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Holy Spirit in the Now - V

Oral Roberts

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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 Bank 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]

Oral Roberts
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GOD HAS A NEED TO GIVE

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson:
St. John 3:1-21

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.

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."
one human life is worth."

10

one son left. Isn't that right? I had only one Son and I gave
jabbing into the ground. As I pulled him down from that
saw them on the side of the hill. They had just nailed my
down the streets and alleys, crying and asking God to help
with him. At first I was so stunned I didn't know what to

men grab him, throw him into the car, and drive away
how my son's cry, "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy!" sounded.
my older son, Ronald David, scream. You know how
dren were small, God gave me a vision while I was sitting
with him. I found myself driving into the outskirts
God has blessed Evelyn and me with four children - two
sons and two daughters. Back in the '50s when my chil­
seemed as real as life. And I found
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. Now
God has blessed Evelyn and me with four children - two
sons and two daughters. Back in the '50s when my chil­
seemed as real as life. And I found
GOD GIVES HIS BEST

During the first part of my life I grew up on a little
Oklahoma farm. Later my father became a minister of the
gospel, but while I was a little boy he was a farmer. My
second brother, Vaden, and I grew up together. We choop­
ed cotton, hooed corn, and helped my father in the fields.

The hardest task of all was baling cotton. I understood
that. I rode the wagon to the fields, where we pulled the
ears of corn from the stalk and pitched them into the
wagon. Then I'd throw them into the barn. I remember the day my father said, "Wait a minute, boys; don't throw those ears in the barn. You pitch them
over to one side."

When they're ready to harvest, they're dry. When they're in trouble their voices have a special ring. That's
how my son's cry, "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy!" sounded.

I have a feeling in time to come to see two men grab
him, throw him into the car, and drive away with him.
At first I was so stunned I didn't know what to do.
Then I jumped in my car and began to chase them.
I soon lost them in the traffic. I drove like a wild man
down the streets and alleys, crying and asking God to help
me save him. I found myself driving into the outskirts
way and then going down one of the country lanes there.
I came upon their car. I stopped quickly, jumped out, and
saw them on the side of the hill. They had just nailed my
little son, Ronald David, to a cross, which they were
jibbing into the ground. As I pulled him down from that
cross, he died in my arms. I said to God, "You're going to lose, Daddy!"
The vision was over. Out of the depths of my being, I
cried, "O God, what is this mean?"
God spoke to me, deep in my heart. "If this had
thappened to your son, Ronald David, you would still have
some left. Isn't that right? I had only one Son and I gave
him. I love the world that I gave Him. And that's what
every human life is worth."

I said, "There is no way that any human life can be worth
the life of Jesus Christ.

And He said to me, "You don't have any right to
judge. You have no way of judging. Only I can determine
the worth of a human being. You have no right to put any
less value upon yourself or upon another human being
than I do. For you are no more valuable than another human
being."

It's a brutal fact that God had lost man whom He had
created. The devil had stolen man from God. Man had
decided to go his own way; had gone astray in sin.
God had lost His children. It's a little like losing one of
your children, one that you gave birth to and brought into
the world. Unless you've experienced it, you can never
really know how parents feel when they've lost a little
child. God had lost His children and He felt the need to

FOCUS YOUR GIVING FOR A DESIRED RESULT

I can hold a magnifying glass up to the sun and let the
brilliant focused light make a paper hole. Now that's the only way I can understand what
God did... in so loving the world that He gave His only
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. God focused His love
upon His desire - that no man should perish, no woman
should perish. Every human being would have life. You
know how in a room someone can't find a particular item,
you're trying to find it, you keep trying, and suddenly there's
life over there. That's the way Jesus Christ came to give it.
Once when Jesus came into a town where the people
were very friendly, even kind. James and John said, "Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from
heaven and destroy this city?"
Jesus said, "The Son of Man is not to come to destroy
men's lives, but to save them." (Luke 9:54, 56).

Do you think you can take your love and make it an
act upon that thing you have decided upon? And you're giving upon a certain
desired result? Yes, you can.

It amazes me that God focused His love, His gift which was His own Son, upon a desired result.
And because of this, and you can be saved. Many of us
are saved. Many of us have been given eternal life,
called into the Kingdom of God. Our desired result has
happened in millions of lives, is happening in millions of
lives, and will happen in millions of lives. God had a
need and God had a need for you to be met. He
hoped His love for a desired result.

FOCUS YOUR LOVE

I want to tell you what happened while I was on the
way to the Jerry Lewis Telethon with the enormous gift of
money from our students, faculty, and staff. I had no idea
they would give $30,000 in one chapel service. Just as I
got to the airport a man walked up to me. Without saying
a word he handed me a check for $3,300 for the Oral Roberts University. I asked him, "What does this mean?"
He said, "Well, I hope you like this," and he walked away.
I was stunned. Here I'm on my way with a Seed­
 Faith check for the Jerry Lewis Telethon when a fellow
walks up to me and gives me this. I think I'm a lucky duck.
I'm going to give this to the man who gave it to me. I'm
devoted to the man who gave it to me. I'm going to bring
FOCUS YOUR LOVE

If you give without love, you're not really giving. St.
Paul says that even if we give our bodies to be burned and
have no life, it's worthless. Your giving has to be motivated
by the same love that motivated God when He gave His
only begotten Son.

Through years I've been slowly coming to the
revolutionary ideas I'm sharing with you today. Time and
time again I've been able to focus my giving... maybe for
the construction of a building on the ORU campus... or for
a life to be touched. I say, "God, I'm giving so that this
person will be healed. I'm giving so that a certain thing
can come to pass in my life. I don't know when or
how but I'm giving for this."

Now this idea is so new that I know it will upset you
for a moment, but we've got to get over the idea that
giving is a duty, that loving is an obligation. I wonder how
Evelyn would feel if I walked over and said, "Honey, I'd
like to kiss you. I owe you this kiss. It's my obligation to
kiss you." I just don't think she'd appreciate that kiss.

What is it you desire in your life? I believe you can
focus your love just upon that thing. You focus your
love just upon that piece of paper. You can focus it and
something will be set on fire. You can focus it for a
desired result. You can think you can tell God how or when to act.
I think God's going to act in the way He chooses and at
the time He thinks is best for you. I think He'll meet your
need in His way, which is always better than your way.
Once God meets the need, even though it may be dif­
ferent from what you had anticipated, you will say, "Yes,
it's better than anything I could have imagined." Once
God has 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 keep the tears back. Out of my 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
Your cause. I'm going to focus my giving upon that person
that I want to give the keys of Seed-Faith, the keys of
"a new life."

 courthouse.
And now that I've given, I find myself expecting a miracle.

In Matthew 1:21 the angel of the Lord said: And she 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 charge 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 be a mountain-moving 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.

Everything man is. That's God as man. That's God saying, "I have a need."

God wouldn't have sent His Son into this world if He had not had a need. But Richard, He spared not His own Son. Jesus Christ was a man all through His life. He was a man hanging on the cross. They buried Him and left Him.

The Holy Spirit touched that lifeless human form and life returned. It was no longer the lowly human Jesus. It was Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, raised from the dead. God! alive forevermore. I tell you, there's enough of the power of the Holy Spirit here to save every person, heal every person, meet every need.
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 struggle that businesses go through to exist, to bring forth new products, and to serve this country. I also 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 thee 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. Don't be afraid. Many times when you say, "Don't be afraid," people think you are out of your mind. They say, "How can I not be afraid?" Elijah says, "Fear not," and then he tells her how not to be afraid.

Go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after...
and the queen. Elijah delivered God's Word, "Thus saith
Bible. God commands the birds of the air to take notice of
the Lord God, there shall be no rain upon the earth until I
Jezebel, there had been a general backsliding among the
nation and to save them and their people from destructiqn.
really out of obscurity - into the presence of King Ahab
named Elijah, a prophet who came out of the hills -
not listen to God. They were leading the people into
Israel. Ahab and Jezebel, king and queen of lsrael, would
Because of that, Ahab turned against Elijah and
unto her, give me thy son. And he took him out of
In the land of Israel there was severe famine.
again. And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah;
spake by Elijah. And it came to pass after these
things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of
according to the word of the Lord, which he
waste not, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the
Lord sendeth rain upon the earth each day that the
Lord God of Israel, the barrel of meal shall not
waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the
natural forces take over again).
the birds of the air, "I want you to fly bread
a human being. A single human life is so important that
God speaks to the birds of the air, "I want you to fly bread
and to build a fire. And he says to her, "Ma'am, I've
come a long journey. Would you give me a drink of
water?" The widow was glad to do that.
As she went to get it, he said, "And by the
way, would you cook some fish for me?"
And she stopped and said, "Sir, I can bring
water but not the food; for, you see, my son and I
have only enough food in the house for ourselves
for one day. We are going to eat it and die. That's what
I'm doing now. I'm fixing this meal."
And I said, "Yes, any minister knows what's going
on in his audience."
"Well," he said, "I want to tell you I snade
the mistake of my life. Do you remember my situation ten
years ago?"
I said, I do. I remember that you were fantasti­
cally successful. You were more than a millionaire. You
had a beautiful wife. You were a great civic and social
leader in your city.
He said, "Yes, I was successful. But today I'm
broken in my body.
He had a kidney affliction; he was on the verge of
emphysema. His breath was coming in desperate
gasps. He was very different from the man I had seen
in the audience ten years before when I tried to share
the miracle of Seed-Faith.
He said, "Our marriage is gone; we are going to
divorce. I'm going to show this picture."
And I said, "God knows you want to give Him all
you have. He knows what's really in your heart."
He wiped his eyes as he said, "I'm at the end.
I've got to have a miracle."
I said, "You've got to have more than a miracle.
You've got to have a new way of life. You've got to un­
derstand something that you now accept the way
He deals. You've got to learn the way work with
you and then work with God. You've got to learn this.
It's only part of your miracle you need. You need a whole
life-changing process so that God can reestablish your
life and put it on an even keel. You need God to help
you to get the rest of your life.
Then this man said, "I'm starting in Seed-Faith.
I'm going to give."
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.
... the need of the Lord in my mouth is truth. (Now I know the truth.
I KNOW!!)

GOD MEETS ELIJAH'S NEEDS

In the land of Israel there was severe famine.
Through the disobedience of King Ahab and his queen,
Jezreel, there had been a general backsliding among the
people. King Ahab had provoked the Lord with his
sins more than any other king who had ever reinigned in
Israel. Ahab and Jezreel, king and queen of Israel, would
not listen to God. They were leading the people into
destruction. Then God did something to get their at­
tention and to save them and their people from destruc­tion.
He put His Word into the heart and mouth of a man
named Elijah, a prophet who came out of the hills —
really out of obscurity — into the presence of King Ahab
and Queen Jezebel. This is the only place in the Bible
where the Lord God, there shall be no rain upon the earth until I
give the word, until I, the Lord God, give the word."
Because of that, Ahab turned against Elijah and
threatened his life. God said to Elijah, "I want you to go
ever to a little brook and hide there. While you're hiding,
I am going to send you a raven to feed you."
This is one of the most fascinating statements in the
Bible. God commands the birds of the air to take notice of
a human being. A single human life is so important that
God speaks to the birds of the air, "I want you to fly bread
and meat to him every morning and every night."
Then God said, "Go down to the brook Cherith and there you'll
find plenty of water." In spite of the drought you'll find water.
This goes on for some time before the brook dries up.
A man may live without food, but he can't live without water.
So here he is now...the prophet of God who has
really given himself, who is keyed to God, His Source, so
much that He's willing to risk his life.

GOD SPEAKS AGAIN

The Word of the Lord came unto Elijah a second time
and said, "Arise, and go to a little town called Zarephath
where you will find a widow. I've commanded this widow
to sustain you." First, God commands the birds of the air
to feed the prophet. Then God commands a widow to feed
this same man. Both are unlikely sources of supply. You
would never dream that God would use birds or a poor
widow. God works the same kind of miracle for
the poor widow. God works the same kind of miracle for
the man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my sin
out of obscurity — into the presence of King Ahab
and Queen Jezebel.

In the place of an Elijah or stand
ZAREPHATH

IF YOU AND I CAN SEE THE ESSENTIAL
NATURE OF GOD,
THAT IT IS THE SAME — IT NEVER
CHANGES

THEN WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO
STAND

IN THE PLACE OF AN ELIJAH OR STAND
IN THE POSITION OF THE WIDOW OF
ZAREPHATH

AND SEE THAT GOD WILL BE THE
SAME TO US.

God be the same to you...whether you are
known or unknown, whether you feel important or un­
important, whether you have lots of money or none at
all, whether you are tall or short, whether you are
white or red or brown or black or yellow or mixed.
It makes no difference to God. The same God who com­
mmanded the birds to feed the man and the widow to
sustain him, is now going to use that same command­ing
power to meet the needs of the widow of
Zarephath.

I'VE GOT TO HAVE A MIRACLE

Elijah meets the woman as she's gathering kindling
to build a fire. And he says to her, "Ma'am, I've
your shoulders slump, and you go down.
If you are a student you can't study, you can't
hold your mind on your studying. You get upset about everything
Nothing is going to work.
If you are a businessman, everything goes wrong...the economy is against you...people don't buy
anything...the government is over-regulating and ev­
eything in the world is going wrong.
If you are a mother, your children are doing things that you never dreamed of in the world.
If you're a farmer, you're growing things that you never dreamed of in the world.
If you're a housewife, you're cooking things that you never dreamed of in the world.
If you're a student you can't study; you can't
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If you're a student you can't study; you can't
hold your mind on your studying. You get upset about everything
Nothing is going to work.
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'm talking about."

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 — your source of supply?"

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 bounded 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 drops down, God will open up a new situation for you."

I remember he put up his hand and he said, "Oral, you're 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 ever have an experience like I have. I've come to understand who my Source is. Oh, it's easy to remember for a day or a week, but it's also easy to get off course. It's easy to get our mind on 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.

THAT SEED OF FAITH IS THE INGREDIENT THAT MULTIPLIES THE DIMINISHING RESOURCES OF YOUR LIFE.

ELIJAH WAS KEPT TO HIS SOURCE
Notice that the brook eventually dried up. Now suppose Elijah had made the brook his source. Where would he have been? He didn't because he was keyed to God. So when the brook dried up he was in a position to hear God say, "Now I've commanded a widow to sustain you.

This 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, so 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 the crowning piece of creation. You are unique and irreplaceable. You are somebody... and I'm somebody. We belong to God and God CARES. He has a way for us to come out of our defeats.

It is not what the defeat is...what shape it takes in your life. It makes no difference because God has commanded an unchangeable force to sustain you, providing you will get into the rhythm of the way He does things.

God is the key.
A TRUE STORY

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."

"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."

"Do 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."

And she said, "Well, I don't believe that I should expect anything back."

She looked at me and said, "You told me to give. You told me to give out of my need and I've done what you said. Now I want to give back."

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."

"Give me the money."

"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."

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 said, "Oral, put this in God's work."

I said, "Give me the money."

"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 what 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 His best. The depth of God's giving was giving off the top. The depth of God's giving was His only 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.
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sources for life, and He dared to say, "The depth of your need and she gave for a desired result, that she and her son wouldn't die. The desired result was for the extension of God's life. He was

cooking oil will not diminish until the day rain comes on the earth. Until then there will be a supernatural invasion of love for your needs, God will give you supernatural

To Elijah. Israel was backslid when Elijah came forth as a prophet of God to lead the nation back. The depth of his giving brought the people back to God. God still has His hand threatening, He has the courage to deliver the Word of God. He knew the threat of death hung over his head. So he offered up his life. He was willing to be killed. 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 see the operation of God in 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, God sent him 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 his giving of the widow of Zarephath? It had only one meal left. She was going to cook it for her little son and herself, then eat and die. But Elijah walked up and said, "You go and do as you've said, but first cook a little bit of that meal for me, the prophet of God. The Lord says if you do that, the meal and the water will be multiplied, and they will never fail to diminish, but rather it will increase day after day and store up for many days. And when you break it...is always over-supplied...and will never fail to meet our need. Do you believe that?

God is speaking to you now about your depths. The depth of your giving is the depth of your successful labor. It's not living with your hand out, saying, "Give to me" or "Can I get out of this?" It's not putting your hand out, expecting something for nothing. It's not seeing how I can slack off this job and do as little as possible, just good. But it's working when the boss is not looking. It's telling the truth when a lie would be more convenient. It's being honest even though they are paying you less than you deserve.

The depth of your giving is at the very depth of your vital being, a depth that reaches to the deepest part of your soul where your word and compassion flow. Your better self emerges with every ounce of honesty and integrity to be multiplied into more integrity and more honesty.

There are no shortcuts. There's no such thing as something for nothing. God himself sent His Son. Somebody had to clean the bathroom. Somebody had to get the trash. Somebody had to get the trash. People began to pay attention to me. No one was printing anything about me. Got carried away with what I was doing. I got so in love with Jesus Christ and so full of Him that I wanted to hug everybody in the world. I wanted to touch people, and the thing I knew was I had never heard of, people coming for prayer. How they ever knew where I was, I don't know.
The depth of your giving is your vulnerability

When you find the depth of your giving, then you become terribly vulnerable.

When you offer love, it is sometimes refused.

When you extend a hand, it's not always taken.

When you smile, people don't always smile back.

When you give, sometimes those you help the most resent it the most.

It's like a man who heard that another fellow was talking about him and was very much against him. He said, "Why should that fellow hate me? I've never done anything to him.

We get terribly vulnerable. The moment that Peter found his depth of giving, he was vulnerable. Why? Because now, right out in broad daylight, that great crowd heard Jesus say, "Peter, you're not giving away your boat." Peter might have thought, "Peter, not only have you failed to catch any fish, but now you're giving away your boat. If you couldn't catch fish with a boat, what are you going to do without one? Now, you're without a boat.

As far as he knew, the crowd was not dissuaded that day. It's possible that Jesus held the crowd that day to show them a lesson in Seed-Faith. After Jesus finished his sermon, he said, "Throw out your nets into the deep and let down your net for a catch.

And his buddies probably thought, "Peter, do you mean you're going out there during the day? You know if you throw your nets out the fish will run. They'll see the net.

You know you fish at night, Peter."

Peter says to Jesus, "I've tossed all night and taken nothing. Yet you tell me to launch out into the deep and let down my net for a catch."

You know how you feel if you've ever gone fishing and fished all day or night and caught nothing. You're wet and hungry and you're aggravated.

You know how you feel when you try to put some project over. You do everything you know how but the thing just blows up in your face.

You know how you feel, students, when you study hard for an examination but can't remember a thing when you sit down.

You know how you feel, businessmen, when you've ordered your merchandise, filled your inventories, and put out your advertisements, and no one comes to buy.

You know what it is when you've done all you can with your children, but nothing seems to work.

Or maybe you've tried to win your parent to Christ but somehow everything seems to fail. And you say, "Well, if I can't win my own mother or my own father, why should I try to win anybody else to Christ?"

Or you've prepared your lesson and taught your classes. But when it's over, you feel you haven't reached one student.

Or as an attorney, you've tried a case and blown it. Or as a doctor, you've done everything you could do, exactly what you did on a similar case. That one was successful and this one is not. You see the life draining out of your patient before your eyes.

Peter couldn't turn to anybody else. You know, every now and then you're able to do something for a person that nobody else in the world can do. What I did wrong was to put conditions on it.

He agreed to the terms and I felt good. Now I had three problems out of the way.

Ah, when a wise government ruled over Palestine. As the occupying force, a Roman soldier had the legal right to compel an Israelite to carry his burden for him. When he wanted to buy a slave, he had to insist, "I have discharged my obligation and you cannot force me to carry it another mile." The Roman had to let him go free. But if this slave ran away from him, the Roman could make it one more mile, but also carry it two. Carry it one mile because he forces you, then carry it one more because you love him.

It was hard for the Israelite to go to the second mile because it made him vulnerable. The Roman soldier would laugh at him. The Roman would count it as a sign of weakness. The world has always looked on meekness as weakness, but meekness is God's almighty power. The meekest man in the world was Moses. But if you wanted to go across the Red Sea, you'd better go with Moses because he would sleep on that rock the water would come out. If you were out there hungry and you needed quality on toast, you better have him as your chef.

People laugh and mock us when we say, "All right, we will go the extra mile." You know, in our relationship as husband and wife, we've always gone the extra mile. Jesus is at the bow of the ship, and we are going the extra mile. He laughs when the husband decides, "Well, I'm going to care more for my wife. I'm going to do more than my share of the work."

He laughs when the wife decides, "I'm going to do more for my husband."

"Hit the net, hit the net, hit the net," and the fish struck it. The Creator of fish spoke, "Throw over the net."

And then Jesus said, "The net is full of fish."

Six months passed, nothing happened, but I was perfectly happy. I was waiting to testify that God met each of those three conditions, only about ten times better than that. And never could I have known that it happened one by one and they happened through God.

You see, Jesus says to go the second mile. In the days of Jesus' "life is the vine, the church the branches." Have you been broken and bruised? Have you been beat up and bruised to the point that you can't touch him. You can't stand the odor. Well, I want to do them. There's no way a man can stoop like Jesus would stoop to touch a man whose illness had such an odor.

When you offer love, it is never refused.

When you smile, people don't always smile back.

When you offer love, it is never refused. But you might have thought, "Peter, not only have you failed to catch any fish, but now you're giving away your boat. If you couldn't catch fish with a boat, what are you going to do without one? Now, you're without a boat.

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from all sides. They filled it, they overflowed it, they felt the worst when she felt the best because she knew how bad she was feeling when she started feeling bad again. Peter, you can't go back to that kind of life. You've come into the miracle of Seed-Faith. You've come into a new dimension. You've come into a new human relationship.

In other words, your relationship with men is going to change. The change from a no-catch of fish to a multi-plied miracle-catch of fish is not as great as the change that's going to come over you. Your human relationships are going to change.

One time a preacher said he was going to stop preach-ing, boat-sinking load that Peter sees Seed-Faith work.

Do you remember the first time Seed-Faith ever worked for you? I do. Evelyn and I were pastoring a little church. We had given our weekly salary hoping to stimulate other members to give to buy a parsonage. Now 85 a week isn't much but when it's all you've got it's the same as a million dollars. We were joyous in giving it, but when we got home we looked at each other and thought, well, we worked for only $55. We could barely get through the week. We were just getting by but now we'd given our weekly salary. This happened at a Wednesday night prayer meeting.

At 4 o'clock the next morning there was a knock on the door and a man said, "Brother Roberts, Brother Roberts, wake up!" I opened the door and it was a wheat farmer, a member of our church. He had not been in church often and had really gone away from God. Since we had come there, he came once in a while. He said, "I was at the prayer meeting last night."

I didn't remember his being there. He said, "God touched my heart through what you all did. Here is $400."

I remember how it felt. Four one-hundred-dollar bills in the hands of a young preacher and his wife. I will never forget it.

Peter was like that. He said, "Look at all these fish, but look at me, God, I'm a sinful man." He brought all his sins to Him, all his weaknesses, all his selfishness, all of the things he had been holding to himself. All of his lack of concern toward other people came flooding up in his mind. He said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

Jesus said, "No, follow Me, and I will make you a disciple of the Lord. How many of us reach it? Probably one man, poor in worldly goods, befriended him. And it was evident that he wanted nothing more than friendship from the rich man. One day as they were walking along, it began to rain. They were walking over a little wooden bridge when the poor man slipped and fell into the water. He couldn't swim. In his fear, his first thought was, "Give me a hand."

Then he remembered that his rich friend wouldn't give anything to anybody. So he threw up his hand and said, "Here, take my hand. Here, take mine." And his friend reached down and pulled him out.

Now, what if the poor man hadn't developed a giving way of life? Here, let me give you my hand. He would have drowned that day. This story has had a profound influence upon my life. Jesus was saying, "This one-time miracle of catching fish is not what it's all about. It's more than that. It concerns a way of life. You don't find your depth of giving once and for all. You seek your depth of giving every day. In every relationship ask, 'What am I to do? What am I to give?'"

If it's an offering being taken for a worthy cause, you ask, "What is my depth of giving?" Then give that amount. If it's a cause calling for your time, ask what your depth is.

It's a way of life. It's the Christian life. It's becoming a disciple of the Lord. How many of us reach it? Probably none of us reach it to any great extent. But as long as we know that Jesus Christ is saying, "Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men," we know that we can make progress. We know we're on the stairsteps and even if we fall back a step we can take that step again. We are on the stairsteps and we are trying.

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT HOW PERFECT YOU ARE, OR THAT YOU DON'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES... CHRISTIANITY IS REACHING OUT WITH YOUR HEART AND TRYING

You are trying. And if you miss it, you ask forgiveness. If someone harms you, you forgive. You may carry a grudge for a day or two, but you soon get it off. You soon get rid of the bitterness. If you're not in love today, you're determined to be in love tomorrow, so that your love is released.

Let me ask you, "What is the biggest problem that you are facing?"

Is it a physical problem? Is it a problem in your home or family? Is it a child, a mother, a father? Is it a marriage? Is it a job? Is it a human relationship that isn't working? Is it the need of money? Is it the need of a car or a place to live? Is it your need for soul salvation?

LET ME PRAY WITH YOU. Will you reach out and give of your love by praying for someone else?

PRAYER

Father, I come to You in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and I ask for many miracles.

And, dear friend, I pray for you. I pray that Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who gave His own life to teach us to give, I pray that Jesus Christ of Nazareth will help you find your depth of giving. I pray that Jesus Christ will help you learn to give and that you will come into giving out of sheer joy... that you will give because you want to give. You will give of your love, you will give of your heart. I pray that God will multiply that back to you. I give you health and wholeness, salvation, good relationships with people, a supply for your financial needs, a sharper mind, or whatever you need. I pray that Christ will help you like you've never been helped in your life.

Through Jesus Christ I pray, I believe, and I expect many miracles in your life. Amen and amen.
ARE YOU RICH TOWARD GOD?

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson:
St. Luke 12

A certain man tilled the ground which brought forth plentifully. He said to himself, "Well, now, what am I going to do? I don't have enough room to store all the harvest from the seed I've planted. " As he thought within himself, he said, "I know what I'll do, I'll tear down the present barns, which aren't big enough, and I'll build much bigger barns to store all my fruit, all my seed, and all my goods. After I've stored those big barns and storehouses brimful, then I'm going to say to my soul, 'You've got it made, Soul. You have arrived and you've got all these goods laid up for a lot of years ahead of you. Therefore, just take your ease. You can relax now; you can eat and drink and really be merry.' "

But at that moment he was interrupted by an unseen force, a voice which spoke from out of the silence, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; and whose shall these things be, which thou hast provided?" Then the voice added these words, applying them to everyone, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Let me tell you, that's powerful stuff. It's the opposite of Seed-Faith.

WHO IS YOUR SOURCE?

First, we see that this man had no source for his life. God was not in his thoughts. He took no account of the existence of God in heaven or on earth. The rich man behaved as if God never existed, as if He never spoke to a human being, as if He never put His hand upon a person's life, or as if He had nothing to do with the soil or with a person's goods or money, time or talent, immortal spirit or soul.

The rich man made himself a source. He looked at himself and said, "What will I do? I've been extremely successful, I've made all this money, and I've got all these goods stored up. Here are more goods and fruits which need to be stored. Well, I'll just tear down my barns and I'll build bigger barns and fill them up. Then I'll say to my soul, 'Soul, you've had a lot of dis-ease in your life, you've not been at rest. But now you are going to be at rest. All the troubling of your soul will cease now and your soul will be at peace. You can eat, you can drink, and you can be merry. You can shed your problems. All your deep-seated sorrows, miseries, and torments will cease and you can really be merry. You can have the time of your life.' "

He was saying in essence that he was his own god, that he was his own source. He did not think of God as his source. The rich man represents those of us who do not reckon with God as being close to humanity, as taking much interest in a single, solitary human soul.

People say, "Well, God is too busy to be thinking about me. He is up there in His heaven carrying on all the big things of the world. He isn't concerned whether I have shoes on my feet or food in my stomach or clothes on my back. Why should I ask God about those things?"

I encounter people who feel like this all the time, people who watch me on television and write, "Mr. Roberts, you talk about God as if He takes a hand in everything you do, as if He knows everything about you, and is concerned about every intimate detail of your life."

And I always say, "Well, that's true." And they reply, "Well, how can that be, because God is so busy?"

GOD CARES ABOUT EVERYTHING IN YOUR LIFE — BIG AND LITTLE

I remember being at a preacher's convention when one of the speakers related a story about a lost and found shoe buckle. That day while attending the convention a young woman had become upset because she had lost the buckle from one of her new shoes. She prayed, asking God to help her locate the lost shoe buckle and pretty soon she found it. This woman had said to the speaker, "I just praise God that He helped me find my lost shoe buckle!"

One of the men in the audience immediately stood up and said, "You know, I don't believe in this kind of
thing. I think it's a lot of foolishness. God is too big and too concerned about the things affecting the human race to be concerned about a woman's lost shoe buckle.

Then I asked a comment on this incident. I didn't know what I was going to say, so I waited a moment till the Spirit brought these words to me. "Well, Jesus Christ was concerned about the taxes that His disciples had to pay. He told them to catch a fish, open its mouth, take the coin from its mouth, and pay their taxes. If Jesus numbers the very hairs on your head, then surely He's concerned about a woman's lost shoe buckle.

Then a man who had commented received much applause from the audience, but when I shared this thought they all stood up and cheered. It just showed me that people are hungry to know that God is even concerned about somebody's lost shoe buckle.

God is Our Source

First, the rich man had no real understanding that God is Our Source, that God takes a hand in our affairs, and that God owns everything. He had no basis upon which to say, "These are my goods and my fruits." He had no basis to say, "My ground has brought forth plentifully" or to say, "My soul." All we have comes from God, the Source of our life.

Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give

(Matt. 10:8)

Second, the rich man stored up his seed rather than plant it. After he had received so much, he stopped his plantings. He violated God's rule. He desired God's plan, which is given in the eighth chapter of Genesis, that as long as the earth remains there will be seedtime and harvest. Seedtime and harvest. Galatians 6:7 says: "Whatso­ever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Look throughout the whole Bible for the word which is given in the eighth chapter of Genesis, that as long as the earth remains there will be seedtime and harvest.

Our Tremendous Treasure

The rich man stopped his plantings, he stopped his giving. Have we stopped our seed-plantings? Have we stopped our God-given abilities and talents? Every minute of time we have is God's. If you don't give, God begins to hold back. You know the saying, "When you give, give all." And when you give, you are sowing your seed. You are sowing a seed of prayer. And, therefore, not many prayers are answered by God. You must sow, diligently sow. Let's sow a seed of prayer. And, therefore, not many prayers are answered by God. You must sow, diligently sow.

Sowing and Reaping

The whole Christian life is based on sowing and reaping the seeds that we have planted. When we enter into a discipleship with the Lord Jesus, then we experience the miracle of Seed-Faith, which will become so powerful that whole mountains will speak to the mountain and they will be removed. First you make your faith as a seed and then you speak to your mountain of need. That's when the mountain of need will be removed, when we have made our faith as a seed we plant.

Beyond Your Own Power

Have you ever thought of the seeds stored up within you? Have you ever thought about the immense amount of love that you possess? I didn't know what I was going to say, so I waited a moment till the Spirit brought these words to me. "Well, Jesus Christ was concerned about the taxes that His disciples had to pay. He told them to catch a fish, open its mouth, take the coin from its mouth, and pay their taxes. If Jesus numbers the very hairs on your head, then surely He's concerned about a woman's lost shoe buckle.

In 2 Timothy 4:7,8 St. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which I know nothing about. But notice that he had a faith and he kept it. He had a course to follow and he completed it. That is, Paul says he didn't stop his plant­­­­ings. Paul says he didn't stop his giving. He didn't store up all these things within him, but he gave beyond himself. He's like a tree whose seed is carried by the winds. A few miles later Elijah flashed by. The Bible tells how Elijah outran Ahab's chariot from Mt. Carmel to Jezreel, a distance of 18 miles. He's the greatest cross-country runner we've ever heard of.

You and God Are a Majority

When I was a little boy growing up and stammering so bad, I never knew I could preach a sermon. I never knew that I could speak without stammering. I didn't know there would ever be a day that I could speak without stammering. I said that I didn't know that it would be unlocked through the power of God when He healed my lungs filled with tuberculosis.

God is not just you and what you possess. It's all God is, and all that God possesses. And you and God become a majority. We're not accustomed to giving of ourselves, our hand is out to get. If you were to go behind the prison bars of any typical institution in the world, particularly in the United States, and if you went into the cellblocks and talked to the individuals there, and if they were to level with you — tell you the absolute unvar­­­­­­ished truth — I believe the majority of them would say, "I wanted something for nothing." Or they would say, "I got mad at somebody and I wanted to kill him." Or, "I wanted this and couldn't get it, so I just forced my way in and took it.

I know there are exceptions to that. There may be many innocent people in prisons, because we have a sys­­­­­­tem that isn't just to take those bars in a prison and expect a free society, there are few free men and few women. We're not free because we've stored up our resources within ourselves. We've held our hand back and we've doubled it in a fist rather than opening it and extending it.

In the Old Testament the prophet Samuel said, "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you." (1 Sam. 12:23.) How many times we should, but don't, little prayers. We don't pray that seed of prayer. And, therefore, not many prayers are prayed back for us, because there's nothing for God to multiply. There's no prayer seed to multiply back because we don't pray as a seed we plant. This is the reverse of Seed-Faith and sometimes we can understand better by seeing the opposite principle.

Expect a Miracle

Something else is that the rich man had no expectation for miracles. That now seems a trite statement, par­
ticularly coming from me because I'm the man that talks a miracle only when I believe in God and trust in God and give myself to God and trust in God, when he supplies a financial need that you have. Or when God provides the right boyfriend or right girlfriend or right person to marry. Or when God enables you to have a marriage that is right in His sight. Miracles that go beyond the power of mortality into the immortal and heavenly, when God comes down and gets away with it, but you don't call a big successful and prosperous life. He's not saying we're not to have our needs met on the other hand, when something upsets me and I get my faith going right I get a streak of fear right down the middle of my stomach. I go to bed but either I cannot sleep or else I wake up. I have said it. All day I have a bad feeling. I know that I don't intend for you to say to me, he's not going to do anything for me. You'll never want any clothes that you can't buy, because you've got the money to buy them. You'll never want a car that you can't buy because you can buy any car, any number of cars you want. If this house isn't right, you can just tear it down and build a bigger and better one. If you want to go to Europe or to the Orient, just go and get it. I don't tell you to do it. So, there's just stop all of that, a dis-ease you've had through these years. All that restlessness, where you're worrying about God. I'll let you lie down and be quiet and think about all that food, the best steak and the good drink that you've been wanting. And talk about having a big time! You're going to have a huge time. You're really going to have a great time.

I was sitting there indulging in that soul-talk, when the announcer on the ground was talking about a voice speaking and calling him a fool. "Thou fool!"

He whirled around and said, "Who called me a fool?" You don't call a man like that a fool. You may call a poor miserable person who doesn't have anything a fool and get away with it, but you don't call a big successful man.

But the voice kept on talking. "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?"

He slumped and fell to the floor with a thud. His wife rushed in, crying, "What's the matter? What's the matter?"

She rushed to the phone to call the doctor and the doctor, and said, "Turtle, would you let me ride upon your back?"

She put her hand over his heart and she felt nothing. The turtle said, "All right, if you'll promise me that you wouldn't sting me and I would die." And the turtle said, "Okay, if you'll promise me that you wouldn't sting me and I promise you, I'll let you ride upon my back." And the turtle said, "No, I can't do that because you would sting me and I would die." The scorpion said, "Oh, no. No, no, I promise you, I won't sting you. Then the turtle was suddenly he said, "Okay, if you'll promise me that you wouldn't sting me and I would die." And the turtle said, "All right, you'll promise me you won't sting me, I'll let you ride upon my back." So the scorpion got on the turtle's back and the turtle plunged into the water. About halfway across, the scorpion stung the turtle.

"The turtle said to the scorpion, "Why did you sting me?"

"You promised me that you wouldn't sting me." And the scorpion said, "All right, I promise you, I won't sting you. Then the scorpion said, "Oh, no, no, I promise you that you wouldn't sting me. Let me ride upon your back."

"Your promise is broken. But you see, it's my nature to sting. And they both died."
What are we talking about? We're talking about a way of life, about developing your nature in a certain direction. The nature of the scorpion is such that it will sting. The turtle could believe all he wanted to that the scorpion wouldn't sting, but, nevertheless, he was stung. We can believe that we can plant bad seed and it won't sting, but it will sting.

GET ON GOD'S SIDE

When we sow the seeds of sin, we die. When we sow bad seeds, we have a bad harvest to reap. The bad that I do to anybody is multiplied and comes back to me. The good that I do to anybody is also multiplied and comes back to me. Both the bad and the good seed have a due season. One has death and one has life. We're not talking about Seed-Faith giving once in a while; we're talking about Seed-Faith living. We're talking about developing Seed-Faith as a way of life, about trying to get into such a rhythm of Seed-Faith living that as we live and breathe we're on God's side. We're on the side of good. We're on the side of loving. We're on the side of being concerned. We're on God's side.

FAMILY DOCTOR COMMENTS

Doctor: Oral, you said something that got hold of me as a doctor and that is what you said about "the rhythm of life." There's a rhythm in this world and in this life, and if we can get hold of it, I believe that disease could not attack a person. Not if we were in tune with God in every way and if we were a giving person. I believe that somehow this key of giving of yourself is the secret to health. I think if we could get into God's rhythm and in His Spirit that even our cells and cell membranes would get such a protective covering around them that bacteria would be afraid to come. They would say there is no use because this guy is in rhythm with the universe. He is in rhythm with God.

When we sow the seeds of sin, we die. When we sow bad seeds, we have a bad harvest to reap. The bad that I do to anybody is multiplied and comes back to me. The good that I do to anybody is also multiplied and comes back to me. Both the bad and the good seed have a due season. One has death and one has life. We're not talking about Seed-Faith giving once in a while; we're talking about Seed-Faith living. We're talking about developing Seed-Faith as a way of life, about trying to get into such a rhythm of Seed-Faith living that as we live and breathe we're on God's side. We're on the side of good. We're on the side of loving. We're on the side of being concerned. We're on God's side.

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ONE FOOT ON EARTH, ONE FOOT IN HEAVEN

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson: St. John 12:1-8

This lesson has to do with your life as you live it in this world and as you are going to live it in the world to come. It has to do with the aching in your heart, with your problems and needs, and also with your aspirations and hopes. Then it has to do with life in the other world — whether those problems and needs will continue or whether there'll be greater joys and triumphs — whether you'll live on in torment and misery or whether you'll live on in a new life.

Now there's some tremendously important things in this Seed-Faith lesson. What does it mean for Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, to anoint Jesus with the rarest and costliest perfume and then dry His feet with her beautiful hair? What does it mean for her to give the costliest gift she has, as an anointing for the day of His burial? What does this mean to you and me? What does it say to US NOW? What does it mean for Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve apostles, to react like he did? Why did he rebuke Mary? Why did he dislike what she had done? Why did he say: "Why was not this very costly perfume sold for a large amount of money and the money given to the poor?" Why did he say that? And why did the writer, St. John, add these words as a sort of postscript?

"Not that [Judas] cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein."

Why was that said? Why did Jesus say: "Let her alone, she's done what she could. She's anointed My body for the burial."

Is Mary planting a seed of faith on the good side of life, and is Judas planting a seed of evil on the bad side of life? Even more important, from which side of life did Mary give? Was her Seed-Faith given from this side of life or was it given from the spiritual, eternal life of God in Mary? Is it possible to give like that? Is it possible to live with one foot on earth and the other foot in heaven? Is it possible to give in the NOW and also to give as if you were already on the other side? Do you think you might say after death, "I wish that I had given in a certain way while I was on the earth?" What is Jesus trying to say to you and me about our needs and the answers to those needs?

First, I believe that Mary made her gift of Seed-Faith from the other side of life. She was able to transport her thoughts beyond this life, look back, and say, "This is what I wish I had done, and therefore this is now what I am going to do."

Mary had been a part of the life of Jesus. She, her sister Martha, and her brother Lazarus, apparently prominent people in the time of Jesus, had opened their home to Christ. They lived near Jerusalem in the little town of Bethany where Jesus often came to spend several days or weeks. Mary would sit at His feet, look up into His face, and drink in the words of Jesus Christ. The truths of the Son of God found an opening in her heart. Martha was troubled and anxious about the material things of life which had a great hold upon her. Although she loved Jesus too, it was kind of a mixed love which had wavered when her brother Lazarus died. Not much is said about Lazarus until Jesus raised him from the dead. Jesus loved all men, but there was a special way in which He loved Lazarus.

A MEMORIAL FOREVER

Mary, who is believed to be the younger of the two sisters, had been giving of herself to Jesus...her time, her home, her devotion. Now in one shining moment she makes a gift of Seed-Faith that transcends all time and eternity, that leaps over the days to Jesus' burial. And she does something terribly significant, so significant and important that Jesus said what Mary of Bethany did for Jesus Christ would be a memorial to her throughout all generations.

Here I am two thousand years later, talking about it. When the gospel is preached all over this world, preachers refer to Mary's gift as a memorial to her faith in God. In that one shining moment of giving she memorialized herself in the heart of God and in the hearts of millions of people who would live after her, even unto this day. What did she do? She poured a rare and expe-
sive perfume upon the feet of Jesus, drying His feet with her hair, as the fragrance filled the room.

A LIAR AND A THIEF

Why was Mary's gift different from the gift Judas Iscariot said he would like to make? Judas Iscariot said, "Why waste this sold for a large sum of money and given to the poor?"

Now that's a wonderful thought, isn't it? Here is one of the twelve apostles, more concerned about the poor. But St. John says that wasn't really of concern to Judas: "Not that Judas cared for the poor." He didn't care at all. He was a thief! He was only selling the oil so that he could steal the money for his own use. He had his hand out; he wanted something for nothing.

And that's what a thief is. There are a lot of people who don't actually steal but who have the spirit of a thief. I mean, they steal if they believed they could get by with it. They have the spirit of a thief. Judas didn't care for the poor. He wanted the money. He didn't care anything about the poor because he didn't care anything about Jesus. He cared only about himself. For in the final analysis Judas Iscariot sold Jesus Christ. He betrayed Him into the hands of His enemies for thirty pieces of silver, less than $300 today.

You see, when people get a love in their heart for money, when they just love money for money's sake, it's not the money that turns them on. It's just money itself, money as an end in itself.

IDOL WORSHIP

When one man who was worth many millions was asked how many more millions he wanted, he replied, "One more."

Another who had great farms was asked, "How long are you going to keep buying farms? How much more land would you like to have?"

He answered, "All the land that borders my farms." Judas wanted money for his own use, not for the poor. St. John carefully points out that God knows what's in our hearts. He knows why we want what we want and what we want it for. He knows the motivation of our beings.

THE END OF A THIEF

Judas was a liar, a thief, and a traitor. After he got the thirty pieces of silver for betraying Jesus, it finally dawned upon him that he had shippedrecked his life for money he didn't even want to use. That's what it finally dawned upon him. But he didn't do anything for himself. Anything gotten in a wrongful way has no power to satisfy its possessor. When you compromise to get something, you lose what you compromised to get. You keep what you gain when you get it in the right way. Judas Iscariot went back to the chief priest whom he had bargained with for the life of Jesus, and begged them to take the money back. And they said, "What is that to us, see thou to that." So he threw down the dead man and hanged himself. The Bible says his bowels gushed out (Matthew 27:5; Acts 1:8).

Not everybody who lies or steals or betrays dies as horrible a death as Judas. They don't always die like that in the physical way, but all of them die before their death day. All of them die while they are alive. All of them do anything wrong suffer a form of death even before our bodies die. And we ultimately lose whatever we have gotten through wrongdoing.

DO WHAT YOU CAN

When Judas rebuked Mary, Jesus rebuked him and said, "You let her alone. You let Mary alone because she has put what she could do. What have you done? Have you done what you could? You've had access to Me for nearly three years. You've been one of My chosen twelve apostles. You were selected to be the treasurer. You have been given an office of high honor and respect. You've been in charge of the funds for our support and for carrying on the work of God. What have you done, Judas Iscariot? Mary hath done what she could. What she could, she did.

This is a marvelous truth, that you're not asked to do what anybody else does. You're asked to do what you can do. When you do what you can do, God looks upon that as the maximum of your giving. Your seed of faith will be multiplied back with as large a harvest as anyone's...because you have done what you can.

"She hath done what she could," Jesus said. "She hath anointed My body for the burial." Notice that Jesus didn't say she hath anointed My body for death. He said she hath anointed My body for burial.

What is going through Mary's mind? Mary has followed Him as the Son of God. She has believed in Jesus in the face of public indignation to expose her life, her life to Him. She has sat at His feet. She has believed in Him. She has trusted her life to Him. In our language today, Jesus has become the source of her being, of her life. Through Him she has hope, she expects miracles. She's seen the miraculous through Him. She has seen Him do wonders the mortal man ever did. She has seen Him raise the dead.

Raising the dead and resurrection are two different things. Her own brother Lazarus had been raised from the dead, but he would die again. Resurrection is more than being raised from the dead. It is the renewal of your total life — body and soul and spirit reunited forever, so that you will never die again. That she had never seen.

SEED-FAITH GIVING

Mary had seen the mighty miracles of Jesus. She had proved out what He said. That's what Seed-Faith really is...your love made into an act of giving...giving that is motivated by the love of God in your heart. That's what Seed-Faith is giving.

There's a difference between Seed-Faith giving and Seed-Faith living.

SEED-FAITH LIVING

Seed-Faith living consists of acts of giving which spring from your love and which develop into a way of life.

Mary's living experience becomes a Seed-Faith project in which you plant of yourself through your whole life. Seed-Faith living is God's purpose for you at this hour. Seed-Faith living becomes your life as a seed of faith to plant. Your life is a poured-out gift. Mary's life is lived in Seed-Faith...her home and her life are opened to Jesus. She sits at Jesus' feet and listens.

AFTER DEATH — WHAT?

Her anointing of Jesus goes beyond life. She's seeing Jesus between death and resurrection, she's seeing Him in His body. She's seeing Him in His committal to the tomb.

Perhaps the greatest shock is not the death hour of the loved one but the committal of the body to the ground...earth to earth and ashes to ashes and dust to dust. Going into the ground, back into the ground from whence our bodies came when God created us from the dust of the earth. Burial means your loved ones are gone, they're out of sight. You may wander around the cemetery and stand before the marker. You may see the ground under which they lie, but they are gone.

To one who does not believe in Jesus, that is all there is. I remember a beautiful young communist, who was our tour guide in Moscow. Eventually she and I entered into a conversation about God, about Jesus Christ, about life and death. In response to her statement that communists do not believe in eternal life, I said, "Well, ma'am, when you die, what will happen to you?"

"She has done what she could," Jesus said. "She hath anointed My body for the burial." Notice that Jesus didn't say she hath anointed My body for death. He said she hath anointed My body for burial.

"Well, Mr. Roberts, when I die, I'll just be dead. That's all," the student replied.

"My dear sir," Mary said, "When you die, what do you think will happen to you?"

She shrugged and said, "Well, Mr. Roberts, when I die, I'll just be dead. That's all," the student replied.

"My dear sir," Mary said, "When you die, what do you think will happen to you?"

I said, "Ma'am, I'm going to rise from the dead. Jesus Christ is going to give me a resurrection. I'm going to have eternal life. I'm going to live forever."

She looked thoughtful and then very quietly said, "Mr. Roberts, you're a happy man. You're a happy man.

I said, "Yes, I am. Because I know that when I die I will live again because Jesus Christ is my Lord."

BEYOND THIS LIFE

Mary sees beyond this life when she anoints the feet of Jesus. Her act suggests that there's more to death than death. There's more after death than a grave cut in the hillside. There's more after death than a commitment to the ground. There's more after death than funerals. There's more after death than a grave...a grave bursting through a dam, like a river overflowing its banks, like rain coming down in sheets and buckets. Just open up and let the love out, wrap yourself in Jesus Christ, the Source of your existence, the Source of your being, the Source of your total supply.

We give because we love, we love to give, and we expect great miracles. We expect miracles in our lifetime and we expect the greatest miracle of all — live beyond the grave. I took to the day when Christ shall come in the resurrection, when He shall come in glory and speak to the dead Christ which came from the grave shouting, Hallelujah! I'm looking to the day of the Rapture when Jesus shall call His people and we will leave this earth. We will mount up with wings as eagles to meet Christ in the sky. I look forward to this. I believe I will live forever. I believe there's life beyond death. Do you believe this?

LIVE IN ETERNITY NOW

How you live in this life affects your life forever...now and in eternity. Your integrity and honesty and sincerity is not for the moment; it's a seed planted for eternity. It is much better to fail a test than to cheat to pass. Take the "I" because it's the truth. Jesus Christ betrayed Christ for thirty pieces of silver, after he had been studying for a long time. He'd been asking for something for nothing. He'd had his hand out a long time before. He had put the way for the final act of his own self-destruction. It's better to lose today so that you may gain tomorrow. It's better to lose something in this life in order to gain Christ for eternity and to have everlasting life.

Eternity seems so far away. One day Rebecca said, "Daddy, eternity is not something you wear. You are able to eat in eternity forever and have it always been forever with God?" I had to agree. We're in eternity. We're in it now.
HEAVEN OR HELL

Every seed of faith you plant is down payment upon the resurrection. Every bad seed you plant is down pay­ment upon hell, upon losing your life forever. All the bodies that die shall be raised from the dead, according to Jesus...some to everlasting shame, some to the joy of the Lord. They'll hear the voice of God and they'll rise. Whether people believe in hell has nothing to do with the fact of hell. Some people like to believe they can step in front of a speeding car and not be hurt. But they will be hurt just the same. There's a lake of fire and there's a hell. Whether anybody believes in it or not, there's a hell. One way I know there's a hell is by the one right here on earth. There's hell everywhere, everywhere you turn there's separation from God...which is what hell is. There's torment...which is what hell is. There's weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. I know there's a hell because there's one here. I know there's a heaven because heaven is here at times. Sometimes heaven gets so close it kisses you and you feel the sunshine of its glory on your face. You know that you know that God is real. You know there's a heaven because heaven is in your heart. Heaven is a place of peace and you have God's peace in your heart now. Heaven is a place of joy and you have the joy of the Holy Spirit in your heart now. Heaven is life and you have the life of Christ in you now.

Seed-Faith is more than an act of giving from time to time; it must go beyond that to become Seed-Faith living. I must make my life a seed of faith that I plant. Even though I fail and stumble and don't always understand, I must somehow learn to pour out my life as Mary poured out the perfume. No matter how costly it is, I must pour it out. Sometimes after much traveling and preaching I don't sleep because my body hurts or my mind won't quiet down. One morning at 4 o'clock, having tossed in bed for hours, I finally said, "God, where are You? Where are you bawling about?"

I said, "Give it to me. I have to have it to hire men to get this tent up." She gave it to me, I spent it, but we still didn't have the tent up any farther than just above my head. I was sweating, I didn't cry, I mean, I bawled. A man walked over and said, "Brother Roberts, what are you bawling about?"

I said, "Brother, I can't get the tent up and I'm out of money and I'm at the end." He said, "Preacher, you just stay right there." He passed his hat among the workers and rushed back, saying, "I've got a few dollars here. I'll be right back."

But he wasn't back for three or four hours. Then he came in with a little screwy dried-up kind of smile and said, "Preacher, this man used to put up circus tents and he can put up this tent."

I looked at the little dried-up fellow and thought, "Brother, you'll never get the tent up." He didn't even come to my shoulder. They told me to move away, sit back. He passed his hat among the workers and rushed back, saying, "I've got a few dollars here. I'll be right back."

That's coming to grips with what Seed-Faith living really is — a continual opening up of yourself. The most important thing is coming to the place of giving, no matter what the cost, whether we live or die.

In the book of Esther the Jew, Mordecai, uncle of the young Queen Esther, tells her to beg her husband, the King of Persia, to lift the death ban laid upon all the Jews in the kingdom. Although Esther was a Jewess herself, she thought she would escape because she was queen. Mordecai said, "Don't believe you'll escape because you are the queen. You won't. Who knows but that you may have come to the kingdom for just such a time as this."

She replied that the law of Persia required that one be bidden to come to the king. If she were to go into his presence without his bidding, then she could be put to death. Finally, she realizes that the lives of thousands of her people are at stake, as well as her own. Esther asks for prayer and fasting. Then she says, "Whether I live or whether I die, I'll go in. I'll go in."

That's where you have to come. She saw that by her action many lives would be saved, including her own. Seed-Faith is important not only because it affects other people favorably, but also because it affects you favorably. Seed-Faith helps you meet somebody else's need, as well as meeting your own needs.

A SEED OF FAITH

Let me tell you something very personal. The first crusade Evelyn and I ever conducted in the big tent was in June 1948, in Durham, North Carolina. We'd never used the tent, which seated several thousand people. We had used nearly all of our money. I hired men to help me put up the tent. I tried to tell them how to raise it, but it wasn't long before we realized we couldn't raise the tent.

The ads were already in the paper but we didn't have the tent up. And the next day we didn't have the tent up. And the next day. By then we had run out of money. I went to the motel and said, "Evelyn, how much money do we have in this world?"

She answered, "$90." I said, "Give it to me. I have to have it to hire men to get this tent up." She gave it to me, I spent it, but we still didn't have the tent up any farther than just above my head. I was walking inside that tent and it felt like it was 130 degrees. Sweat was pouring down my body when I finally fell on my knees and acted like a real human being. I began to bawl. I didn't cry. I mean, I bawled. A man walked over and said, "Brother Roberts, what are you bawling about?"

I said, "Brother, I can't get the tent up and I'm out of money. I'm called to preach, to win the lost, to pray for the healing of the sick, and I can't get the tent up. I don't have any money and I'm at the end."

He said, "Preacher, you just stay right there."

He passed his hat among the workers and rushed back, saying, "I've got a few dollars here. I'll be right back."

And that old tent started going up. Finally it was up. Even though we were late we announced it again and the people came. The man who had owned the circus tent was a big fellow, about 6'4", with a huge smile. He came on that opening night and said, "Now we're going to see God heal the people. We're going to see God do it." And we did see God do it. We had 800 people the first night and 9,000 on the last night, which was three weeks later. There was a school for the deaf near Durham, and during that crusade God opened the ears of those little deaf children. People in the audience cried like babies and so did I, because I'd never seen that kind of miracle. And the whole city was stirred. North Carolina was stirred.

Whether I go back to North Carolina now there are enormous crowds. It's amazing that what that one crusade in 1948 did to a state, and what it did to me. From that moment on, this ministry really blossomed. Whenever Evelyn and I were on the East Coast the man who had helped me would come to the crusade, always talking about miracles, about what God was doing, about how God was blessing him. Somehow that man reminds me right now of Mary, when she took that bottle of perfume and poured it in love upon Jesus' feet, anointing Him for His burial. My friend had that kind of spirit because he was looking for the healing of the people. I bless that man because maybe without him I wouldn't be here. Maybe we never would have gotten the tent up. You talk about a seed of faith...he really planted one to meet my need!

PRAYER

Dear Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, I pray for many miracles. And now, dear friend, I pray that Jesus of Nazareth will just flood your soul with His love. You'll feel that love gushing up from the deepest part of your being. You'll feel like you want to love someone, to give to someone. You will know that beyond this life there is a resurrection and that in this life you will see resurrection...in healing, in answers to prayer. You will see resurrection when God changes you, when God makes a way for you where there is no way. And I pray that God will lift you up. I pray that God will heal you from the crown of your head to the soles of your feet. I pray that God will put your finances in order, that God will put your family in order, that God will put your life in order. I pray that God will give you a new lease on life and fill you full of His spirit now and forever. Through Jesus Christ, I pray, I believe, I expect many miracles in your life. Amen and amen.
How would you feel if your relationships with other people, particularly with someone you love, had deteriorated so much that you couldn’t even converse anymore? Maybe you’re already there with somebody. What if you could claim no rights as your very own? What if you felt you were not being treated like a real human being? What if people tried to make you feel like you were a piece of property and once in a while you even felt you were? How would you feel if you became so angry, so full of bitterness, that you began to steal and to become involved in violence? How do you think you would feel? What would you do?

BRUISED AND BATTERED RELATIONSHIPS

What is the answer when relationships get so bad it seems like you’re forever separated and all you can do is speak ugly words or obscenities toward another? Or you try to hide or you’re full of bitterness, not only toward yourself but toward the whole world. These are serious questions, and there comes a time when everyone in the whole world, including myself, asks them.

Now when we talk about the miracle of Seed-Faith, we usually think about putting in some money for the Lord to multiply that money back. What about problems and relationships that have nothing to do with money? How can Seed-Faith giving or Seed-Faith living work miracles in human relationships which have deteriorated, sometimes beyond human repair or human recovery? In this lesson I’m going into something far deeper than money. I’m going into those areas of life where your relationships may be so bruised and battered that you’re not the same human being anymore. You become a moral cripple, a spiritual cripple, or an emotional cripple. You become a spiritual thief or a moral thief. You’re broken in some way. How does Seed-Faith work in broken relationships?

MASTER AND SLAVE

Well, let’s read a book in the Bible that deals with the issues of your life in the NOW. We're going to find Christ’s answer, the miracle of Seed-Faith, for our human relationships. St. Paul wrote the book of Philemon. Philemon was a Roman citizen. He owned a slave named Onesimus. The slave had robbed his master and fled to Rome. There Onesimus meets Paul and is won to Christ. He finds a new freedom and is now willing to go back to the old relationship he had hated so much that he had really wanted to kill his master. Now he wants to go back to heal this relationship. He wants something better, something really right.

A LETTER FROM PAUL

Paul writes this letter to ask Philemon to take back the slave who’s done him a great wrong. Paul knows the problems involved. He knows that Philemon, the former master, has legal rights and could even have Onesimus put to death. In this letter Paul pleads for this young man’s life. I want you to watch for the Seed-Faith concepts in this letter. Paul starts off by saying, “Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ...” Now it takes a pretty tough person to say, “This is who I am, a prisoner. And I’m writing you this letter from jail.” But Paul says, “I’m a prisoner of Jesus Christ.” He never says he is Rome’s prisoner, though he was a prisoner in Rome. He says he is Christ’s prisoner. Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer... Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus,
and toward all saints; that the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. For I have heard of your faith, and the charity which ye have toward all the saints; of which things I was made a partaker in all conditions. Now watch Paul as he starts his Seed-Faith project. Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that thou IV:22: 6-8; Eph. 6:17; Philem. 22: 4-7; 1 Cor. 4:13; 1 Cor. 5:12); I therefore preface it, I rather beseech thee. (I really cry out to you, brother.) Being such as one as Paul the aged. (I'm not young anymore.) Being such as one as Paul the young evangelist who was at your house, who won you to Christ years ago, Philemon. I'm old now and I'm in jail. I'm now a prisoner of Jesus Christ.) I beseech thee for my son Onesimus. He knew when he mentioned the name, Onesimus, Philemon might see red, might be upset. So he calls Onesimus his son to sort of soften the blow. I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds. (Whom I have led to Christ, even though I am in chains myself.) Which in time past he was unprofitable, but now he's profitable. He's got the new meaning of love that Christians were introducing to him. Now, you could not understand it. How could Onesimus relate to a man who owned him? Yet he could Onesimus relate to a man who owned him? Yet he could not be understood by a man like Onesimus. How did treat them as members of their family. Master and servant, slave and master, were one in Christ. Paul never did admit, even while he was in a Roman jail cell, that he was a prisoner of Caesar or of Rome. He did not admit that men were responsible for his being in prison. He said, "I'm a prisoner of Jesus Christ." He said, "I'm here because of my Savior." Now that's a whole new kind of world to live in. To say: "I don't agree with this world. I don't belong to this world." I'm not the property of any nation or group or individual. I'm not the property of God. My God. My body and spirit belong to Jesus.

Paul is saying, "I'm not a prisoner of Rome, though it looks like I am because Rome's jail is all around me and I've got its chains upon my body. I can't walk around anymore. I've lost my physical freedom. But I'm really here because of Jesus Christ. I'm here because He wanted me here and He wanted me here for a purpose. He wanted to use my life for the glory of God. That's why I'm here."
toughest assignment of all. God spoke in my heart. God told me to build graduate schools of medicine, dentistry, law, theology, and business. I didn't choose these. I didn't ask them to come. And so I'm building for Him. I'm carrying out His dreams.

YOUR DREAMS OR GODS?

Now why am I saying this? Because when Onesimus came to St. Paul in prison, Onesimus had no legal rights. Paul did. At that moment Onesimus had personal rights, but Paul had none. Paul had given up his personal rights to Jesus Christ. The very reason he was in prison was because he had no personal rights. He didn't have to serve God. He didn't have to preach the gospel. He didn't have to stand up and give his witness in the temple in Jerusalem. He didn't have to travel for God. He didn't have to love anybody. Nobody forced him to love anybody. He had given up all personal rights to himself and accepted God's authority, even as Jesus Christ gave up all His personal rights to the Father and said, "Not my will, but thine be done."

I'm telling you, I'm talking about something I don't fully understand, but I want to. Can you get further in this life carrying out God's dreams, or get further in this life carrying out your own private dreams? Can you dream a dream and be glad when it comes true?

Have you ever gotten something you thought you wanted and then now feel about it after you got it? It's like the little boy playing with a pet snake. When he put his hand in the cage, the snake bit him. Oh, the snake was pretty, but not so pretty when it bit the snake. And I've been there. I've reached for things that I really wanted, things that had nothing to do with God. I didn't think, "God, do You want me to have this?" I didn't open my Bible to study what the Bible teaches. I didn't give up my personal rights or let God take authority over my life. I took what I wanted. In fact, at times I have thrown it away, fled from it...because it never works.

Whose dreams are better? God's or mine? God's or yours? Is there any real freedom at all outside God? That's a philosophical question a lot of people have been arguing over throughout the ages. You and I are face-to-face with that question in our society today, even though we have passed laws to banish slavery and bring in equality. But I can make it and I'm not going to make it. Oh, I know a lot of people who have money, but they're poor. O brother, they're poor, they're poor. Some of them may have a nice car, but they wouldn't shake your hand and smile at you and call you brother. I know some poor people, too, who are like that. I know people both with and without a lot of money who love the Lord and practice Seed-Faith giving and living. It's not the amount of money you have or don't have. It's what you have inside your heart. Do you believe that?

BOUND OR FREE

Between Onesimus, the so-called free man, and Paul, the so-called prisoner, there's a world of difference. Because of his relationship with Philemon, Onesimus felt he didn't have life. He thought he would feel free when he was no longer a slave, when he was free to walk in Rome with money jangling in his pocket. Then he thought he would feel free, not bound.

Do you think Paul was a prisoner of Rome? He said he wasn't. Paul could say, "I'm true to a prisoner. I can't walk throughout the Empire as I want to walk. I can't travel throughout the Empire. I can't go from town to town and preach as I please. It's true. But I'm a free man. I have freedom. But you, Onesimus, don't have freedom. You look like you're free, but you're not. You've got money and you think that you've got freedom. But that's not the price that will buy either life or freedom. It's true I don't have any money right now and I can't go out and buy what you can buy. But I can buy what you cannot buy. And I can buy it with my love."

WHAT IS FREEDOM?

So what is freedom? Well, going beyond the physical, freedom is a lot of freedom when I am not jealous of someone or covetous of something. Freedom is not wanting to be a part of something wrong. Freedom is refusing to be a part of hurting or lying or stealing. Freedom is not desiring someone else's wife or husband. Freedom is being free from sin. And you can not buy the real kind of freedom.

RICH OR POOR?

This reminds me of the poor young man who fell in love in a rich and beautiful girl. The girl's family felt that because the two standards were dissimilar, the marriage wouldn't work out. So they tried to have the marriage annulled. After the judge heard the girl's parents so vehemently give their reasons for annulment, he called the young couple to the bench and said, "Young people, can you tell me why I should not annul your marriage?"

Almost everybody would say, "Well, as long as we can, we can give you a wonderful reason. We love each other." He said, "Yes, you love each other. But what's going to happen when you have children? Will you live or you don't have food? How are you going to sustain each other, as poor as you are?"

The young man drew himself up and said, "Judge, we're not poor. We just don't have any money."

The judge said, "You know, this marriage is going to make it and I'm not going to make it. Oh, I know a lot of people who have money, but they're poor. O brother, they're poor, they're poor. Some of them may have a nice car, but they wouldn't shake your hand and smile at you and call you brother. I know some poor people, too, who are like that. I know people both with and without a lot of money who love the Lord and practice Seed-Faith giving and living. It's not the amount of money you have or don't have. It's what you have inside your heart. Do you believe that?"

WHO IS FREE?

I can just see Paul and Onesimus talking to each other. One of them is a prisoner, the other is supposedly a free man. Onesimus has thrown off his bonds. But which one is the prisoner? Which is the free man? Isn't it long after Onesimus realizes for the first time that the Christian faith is his freedom? He sees that he can't buy his freedom with violence. He begins to realize there is another kind of freedom that doesn't depend upon where you are physically. It depends upon what you are inside. Jesus Christ lived under His Father's will, accepted God's discipline over His life and death...Jesus, the most completely free man.

Let me say this. In the game of checkers each player tries to leave the other on the opposite side quicker than the other player. Well, the little piece of wood called checker is really moved about by the players. I've discovered that I really let Christ have my life, I'm almost like that checker. The only freedom I really have is freedom to obey.

OBEDIENCE IS A BIG WORD TO ME

I believe that when God tells you to do something, you should OBEY. I don't always obey perfectly, but I try because obedience is a big word to me. Say it to yourself. OBEDIENCE IS A BIG WORD TO ME. There are many times I feel about obeying God, as though I had no choice. I know I have a choice. I know that, theoretically speaking, I can say to God. But you reach a point in your life. His dreams are your dreams. You want Him to move you about, even though sometimes it hurts your pride because you want to have your own way. Yet, when it gets down to the nitty-gritty, it's obedience. I've lived in obedience and I've lived in disobedience. I've lived on both sides and I can tell you, obedience is better by far than disobedience. If you want to be miserable, be disobedient to God.

A young man who's lying on a hospital bed tonight couldn't breathe. He had cancer of the lung. I negotiated a business deal of over a million dollars, and to make a million dollars was what he'd dreamed of since he was a little boy. He's lying on a hospital bed and only one person comes to visit him, only one. Not even his parents or his closest friends are there. He's lying there, a millionaire before he's 25 years of age. I got word last week that he is a most unhappy young man — so miserable that it's virtually impossible for the doctors to help him. He's found that his million dollars can't buy him healing, because in his spirit he's disobedient to God. He became disobedient to his parents. He became disobedient to authority. He made his deal but he disobeyed the Lord.

The Lord doesn't make anybody obey Him. Sometimes He makes you willing but He doesn't make you obey Him. This is a young man I find miserable and he may not make it. I am praying for this young man, because I want him to make it. When we're praying that He'll be willing to become obedient and let God have authority. Once you accept it, God's authority is so precious. Once I accept it, it's really not a problem at all. The big problem is believing that God is the Source of our lives.
"Yes."
"You mean you want me to take this letter to him?"
"Yes."

St. Paul was telling Onesimus to go back to the man he despised. He was to put the letter in Philemon's hand and do it as an act of Christian love.

That's Seed-Faith giving, an act of repairing your relationship. So here are three Seed-Faith projects. First, Onesimus is to carry the letter back to his former master and face up to what he had done — look him in the eye and say, "I did it, but I've come back to face the music." Second, Philemon is to receive this young man, not as a slave but as a beloved brother, even as Paul himself. Third, is Paul's own Seed-Faith project to pay back any money owed to Philemon. Put it on my account.

BELOVED BROTHER

Tradition has it that when Onesimus approached the great estate of Philemon his courage began to fail. Several times he stopped and almost ran away again but he went on, one step at a time. When some of the other servants saw him they rushed out, wanting to know why he was returning. He shared with them his story, saying, "I'm going in." When Philemon was told that Onesimus had returned, he and three Roman citizens walked out to Onesimus. Tradition has it that Philemon said, "Onesimus, my beloved brother, won't you come in?" Onesimus. Tradition has it that Philemon said, "Onesimus, my beloved brother, won't you come in?"

It is also a wonderful promise of power, of purpose, of beauty. The overall theme is the love of the Father. There was a time when I felt just a little apologetic talking about something so basic as the love of God, until I discovered that there are times when we really begin to question the love of God, the love of our Heavenly Father. I don't know how many times I've heard people say, "Well, I know in my head that God loves me, but I can't seem to feel it in my heart."

"TELL HER THAT I LOVE HER"

When God began pouring out His Holy Spirit in the early '60s, I remember a minister's wife coming to our home. She wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I shared with her just about everything I knew, and yet she couldn't seem to find release. I'd talk a little more and share a little more and pray a little harder. All the while, the Lord kept prompting me to share with her that He loved her. "Tell her that I love her."

The enemy will try to deceive us at every point. He knows the elect all over the world who are being deceived. I felt so sorry for them. Then the Lord says he goes about trying to deceive the elect, that's us. So finally I broke down and said, "You know, I just feel that our Heavenly Father himself is saying to you. "Dear lovely daughter, you mean much to me, and I want you to know that I love you."

She broke down and wept and sobbed so that I could hardly believe what was happening. And then came her story.

"You know, for a whole year," she said, "I've been going through a wilderness, a desert that's been very, very dry. And I've become confused and full of questions. I've even come to the point where I began to wonder if God loved me anymore."

A LIFE RELATIONSHIP

You know, I'm discovering that most of my problems have nothing to do with theology, as important as theology is. Usually my problems have to do with having forgotten just how much my Father loves me. Just about every time. The Father represents fatherhood which implies sonship and daughterhood. This is a life relationship born out of love, and our Father wants us to know the truth about how much He loves us, because from that love comes life.

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THE LOVE OF GOD

Our first guest speaker for this Holy Spirit course is a man who has met Christ while studying to become a biologist. Later when the charismatic experience, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, entered his life, he really came alive. I've read his book, Aglow with the Spirit, three times. It mirrors a life that really has glowed in the Lord, not only here but around the world. Dr. Frost taught at Baylor Medical School and was chairman of Natural Sciences in the formative years of Oral Roberts University. Then he felt the call to go to various parts of this nation and the world where he has given his witness. He has been a guest speaker here once or twice since then and has always carried the anointing of the Spirit upon him. His life in Christ has touched me to the deepest core of my being. I am honored to present to you my friend in Christ, Dr. Robert Frost.

by Dr. Robert Frost

The promise of the Father is a beautiful promise, isn't it? It is also a wonderful promise of power, of purpose, of beauty. The overall theme is the love of the Father. There was a time when I felt just a little apologetic talking about something so basic as the love of God, until I discovered that there are times when we really begin to question the love of God, the love of our Heavenly Father. I don't know how many times I've heard people say, "Well, I know in my head that God loves me, but I can't seem to feel it in my heart."

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I kept arguing with the Lord saying, "Now, Lord, look, this may not go over half as well as You think. You don't just go around telling ministers' wives that God loves them; it would be an insult to their intelligence. She's known that from Sunday school.

The Lord didn't even bother to argue with me. He just kept saying, "Tell her that I love her."

So finally I broke down and said, "You know, I just feel that our Heavenly Father himself is saying to you. "Dear lovely daughter, you mean much to me, and I want you to know that I love you."

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THE LOVE OF GOD

Guest Sermon: Dr. Robert Frost

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson:
St. John 14
I~

"Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy

God's love

Jesus, who is the Word, demonstrated the love of the Father. His love was shaped and fashioned and formed by Mary. Our Lord walked around, worked in a carpenter's shop, learned lessons in the magi, and was baptized in the Jordan by John. God's love was not speaking, but speaking, bringing hope and release to people who were hurt and broken. It lived itself out to the limit on the cross, the most wonderful, beautiful, glorious, and, at the same time, awful, terrible, expression of the love that God has for us. God's love is God's love, how God loves us, and how the Father loved the Son. For the love of the Father is love without any reserve, love that demands the most of love. God's love is unconditional love.

When the two on the road to Emmaus discovered that it was Jesus with whom they had been walking, they said, "Oh, now we know! No wonder our hearts burned within us." His words just seemed to cause their hearts to leap with joy. Today, the words just seem to cause my heart to leap as well.

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because He himself said, "No man cometh to the Father but by Me," and there is but one Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus. Father sees the enemy pervert the truth, because if he can keep you from the truth he'll keep you in half truth. If he can keep you in half truth he'll lead you to something to distract the truth. You may have a feeling that somehow if you could just get to Jesus, maybe Jesus will go to the Father and get Him to change things, or change another. Now, Father, hold off just a little bit. Remember what I did upon the cross, Father? Now, Father, don't be so harsh.

You may question it with their thoughts, but kind of subconsciously they're there. Somehow, you think, Father is a little less concerned, in fact, He may not even be looking at both conditions. You spout to Jesus, your Brother Redeemer and Savior. That's right. But you know, Scripture says God the Father was in Jesus reconciling the world unto himself.

There is a beautiful, wonderful, meaningful, powerful mystery in the Trinity. I think there are mysteries that God has预留 to Jesus, your Brother Reeler and Savior. That's right. But you know, Scripture says God the Father was in Jesus reconciling the world unto himself. There was something, if you dare to put it this way, there was something of the Father at the cross. Think of the agony of Jesus who knew no sin, taking upon himself the consequences of sin and in His humanity, feeling the apartness, the loneliness that sin brings, crying out, "Forsaken, forsaken, Father, Father." How did the Father feel? You can't have broken fellowship with a father. Pain and grief were in the heart of the Father then; yet they had planted it together because they loved us so. Your Heavenly Father loves you, loves you with a desperate love, an everlasting love.

As you begin to feel the Father's love, your perspec­tive changes. You should see there are times when I have not felt the love of the Father. You try to do the best you know how, but where is God's love? You feel confused, bewild­ered in your heart and mind. The way I would try to handle these times as you realize that it's not a matter of how I feel, it's a matter of who He is. It's not a matter of how I think, it's a matter of what He has said. The Father said, "I love you."

FAMILY PROBLEMS

Now let's take some other illustrations that have to do with faulty family relationships. Maybe your father left or died when you were little. My father died when I was three, and some kind of faultly concept of fatherhood did develop. Some people have been hurt or injured or norted. Sometimes being ignored is worse than being abused, at least you're getting some attention. A young lady said to me at a women's class, "What is a father? You've been talking about God the Father," she said, "and I haven't the slightest idea what a father is, what's he's supposed to say, how he's supposed to act, what he's supposed to be like." She was serious because she didn't know anything about a father who wants to give His love and His life, a father who wants to guide and lead and direct, a father who wants to protect, a father who will never forget you, He never felt that way about you. He didn't either.

As a boy I had an inferiority complex. I couldn't get up and read and measure up or have people's respect and approval. I've discovered that everybody suffers from feelings of inadequacy or another. "Now, Father, held off just a little bit. Remember what I did upon the cross, Father? Now, Father, don't be so harsh.

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As you begin to feel the Father's love, your perspec­tive changes. You should see there are times when I have not felt the love of the Father. You try to do the best you know how, but where is God's love? You feel confused, bewild­ered in your heart and mind. The way I would try to handle these times as you realize that it's not a matter of how I feel, it's a matter of who He is. It's not a matter of how I think, it's a matter of what He has said. The Father said, "I love you."

FAMILY PROBLEMS

Now let's take some other illustrations that have to do with faulty family relationships. Maybe your father left or died when you were little. My father died when I was three, and some kind of faultly concept of fatherhood did develop. Some people have been hurt or injured or norted. Sometimes being ignored is worse than being abused, at least you're getting some attention. A young lady said to me at a women's class, "What is a father? You've been talking about God the Father," she said, "and I haven't the slightest idea what a father is, what's he's supposed to say, how he's supposed to act, what he's supposed to be like." She was serious because she didn't know anything about a father who wants to give His love and His life, a father who wants to guide and lead and direct, a father who wants to protect, a father who will never forget you, He never felt that way about you. He didn't either.

As a boy I had an inferiority complex. I couldn't get up and read and measure up or have people's respect and approval. I've discovered that everybody suffers from feelings of inadequacy or another. "Now, Father, held off just a little bit. Remember what I did upon the cross, Father? Now, Father, don't be so harsh.
ORAL: Amen.

EVELYN: Oh, yes, very definitely. The thing that really interested me was that God loves us regardless of what we do. He really loves us, and I think it's very important for us to know that. Especially mothers who sometimes feel inferior in many ways. You know the Lord has a lot of kindness and love for you. And it would help you if you would turn to God and say, "I want You to take over the rest of my life."

ORAL: Would you respond to that again then, Dr. Frost?

FROST: Yes, once in Australia a wonderful lady, a Bible teacher, greatly used of the Lord, felt much of that fear. She said, "I know in my head that God loves me, but there's no purpose or meaning to life at all. I got to a place where I knew exactly how I was going to answer the prayer in the men's dormitory."

EVELYN: Right. The broth th o rh o d Itse lf ca per­

FROST: Amen. Dr. Frost was talking love coming through so powerfully to me. People who are in the Lord's work in a public way often need that assurance, too. Just because you're doing God's work doesn't mean that you don't need assurance of the Father's love. Talking about His love is one thing, but feeling His love coming back to you is another.

ORAL: Frost. The natural love of means there must be a lover and a beloved. There must be a giver and a recipient. There are two sides to love.

FROST: Yes, very definitely. The thing that really interested me was that God loves us as He sends us. Love is still eternal and He's not ever going to change. God's love toward me allows me to depend totally upon Him. So I think it's very

EVELYN: And that's the end.

STUDENT: I think we can hurt people by ministering through the spirit of love. It's easy to minister knowledge which comes from the mind and doesn't get us involved in any ministry. It's just talking the Word. We yield to the Spirit, which may involve us in the problem.

ORAL: Would you say, though, that you can minister with love, that it does take some knowledge to go along with it? That it's not either?

STUDENT: Definitely. We are to study and understand the Word because faith actually comes by reading the Word. We need to have knowledge and yet be open to the Spirit in order to know how He wants us to minister to one another.

ORAL: Frost, would you share one more thought, anything on your heart, before we pray with our friends?

FROST: Scripture says that Jesus was tempted but He didn't know what it was to sin over and over again in the same way. So I think we are and that He knows and cares and understands our infirmities. Once I brought this to the Lord and said, "I think I am conscious of some situations I've been in that you've not been through. You are sinless and don't know what it is to sin over and over again in the same way."

EVELYN: That You yourself will make up the difference and be my husband.

FROST: I've always felt that the Lord looks down on these two prayers said, "You know, I think I can do something about this."

We really need to understand that our Father loves us in a different way. In reading all the different religions are different ways to get to the top of the mountain, the ultimate goal being God. I thought, what is good and evil, and the things that deter us from within or our own making. He won't make us drink, but He will let us decide whether we want to drink or not.

FROST: FROST: Sometimes her mother in frustration would say, "Now I know who took you away."

As I was looking at all the different roads up the mountain, I finally turned to God and said, "I want You to take over the rest of my life."

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inspired me, Dr. Frost, was that God loves us regardless of what we do. He really loves us, and I think it’s very important for us to know that. Especially mothers who do not do this or God will knock you right off the face of the earth and throw you straight into hell.

She said, “I know in my head that God loves me, but there are times she was a little girl her parents used to threaten her to try to get her to mind. They would say, “Now if you don’t sin we are going to give you away to the Aborigines.” She said, “One day, to make the point very clear, they passed my bag and pulled me down the front walkway. We called it feeling very hollow and empty. When I came up against situations that were above and beyond myself, I had no one to turn to.”

Finally I came to the end of myself when I got into graduate school. One day on campus the Lord brought it to the forefront of my mind that my only relationship was a little boy and, working in the carpenter shop. A student wrote in a paper, “It came to me that Jesus walked my life before me.”

EVELYN: Dr. Frost, would you explain a little bit more to us about redemption correction?

FROST: You know, here again our Father wants us to love Him, wants us to worship and trust Him. You can’t force anybody to love you and you can’t force anybody to worship you. You can’t make love happen. It is a natural process and worship is spontaneous. If you decide to go contrary to God’s way, God is hurt and grieved. There’s an anger in His heart towards all that deters you from within or from without.

Let me relate something from my own life. I was raised in a Pentecostal church. I knew Jesus as my Savior and my Baptizer. When I got into college there was a great emphasis on critical and analytical thinking. We were in a tireless pursuit for truth, wherever and whatever it was. I thought I could do my own thing and that person can see your trust in God’s love, there’s no way he can believe it. Especially people who have never felt loved before or go crayfish hunting the next weekend. That was in the fall and we were married the following June. The thing is when we compared notes, we discovered something. She had prayed a similar prayer. She’d just come into a real living personality, you know, through His word. And she prayed, ‘I want to know the sequences of that way going to be. God disciplines us, because He wants to bring us back into relationship of love and love, and joy with Him. In my case God just let me run my course.

Do you know what happened? After a while, I began to live from the tree of knowledge which says, “I will center truth in myself. I’ll be the master of my faith, the captain of my soul. I will determine what is good and evil in my own heart.” But I think it’s the spirit of love. We have found it and the search is over. The truth is a person and that person is Jesus. That doesn’t mean we turn our minds off. Now we begin to see the truth, which brings significance and purpose to every area of our life.

In fact, as I was looking at all the different roads up the mountain, I began to think maybe everybody’s psyche up. In fact, maybe there’s not even a mountain. Maybe there is no purpose or meaning to life at all. I got to a place of feeling very hollow and empty. When I came up against situations that were above and beyond myself, I had no one to turn to.

Sometimes in frustration she would say, “Now if you don’t mind, God’s going to punish you.” Later when she skinned her knee, her mother would say, “See, I told you so.”

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Do you know what the response was? It was almost as if the Lord said, "Little brother, listen, what I did not experience in My life, I did in My death." When He, who knew no sin, became sin and took upon himself the consequences of our ORAL. Oh, thank God. Reach your hand out to someone or put your hand on yourself. Let's really touch, not only with our hands, but touch with our heart. Let's express God's love as we pray together and let's expect miracles. I want to pray for you. I know what prayer means to people and I know what it means to me when people pray for me. Let's pray together.

Father, I thank You that You gave Jesus Christ to go to the cross to die for me, and that through His death He has experienced what I experience. He took on himself my sins and I thank You that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ I have hope to live to my fullest potential.

I thank You and now I pray for people, for human beings like myself. I pray that Jesus Christ will become so real to you that it's like you're looking Him in the face. It's like you're feeling His hand on your shoulder. I pray you experience Him like that. I pray that you experience His healing hand.

When I pray for you, let me be an extension of His hand. I pray that God will heal you, heal you where you need to be healed. You may need to be healed in your body or your mind or your emotions. You may need healing in your relationship with someone dear to you. Or you may need a healing in your soul, salvation. You may need the Holy Spirit. I pray that God will give you the healing you need and that you will experience healing from the top of your head to the bottom of your feet. You'll experience a healing of the whole man, the whole woman. Jesus will do it. By faith, accept and thank Him for it. Let's all just look up and say, "Thank You, Lord."

THE GOOD SEED AND THE BAD SEED

St. Luke 19:1-10

St. Luke is described in the Bible as a physician. St. Paul was so fond of him and trusted him so much that he called him the beloved physician. He traveled with Paul and became an accurate historian of the life of our Lord and of the new church.

GIVERS AND TAKERS

What does it mean to become a taker, to be always on the make or on the take? What happens to your personality? What kind of person do you become if you never express your real thoughts, if your deep-down thoughts are always of taking. What happens to people who blame others for whatever failures they have...who develop a way of life of blaming others? What happens to an individual who falsely accuses a person or a group and uses them as stepping-stones to get where he wants to go, or get what he wants to get?

What happens to a person like that? Are there people like that in our midst? Am I that kind of person? Are you that kind of person?

What does the Bible teach us about takers and givers? We just read about Zacchaeus, who was the chief tax collector during the time of Christ. In that time a publican or tax collector was hated and regarded as a sinner. Zacchaeus was a Jew, hired by the occupying Roman army to collect the taxes which Rome levied upon the Jewish people. The tax collector's pay was whatever he could collect above the rightful amount due Rome. You see, to make his living as a tax collector he not only collected what the Romans required him to collect, but he also extorted extra money for himself.

Publicans were known as oppressors of the people, particularly the poor people. Sometimes they couldn't handle the rich, but they could tramp all over the poor. Zacchaeus, the publican, had gotten himself into a situation where he was one bad seed, planted. He had become a totally bad seed. Now that's getting pretty lowdown, isn't it? To the extent that about anything he did was a bad seed, and whatever he planted turned out to be something negative and bad.

THE PULL OF GOOD AND EVIL

Now there are two sides to Zacchaeus. On the one hand, he was stealing the people blind. And on the other, he was aware and interested in the man named Jesus of Nazareth. Zacchaeus had a strong urge to see this extraordinary man. Here, I suppose a psychologist would have to say he had two natures. One was the bad nature of reaching out to plant bad seed all the time. And the other was reaching out to God through Jesus Christ.

THE PULL OF LOVE

The love God had for a man as mean as Zacchaeus couldn't be turned off. And that love went with Zacchaeus wherever he went until at last it brought him to Jesus. Zacchaeus wanted to know the kind of love that followed him...love that was always wrapping itself around him, love from which he couldn't get away. Now that's some kind of love. That's God's love. No matter how bad you are, you can never turn off God's love. His love just stays on and follows and keeps reaching, reaching, reaching for you.

It was good seed and bad seed in conflict. It was God's love reaching out to him...it was Zacchaeus' bitterness striking out at people. No matter what he did or how far away he went from the right path, the love of God was always there.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE

It's hard to understand how God puts up with what's happening in the world. Why doesn't God stop all the ways? Well, He'd have to take away man's free moral choice. Man would have to become like a robot or machine, because as long as human beings have the
power of choice, they're going to choose to do a lot of bad things. So in order for God to wipe out all wars, He'll either have to take away our choice or else end the whole thing. Well, He did that not by permitting the flood, but that did not stop the evil in man. The kind of world we have is the kind of world that people choose it to be. Well, there's another kind of world, a smaller world. It's the world you live in as an individual. This world is touched by love, God's love. In this world God's love zero's in upon you. God works to stop wars and make a better world by zeroing in upon the individual so that His love wraps around that person. When God's love reaches the deepest part of the person, it brings to him a decision for his life to be changed. And that's how God changes the world.

Because of the crowd and because Zacchaeus was of small stature, it was unable to see Jesus. He couldn't work his way through the crowd, and so he climbed into a tree. There he sat on a branch looking down to see Jesus. Have you ever wondered what Jesus looked like? Scripture doesn't say. Therefore, it must not be important for us to know the physical characteristics of Jesus. I've known people who claimed visions of Jesus, dressed in a certain color, or having a certain color of eyes. Well, maybe that's the way the person needed to see Him. But the Bible doesn't indicate anything about His physical characteristics other than that His visage was marred. There was a waif in His eyes which spoke of God's concern for the cross, when his face was beaten and slapped and marred.

THE GOOD AND THE BAD SEED

Zacchaeus was able to see Jesus in the flesh. Sitting on that tree limb looking at Jesus, a lot of thoughts must have been going through his mind. What kind of man am I? Am I a kind of human being? Am I a sinner? On the one hand there was the irresistible attraction for Jesus of Nazareth and on the other, a compulsive urge to rob the poor, to falsely accuse people, to selfishly love and steal. Zacchaeus looked down and saw Jesus. Zacchaeus looked down and saw that Jesus was a man of love. Zacchaeus said, "I want to see Jesus. I want to receive Jesus joyfully."

THE NATURE OF GOD

Jesus Christ described His Father in these words in John 3:16. He said, "For God (or My Father) so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Jesus is giving off the top, giving, an act of giving that involves the best that God has, anything that could top that would be God's love. That is, if you give it your best. Many people say that they give their best, but they are giving their best to their own ends. They are giving their best for themselves.

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Zacchaeus developed a new source for his life. Jesus not only came into his life, but He came into his home. Jesus not only came into his life, but He came into his home. House what about your house? Jesus is in you, but is He in your home? And I ask myself, Jesus Christ is in Oral Roberts' heart, but is He in Oral Roberts' home? Is the Spirit of God in my house? I've been in homes where I could feel the presence of God. I've been in homes where I've felt the presence of the devil. Jesus went home with this man, who was able to change from the worst to the best. He was able to give his best, rather than take the best.
Now let me give you two examples. One is in Acts 10. The story is told by St. Luke, the beloved physician. He tells of a man named Cornelius, a captain in the Roman army. He commanded over 100 Roman soldiers and was in charge of the Roman garrison in Caesarea, on the coast of Palestine. He was a man who worshiped God with all the knowledge he had. This incident happened right after Christ had been crucified, although Cornelius didn't know Jesus Christ as his Savior. Let's read the tenth chapter of Acts, verses 1-5:

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius…a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms (gifts) to the people, and prayed to God always. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter.

And the Lord sent Peter to him to show him the way to salvation and to faith in Jesus Christ. Cornelius' prayers and gifts had become a memorial in heaven. You know, we build memorials on this earth…a building or a gift of flowers or money. But this man's memorial before God in heaven is composed of his prayers and his giving.

Can one get into the kingdom of God by giving? Is giving one of the ways that one comes to God? Some would say, "No, that isn't possible because that would be buying your way in." But isn't giving different from buying? Can you get into the kingdom of God by giving? Zacchaeus said, "Lord, the half of my goods I'll give to the poor and those I've falsely accused I'll restore fourfold." That's the moment Christ said, "This day salvation is come to this house."

In this particular instance, Zacchaeus' passion in life was taking from other people. They were his source. If you are a taker, you've got to become a giver in order for Christ to say, "This day salvation is come to this house." Some people who profess Christ never amount to anything for Christ because their nature is not changed. It's made too easy. There isn't enough change in the heart.

### RICH LAND AND POOR LAND

Now the other incident is in the book of Genesis, the story of Abraham and his nephew Lot. As they traveled toward the Promised Land, their families and their herds of sheep, goats, and cattle had prospered and multiplied. When they separated, Abraham said, "Lot, I want you to look in any direction. You take your pick and what you leave, I'll take."

Lot looked and saw a well-watered plain, very beautiful and pleasant. He looked the other way and saw only hard, rocky ground. Let said, "I'll take the well-watered plain," and Abraham gave it to him.

### THE GOOD SEED

Abraham was left with dry and barren soil to try to make a living, while Lot marched off into the distance toward the good water and the good soil. This is Seed-Faith living, giving the best to your brother. This is planting a good seed. Abraham did not make soil or water his source. He trusted God to take care of him upon unproductive land, trusted his Source to be greater than the barren land.

### THE BAD SEED

Lot chose the well-watered plain for his source. What happened? Sodom and Gomorrah were part of his land. Lot moved his people into those beautiful cities where homosexuality was widely practiced. The men of Sodom tried to sexually assault even the angels who came down. God rained fire and brimstone down on Sodom and Gomorrah and wiped them off the face of the earth. He told Lot to take his wife and daughters and flee. Lot's wife was so in love with that city that she looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. Lot hid in a cave with his two daughters. They said, "Our family may die out," and so incest was practiced. There was sexual intercourse between father and daughters. One of them had a son named Moab, and the other daughter had a son called Ammon. They were the ancestors of the Moabites and the Ammonites, who were the enemies of the Israelites. Lot sowed the bad seed by taking the best, rather than giving the best.

You never know how a single bad seed can be multiplied to bring misery upon yourself and your family. Neither do you know how much a good seed can mean. Zacchaeus knew because Christ went into his home.

### SEED-FAITH LIVING IS RECEIVING GOD'S NATURE AND LEARNING HIS METHOD

Let me ask if you feel as I do at times, that you need help from God and that only God can help you. Do you ever feel you have a special need of God? What is your need? Let's turn ourselves to our Source, God. Let's accept His nature and learn His method of operation and expect many miracles.

Father, in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, our Lord and Savior, we come to You. We remember how we were sinners, how we were takers, and how even now we have to come back to You for forgiveness and cleansing. We pray for many miracles. Dear friend, I pray that Jesus Christ will just fill your life with His nature, that the old nature will pass away and the new nature will come into your heart. I pray that by His help you'll learn His method, His way of doing things, which is loving and giving, expecting good things to happen, opening up yourself and letting the good come out, loving beyond measure.

I pray that God will open your life and so fill you with himself that you'll never be the same again. Be healed in your emotions, be healed in your personality, be healed in your spirit, be healed in your body, be healed in all of your efforts, through Jesus Christ I pray. I believe and I expect many miracles in your life. And everybody said amen.
HOW TO TAKE A BAD SEED AND TURN IT INTO A GOOD SEED OF FAITH

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson:
2 Kings 5

In this lesson on the miracle of Seed-Faith I'm going to share with you some of the things we face every day of our lives. From the time we get up in the morning until we go to bed to sleep or struggle through the night, we face some of these problems. This lesson has to do with the eternal principle of Seed-Faith and how we can use it every day for God's glory and for our own advancement in life.

The first thing that happened in this story is, somebody planted a bad seed. Somebody stopped giving and started taking. And it was Naaman, the commander in chief of the armies of Syria. His armies had overcome Israel. He had captured a teen-age girl and brought her back as a slave girl. She became a servant, or slave, to Naaman's wife. The Bible calls her a captive. Now then here is a human being who is reduced and diminished, forced into a position as a slave. She must do exactly as she's ordered. She has no legal rights, nothing of her own. She's a slave.

Now the history of slavery goes a long way back in the human race. There was slavery long before Christ came and so it has been throughout the centuries since Christ. Two or three years after the landing at Jamestown, boatloads of slaves were brought over. Captives, not really human beings from the standpoint of freedom or opportunity. Captive... what an enormous burden to carry! To be regarded inferior, to be forced to serve so-called superiors. What an enormous burden for a human being to carry! What a temptation to become bitter and allow bitterness to become a consuming passion.

BAD SEEDS BECOME POISONOUS WEEDS

There are all kinds of slavery. People get control over you and diminish you as a human being. You aren't free to be your real self. And out of that comes much bitterness. It happens in marriage when one dominates the other. The man dominates the wife or the wife dominates the husband or the children dominate the parents or the parents dominate the children beyond their right as parents. There are wife-beaters. There are children-beaters. Little children are beaten half to death by a father or a mother. There are child-molesters. There are people like this in the world, people striking at others from the bondage they are under. Not only has bad seed been planted toward them, but the devil also tempts them to start planting bad seeds back. And the old merry-go-round starts and round and round you go, sowing bad seeds. Poisonous weeds grow and you're in the whirl of despair.

Right now in this country and in the world, you know what we have? Controlled chaos. And sometimes it's uncontrolled chaos. It's amazing how the Bible can present a simple story that reveals so much about ourself and about our world. We don't even know the name of this teen-age girl, but we know that she did a great thing. So amazing and astonishing that we look upon it and wonder how she could have accomplished it. She planted a good seed. In the midst of all the bad that had been done to her, she planted a seed of forgiveness. She shared her knowledge of God with the man who captured her. She said, "Would God that my lord, my master, were with the prophet who is in Samaria, for he would recover him of his leprosy." After the capture Naaman lost his health. He developed leprosy.

Well, let's think of leprosy as something which we can't control, that sucks the life from our being, that reduces us to nothing. For example, we read about Naaman who was the commander in chief of the armies of Syria. He was a man of great honor and regard, but he was a leper.

What are you when you lose your health? What are you when you lose respect? What are you when something goes out of your life that's been holding it together? What are you when something bad develops in your existence that you can't control? What are you? He was a great man, but he was a leper. How was he ever going to have a ray of hope? Would he ever have a chance to be a man again? Would he be recovered? Or would he be forced into isolation from his family and his friends? In
that day, when a leper approached human beings he was required to announce, "Unclean," so that people would not get near him. Would that happen to this man? How was going to happen to him?

A SEED OF FAITH

The little captive maid of Israel had a secret that she was willing to share. She overcame whatever bitterness had developed in her heart because of the wrong done to her. Shortly after the little maid was born, my mother was out of town so I headed our devotions that evening. Our son said, "Mother, please tell us one more time about our devotions tonight. Mother, please." God had really been dealing with me for quite some time. I felt that I couldn't find the answers to. As I read your book to our boys that evening, I really felt the love and warmth of God. After the books were in bed, I continued to read. Now I am reading it daily. Needless to say, I receive wonderful blessings as I read slowly, absorbing all the wonderful truths it contains. I am praying for God to show me the seeds I should plant for our needs.

GOD IS TURNED ON TO ME

This morning I read the section entitled, GOD IS TURNED ON TO ME. I felt I must plant my seed today. I have felt very strongly that I should write a friend to ask forgiveness. Brother Roberts, for many years I have had ill feelings toward a certain person. This year, as I tried to understand why I felt as I did, I realized I was wrong. And, oh, what a painful thing to do, to admit you've been wrong for a long time. The truth is, I feel like I am starting to feel my way again. I have asked that person to forgive me. I must admit the devil really tried to keep me from writing the letter. But I'm remembering who my Source is. I'm planting the seed and God will take care of the rest. I've never had the opportunity to see that person, I will gladly tell him that it's true. I can't begin to tell you how God has worked it and I believe it is a result of reading and practicing the truths in your book. I can hardly wait to finish it. Also my husband is reading it every night as part of our devotions. I can see that it thrills him, as well as our children.

Gise Mrs. Roberts love. We're praying for you and your ministry because we think it's tops. Good luck in baseball.

Now that woman has gone through a tremendous experience. And think about what went from her to another human being whom she resented. She released her resentment when she wrote, "I'm sorry; please forgive me."

A SEED OF FORGIVENESS

Think of the other side, think of what the other person felt. Maybe the person didn't accept the forgiveness. Because you were willing to come before God and you can always guarantee that your apology will release you from resentment.

Although the little maid was the one that was sinned against, she made the first effort and planted the first seed. I think she planted that seed out of her need. I think she needed something. I think she needed deliverance from something that was negative, that was building in her life. You can imagine the building pot inside her, being forced into a position of slavery. But she took it aside. She rose up and planted the seed of forgiveness. Then she went beyond that. And there's often a place beyond forgiveness, which is sharing God.

SHARE GOD WITH OTHERS

What did she know about God? Well, she was a little girl from Israel. She knew how God dealt with the Israelites. She knew the mighty miracles God had wrought through the prophets and kings of Israel. She knew God was alive and working miracles. She knew God was on the side of health. She knew God loved people who did not love Him. Now that's a lot to know.

When you know that God loves people who don't love Him, you begin to pray for a great thing. In the New Testament Jesus teaches us that...

"...the nins falls upon the just and it falls upon the unjust." God loves people who don't love Him; therefore, I can love people who don't love us.

So this young woman shared her knowledge, "Would God my lord were with the prophet who is in Israel, for he would recover him of his leprosy." Even though he had done her wrong, when she saw him dying, her love flowed to the surface and became an act of giving. She planted her love as a seed of faith. She believed in God, the Source of all healing. She said that if Naaman, the commander in chief, could be healed of leprosy to Israel and meet the prophetic Elisha, he could be recovered of his leprosy.

What is locked up in you and me right now? What good is stored up that you have not shared? What seed do you possess that you've never planted? What apologies have you never made that ought to be made? What apologies have you never asked for? Which is stored up in you, good seeds or bad seeds? Which seeds are you planting? Which ones are you valveing? The bad seed or the good seed in your speech. In words coming right back to me. What have I to share with another human being? What gift of life can I impart? What word can I say in a time of need?

I remember just a few weeks ago someone asked me a question about God's forgiveness. I was asked in a cynical way. "Mr. Roberts, do you really believe that God heals people today?" I was in a group of high-up people, cynical about everything, and my first thought was to push off that question and protect what little reputation I have with them. But I found the strength inside me to say, "Yes, I want you all to know that I live and breathe because of healing. Healing became my breath. God restored my lungs, filled with tuberculosis. I talk about God being a God of open doors. Yes, I definitely believe in God's healing power."

Do you know a change came over that group of people? I never dreamed that people so cynical could warm up so fast. It was evident to me that these were hungry people and their cynicism was only outward. Deep in their hearts they wanted to hear a sure, firm, experienced voice tell them that God heals. The whole atmosphere changed, and different ones asked me to pray for a loved one or to drop a note to this individual and so on. This turned out to be a healing meeting right there. Now it's amazing what you can give to people. And it's terrible to see how you sometimes withdraw.

"THERE'S NOBODY HOME"

I remember when I was first going to college and having a hard time with speech. I was asked to read the 23rd Psalm in an assembly. Now that was an easy assignment because I knew the 23rd Psalm, but it was not easy from the speaking standpoint. I was to interpret it, to give there and then which section was written. When the time came, I didn't show up. I know why I didn't show up? I got scared. And you know why I got scared? Because I stuttered. And you know why I stuttered? Because deep inside me I had fear. I feel inferior. And I feel deep inferiority when I started to talk, and the words would stick in my throat and I couldn't get them out. When this happened, a lot of people would snicker and laugh. About awhile I didn't want to talk. So I didn't show. The guy whose name was Orel, which means word, got silent all of a sudden. And I made an F.

But there was a day when I realized that the feeling of fear inside me could be dealt with by a greater power. Fear might knock on the door but I could open it and say, "There's nobody home." I began to believe that God could loose this tongue. The first time I ever spoke publicly, when the words flowed out of me, was an unforgettable experience. I was almost listening to myself. As I talked I kept thinking, "What a miracle! When fear and inferiority were taken care of by the power of God, I could square my shoulders, look people in the eye, and speak. Even now, if I let fear slip in the stammering really gets bad. I still have some stammering.

I spoke to hundreds of students at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. During the talk I told how God had healed me of stuttering, but I had stuttered a time or two during the speech. When the question-and-answer time followed, one bright young lad jumped up and said, "You said you were healed of stuttering. Why do you still stutter?" The only thing I could think of was

"...the nins falls upon the just and it falls upon the unjust." God loves people who don't love Him; therefore, I can love people who don't love us.

So this young woman shared her knowledge, "Would God my lord were with the prophet who is in Israel, for he would recover him of his leprosy." Even though he had done her wrong, when she saw him dying, her love flowed to the surface and became an act of giving. She planted her love as a seed of faith. She believed in God, the Source of all healing. She said that if Naaman, the commander in chief, could be healed of leprosy to Israel and meet the prophetic Elisha, he could be recovered of his leprosy.

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A CHANGE OF LIFE

Well, the young lady put in a seed of faith that set in motion a chain of circumstances that caused a leperous man to move toward healing. It was created because he didn’t listen. The maid said to go to the prophet Elisha but he went to the king of Israel. She told him only to go in the room with all the gifts of gold. He didn’t know who the Source of healing was, just as many of us don’t know who the Source of healing is. Finally he arrived, the right man, but the false ceremony, but the man of God didn’t come out at all. He just sent a message saying, “Go down to the River Jordan and dip seven times and your flesh will come again. You will be clean.”

This angered Naaman, who said, “I thought at least the man of God would come out and strike his hand over me and do some great thing. Why he sent only a word to me. If I’m going to dip in a river, I may as well go back to Damascus where the rivers, at least, have clean water in them.”

But you see, he had missed the whole point. He thought the river was going to heal him. And if he had to go into a river, he didn’t want to go into the Jordan. In the first place, it’s a dirty river; and besides, it’s an Israelite river.

The Jordan River was the final crossing point from the bondage of Egypt into the land of freedom, the land of promise. When the Israelites crossed the river, they came not as slaves but as free people of God. Washing in water is symbolic of spiritual cleansing, of a new way of life. Maybe the river signified to Naaman that the Source that he had rejected had to reach God in all of his dealings. Finally, that he’s going to come, as it were, face-to-face with the reality of God. And God is a fact of life. God is a fact of existence. He’s the reality of change his way of life. And I say to everyone, including you, to face-to-face with the reality of God. And God is a fact of life.

Day 1 Corinthians 5:17). “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Incredible Machine.

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Incredible Machine.
What Is Faith?

Guest Sermon: Dennis Bennett

I want to present to you a man of God, Dennis Bennett, Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Seattle, Washington. This is the man upon whom the Holy Spirit fell in 1960 at St. Mark's Church in Van Nuys, California. That news was a spiritual bombshell in our time. It was reported by Time Magazine and other leading magazines throughout the world. He has a message, but more than that, he is a message. He is a message from the Lord Jesus himself, through the power of the Holy Spirit. I thank God for this man. I'm only sorry his lovely wife Rita was unable to attend. But we hope some day to have both of them back. Would you welcome Dennis Bennett.

What Is Faith?

by Dennis Bennett

TWO WAYS OF KNOWING

There are two ways to talk about knowledge. Imagine a young boy coming home from school one day very excited and saying to his mother, "Mom, I met this wonderful fellow! He came to school and I know we're going to be great friends. I really like this boy, and we became very well acquainted. I really feel I've got a wonderful new friend."

And the mother might say, "Well, Tommy, that's very nice. I'm glad you have this new friend. Now, what is his last name?"

"I don't know. His first name is John."

"You don't know his last name? Where does he live?"

"Well, I don't know."

"How old is he?"

"I don't know."

"Where does he come from?"

"I don't know. He just moved here and started school today. I met him and we had a wonderful time together."

"But you don't know anything about him. Does he have brothers and sisters? What is his father's work? How tall is he?"

"I didn't really notice."

Finally the mother might say, "Well, but, Tom, you don't know this boy at all. How can you say you're going to be friends? You can't tell me anything about him."

And the boy might say, "Well, Mom, I don't know anything about him, but he had a lot of fun together today. We just clicked, we liked each other. And I know we're going to be friends."

That's one way to know someone. Another way is to know about God through theology. I believe that theology is a very important study. I know one thing, if you don't have a good one you're going to have a bad one. Because you're going to make up your mind what you think about God. You're going to have a theory about God. You meet Christians who say, "Well, I'm just not interested in all this theology and doctrine stuff. I'm just interested in knowing..."
No text available for conversion.
That's because you're living in your soul. You're still spending most of your time where the world spends all of its time — at the level of the material. Most of the times that I observed man lives in the soul. He tries to think his way through. He tries to feel his way through. He tries to will his way through.  

...NOT IN THE BODY

You may be living at the level of your body. You want to feel good, but you feel only frustration. He said that many Christians still spend most of their time living in the soul or in the body. That's why Christians often don't look much different from pagans. And that's also why the world hates and rejects what has been presented as Christianity. Now, that's where persecution's going to come from. Unless Christians can show people something different from what they've seen, they don't want Christianity. They see it as negative and destructive. They see it as a teaching that has fostered a critical, sour, frozen, bound-up kind of personality. They really do. Freud said, "Let's get rid of this religion."

And the communist says, "Religion is an opiate, a destructive thing."

...BUT IN THE SPIRIT

Christians have not really shown the Holy Spirit. When people see the Spirit of God in you, they will be attracted to the light of God. Too often you don't let the light shine through the darkness. If the Holy Spirit releases the indwell ing life of God in you, The Holy Spirit, who is in every Christian, breaks forth and you begin to live in your spirit.

WHERE ARE YOU, LORD?

When I was eleven years old I said, "Jesus, come live in me." And He said, "OK." So He did. In Hebrews 13:5, Jesus said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." That means He will never leave you. He will never forsake you. If you're living in your soul. He said, "Jesus is not in the deserting soul. That is because you're living in your soul. You're still spending most of your time living in the body."

COME AND DRINK

When I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I allowed the Holy Spirit, who had been living in me for thirty years, to flow through my soul and through my body and out into the world. In His way. In love. In grace. In beauty. In power. I began to be all of a sudden aware that God was in my inward being. Jesus said, "If you're thirsty, come and drink. Now, that's inflow."

Millions of people drink of the living water, but they don't realize that Jesus also said, "The water that I give you will be in you a well of water springing up unto everlasting life" (John 4:14). And, "If you trust me, if you believe me, you'll be getting your soul and your body filled with the Holy Spirit (John 7:38). Now, that's a different motion. The first was an incoming, this is an outpouring.

And what's the baptism in the Holy Spirit? It's the outpouring. That's what I believe it is. It's the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, flowing through your soul and out to the world. Not just speaking in tongues, but through ministry. Places we go and things we do, healing the sick, casting out evil spirits, proclaiming the Word of God. Saying and doing the things Jesus said and did. That's what the baptism in the Holy Spirit is.

JACOB'S LADDER

In Genesis there is a striking story about a ladder and a man named Jacob, kind of a tricky guy in his early days. He didn't believe Jesus. He was as unfair as Jesus was open to God. He had a dream one night in which he saw a stairway or ladder going up into the heavenly places. In the story of the ladder, John refers to Jacob's ladder when he says to Nathaniel, "You're going to see greater things than these, Nathaniel. You're going to see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." Jesus is saying, "I am Jacob's ladder. I traced the steps of the heavenly ladder, God, the glory of God, will come up and down. Man will come to God on Me and the glory of God will come down on man on Me."

JESUS IN THE WORLD

The works that I shall do ye also, and greater works than these shall ye do, because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). Why did He go to His Father? So the Holy Spirit could come and live in us, so the Holy Spirit could be poured out on all flesh. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us because of Jesus. He said, "Because I go to My Father, you shall do the things that I do."

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are simply Jesus still at work in the world. The gifts of the Spirit are simply the power of Jesus still flowing through your life, ministering to the world. The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Jesus still being manifested in this world through His people. Scripture says, "You are just like Him in this world." Jacob's ladder represents you and me in the world. You are a little Jacob's ladder pitched between heaven and Main Street in your history. I am a little Jacob's ladder pitched between heaven and 4328 Olympic Street, Edmond, Washington, or wherever I am. The foot of the ladder is where I am. The foot of Jacob's ladder is wherever you are, brother and sister. And when you decide to come out of the world, to come down that ladder and pouring out from you to heal the sick, to give the word of knowledge and wisdom, to speak in the word of God in prophecy, to minister as Jesus ministred. Then the whole world will see the love and joy, the peace and glory. You are baptized in the Spirit when the Holy Spirit breaks out from your soul and spirit and begins to flow up through your body and soul and out into the world.

HANG-UPS IN THE SOUL

The whole key, the key to freedom in the Christian life, is to release the Lord. The body can interfere if you're hungry or in some kind of physical stress. But most of the hang-ups and hangovers and hard times you can get into in this soul area. He just loves to tickle your emotions. The Holy Spirit has an understandable reason for this. He just loves to tickle your emotions. The Holy Spirit has a hard time getting past some of your emotional hang-ups. He just loves to tickle your emotions.

Ignore him. When the devil starts asking questions, just say, "I am a child of God. I am the Lord's."

Hang-ups in the soul are caused because Jesus isn't going to desert you. What Jesus is saying is that as long as you want Him, He's not going to desert you. That is because you're living in your spirit. If you don't speak and pray in the Spirit, you're going to miss a great deal of freedom in your Christian life. I think you need to speak in tongues many times a day, every day of your life. If you don't speak in tongues and want to, all you have to do is start. That's something people don't realize. Speaking in tongues is the place where Christians lets the Holy Spirit guide his voice. It isn't the Holy Ghost speaking. He doesn't have to speak in tongues. Really, only taking over very much. Only taking over very much like a ventriloquist. God doesn't do that kind of thing.

When you decide to say, "Well, Lord, I'm going to start using my voice and I'm gonna trust You to give me a language," then it will happen. I know this is true. God's Spirit flows through all parts of your body. The body expresses itself in three basic ways. Through your voice, that's where you go. Through your arms, that's what you do. Through your voice, that's what you say. And the voice, that's what you hear. The Psalmist says, "Let my mouth be filled with thy praise" (Psalm 78:5). The Holy Spirit is simply saying, "I want to flow out of you through your voice, your mouth." He wants to, so let Him.

LENT ME OUT

Years ago when our family had been praying about the baptism in the Holy Spirit, all three of my children were baptized spontaneously in the Holy Spirit one night in our living room. Just spontaneously, no one laid hands on me or anything. The power of God was there and He broke free in me. But six-year-old Steve couldn't quite accept it. He struggled for a week or two. Then one morning he said, "Mom, I had the strangest dream. I dreamed I had God locked up in my closet and He was calling me through the door. 'Steve, when are you going to let Me out of here?' "

Now that's a good dream, and I recommend that you listen and find out whether God has been shuttling through your closet doors. "Mary, Dennis, Joe, whoever, when are you gonna let Me out of here?"

So when I was pastor of this big church, I met some people who knew something I didn't know. You see, these Episcopalians had noticed something in one of their friends, an Assembly of God layman. "What have you got? You've got something!"

And he said, "Well, I guess you mean the baptism in the Holy Spirit."

They saw something in this man. They said, "You've got something. You've got a joy, you've got a love, you've got a peace. That's what we want." He said, "All right," and prayed for them.

BAPTIZED IN THE SPIRIT

They were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Something happened to them. They got turned on, and when I met them later I said, "What have you got?" After they told me and I thought it over for about three months, I said, "I want that." And then I did say it. And I was very surprised, regardless of what you do something especially bad. "He said, "Lo, I am with you, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20)."
ERVIN: Jesus came to the world from God. When I looked over at my darling wife Evelyn, Roberts, and great to be back. Thank you so much. 

I believe the Holy Spirit. But I don’t find it easy to walk in the Spirit. But He saves you every day. He saves me every day in many ways. So the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a way of Him expressing himself in you and through you. This is the main thing you’ve got to do is relax and release the Spirit here? Do you think Christian. He wants to be free in the Spirit, and he’s going to do businessman who is really was.

It’s easy to get saved, it’s easy to get baptized in the Holy Spirit, but you say, “No, Lord, You don’t understand. I want only when the Holy Spirit takes residence within us that we are powerless and that a higher power than the body. It’s the soul that enters the body.

I would like to direct a question to Father Bennett. You let the spirit direct the soul. I’ve found that as I grow in God and release His love, I’m operating on a lower level.

The devil loves to get you to set your will in an edge that you are powerless and that a higher power than the body is going to get on, I’m going to get off.”

What fascinates me is that the Lord recognizes that human intellect is going to replace everything. Most schools, which are pagan, you are in danger of learning that the body is basically an incoherent edge that you are powerless and that a higher power than the body is going to get on, I’m going to get off.”

PRAYER: Father, in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Savior, we come to You and we come for many miracles, for without miracles we’ll never make it. We’ve been looking for our God. Not ever to be childish - we are told to be childlike.

To others you ask are, "You've got to acknowledge your intellect. I'd like to say that I can really relate to what Father Bennett has been talking about because I've had a lot of trouble recently in my emotions, letting Satan in my emotions and my will. One thing I've learned is that praying in tongues lets Jesus' love and the Holy Spirit flow through me. It helps me to control my emotions and understand God's will.

It's easy to get saved, it's easy to get baptized in the Holy Spirit. But I don't find it easy to walk in the Spirit. That's because of me, not because of God. It would be easy if He always released and let the power and love and Spirit of God flow through me.

You see that the fruits of the Spirit come to life in your spirit. Both the fruit and the gift manifestations are totally and wholly supernatural and should flow from the spirit through the soul, through the body of the world. We become lapsed when we place too much emphasis on one or the other. Too much emphasis on the gift manifestations will make us affair. Too much emphasis on the fruits and we lose the power of God.

As briefly as possible, sins of the flesh are the expression of the natural appetites of the body. In the unsaved person these natural appetites have no controls. It's like a heating system without a thermostat. And it is only when the Holy Spirit takes residence within us that these controls are then supplied.
and your body. You'll feel His healing power going through you from your head to your feet. You'll feel His power helping you with your marriage, helping you with your dating, helping you with your finances, helping you with your job, helping you to be a whole person. Through Jesus Christ I pray that the Lord will give you a new life, beginning now. Amen and amen. And everybody said Amen.

THE PRAYER LANGUAGE OF THE SPIRIT

Suggested Scripture reading for this lesson: 1 Corinthians 14:1-15

PRAYER LANGUAGE

Have you ever heard of the prayer language of the Spirit, the praise language of the Spirit? Have you ever spoken in tongues and known what that experience really means in your life? Have you wondered about it? Have you puzzled about what speaking in tongues meant to the early Christians 2,000 years ago? You may know people who speak in tongues but don't know the value and validity of the experience. A careful study of 1 Corinthians 14 teaches about the Holy Spirit praying with your spirit to reveal God's wisdom. Let's read 1 Corinthians 14:1-15, line upon line and precept upon precept, to understand St. Paul's teaching.

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise, ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak in the air. There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? 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 writes to the Roman church, Chapter 8, verses 26 and 27: Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

NOT AS WE OUGHT

St. Paul states a fundamental fact concerning prayer in Romans 8:26,27. He says prayer is necessary for human
have feelings of intolerable inadequacy. I'm just filled with it. I find myself saying, "God, why, WHY is this happening so bogged down that everything seems futile. I can't make better, you're able to plan better. You're able to have thoughts go up to God, and you have that soul-satisfying tongues or in your own language. Then you feel in harmony with the Holy Spirit. The words come out, the Holy Spirit doing the praying. The Holy Spirit himself prays through you, and you merely enter into His prayer. Paul prayed in a very effective way. Such prayer is made words coming out of your mouth.

Now if you can learn to enter into His prayer, which is in your weaknesses, your very weakness in expressing yourself, that you've not expressed yourself, that something inexplicable within yourself is hidden or held back. You may feel like you're lost, that you can't find God.

But the Holy Spirit helps you. The words come out, the thoughts go up to God, and you have that satisfying experience of praying and knowing that God hears. You know that God knows you rise above and you face life with a positive attitude. You're able to think better, you're able to plan better. You're able to have faith in the Lord and filled with His Spirit you merely enter into His prayer. It takes more now than it did the night I was seventeen. And I need the Holy Spirit every day.

I WILL CALL TO YOU

In Romans 8:26, Paul says that the Holy Spirit helps our weaknesses. He searches our hearts. He intercedes for us and for the saints, according to the will of God. The Holy Spirit is the intercessor whom God has given to us. In St. John 14:16 Christ said, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." I will send another comforter, one co-equal with myself. The Holy Spirit, co-equal with Me, the Son of God. When I leave, I will send Him and when He comes, He will guide you into all truth. When He is come, He will teach you all things. He will lead me through them. Because then Christ would have been lifted out of His earthly existence, out of the human limitations of a fleshly body, out of being limited to time and space and death itself. He would have ascended to the heavens. Christ says when the Holy Spirit comes, He will be in you. And now the Holy Spirit has returned in the power of the Holy Spirit.

While Christ was on earth He was with the people. There's an avalanche of different kinds of groceries all around you and having some of that food inside your stomach. And there's a whole lot of difference between having the Holy Spirit with you and having Him in you. That is what Paul is talking about, the Holy Spirit being in you and really enabling you to pray.

LOVE IS THE BEST

1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter, says that without love we are nothing, but with love we are everything. Paul begins the fourteenth chapter by saying, "Follow loving. He that loveth his brother abideth in the love of God, and God is love. And love is something you give. Love is an act of your giving, giving something of yourself, giving something of your money or concern. The best part of yourself is the love of God shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit sheds His love abroad, He scatters it in your heart. He stews love of words and when what happens, then you start giving. And that when God happens to you, God happens to a person who gives love. You can say you have Him all you want to, but if you don't show love, the people around you know that God is not in you. But when God happens to you, the whole love of God is spread abroad in your heart, and you start giving. People may not call it God, they may not call it love, but they recognize it as something good.

DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Paul starts off by saying, "Follow God after, after divine love and desire spiritual gifts." He says desire, not seek after, spiritual gifts. It's wrong to seek a gift of the Holy Spirit. It's much better to seek the Holy Spirit, the giver of the gifts. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit are resident in Him, and when He's in you the gifts in Him are in you also. Whichever gift you need at any moment for a particular need in your life, there's already. That gift is right there, ready to be manifested in your life. Paul says, "God, you give me this gift, give me that gift," the Holy Spirit is already in you? The Holy Spirit manifests the gifts as He wills to do so. (Read 1 Corinthians 12:1.)

The people who were converted out of all that idolatry came into a new life, becoming a disciple. Those who were converted out of all that idolatry came into a new life, becoming a disciple. They were given a marvelous prayer language. Paul says, "I speak in tongues, speaking in an unknown tongue edifies himself, but he prophesies edifies the church.

Now, I want you to notice when Paul is speaking of the individual and when he is speaking of the church. That is the language of the Spirit. When a person speaks in tongues, he has failed to discern the difference between these two. That will never get through this chapter. It will never have the same meaning for you. There are many sincere Christians and many sincere preachers of the gospel who have never gotten through this chapter successfully. They have the language of the Spirit, but they have not been able to distinguish between the individual praying privately in tongues and the gift of tongues, which is praying for someone else.

SEEK THE HOLY SPIRIT

The prayer language of the Spirit is for yourself. Praying in tongues for your own benefit is not the gift of tongues. Paul urges you to pray in the power of the Holy Spirit; you have the power to do it. If I asked Him for a gift of prophecy, the gift of discerning of spirits, the gift of tongues, and the gift of interpretation of tongues. TONGUES

Speaking in tongues was the most desirable of the gifts to the Corinthians who had lived in immoral lives of sin. The Corinthian Christians misunderstood the gift of tongues. Some thought the gift of tongues and the prayer language were the same. They were rising up in their churches, speaking in tongues, and Quarterly meetings and preying. The people around them couldn't understand what they were saying. It was creating a lot of confusion, just a mess and going on in some places.

The Bible tells us to understand, to learn something of the life and nature and will of God. To learn how God does things and then do them as He does. Otherwise, our spiritual exercises may bring us some kind of emotional release, but they're really no help to anyone else. So that leaves you with your love locked up in your heart. And it's no good locked up. It's never really love until it's made an act of giving.

The Corinthians had love, they had the Holy Spirit. They had a genuine experience with God, but their cultural background worked against them. They had brought some of their old cultural hang-ups into their new relationship with God. They didn't understand that an interpretation is necessary. You can't pray in tongues without an interpretation. God is not in you. But when God happens to you, the whole love of God is spread abroad in your heart, and you start giving. People may not call it God, they may not call it love, but they recognize it as something good.
for ten straight years, the Holy Spirit’s answer might be no. I’ve never sought the gift of healing. I never seek the gift of the word of knowledge. I never seek the gift of tongues, in order to be able only He can decide when the gift of tongues or gift of healing or any other gift is to be manifested in my life.

**PRAYER LANGUAGE**

When I come to a moment of prayer or praise and I can’t make it, then I find I can enable me to pray in tongues, to praise God in tongues, and to interpret back to myself. This has nothing necessarily to do with anybody else. I’m edified, I’m lifted up, I’m strengthened. I’m released. God gives my intellect the interpretation so that I have understanding. At that point I understand what God wants to do in my life.

Paul wrote this chapter to teach the Corinthians an intelligent form of prayer and praise and song to God. His purpose was to open their understanding so that they could know God’s will in their lives. Individual tongues is a vertical, valid, valuable language of the Spirit, which I have for myself and which you can have for yourself.

**GIFT OF TONGUES**

When the gift of tongues is manifested through a person, it must be interpreted so the meaning can be given to those who can’t interpret. Otherwise, nobody will understand. Paul said, “I’d rather say five words in my own tongue than ten thousand in an unknown tongue.” If the words are meaningless, less to the hearers, they do not benefit from tongues without interpretation.

Verse two says, “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh unto men, but unto God only.” Paul wanted you to notice that speaking in tongues is not horizontal. It is not man to man, it is man to God. Written in the Spirit, “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh unto men to edification (that is, to build them up), and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.”

Always wonder about people who knock that. They say, “Oh, tongues is just to build up yourself.” Well, what’s that mean? It means, for instance, he is taught by his own understanding. He is edified by the Holy Spirit who teaches mysteries.

**IN THE SPIRIT**

Four times this little phrase “in the Spirit” is used. Here in 1 Corinthians 14:14, “I would that ye all spake with tongues, but except ye utter by the tongue words of knowledge, and of edification, it is a voice that cometh out of the air.”

Prophecy is more important than an unintelligible tongue. But if there is an interpretation, then that certainly is the equal of prophecy.

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

I don’t think anybody should run around talking about tongues as if it made him superior. The very fact that you pray in tongues is because you need to pray in tongues. It’s wrong to believe that a person who speaks in tongues is a better Christian than one who doesn’t. I know something of what it means to have tongues, that I live a better life than some of us who do. We should appreciate each other, whether we pray in tongues or not. St. Paul said, “We should love one another.” Will you say amen to that?

**EDIFY THE CHURCH**

Then, let’s go on to verse six. Now, brethren, if I come unto you, speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either in revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? If, Paul, come into your church, the body of believers, what profit will it be to you if I speak in tongues? I will just confuse you. So when I come, I shall speak to you either in revelation or in knowledge or in prophecy or in instruction; then even the teaching will not be without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or what is sung. For in what manner he will make a sound, whether he will make a sound, the sound has got to make sense. And I’m sure that an insect is understood by another insect.

For if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? Paul is referring to the walled cities of that time. These were watchmen on the wall, day and night, who warned of an approaching enemy by a trumpet blast. When the people heard the trumpet sound a certain way, they got ready to do battle. So be it. But the message is, the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak to the air...Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I am unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.

Paul says we don’t understand each other any more than we would understand a foreign language. Have you ever tried to talk to someone who doesn’t understand your language? Then you’ve just don’t understand each other. If you can’t get anywhere...

Even so, forasmuch as we are zealous of spiritual gifts, we that may excel in the edifying of the church. St. Paul is speaking of the value of the Body of Christ, the body of believing people. Whatever is said or done is to be in love, to help and edify the Body of Christ. Now that puts a tremendous responsibility upon us. Whatever we do, we are to intend it for good so that it will be of benefit to others.

**PRAY TO INTERPRET**

Now we get to the meat of the matter in verses 13, 14, and 15. Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. Paul switches from the church back to the individual. He is saying, “When you speak in tongues, pray that you may interpret.” For you to interpret, not somebody else. I’ll always remember the first time this happened to me. It was right on the grounds of the State Prison where the squirrels and rabbits and trees. There were no buildings. I walked over these grounds, knowing that God had called me to go there, but not knowing how to do it. And my heart was saying yes, yes, but my mind was saying no, no. Did you ever get out of a yes, yes, and no? I was praying out of my heart. Trying to understand why God called me to do something I was incapable of doing. As I walked, I began to pray in tongues. I was in the Spirit until I felt released, although I still didn’t have any answers.
Then I began to pray in English. And all at once, it dawned on me that I was interpreting my own language. And in a moment's time, I understood... how to interpret my own language. How could I possibly somebody like me and build this university. I shouldn't to think what would have happened had I not discovered the interpretation of my own tongue. I understood how God could take my interpretation of my own tongue. I think what would have happened had I not discovered the spirit?

As an example, there is a reservoir full of water up in the hills. In your house you need a faucet that's connected to the pipe that goes to the reservoir. When you turn the faucet on, the water flows for your need. The faucet is a servant of both the reservoir and the person who needs the water. The tongue is a servant of the spirit and of the person who speaks in tongues. The spirit is connected with the Holy Spirit, who is the great reservoir of all answers, answers to all human needs and problems. Your tongue can turn on the Holy Spirit.

Hold out your left hand. Let it represent your human spirit. Put your right hand out. This represents the Holy Spirit. All right, now open your left hand. Do you feel that force? Squeeze your right hand. Do you feel that force? Put them together. Now squeeze. Don't you feel that force? Squeeze your right hand. Do you feel that force? Squeeze your left hand. Let it represent your human spirit. Put it together, and the connecting link is the tongue. To turn on the Holy Spirit.

When you pray and praise in your own language, you interpret your utterance for yourself. You bring your prayer language back to your intellect that you get the understanding you need. This is what you're getting across. ORAL: This is what I'm getting at. I think Paul is telling us in this chapter: he's telling the Lord, the Lord loves us so much that He gives us a way to Him. And then at different times He also gives us some special gifts for the edification of the church. Are all of these gifts available to a Spirit-filled Christian? ORAL: Well, all the gifts are in the Holy Spirit and so if the Holy Spirit is born again and filled with God's Spirit, then all the gifts are there also in you. ORAL: Are they available to you when you need them? ORAL: Yes, there is nothing parents have that they wouldn't willingly share with their children. But they know they must be wise in giving. Love has to be tempered with discipline and judgment. They share with their child in an intelligent way, just as God shares intelligently with His children. For example, I don't think God would manifest a gift of praying in a person who doesn't need it. A really sick person. I don't think He would manifest the gift of prophecy in a person who ridiculed or despised prophecy. That's why I think we have to depend on God's wise manifestation. I have never asked God for the gift of healing. Evelyn. I don't know. I know, I always pray that I'll be continuously filled with the Holy Spirit working on the sick. You see, I have a natural feeling for them. It's nothing for God to manifest His gift of healing through me from time to time. But it's gift, not mine. Because I have the Holy Spirit, these gifts are available to me when I need them.

EVELYN: They come in a package with the gift of healing. You feel them, right? Squeeze your right hand. Do you feel that force? Squeeze your left hand. Let it represent the Holy Spirit. Put it together, and the connecting link is the tongue. That's how you can pray in the Holy Spirit.

When we first came to this country, we didn't know exactly how to pray in the Holy Spirit. We didn't know exactly how to do it. We didn't know exactly what was going on. We just felt that the Holy Spirit was with us and we started praying. You said you were walking across the campus and praying. You felt better, but you really didn't have any more understanding than you had before. You were a servant of the Holy Spirit. You felt that force. Squeeze your right hand. Do you feel that force? Squeeze your left hand. Let it represent the Holy Spirit. Put it together, and the connecting link is the tongue. That's how you can pray in the Holy Spirit.

When you talk about the reservoir, I remember Jesus said that when you believe on Me, out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water. Doesn't it also say the waters would be flowing? Do you think the Holy Spirit is something that's not flowing? Do you think the Holy Spirit is something that's not flowing now? ORAL: Yes, he has a hang-up on that. The release is an unknown tongue. I don't interpret the tongue. PATTY: Right.

The prayer language is always in you, day and night. But the gift of tongues comes and goes, as the need develops in the Body of Christ.

Pat: We would like to talk about the prayer language. I think it integrates the whole person, soul and spirit. ORAL: The charismatic experience is being poured out today without regard to denomination, because God is determined to give this to His people. It's going to happen, whether you like it or not. You're afraid to embrace the charismatic? It's not coming. It's not going to happen. It's there. ORAL: Yes, this is the way you can obey Paul's command to pray withoutceasing. Pray, in tongues. PATTY: I really appreciate the distinction between the gift of tongues and the prayer language. ORAL: You see, people have a hang-up on that. The gift of tongues. PATTY: Right.

You can pray and praise in your own language. Let it come out. Then in the mind by interpretation. Miracles of understanding would happen if man tried to understand first in the spirit. ORAL: Yes, he lets us pray in the spirit, with our spirit. Then we pray with our understanding in the spirit. And we have two delivery systems of prayer; one in the spirit with our spirit, which is tongues, and one in our understanding or intellect. God delivers understanding to our spirit and He delivers understanding to our mind. He loves us. He wants us to understand. He wants us to want to understand. And we have a way to relate to the Lord. Is this what you're getting at?
not quite finished. And I don’t want to die before I finish it. I want to be alive while I live. I don’t want to be dead while I’m alive. The Bible says, “Be lively stones,” not tombstones.

PRAYER

Father, in the name of Jesus I thank You that Jesus went back to You and sent us the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, who is with us and who is inside us. And I thank You that You allow us to pray with the spirit and to pray with the understanding so that we can know that we know that we know through Christ.

And now, dear friend, I pray for you. I command the devil to take his hands off your life. Through Jesus Christ, I command the devil to take his hands off your life. I command that sickness to come out of your body. You foul tormenting disease, you come out in the name of Jesus Christ. You foul tormenting spirit of fear, I command you, by the Lord, you come out.

And, Father, I pray that Your healing hand will come upon each one of us. I pray that God’s hand will come upon you. That you’ll be aware of the Holy Spirit flooding up from your inner being like living water. That you’ll know this experience. That you’ll live in it, day by day by day. And that you’ll start experiencing life through your spirit and then through your understanding until the whole person starts relating to God and to life. I pray that prayer and I believe for it. And I expect a miracle in your life, through Jesus Christ. Amen and amen.

THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF YOUR LIFE

In one sense, this is one of the most tragic stories ever told in the Bible; and in another sense, one of the most glorious. This story takes place within twenty-four hours.

The city of Samaria, then the capital of Israel, was situated on a hill in the middle of a valley. An invading army had to come through the hills, out into the valley, and then up the hill to the city. Completely surrounding Samaria was a wall that made it very difficult for an enemy to invade Samaria. Because they had been unable to break through these defenses, the Syrians were encamped around the city of Samaria.

The city was blockaded and the food supply cut off. The people had nothing to eat, and in starvation some were eating the flesh of their own children. This is a desperate hour in the midst of a terrible situation, the city is in uproar, the people are killing each other for food. GodSeed-Faiths a twenty-four hour promise of food. He does this through the prophet Elisha, who sows a great seed of faith in delivering this message.

Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the Lord; Thus saith the Lord, To morrow about this time (that's twenty-four hours later) shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

This means in twenty-four hours there’ll be so much food that you can buy all you want for a few pennies. That’s what it means. Today it’s so scarce that if you had a million dollars you couldn’t buy a loaf of bread. But things will change in twenty-four hours and food will be so plentiful you won’t have to worry about it.

Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned (one of his aides) answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be?

This is a cynical, scornful, doubting statement. You say there’s going to be so much food tomorrow that we can buy all we want for a few pennies. Well, if God should turn heaven into windows and just pour bread down, this might be.

And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. You see, this man had sown bad seed and it’s going to reap tragic results. Now let’s get into the next part, which is the real heart of what I want to share with you.

And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no man there.

For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life. And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and
God will Seed-Faith

Twenty-four hours of your life. The next twenty-four hours of your life. They're important because of what you are and what you hope and dream to be. They're important because there's a time in your life when God intends to do some great and mighty thing. And in the doing of it, there will be defeat and sometimes destruction. It's difficult to remember. I think your first feeling is that things are so bad they'll never get any better. God tells us, "If we tarry till the morning light, some good tidings, and we hold our peace: one to another and went and hid it. Then they said, 'if the Lord should make windows in heaven, and earth open and go out into the garden and light a fire, and the Lord: I saw your back to the wall, it's hard for me to remember that God never fails to give a prophetid word of deliverance to show me the possibility of victory as we do. It's probably so, it's difficult to remember. I think your first feeling is that things are so bad they'll never get any better. God tells you things may get worse, but they will get better.

Well, there's going to be starvation. Have you ever been hungry? Have you ever been near death through starvation? Perhaps you have been near death because of illness or misfortune or a dreadful situation. This city was physically starving to death, and it represented the territory of this city confronting us and from which there seems to be no escape.

There are many forms of death. There are many forms of dying. Or you may be physically to feel he's dying. Sometimes I just feel like I'll die. Just feel like I'll never make it.

And in the midst of such a crisis, God always comes. When things get rough and my back is to the wall, it's hard to remember. I think your first feeling is that things are so bad they'll never get any better. God tells us, "If we tarry till the morning light, some good tidings, and we hold our peace: one to another and went and hid it. Then they said, 'if the Lord should make windows in heaven, and earth open and go out into the garden and light a fire, and the Lord:

A GOOD WORD

When I finished last week's message in this session of the miracle of Seed-Faith, I had a very strong impression I was to give you this prophecy in 2 Kings, Chapter 7. It is a prophecy of mind and heart for seven days. And I sense very, very deeply tonight that you need some good word within the next twenty-four hours. Something constructive and positive must be spoken in your heart and mind. And I believe that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will hear that word in the next twenty-four hours.

THREE RESPONSES

There were three kinds of people in that city. There were the distraught and the distressed who were starving to death. One incident in the sixth chapter of 2 Kings is run through mind and heart for seven days. And I sense very, very deeply tonight that you need some good word within the next twenty-four hours. Something constructive and positive must be spoken in your heart and mind. And I believe that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will hear that word in the next twenty-four hours.

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A MARCH OF FAITH

It was not the kind of march you put one foot in front of the other. Not the kind of decision in which you say, "Now let's see, let me analyze the situation. Here's what I'll do first. Then I'll take advantage of this and that's how we pull the problem." 

No, these men simply got up and began to walk in faith. They didn't know they were licked. You just know there's a little bit of faith in your heart. And Jesus never despised a little faith, my friend. He never turned away anyone with a little bit of faith. Now these four men got up in the coming night and marched toward the conquering army of Syria. 

They go, arm-in-arm, just a bundle of boxes, four hopeless leprous men, saying, "Why sit we here till we die? Say, let us go over and let us go." And so they marched out in faith.

HOLDING BAD ATTITUDES

But the man who said in cynicism and doubt and unbelief, "If God does not turn heaven into windows and pour it from heaven, could this miracle happen?" was run over and killed. You may get run over if you hold such bad attitudes. How? In many ways. You get knocked off the right path. You get your hopes crushed. You get down, down, down into your down until your down is the downest down you've ever been down in. Now that's getting down, isn't it? You look like an accent gone going. You look like you're holding onto the grim reaper. You look like you've been eating unclean and crah apples. You look like the face of a mouse. You look like you've been down in the mudgloops and drinking vinegar.

I mean it's tough when you get down like this. You die in your spirit. You die in your hopes. You give up and quit. And when you quit, there's nothing left for you in the world. Some people put a gun to their head and blow their brains out. Others write down in their human race. They withdraw into their terrible miseries. Others hate. They are filled with bitterness. Others try to kill. They murder because of it. They feel the terrible things when they get down and stay in this spirit of cynicism. This man got run over and was killed.

A LITTLE FAITH IS BIG TO THE DEVIL

The Syrian army thought the four lepers men marching toward them were one more enemy. They thought they were too great to stand against. What does this mean? It means your little faith, even as small as a seed, seems great to the devil. I mean you can shake him up.

WE DO NOT WELL

When the four lepers got to the entrance of this tent city of the army of Syria, they could find no man. They went into a tent and found plenty of food. They began to eat. There were gold and silver, precious jewels, and changes of garments. They loaded themselves down. They dug a hole and hid the treasure. Then they went to another tent and did the same thing. Finally they said, "Wait a minute, wait a minute. We're going at this thing all wrong. We're getting all for ourselves, gathering and hoarding for our future security. The starving people back in Samaria. If we continue doing this, something will happen. We're going to be sowing bad seeds. We're going to cancel out all the good seeds we've sown. So let us go back to the city and share the good news."

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

So they ran back. They limped out, but they ran back, shouting the good news. Well, the city went mad with relief and joy. The people rushed out and discovered that the army of Syria was gone. There was plenty of food. And the prophecy of Elisha was fulfilled in twenty-four hours.

If you're going to share the good news, you'll ache with the ache of being a leper. You'll ache with the ache of being a leper. 

Today I was at an important meeting of a great corporation in this state. The chairman of the board, "Oriel, I just finished the first chapter of your book, A Daily God's Miracle Is Meant for You. In the chapter it says, "Devil, take your hands off God's property. I belong to God. Devil, keep your hands off me." All day long I've said that, because I've been under the after crisis after crisis. I made it through because I told the devil, "Take your hands off me and off my company." That one idea is worth the whole book.

Well, I said, "There are ninety more ideas in that book. Go on to the next one." And she said, "Devil, take your hands off me. I'm God's property. I belong to God. Devil, let you alone." Can you say it? "Devil, you let me alone. I belong to God."

PANEL DISCUSSION

EVELYN: I was thinking about the three different groups of people that you mentioned tonight. The mass of people who were hungry, the king's aide who didn't believe, and the four lepers. Well, really there was one more, the prophet Elisha. So actually there were four groups of people.

ORAL: There were five, counting God.

EVELYN: The prophet Elisha had no idea who was to bring that prophecy to pass.

ORAL: That's a very important point, Evelyn. And we don't know which one of us God will use. How does He select? Can you think in instances like this, He chooses according to our attitude? We're men out there with that strong positive attitude. Yet they were unlikely looking prospects, weren't they?

EVELYN: Yes. You see, when God tells us to do something, it's not necessary for us to know how God's going to handle it. The important thing for us is to be obedient to God. You see, Elisha was obedient. He spoke the words of God, although he couldn't see how the prophecy would be fulfilled.

ORAL: He wasn't responsible before it happened. He could only deliver the word of faith, plant the good seed. That's all he could do, wasn't it?

EVELYN: Yes. Now think of the four lepers, men, sitting out there, who were to bring to pass what Elisha said would happen.

ORAL: Think of someone sitting in this audience or you or me who's to bring to pass a promise of God. Some great and wonderful thing has promised. Can you know who it will be? Sometimes I think you can.

EVELYN: Well, when God touches you to do a certain thing, you can't do it, can you?

ORAL: Yes, you're talking about when God specifically touches you like that. But I'm talking about something else. God chooses people with right attitudes to do His work. The fellow with the bad attitude asks, "Why doesn't God ever use me?"

EVELYN: If you're asked yourself, "What kind of attitude do I have? And what kind of attitude do I continue to have?" God's a good attitude is not a gimmick. Sometimes a person does something wrong, gets caught, and says, "I'm so sorry." But they're not sorry. What they did, they're only sorry they got caught. This is not true Bible asking for forgiveness. It's a gimmick. The change in your heart is reflected in your whole attitude.

PRAYER

Father, we too find ourselves missing. We too find ourselves dismayed by bad reports. But, on the other hand, we know the Bible promises us deliverance, God's deliverance. We also find there is a wonderful sense of an impression from God. And we are people with promise, with hope, with faith. Even though it's little, we have a promise residing in the bottom of the communication. We have
the beginning of a miracle. And I pray for that to happen to every one of us through Jesus Christ.

And now, dear friend, I pray, I really pray for you. I pray for you right now. I pray that these next twenty-four hours are going to bring the right change in your life. I pray that whatever bad attitude you have, it'll be replaced by a good attitude. I pray that God will fan your little faith into a flame of bigger faith. I pray that the power of God will actually happen in your life. And I'm believing. I mean I'm on your side. I care that something good happens to you. The seed I plant comes back to me. It goes to you, but it comes back to me too. And I pray for you. And I expect miracles for you. I really do, through Jesus Christ. And everybody said amen.
I am happy in the Now V".

class at book includes that class. 

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