here. Death is everywhere. Defeat faces me at every turn of the road."

Your whole life seems like a rose that bloomed once and will probably never bloom again. Do you ever feel that way? You feel that you aren't going to make it and the whole world looks dark. You don't know where you're going to go ... what's going to happen to you ... how low you're going to sink. You just feel like you are going to die.

Many a person is walking around who is already dead. He has been lumped into the position of the widow of Zarephath. His heart is still pumping -- but he's dead in his spirit -- she's dead in her spirit. Their spirit is dead. Their will is dead and life is passing them by. They say, "I have a reason for being like this."

A SUPERNATURAL INTERVENTION

The widow of Zarephath could have said, "It hasn't rained in all these months. My neighbors are dying. The stock is dying, the crops are not producing. There's nothing to eat. There's nowhere to go."

I'm starting to Seed-Faith. He builds this School of Medicine. He will build this School of Dentistry. He will build this School of Law. God will complete the Oral Roberts University and He will do it. God will do it in His way. God is going wrong.

And after God had spoken, Elijah took the child, and laid it upon his own bed. And he went and did according to the saying of Elijah: He revived. And Elijah took the child, and laid her upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revived. And Elijah took the child, and stretched himself upon the child three times, and she revive...
I said, "Yes, but what are you referring to?" He said, "The stock market, the bottom has dropped out. Most of my assets are in the stock market. That's what I lost."

And I said to him — and I think God anointed me to say it to him because it came out of my spirit, not my mind — "Since when is the stock market your source of supply? Since when do you make the stock market — something that can manipulate up and down?"

He said to me, "Oral, what are you trying to say to me?"

I said, "My brother, God is your Source. God is not dependent upon whether the stock market is up or down."

He said, "Well, that's where most of my assets are."

I said, "Not really; not really. Your real assets are in God. Your real asset is your faith in God. Your real asset is the way you love and give of yourself. Your real asset is the way you expect miracles from God."

God is bound to meet your needs through the stock market. It goes up and down like a yo-yo. God is bigger than the stock market. If it dries up, God will open a new situation for you."

I remember he put up his hand and he said, "Oral, you've made my day."

Not only is your day made, I think your life is made when you understand who your Source is. I don't think you have your Source. I've experienced I've found it hard to remember who my Source is. Oh, it's easy to remember for a day or a week, but it's also easy to get our mind off our Source and get on to something else. But I tell you, it's a seed that God will multiply. THE TINY LITTLE THING THAT YOU PUT IN OUT OF YOUR HEART WILL NEVER DIE.

THE MIRACLE KEY

So Elijah now begins to change her thinking. He says, "Give me your little son." He took him to his arms and went upstairs where he had been sleeping. Elijah called upon the Lord. And God caused that little boy's life to revive. Then he gave the child to his mother. Her statement is the key. She says to Elijah, the man of God, "Now, I know. I KNOW that the Lord is God."

I UNDERSTAND it now.

I don't believe the widow of Zarephath understood when she first gave her need, giving bread to the prophet. I believe she did it because she was inspired by the man. I believe the man inspired her to believe for this kind of miracle. She was able to say, "Yes," but I don't believe she understood. But now she says, "I understand. I understand what you're saying to me. I understand the source of the drought and I understand the famine, I'm to trust God. I'm not to look at these circumstances but to look beyond them to God. I'm to be constantly open and giving."

THE WIDOW GOT THE BLESSING BUT FAILED TO REDIRECT HER THINKING

She had to Seed-Faith something. She had to Seed-Faith and it happened to be a little bit of bread. In your life it may not be the sharing of bread with a hungry person. It may not be even the giving of money. It may be something more difficult. It may be putting a friendly arm on someone's shoulder and saying, "I am praying for you." It may be to go to someone and share a word of encouragement. It may be to pray for a person or a family. It may be a gift of your time, freely given to God. It may be something else. But I tell you, it's a seed that God will multiply.

The Seed-Faith principle is all through the Bible. Here is a man keyed to God, the Source of his total supply. He was looking to God. He wasn't looking to the ravens or the brook. They were just helping along the way. They were not a source to him. When the brook dried up there was no break in his stride of faith, no giving up and crying out. Elijah's Source would never change, his Source would never dry up. His Source is God. So now he hears God say, "I'll just shift the scene. I've commanded a widow to sustain you."

Elijah goes there and finds a supply. This is his crowning piece of creation. You are unique and irreplaceable. You are somebody, and I'm somebody. We belong to God and CARES. He has a way for us to come out of our defeats. It is not that the defeat is...what shape it takes in your life. It makes no difference because God has commanded an unseen force to sustain you, providing you will get into the rhythm of the way He does things.
I want to share with you something in my life. When I was dying with tuberculosis I didn’t believe I would live, until a relative leaned over me and said, “Oral, God is going to heal you.” These were the first positive words I had heard. I’m sure others had been said, but my mind hadn’t heard them. Well, I was converted and healed and the years passed. And then one day this relative came to see Evelyn and me. And she said, “I’m in trouble.”

I said, “What’s the matter?”

“Well,” she said, “you know, times are bad.”

I said, “Yes, but specifically what’s wrong?”

She said, “My husband has been out of work for three months.”

I said, “No, I didn’t know it had been so long.”

She said, “Do you know that we’re down to our last food? We can’t even buy gas for our car.”

I said, “No, I didn’t know it was that bad. Here, take this.”

She said, “No, I don’t want any money from you. I don’t want any money from anybody. I won’t take welfare. I’m going to trust God.”

But I heard the question in her mind...if I’m trusting God, why has He let me down like this? This was the unspoken question. And how well I understood it, because I have been in that place so many times. And I said, “Do you remember when you gave to me?”

She said, “No.”

“Don’t you remember leaning over me and saying, “Oral, God is going to heal you?”

“Oh, yes, I remember that.”

“Do you realize you gave me the beginning of a new life? Those words caused me to believe that God cared about me. And through that I turned my life to God, was converted, and healed. You realize what a gift you gave me? That was a seed of faith and you should be expecting miracles from it.”

And she said, “Well, I don’t believe that I should expect anything back from what I give. I’ve never been taught that. I’ve always been taught just to give and not to expect anything back.”

I said, “Have you ever planted flower seeds?”

She said, “Yes.”

“Did you plant the seed, expecting it to multiply back?”

“Well, of course.”

“Well, then, don’t you realize your giving is a seed? God will return it but you won’t recognize it if you aren’t expecting. It’ll pass you by and you’ll wonder where God is.”

She said, “That’s how I feel now. I wonder where God is. I wish I had something to give.”

I said, “You’ve already given a lot. You have two problems and here they are. One, you don’t know who your Source is.”

“Oh,” she said, “I trust in God.”

I said, “Sure you do, but you don’t know He’s your Source right now. And the second thing that’s wrong is you’re not expecting a miracle from the seed you’ve already planted.” Well, the conversation ended and she left.

In a few days she came back carrying two worn one-dollar bills. As she handed them to me, she said, “Here, Oral, put this in God’s work.”

I said to her, “How much money do you have?”

She said, “Two dollars.”

I said, “You know I can’t take them.”

She said, “Oral Roberts, I’m not giving you two dollars. I’m giving them to God. If you don’t want them, give them back to me, and I’ll put them somewhere else. I’ve thought about what you said. I have thought about the widow of Zarephath. You said to give out of my need and I’ve done what you said. Now you’re turning me down.”

I said, “Give me the money.” I tell you, I can remember the feeling that swept through me when I held those two worn dollars in my hand, knowing they were the last she had. I wanted to give them back and add to them real quick. But I couldn’t do it.

She looked at me and said, “You told me to make God my Source. You told me to give. You told me to expect miracles. That’s what I’m going to do.” And she walked out.

Evelyn and I talked it over. We prayed. Not long after, she came back—her face beaming.

She just started in right there at the door. “Listen to me. A contractor called my husband and said, “Come to work. I’ve got a year’s work for you and I may take you on permanently after that.”

Her husband is a carpenter. She went on, “You know there’s no work. No buildings are going up in this town. And I’ve been offered a job, the best job I’ve ever had in my life.” Then she said, “Something more important than that is happening. I know who my Source is.”

This happened fifteen years ago to my sister, Mrs. Jewel Faust of Tulsa, Oklahoma. This is a true story. My sister came to a point in her life where she knew—she understood. She understood. The widow of Zarephath said, “Now I know. I know that the words in the mouth of God’s prophet are the truth.”

Do you know the truth? Do you know the rhythm of faith, how to get into it, how to give of yourself and expect God to intervene? How to trust Him and not let your trust be put in anything or anybody besides God? To give God your best and then expect His best?

PRAYER

What is your need? I want you to wrap your arms around yourself and let me pray with you. Let me pray that God will open your eyes and let you see that God is your Source. Let me pray that God will show you how to expect miracles.

Father, in the name of Your Son Jesus, my Lord and Savior, I ask You for many miracles. I ask You for them.

And now I pray for you. I pray that Jesus Christ will stretch out His hand and touch you. I pray you will feel the sensation of His presence and there will...
HOW TO RECEIVE THE MIRACLE THAT WILL MEET YOUR NEEDS

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson:
St. Luke 5:1-11

Wouldn’t you like to throw over your net into God’s plenty and see it filled to overflowing?
Wouldn’t you like to find God’s depth for your problem and then see the miracle-working, life-changing power of Jesus Christ attack that problem until it’s wiped out of your life?
Wouldn’t you like to wake up in the morning and know that the whole day is as fresh as the morning dew, the whole day is an open book, a clean page?
Wouldn’t you like to face your past failures and know they could be blotted out? There are millions of people in this world who are dragged backwards every day of their lives because of past defeats. There are people who feel the dead weight of a previous error so that they can’t go forward because of the backward pull of that defeat. There are people who do not know they can take even one step forward in life because they don’t know the miracle-working power of God exists. They don’t know that the essential nature of God is to bring His miracles into each of our lives. They don’t know God cares. They don’t even know He exists. And you and I, those of us who believe in Jesus Christ, often forget WHO we belong to. We forget the nature of God and we forget that...

GOD IS IN THE BUSINESS OF MEETING US AT THE POINT OF OUR NEED

Here our Lord Jesus Christ comes on the job of the fishermen. He comes on the job where they have failed. He invades the arena where they have tried and failed. He walks up to them while they are mending their nets and grumbling, “Why didn’t we catch any fish last night? We’ve spent our lifetime making a living like this. We know all there is to know about fishing. We’ve toiled all night and we’ve taken nothing. What’s wrong with us anyway?” As they look at the sea of Galilee they think of the fish they should have caught...the fish they could have sold to feed their families and earn a living. They see that old sea and it looks forbidding, like an enemy. And they sit there lonely, forlorn, and in misery.

And yet, standing near is the Son of God who can speak to the things He created and cause them to do what He commands. All the fish in the sea obey the voice of Jesus Christ. Jesus can miraculously bless every man’s work. Jesus Christ can meet every problem. It’s a moment of destiny. It’s a second when heaven is bending low to kiss the earth. It is a time when the glory of God is closer than one’s fingertips. And a drama is about to unfold.

THE DEPTH OF YOUR GIVING IS THE DEPTH OF YOUR SUCCESSFUL LIVING

The depth of your giving is the depth of your successful living. Now say, the depth of my giving is the depth of my successful living. Say it! THE DEPTH OF MY GIVING IS THE DEPTH OF MY SUCCESSFUL LIVING.

What was God’s depth? In John 3:16 Jesus Christ himself says of God His Father:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

What was the depth of God’s giving? His only begotten Son.

The depth of God’s giving was giving out of His own need, His need to restore man...who had been lost to the devil. God had a need and that need was to recover the human family which had been stolen out of His creative hands. So God gave out of His need, giving His only begotten Son as His depth, and He gave for a desired result.
What was the desired result for which our God gave? That no one would perish, but that every person would have everlasting life. That's God's desired result.

When Jesus went to Nazareth, where He had been reared, He was thirty years old and the members of His mission were scattered. Was the life of Christ headed for a null. The depth of His giving brought the people back to God. When Elijah stepped forward, he was courageous to deliver the Word of God. He knew the threat of death hung over his head. So he gathered up his supplies and went off to help God. He gave of his love because he loved those people. He gave of his love because he loved God. He gave of his time because he wanted to reach and touch those people.

The depth of Elijah's giving was the giving of himself. He gave out of his need and he gave for a desired result. God supplied his needs because of the seeds of faith he had planted. God supplied his needs through ravens, birds who dropped meat and bread to him in his little cave. Later, he sent his servant to a widow woman in Zarephath. He commanded her to feed Elijah.

**THERE WAS A COMMAND OF GOD TO FEED ELIJAH BECAUSE OF THE DEPTH OF HIS GIVING**

What was the depth of giving of the widow of Zarephath? Elijah had only one meal left. She was going to cook for her little soul and herself. Do you believe that Jesus Christ could have gone to the cross, suffering and giving up everything, without any hope that He would ever live again? The Bible says He endured the shame of the cross and the suffering for the joy that was set before Him (Hebrews 12:2). Then there was a joy set before Christ. God was saying to Him, "If you'll suffer this, if you'll go to Calvary and die for the sins of mankind, I'll raise you from the dead and you the King of kings and Lord of lords." That was the promise. When she found this was true, that giving, that depth of giving leads to breaking; breaking, boat-sinking lead! It leads to a supply of your needs that you can get met in no other way. It means the whole resources of heaven are flung against your problem. Our weapons are not carnal, they are mighty, even to the pulling down of the devil's strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4). You see, when we give something we are not giving it up. We are investing it in the bank of eternity that has never failed to pay dividends. When you have natural resources of food. But until the natural forces are able to supply your needs, God will give you supernatural answers.

What was the depth of her giving? She gave part of the last morsel of bread in her house. She was going to cook for her little soul and herself. Do you believe that Jesus Christ could have gone to the cross, suffering and giving up everything, without any hope that He would ever live again? The Bible says He endured the shame of the cross and the suffering for the joy that was set before Him (Hebrews 12:2). Then there was a joy set before Christ. God was saying to Him, "If you'll suffer this, if you'll go to Calvary and die for the sins of mankind, I'll raise you from the dead and you the King of kings and Lord of lords." That was the promise. When she found this was true, that giving, that depth of giving leads to breaking; breaking, boat-sinking lead! It leads to a supply of your needs that you can get met in no other way. It means the whole resources of heaven are flung against your problem. Our weapons are not carnal, they are mighty, even to the pulling down of the devil's strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4). You see, when we give something we are not giving it up. We are investing it in the bank of eternity that has never failed to pay dividends. When you have natural resources of food. But until the natural forces are able to supply your needs, God will give you supernatural answers.

What was the depth of her giving? She gave part of the last morsel of bread in her house. She was going to cook for her little soul and herself. Do you believe that Jesus Christ could have gone to the cross, suffering and giving up everything, without any hope that He would ever live again? The Bible says He endured the shame of the cross and the suffering for the joy that was set before Him (Hebrews 12:2). Then there was a joy set before Christ. God was saying to Him, "If you'll suffer this, if you'll go to Calvary and die for the sins of mankind, I'll raise you from the dead and you the King of kings and Lord of lords." That was the promise. When she found this was true, that giving, that depth of giving leads to breaking; breaking, boat-sinking lead! It leads to a supply of your needs that you can get met in no other way. It means the whole resources of heaven are flung against your problem. Our weapons are not carnal, they are mighty, even to the pulling down of the devil's strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4). You see, when we give something we are not giving it up. We are investing it in the bank of eternity that has never failed to pay dividends. When you have natural resources of food. But until the natural forces are able to supply your needs, God will give you supernatural answers.

When Jesus preached to the great crowd by the sea of Galilee, He noticed these fishermen fishing and mending their nets each day out in the sight of their faces. He saw the way their hands moved. He felt the defeat they were suffering. He walked over and asked them to give.

And what was the depth of that giving? Their capital was the resources, the commercial fishing boat with which they made their living. Jesus Christ invaded their lives, their actual resources for life, and He dared to say, "The depth of your giving is to feed Me. This is something that I may use it for a higher purpose. Let Me have it. Give it to Me."