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Introduction

During a time of meditation, the words come to me “*fully persuaded.*” Following that many scripture verses came to me concerning Jesus, and Christians. Jesus was “fully persuaded,” and Christians should also become fully persuaded.

What came to me was from Romans 4:20,21, speaking of Abraham, it says, “**He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God...And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**”

When Christians become “**fully persuaded**” of all it says concerning who they are in Christ, they will walk like Jesus walked. Jesus knew who He was and why He came into this world. Jesus knew the Scriptures and what the Scriptures said concerning Himself.

Jesus knew He was the son of Abraham (Gen. 22:18; Matt. 1:1). Jesus walked in a faith that He was “fully persuaded” in what the Word said concerning Him, God was able to perform.

Jesus knew He was the son David (2 Sam. 7:12; Matt. 1:1). David was a king over a kingdom. Jesus was “fully persuaded” that He was a king, but His kingdom was not of this world (John 18:33-37).

Jesus knew He was a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec (Psa. 110:4; Heb. 6:20). Jesus was “fully persuaded” of His position as a High Priest, when He offered up Himself, as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus knew He was a prophet like unto Moses (Deu.18:15; John 5:45,46). Jesus prophesied of the coming of the kingdom of God and the end times (Mark 1:14,15; Matt. 24:4-42).

What about Christians? Do they know the Scriptures and what the Scriptures say about them? What is written cannot be changed, “**the Scripture cannot be broken**” (John 10:35). Are Christians “fully persuaded” according to all that the Scriptures say about Christians?

Jesus knew He was the beginning of a new creation of man (God and man joined together in one person). Jesus knew that it was the Cross and the Resurrection that would make the new creation what it is today (Heb.12:2).

Do Christians understand the Cross and the Resurrection? Are Christians “fully persuaded” concerning everything that is revealed concerning the Cross and Resurrection (Rom. 10:6-13)?

Jesus was “fully persuaded” that when He prayed to the Father, the Father would answer (John 11:41,42). Are Christians today “fully persuaded” that, when they pray their prayer will be answered?

“Fully persuaded”

Part One

What must Christians do to become “fully persuaded?” One of the first things that is necessary is to know, beyond all natural understanding that they are not of this world. Jesus said in John 17:16, **“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”** If we are not of this world, then why is the world and the things of this world so important to Christians?

When we were born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, we were translated from the flesh of Adam into the Spirit of Christ. Romans 8:9 says, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”**

Because that we are no longer in the flesh but in the Spirit, we need to focus our attention on the spiritual realm, not on the things of this world. We need to get the Word of God into our heart, not just into our mind. Many Christians have memorized a lot of Scripture, but it is only in their mind, and not in their heart. They can quote a lot of Scripture from their mind, but in their life, they are still desiring the things of this world. As we study the life of Jesus in the Gospels, we can see that Jesus was not looking for the things of this world. Jesus was not encouraging anyone to desire the things of this world. Our attention should be on what God the Father desires for us to do?

God the Father sent Jesus into this world to destroy the works of the Devil (1 John 3:8). Our attention should be on destroying the works of the Devil. How do we destroy the works of the Devil? It is not by our ability, but only by the anointing of the Holy Spirit within us. What we try to do in the natural is only of the flesh. It must be the Holy Spirit working in us by His power (John 14:10). We must always be looking to the Holy Spirit within us and the anointing to do whatsoever we are to do.

To do the will of God the Father, we must know what the will of God the Father is for us, individually. Everyone of us have a purpose in this world. We are only a part of the Body of Christ, and every part is important. Before we can become effective in what God has called us to do, we must be fully persuaded as to what our calling is? This can only come by spending time in the Word of God and praying in the Spirit. The more time we spend in the Word and praying in the Spirit the more the Holy Spirit will reveal to us what we need to do.

The greatest battle we will have to fight is in our mind. The spirits of this world will be constantly putting thoughts in our minds to get us thinking about things that are not important to God, and the call of God on our lives. Jesus told us in Matthew 6:25-33, to not be so concerned about the things we think we need. God the Father knows what we have need of. If we are doing what the Father desires for us to do, He will make sure everything we need is supplied.

Controlling our thoughts is the greatest battle we will be facing on a daily bases. Keeping our mind on the things of the spirit, and the call of God on our lives is more important than the things of this world.

Wherever we go, there will be Christians who claim to be called into the ministry, who will try to get us to do what they say we should do. The more time we spend alone in the Word of God and in praying in the Spirit, the easier it will be to know that God will direct our ways Himself, not people who say they are hearing from God concerning what we should be doing.

The work of the five-fold ministry is not to control what others do, but to edify and build up their faith to do what they have been called to do (Eph. 4:11-16). Faith is the most important thing in the lives of Christians (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38). We must learn to live by faith in God, not by the way the world lives.

Learning how to live by faith in God is a lifetime of experience in the Word of God and hearing from the Holy Spirit. There are things that we can observe in the Scriptures that will help

us. In Luke 8:23-25 it says, **“But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy...And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm...And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.”**

Notice in Luke 8:24, Jesus said to His disciples, **“Where is your faith?”** Jesus expects us to use our faith. Jesus knows we have faith. But, how do we make our faith work for us?

Here are a few examples that can help us get our faith to work for us. In one case that I heard of a Pastor who was commanding a spirit to leave someone he was praying for. The person he was praying for had arthritis and could not bend down to touch the floor. The Pastor knew that when the spirit left the person he was praying for, that person would be able to bend down and touch the floor. He commanded the spirit of arthritis to leave the person he was praying for, and then he said to the person, *“see if you can touch the floor?”* The person tried but could not. The Pastor did this a number of times, and the person still could not bend down and touch the floor.

The Pastor then left that man and went to the next person in line. When he left that man and went to the next person in line the LORD spoke to him concerning the man with the arthritis, saying, *“I said, in My Name, he will go!”* The Pastor went back to the man with arthritis and commanded the spirit to leave again, and said, *“Now see if you can touch the floor?”* The man still could not touch the floor. The LORD said to the Pastor again, *“I said, in My Name, he will go!”* After the third time the LORD said to the Pastor, *“I said, in My Name, he will go,”* the Pastor got it. “When the Pastor believed the spirit would go, the spirit left.” When the Pastor believed it was done, he said to the man, *“Now bend down and touch the floor.”* The man was healed and did bend down and touched the floor.

When the person doing the praying is looking to see *“if it worked,”* it will not work. We must be positive, beyond all doubt that when we command a spirit to leave in Jesus’ Name, that spirit will leave. The spirit does not have a choice but to leave when we believe he will leave, while we are commanding him to leave in the Name of Jesus!

In another case a Pastor was casting out a number of spirits in one person. It took him hours to get down to only a few spirits left in that person. He kept commanding the last few out in the Name of Jesus. Yet, they were not leaving. This Pastor asked the LORD, *“LORD, when are these going to go?”* The LORD said to the Pastor, *“When you believe they will go, they will go!”* As long as we keep watching to see if they went, they will not go. It is when we believe they will go when we command them to go, they will go.

We must be “fully persuaded” that, when we use the Name of Jesus, it will work and will not fail. When we are “fully persuaded,” our faith will work.

When we are commanding spirits to leave, or commanding healing, we must believe it is done. We cannot look to see if it is done before we believe it is done. There should not be any doubt, “if it is done?” “Fully persuaded,” means, “no doubt!”

One day I burned my hand on a hot cake pan in the oven at 400 degrees. You could smell the odor of burned flesh throughout the house. I looked at my hand and saw the burn, and said, *“By Jesus’ stripes I am healed. Thank You Jesus!”* I went about what I was doing, just as if nothing happened. About six hours later I looked at my hand, there was not even a mark where it had been burned. It was totally healed, with no evidence of a burn. When you speak to the situation, believe, and forget it ever happened. As one Brother in the LORD said many times, *“If you believe you are healed, then act like it!”* Go about your life just as though there never was a situation that needed prayer.

When we are fully persuaded, we do not give it another thought. It is done! It is finished! It

is something of the past, it no longer exists.

Exercising our faith, increases our faith. The more we use our faith, the greater our faith will be when we use it. The New Covenant says, **“The just shall live by faith”** (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38). We should be exercising our faith everyday, all day long, every day. Keep using your faith. Keep your faith active all the times.

James 2:14, says, **“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?”** There should be a corresponding action to our faith. If we pray and say we are healed, then there should be a corresponding action that agrees with our confession. Healed people do not continue to lay in bed talking about how they feel. Healed people get out of bed and do the same things other people who are healed do. Laying in bed and talking about how weak they are, or about all the pain, or any other symptoms of sickness or disease is the opposite of faith. Everyday, our faith should have a corresponding action, that the whole world knows beyond all doubt that what we speak is true.

Hebrews 10:38, says, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”** As Christians, we need to be living by faith everyday of our lives. It is not enough to use our faith only when we feel a need for answered prayer. Our whole life should be a daily walking by faith, and living by faith.

How is that done? If we study the life of Jesus, we will see how to live by faith, everyday. Jesus did not own His own home, or house. Jesus told the truth when He said Luke 9:58, **“...Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.”** Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit in everything He did (John 5:30).

Jesus spent His time in prayer and ministry of the Word of God. This is very important to building up our faith. Peter and the other apostles did the same thing. In Acts 6:4, the Apostles said to the others concerning the distribution of that which was given for those in need, **“...we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”** This is one of the most important things concerning, doing the work of the ministry. This is one of the most important things to building up our faith. Those who are concerned about the things of this world, will not have great faith, and will not be fully persuaded when they pray. Just like Jesus, Peter was also fully persuaded as he went about his daily life. Peter trusted in the LORD for everything, and had great results when it came to prayer.

Faith is the most important thing in the life of a Christian. Hebrews 11:6, says, **“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”** True Faith does not work when God is not pleased. There is a type of “counterfeit faith” that many Christians operate in and call it faith. Their faith is in their ability to convince others to give to them what they say they need to do the work of the ministry. That is not true “faith in God.” In the natural, it looks good to others being that it looks like God is supplying all their needs. But, in truth, it is only the flesh, not the Holy Spirit.

True faith is seen in the life of Jesus. Jesus knew what He needed to do, and how to do what He needed to do everyday. True faith is when a person is led by the Holy Spirit in everything they do.

Jesus operated in the gifts of the Spirit on a daily basis. Many times, Jesus knew what others were thinking, and responded to what they were thinking without first asking them questions as to what they thought (Matt. 9:4,14; Mark 12:15; Luke 11:17).

To walk by faith, we must **“believe that God is God, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”** (Heb. 11:6). Diligently seeking God includes spending time in prayer and ministry of the Word of God. Building up our most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20). Daily studying and meditating upon the Word of God. Putting God first in our lives, then putting others before ourselves. That is what God did when He sent Jesus into this world to destroy the

works of the devil by His death and resurrection from the dead.

Jesus was willing to come into this world, and live and die for the sins of the whole world. Jesus was willing to be beaten and crucified for the healing of our bodies. Jesus put the needs of mankind before His own needs. That is the attitude that Christians need to obtain great faith, and be fully persuaded that what God said in His Word, He will fulfill (Rom. 4:17-21).

In 1 John 5:14,15 it says, **“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us...And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”** When we are fully persuaded and walking by faith, we will have confidence and patience when we pray. We will not waver when the devil attacks our minds. We will continue to walk by faith, even while the Devil is attacking our minds. When we know we that God already heard our prayer, and we know we were praying according to His will, we will also know that our prayer is answered. God answers every prayer that is prayed in faith, according to His will.

SPOKEN WORDS

In Matthew 12:36, Jesus said, **“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.”** Words are very important. Every idle spoken word will be accounted for. Christians need to understand the importance of words. In verse 37, Jesus said, **“For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”** Our spoken words can justify us and our words can condemn us.

Jesus was very careful concerning the words He spoke. In John 6:63 Jesus said, **“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”** When Jesus spoke words to His disciples, He was very careful what words He spoke, He only spoke words that are life. All of Jesus’ words that He spoke were spirit. Therefore, to those whom He chose as His disciples, Jesus was very careful what words He spoke to them.

The words we speak to others will come back to us. Jesus said in Matthew 7:1,2, **“Judge not, that ye be not judged...For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.”** The words we speak contrary to the Word of God, will come back to us, contrary to the Word of God. In Luke 6:37, Jesus said, **“ Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.”**

The serpent in the garden of Eden spoke words to Eve contrary to the Word of God. His end result was that his physical body was changed to that of a snake (Gen. 3:14).

The words we speak should always agree with the Word of God. Whatsoever we say, we will get. What goes out of our mouth, returns to us. If we bless others, we will be blessed. If we curse others, we will be cursed.

We are created in the image and likeness of God. God is love, therefore we should always speak in love. When we speak love, we receive love. When we speak life, we receive life. When we speak healing we receive healing. When we speak joy, we receive joy. When we speak blessings, we receive blessings.

In Proverbs 13:2 it says, **“A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth...”** Our words will return unto us. When we speak good to others, good will return unto us. What we do unto others will be done unto us. What we give to others will be given unto to us. In Luke 6:38, Jesus said, **“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”** Whatsoever we give, it will be given unto us. Therefore, it says in Acts 20:35, **“...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”**

In Numbers 21:5,6 it says, **“And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread...And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.”** Be thankful for everything we have. What we have is a result of what we have been speaking. Speak blessings and we will be blessed. Bless others and we will receive blessings from others.

Psalms 91:1 says, **“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”** Where is the secret place of the Most High? It is in Christ Jesus. Colossians 3:2,3, says, **“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth...For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”** “We are hid with Christ in God.” In God is love, for God is love (1 John 4:8). When we are walking in love, we are under the shadow of the Almighty.

The Devil cannot touch us when we are hid with Christ in God. By the words of our mouth, “the fruit of our lips,” Psalm 91:2, says, **“I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”** What we say, is what we get. We receive according to the words we speak. Therefore, Psalm 91:3,4, says, **“Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence...He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.”**

Psalm 104:1 says, **“Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.”** When we bless the LORD, He will bless us. By the fruit of our lips we will receive blessings from the LORD.

Psalm 91:9,10, says, **“Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation...There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.”** When we abide in the shadow of the Almighty, we will be blessed by the fruit of our lips. The Devil will not be able to bring any evil or any plague against us. We will walk in the blessings of the LORD, when we Bless the LORD in everything.

Psalm 91:15,16 says, **“He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him...With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.”**

In Isaiah 65:24, it says, **“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”** We know that God knows what we are going to say before we say anything. He knows every thought we think.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:44, **“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”**

Job went through a time of great trial. All throughout Job’s trial, he suffered great loss. Job lost his children, his possessions, and also suffered pain from **“boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown”** (Job 2:7). Job did not get any relief from his condition until he confessed **“I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not”** (Job 42:3). Then Job repented for the words he had spoken, saying in Job 42:6, **“Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”** Following Job’s repentance and confession, the LORD restored Job, and gave Job twice as much as he had before (Job 41:10).

If Christians want to be free of anything that causes them to suffer, they need to repent and confess their sins. Then change their speaking, and speak words of spirit and life.

SPOKEN WORDS PART TWO

Spoken words are spirit. Spoken words travel throughout all creation. Words spoken on earth can be heard in heaven. In Daniel 10:12, it tells us of when Daniel set his heart to fast and pray, an angel came to him and said, **“Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.”** God heard Daniel’s words in heaven. It took the angel twenty-one days to get to Daniel with the answer to his prayer. How far is it from here to heaven? Who knows for sure? But from the first day that Daniel began to pray, God already heard his words in heaven.

Words travel at a greater speed than sound or light. Sound travels about 600 miles per second. Light travels about 186,000 miles per second. There is no measurement established for the speed that words travel, for they are not physical, but rather spiritual. In the spiritual realm distance is eternity (has no end).

In Isaiah 65:24, it says, **“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”** We know that God knows what we are going to say before we say anything. He knows every thought we think. At the same time, the LORD God said, **“...while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”** That indicates that God hears every word while we are speaking. That’s how fast words travel throughout creation.

Words are like bullets fired from a rifle. They travel at a high rate of speed. They hit the target every time. When we speak, we should name the target. If we do not name a target they could become idle words. Idle words spoken can cause damage to others. They are the words that we will give an account for on the last day. Therefore, we must order our spoken words correctly, that they accomplish that which we intended them for.

If we are speaking words to the LORD, or to God the Father, we should address the LORD or God the Father, making sure our words hit the target (which is the LORD or God the Father). When praying to God the Father, mention who we are praying to. If we are praying to the Father, say “Father.” If we are praying to the LORD, say “LORD.”

If our words are intended for other spirits, we should address the spirit we are speaking to, making sure they hit the target. If it is a spirit of infirmity, say “spirit of infirmity.” If it is a lying spirit, say “lying spirit.” If it is a spirit of cancer, say “spirit of cancer.” Whatever spirit we are talking to, identify that spirit.

Shotgun prayers do not always hit the target. Words spoken without a target could end up being idle words, accomplishing nothing for us. Speaking words without specific intentions could be worse for us than if we didn’t speak any words in our own language at all.

If we do not know what to say, then we should pray in the spirit (let the Holy Spirit empower our speaking) (Rom. 8:26,27). Most of our prayers that are not for a specific purpose should be prayed in the Spirit (Eph. 6:18). Praying in the Spirit is God’s preferred way of praying. God wants to be in control of everything we do. Therefore, if we pray in the Spirit, we put the Holy Spirit in control of our prayer. Praying in the Spirit will never result in speaking idle words.

WORDS CREATE OR DESTROY

Genesis 1:1 tells us, **“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”** How did God create the heavens and the earth? Hebrews 11:3 says, **“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”** God used spoken words to create the heavens and the earth. We see also evidence of this in the first chapter of Genesis, where it says, **“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light”** (Gen. 1:3). When God spoke words, it was according to what God said. God’s Words have creative power. They bring into existence that which was not seen. When God speaks creative Words, that which was not seen comes into manifestation in the natural world. All throughout the six days of creation, first God said, then what God said came into being. God did not create anything without first saying what He intended to create.

There is spiritual power in spoken words. They can be used for our benefit, if we use them properly. We were created in the likeness of God (Gen. 1:26,27, 2:7). The likeness of God is the way God does things. God speaks His Word and it comes to pass. Romans 4:17 says, **“(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.”** Studying this Scripture verse carefully, we can see that **“God speaks those things that be not as though they were.”** If we are to continue in the likeness of God we must also **“speak those things that be not as though they were.”**

As we speak, our words travel at a high rate of speed to accomplish that which we have spoken. In an instant, our words accomplish that which we say. They hit the target and that which did not appear, appears.

When we speak words, we may not see the manifestation instantly, but the process of manifestation begins the instant we speak and continues as long as no one speaks contrary to what was said. Even with God, the complete manifestation does not always complete itself the instant He speaks. The manifestation begins its process and continues until it is complete. Why did it take six days to create all that God created in the first six days? The six times God said, **“let there be...”** could have all been said the first day. Why did God wait until the next day to say **“let there be...”**? It didn’t take long for God to create all that was created on the first six days, but it did take six days.

Some Christians have very little patience. They want others to move and do things instantly, but for themselves, they want others to wait, and wait, and wait. We need understanding of faith and how it works. Faith does not work without patience. Patience and faith work together (James 1:2-4).

God has patience. God is never in a hurry. God took His time in creating everything. Even though God created all things by speaking His Word, He was not in a hurry. Therefore, we must also operate in the likeness of God, **“speaking those things that be not as though they were...,”** being patient to see the manifestation.

Christians would not need faith, if they always had instant manifestations. But God said, **“The just shall live by faith.”** Living by faith involves, patience while waiting for the manifestation. What God said cannot be changed, for God cannot lie (Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18). Being that God is the Creator and not the created, what God says always has priority over what others say. If God said something concerning what we speak, what God says will stand.

This is to our advantage, for if God told us to speak something, then God will make sure it accomplishes that which we speak. God’s Word cannot fail, neither can God fail.

Jesus said, **“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life”** (John 6:63). Therefore, Jesus is telling us to speak words of “life,” when we speak to people. It is God’s Word and God’s will that people be saved (that is, delivered and protected from all the works of the enemy).

People should be saved, not destroyed. Jesus said in Luke 9:56, **“...the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.”** Christians should always speak words that save people, not destroy them. Our spoken words are like bullets, they can hit the target and save someone or they can hit the target and destroy someone.

There is a time when we should speak words that do destroy. When we speak against sickness or disease we need to speak words that destroy sickness or disease. That is God's will for His people. Even though Jesus came to save, He also came to destroy the works of the devil. In 1 John 3:8 it says, **“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”**

Christians must know the reason for speaking words, and then only speak words that will accomplish the will of God. God's will for all people is that they live and not die. Therefore, our words to people should be words that give life, not death. Our words to the works of the devil should be death, not life.

In Deuteronomy 30:19 the LORD said, **“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”** Life and death, blessing and cursing are before us. The LORD wants us to choose life. Spoken words can be a blessing or a curse, they can bring life or death. We need to speak words that bring life and blessings.

In Proverbs 18:21, it tells us, **“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”** Our spoken words are very important, for the result of speaking words could be life or death.

WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?

In Acts 3:8, Peter said to the man who was lame from his mother's womb, **"...Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."** Was the man healed because the man had faith? Was the man healed because the man believed? In Acts 3:16, Peter said, **"And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong..."** Whose faith was it, Peter's or the man's faith?

Acts 9:34 says, **"And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately."**

In Acts 9:40 it says, **"But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up."** Did Tabitha have to first believe to receive? Was it Tabitha's faith?

In John 14:12, Jesus said, **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."** It seems that Peter was doing the same works that Jesus did.

In all three of the above, it seems it was Peter's faith, and faith in the name of Jesus. What does it take to have great faith? Jesus said in John 5:30, **"I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."** Therefore, whatsoever Jesus did, it was the will of God the Father. When we set our mind and our heart to do only the will of God the Father, we will have great faith.

In Matthew 8:8, it says, **"The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed."** In Matthew 8:10, it says, **"When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."**

What was it that Jesus heard the centurion say? Jesus heard the centurion say, **"...speak the Word only, and my servant will be healed."** Great faith is when we do not go by the circumstances, or the natural things of this world. Great faith is when we believe that speaking the Word of God only, will cause the manifestation of whatsoever we say.

In speaking of faith to His disciples in Mark 11:22, the first thing Jesus mentioned was, **"Have faith in God."** Faith in anything else, or anyone else will not produce great faith. Great faith comes by having faith in God and speaking the Word only.

Jesus had great faith. In Luke 5:4-6 it says, **"Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught...And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net...And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake."** What was it that caused these disciples to catch **"...a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake?"** It was the faith of Jesus, as He spoke the Word. We see this again in John 21:5,6 where it says, **"Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No...And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes."** What caused so many fish to be right there on the right side of the ship? It was the faith of Jesus. Jesus had great faith. The words that Jesus spoke in faith caused a multitude of fish to be there on the right side of the ship when the disciples cast their net on the right side of the ship.

Great faith comes by doing the will of the Father. When we are **"doing the will of the Father only,"** we will have great faith to do whatsoever is the will of God the Father. When we are doing our own will, we will not have great faith. God gives us faith to do His will. God does not give us faith to do our own will of the flesh.

Great faith is based upon the Word of God. It is not based upon our will of the flesh. Our faith must be in God, not what we can do of our own ability. The Word of God is the seed that

causes our faith to grow. When we speak “the Word of God only,” our faith will grow. When we do the will of God the Father only, our faith will become great faith.

It takes the Word of God living in us to produce great faith. The more we live by the Word of God, the greater our faith will be. If we continue to live according to the circumstances and the things of this world, our faith will be hindered. Doubt and unbelief come from the spirits of this world. If we listen to the spirits of this world and do whatsoever they say, we will not have faith. All we will have is doubt and unbelief.

Jesus said to the man whose child had a deaf and dumb spirit, **“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”** (Mark 9:23). We get what we believe, by believing, “all things are possible.”

We can live in health by living by the Word of God. The Word of God will produce great faith, which will overcome all the works of the enemy.

Living by the Word of God is not just quoting certain Scripture verses over and over again. Quoting Scripture verses will help us build up our faith. But, living by the Word of God starts by receiving Jesus Christ as our LORD and Savior. Once we are truly born again, the Word of God dwells in us. Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1,14). When Jesus comes into us, and we become born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, we have the Word of God living in us (1 Peter 1:23; John 3:6). This is the beginning of a new life in the Spirit of Christ.

Following the new birth, we need the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, which we can receive from God. This is in addition to the new birth. Once we have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and filled with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit can help, guide, comfort, lead, and teach us all things. It is by being taught by the Holy Spirit that we will learn to live by faith. Men can try to teach others how to live by faith, but only the Holy Spirit can accomplish the great faith that we need to overcome the works of the Devil.

As we continue to do the will of God the Father, the Holy Spirit will continue to teach, lead, and guide us into all truth. Once we have received the Holy Spirit, we can build up our most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20). Building up our faith will help us to have great faith, like the faith that Jesus had.

There are many ways in which our faith can be used to destroy the works of the devil. Faith in the name of Jesus, is one of the many ways our faith can overcome the works of the Devil. Jesus said in Luke 10:19, **“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”**

When we believe in the name of Jesus, our faith will work and we will have great success over the works of the devil. For faith to work, we must believe the Word of God. Doubt and unbelief will hinder our faith from working.

Jesus said in Mark 16:17,18, **“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues... They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”** For Mark 16:17,18 to work, we must believe in the name of Jesus.

When we were still in Adam, we did not have faith. We had the power to believe. When we believed the Gospel, we received Jesus Christ as our LORD and Savior. At that time in our lives we were translated from the flesh of Adam into the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9; 2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 1:13).

Once we are in Christ, we have faith given to us in the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23). By the fruit of the Spirit within us, we must increase our faith, until we have great faith, just like Jesus had. It is the faith that we have, which is given to us by God that will overcome the world.

Faith is very important for every Christian to have. In Hebrews 10:38 it says, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”** We start with little faith, given to us by God. Then it is up to us to build up our faith, until we have great faith,

like Jesus had.

Faith does not work according to the natural mind. The natural mind was conformed to this world. Therefore, we must renew our mind, until we are no longer conformed to this world, but transformed to live by faith (Rom. 12:2).

Faith does not go by what we see. Faith goes by things that are not seen. In Hebrews 11:1 it says, **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** There is substance and there is evidence to faith. But, that substance and that evidence is not in things that are seen. The substance and evidence is in the Word of God, which dwells in us following the new birth. Upon receiving Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior, the substance and evidence is in our spirit, not in our mind. We must receive the Truth of the Gospel from our spirit, by the help of the Holy Spirit within us.

The Holy Spirit within us bears witness to the Word of God and the Blood of Jesus (1 John 5:8). This witness within us activates our faith, which causes those things that do not appear to appear. The things which we cannot see, will manifest when our faith brings them into the natural realm from the spiritual realm.

The greater our faith, the greater the manifestation will be. The greater our faith, the faster the manifestation will come. When Jesus said to his disciples in John 21:6, **“Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find,”** the fish were there. Were the fish always there, before Jesus told them to **“Cast the net on the right side of the ship?”** Most likely not. It was most likely the faith of Jesus that caused a great multitude of fish to be on the right side of the ship at that time.

Faith causes things that are not seen in the natural realm to appear. What is already there in the spiritual realm, will manifest in the natural realm, when we have faith. All faith must be a work of God, not of man. Therefore, it must be God working in our lives, by His power and might, not by the flesh of man, and not by the might of man, but by the Spirit of God. In Zechariah 4:6 it says, **“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”** This is New Covenant faith, prophesied at the time of Zechariah.

When we believe what the New Testament says concerning faith, we can increase our faith to where we can also have “great faith.” Jesus had great faith. Jesus said in John 14:12, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”** To do the works that Jesus did, we need to do the same things Jesus did. Most important is that Jesus never did His own will. Jesus did only the will of God the Father. This is the beginning of having great faith.

What about Peter’s faith? What about Peter in Acts, Chapter Three? Was the man healed because the man had faith? Was the man healed because the man believed? In Acts 3:16, Peter said, **“And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong...”** Whose faith was it, Peter’s or the man’s? Peter said, it was faith in the name of Jesus that made that man whole.

It says in Acts 9:40, **“But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.”** Did Tabitha have to first believe to receive? Was it Tabitha’s faith? Every indication is that it was Peter’s faith that caused Tabitha to come back to life. Did Peter have “great faith?” Can Christians today have great faith?

Where is our faith? Are we believing all that the Scriptures tell us we should believe? Are we doing the will of God the Father, or are we still trying to do our own will of the flesh? Where is our faith?

Be Thankful Part One

Psalm 92:1 **“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High.”**

Psalm 105:1 **“O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.”**

Psalm 118:1 **“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.”**

Psalm 140:13 **“Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.”**

Why didn't so many of the Children of Israel enter into the promised land? I believe they were not thankful for all that the LORD had done for them in bringing them out of Egypt. I do not recall of anytime that they were giving thanks unto the LORD for delivering them from bondage of Egypt. In Exodus 15:1-21 they sang a song of the victory over Pharaoh and his army. But, I do not see anytime in Exodus through Deuteronomy where they actually gave thanks to the LORD.

Everyday the LORD kept a cloud over them for forty years. Every night the LORD was over them with a pillar of fire. Yet, they never gave the LORD thanks for what He was doing everyday in their lives.

Many times they murmured and complained because they did not have everything they desired. But it seems they never gave the LORD thanks for what He provided for them everyday. They murmured and complained that they did not have food to eat, and the LORD gave them manna to eat for forty-years. They murmured and complained that they did not have flesh to eat, and the LORD gave them quail in the evenings for forty years. They murmured and complained they did not have other foods like they had in Egypt. But, did they give thanks to the LORD for what He did give them? Did they thank the LORD for what they had, rather than murmur and complain because of what they did not have?

In Numbers 21:4-9, it says, **“And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way...And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread...And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died...Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people...And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live...And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.”**

The Children of Israel were complaining because they did not have all they desired. The LORD was providing them with that which was necessary. They were not thankful for what the LORD was providing for them.

It says in Numbers 21:6, **“And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.”** Would this have happened if the Children of Israel would have been thankful for what they did have, rather than complain about what they did not have?

When they confessed their sin of speaking against the LORD, Moses prayed for them and

by the mercy and grace of the LORD, **“...the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live”** (Num. 21:8).

Jesus made mention of this in John 3:14, saying, **“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.”** Could it be that many of our problems in life are caused by Christians not being thankful for what Jesus did for us on the Cross of Calvary?

When Christians start to complain about what they do not have in life, they need to change their ways, and be thankful for what God has done for them in Christ Jesus on the Cross of Calvary. When Christians are thankful for all that God has done for them on the Cross of Calvary, they will stop the devil from causing problems in their lives. Christians should look to the Cross of Calvary and thank and praise the LORD for all that He did for them in His death and resurrection from the dead.

Oh, that Christians would only understand the Cross of Calvary. Oh, that they would see what God has already done for them on the Cross of Calvary. Be thankful for all that Jesus did for us when He went to the Cross and gave His life for those who would believe the Gospel.

As Christians, we should be giving the LORD thanks for everything. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, it says, **“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”** Our first thing everyday should be to give thanks unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit for everything. Everyday, we should be thanking God for everything in our lives.

We should also be thanking others around us for everything they are doing for us. What we do for others is what we do for the LORD. When we say things to other Christians that are not pleasing to them, we are saying the same thing to the LORD. In Acts 9:4, the LORD said to Saul, **“Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?”** Saul thought he was persecuting Christians, but what he was actually doing, is he was persecuting the LORD, for the LORD dwells in every born again Christian.

What we say to other Christians is what we are saying to the LORD, for the LORD dwells in every born again Christian. When we thank another Christian for what they are doing for us, we are giving thanks unto the LORD also, for the LORD is in them. Christians are in Christ Jesus, and Christ Jesus is in them.

Christians should begin their day by thanking the LORD, and the Father, and the Holy Spirit. All day long Christians should be giving thanks to everyone who does anything to help them. Thank everyone for everything, and especially, thank the LORD for His grace and mercy. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 it says, **“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”**

Why are there so many Christians sickly and why have so many gone before their time? It could be, they were not thankful of all that the LORD had done for them. It could be they were not thankful for all that others have done for them. It could be, they did not have a thankful heart.

Have you ever seen a Christian who seems to be having a pity party? They want attention. They say others are not doing for them what they think they should be doing for them. Are they thankful for what others have been doing, or are they looking only at themselves, and not thanking others for all they are doing?

First of all, we should be thankful to God for all He has done and is doing in our lives. Christians have been redeemed by the Blood of the Jesus Christ, shed for them. Are Christians thankful for the redemption we have in Christ Jesus? Christians should be thankful for the new birth, which God had ordained for them from the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:3-5). God chose us, we did not choose God (John 15:16). Everything Christians have and everything Christians will ever be is a work of God, not of ourselves. Are Christians thankful for all that God had done for them?

Christians are justified by what God did for us in Christ Jesus. We should be thankful for our

justification (Acts 13:38,39). Christians are sanctified by the LORD Jesus Christ (Heb. 2:11, 10:10). Are Christians thankful for their sanctification?

Psalm 92:1 **“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High.”** Oh that Christians were thankful for everything, giving the LORD thanks, even singing praises unto His name.

It would be good if we would start everyday giving thanks to God, the Father, the LORD, and the Holy Spirit. Following is a prayer that came to me one day many years ago. It has helped me to receive healing for my body, after praying it out loud.

Pray Out Loud:

Thank You, heavenly Father;
Father, I thank You that You are my Father.
I thank You for Your plans from before the foundation of this world.
You chose me in Christ Jesus to be one with You for eternity.
Your Word has gone forth into this world, and it shall not return unto You void.
You've chosen me, heavenly Father, to be Your very own.
You dwell within me, and I am Your child.
Your Word is true, heavenly Father,
You have spoken it into this world as it is recorded in Your precious book.
You have told me in Your Word,
That if I would confess my sins
You would be truthful and just;
You would forgive me of my sins
and You would cleanse me from all unrighteousness.
Father, I confess that I have sinned,

(Confess all known sins, as sins against God).

Father, I have said things I should not have said,
I have done things I should not have done.
I have not done all things according to Your Word.
I thank You for Your forgiveness, because of Christ Who dwells in me,
His righteousness is my righteousness.
I thank You, heavenly Father, that You have forgiven me,
and cleansed me from all unrighteousness.
I praise You, heavenly Father, that Your Word is true.
I thank You for the LORD Jesus Christ,
Whom You sent into this world To be my LORD, and Savior.
He dwells in me, and I am one in Him.

LORD, I thank You, that You came into this world.
You fulfilled all righteousness for me.
You did all things according to the will of Your Father.
You shed Your blood on the cross for the forgiveness of the sins of the whole world..
You gave Your body for the healing and resurrection of my body.
You gave Your life that You could live Your life in me.
I am one in You, Your Father is my Father.

I thank You, LORD Jesus, that You sit at the right hand of the Father making intercession for me.
Your prayers are answered, that our Father's will is done
Because You intercede for me.
I thank You that Your Spirit dwells in me, making me one in You.
I thank You for the Holy Spirit, Whom You have sent from the Father
To be my Helper, Guide, Comforter, and Teacher.

Holy Spirit, I thank You for helping me, guiding me, comforting and teaching me.
Holy Spirit, help me today, in everything I do.
Help me to pray in the perfect will of our Father.
Help me to pray for those in authority and all those over me.
Help me to pray for kings and leaders of the world,
That they come to the knowledge of the LORD Jesus Christ and receive Him as their LORD & Savior.
Help me to pray for those who do not know Jesus
that they receive Him as their LORD & Savior.
Help me to pray for those in the body of Christ
Who are under attack by Satan,
That they be delivered, and set free, and move in the glorious wonders, by the power of the Spirit.
Help me in everything, Holy Spirit.
Help me to pray in the Spirit, in the perfect will of my Father.
Guide me in every thing I do.
Speak to me from my spirit.
Show me things to come.
Give me wisdom, knowledge, and discerning of spirits that I know the things that are of God,
That I can do the things that my Father would have me do.
Help me to walk in the Spirit, that my Father is glorified,
That Jesus is raised up,
That all things be accomplished according to the will of my Father.
I thank You today, Holy Spirit.
For Your help in everything I do.
Help me now, Holy Spirit, To pray in the spirit to my heavenly Father in His heavenly language:
That His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give me the words to say,
Help me to pray whatever is the mind of the Spirit of Christ in me
That the body of Christ can perform whatever is the desire of the LORD Jesus Christ,
Who is our head over His body here on earth.
Holy Spirit, I yield over to You, to give me the words to say
In that heavenly language of my Father.
Thank You for Your help, Holy Spirit,
In Jesus' name, Amen.

(Continue to pray in tongues until you have peace in your spirit.)