

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 1 – How Do We Get Faith? « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: God has provided the way whereby everyone can have faith.**

We read in Hebrews 11:6, *“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.”* We see from this that *“without faith it is impossible to please him ...”* Therefore, if God demands that we have faith when it is impossible for us to have faith, then we have a right to challenge His justice. But if He places within our hands the means whereby faith can be produced, then the responsibility rests with us whether we have faith. God has told us that without faith it is impossible to please Him. But He has also told us how to get faith. If we don’t have faith, it is not God’s fault. To blame God for our lack of faith is nothing but ignorance. God has provided the way whereby everyone can have faith.

## Faith for Salvation

The Apostle Paul said that we are saved by faith. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God”* (Eph. 2:8). But how do you get faith to be saved?

Romans 10:8-10, 13, 14, 17

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

After studying the passage of Scripture quoted above, what three steps does man take in order to receive salvation? **(1. Confess, 2. Believe, 3. Accept)** To whom is this salvation available, according to verse 13? **(Whosoever)** According to verse 17, where does faith come from? **(By hearing the Word of God)**

Acts 11:13, 14

13 And he shewed us how he (Cornelius) had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;

14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

God instructed Cornelius to send for Peter in order to learn the plan of salvation. In the Great Commission, recorded in Mark 16:15-18, Jesus told His disciples, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature ...”* As Cornelius had not as yet heard this glorious gospel, he was not saved. God told Cornelius to send for Peter in order to learn the plan of salvation. Why did Cornelius have to send for Peter? Why couldn’t the angel have explained the plan of salvation to Cornelius just as well? (Angels cannot preach the gospel. God has given this task to man.)

The verse, *“Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved,”* shows us that men are saved by hearing words. The reason for this is that *“faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

## Faith for Healing

Acts 14:7-10

7 And there they (Paul and Barnabas) preached the gospel.

8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother’s womb, who never had walked;

9 The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

A casual reader of the Word once said concerning this passage of Scripture, “Isn’t it wonderful how Paul healed that

man?" However, Paul did not heal the man. The man was not healed because Paul was an apostle. He was not healed through Paul's faith. The man himself had the faith.

Paul did three things:

1. He preached the gospel (verse 7).
2. He perceived that the man had faith to be healed (verse 9).
3. He told the man to stand up and walk (verse 10).

The man did three things:

1. He heard Paul preach (verse 9).
2. He had faith to be healed (verse 9).
3. He leaped and walked (verse 10).

The man was not healed by some power that Paul had. The man himself had faith to be healed.

Where did the man get the faith to be healed? (**By hearing Paul speak [verse 9]**). What did Paul speak? (**He preached the gospel [verse 7]**). Paul preached a gospel of salvation and a gospel of healing. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"* (Rom. 1:16). A footnote in the Scofield Bible referring to this verse says, "The Greek and Hebrew word for salvation implies the ideas of deliverance, safety, healing, and soundness." Therefore, Paul was saying, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. It is the power of God unto deliverance, safety, healing, and soundness."* Paul preached the full gospel, not just part of it.

Acts 8:5-8

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

The great miracles recorded in the above verses came about as the result of Philip's preaching Christ. The New Testament knows no Christ without Christ the Healer. Physical healing is part of the gospel. If there is no gospel of healing today, then neither is there a gospel of salvation.

## Faith in Action

P.C. Nelson, who was for many years a noted Baptist minister, said, "Healing is part and parcel of the gospel." While he was pastoring a church in Detroit, Michigan, in 1921, he was run over by an automobile. The doctors said that his right leg would probably have to be taken off at the knee. Even if they didn't have to take it off, it would be stiff. As he lay in his hospital bed the verses of scripture in James 5:14,15 came to him. *"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."*

He tried to excuse himself to the Lord by saying that they didn't practice this in his church. The Lord reminded him of a certain man and his wife who believed in it and told him to call them to come pray for him. He did so and they came, anointed him with oil, and prayed the prayer of faith. He was healed and his leg didn't have to be removed, neither was his knee stiff. *"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

Many years ago, as a young denominational boy I lay on the bed of affliction. As I lay there reading Grandma's Bible, the more I read the more I learned. I soon realized that I had never heard the full gospel, but just part of it. The more I read the more I saw that I didn't have to die. The more I studied the Word the more I realized that I could be healed.

The devil was right there, of course, bringing to my remembrance all the doubt and unbelief I had ever heard. He told me that healing had been done away with. (Fortunately, I couldn't remember ever hearing that faith had been done away with.) Also, I had been taught that God would heal if He wanted to do so. This, however, was an even bigger insult than saying that He couldn't.

I read in Mark 5:34 where Jesus spoke to the woman with the issue of blood, saying, “*Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*” Jesus didn’t say that His power had made her whole. He said, “*Daughter, thy faith ...*” When I saw this I knew then that if her faith had made her whole, my faith could make me whole. And, thank God, it did. My paralysis disappeared, my heart condition became normal, and I’ve been going at a hop, skip, and a jump ever since then, preaching the gospel in its fullness. “*Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

**Memory Text:** “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

**Faith in Action:** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....” (James 1:22).

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 2 – What Is Faith?](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 2 – What Is Faith? « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: Faith is grasping the unrealities of hope and bringing them into the realm of reality.**

A key verse in the study of faith is the familiar one found in Hebrews 11:1, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” Moffatt’s translation of this verse reads, “*Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see.*” Another translation says, “*Faith is giving substance to things hoped for.*” Still another translation reads, “*Faith is the warranty deed, the thing for which we have finally hoped is at last ours.*” Here God is telling us what faith is.

There are a number of kinds of faith. Everyone, saved and unsaved alike, has a natural, human faith. The above Scripture, however, is talking about a supernatural faith – a faith that believes with the heart rather than believing what our physical senses may tell us. Faith, in other words, is grasping the unrealities of hope and bringing them into the realm of reality. And faith grows out of the Word of God.

Our text describes faith as “*the evidence of things not seen.*” For example, you hope for finances to meet the obligations that you have to pay. Faith gives the assurance that you will have the money when you need it. You hope for physical strength to do the work that you must do. Faith says, “*The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*” (Psalm 27:1). Faith will say about itself everything that the Word says, for faith in God is simply faith in His Word.

I learned an important lesson on faith shortly after I was raised up from the bed of affliction many years ago. I needed work; and, since this was during the depression, work was not easy to find. I was able to get a job in a nursery helping to pull up peach trees. With another boy on the other side of the tree, together we would pull up these two-year-old trees to fill orders that had come in. This was really hard work – especially since I had been bedfast for sixteen months and at this time had been up only a few months.

Every day the number of workers would be less and less, and each day someone would say to me, “Well, I didn’t think you’d make it today. You know, two or three quit yesterday.” “If it wasn’t for the Lord I wouldn’t be here,” I would answer, “for you see, His strength is my strength. The Bible says, ‘*The Lord is the strength of my life ...*’ My life consists of the physical as well as the spiritual, and the Lord is the strength of my life.” If I had gone according to my feelings I wouldn’t have gotten out of bed. I acted upon the Word because I knew what faith was. I never received any strength until I started to work. Many people want to receive and then believe they’ve got it. It doesn’t work that way, though. You have to believe first, and then you will receive. So I would pull myself out of bed each morning and go to work, gaining strength as I went along trusting in God’s Word. Although I was the weakest and skinniest one among that group of men, I was the last one to stay on the job.

We may say that we know God’s Word is good, but we will never really know until we have acted on it and have reaped its results. Faith is giving substance to things hoped for. I went to work, I acted on God’s Word. I hoped for physical strength to do the work that I knew must be done, and as I acted on God’s Word my faith gave substance to that which I hoped for. Hope says, “I’ll have it sometime.” Faith says, “I have it now.”

## Head Faith vs. Heart Faith

John Wesley once said that the devil has given the church a substitute for faith, one that looks and sounds so much like faith that few people can tell the difference. This substitute he called “mental assent.” Many people read God’s Word and agree that it is true, but they are agreeing only with their minds. And that is not what gets the job done. It is heart faith that receives from God.

Mark 11:23, 24

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

How can we tell whether we have this heart faith or we are just mentally agreeing? Mental assent says, “I know God’s Word is true. I know God has promised healing, but for some reason I can’t get it; I can’t understand it.” However, real faith in God’s Word says, “If God’s Word says it’s so, then it’s so. It is mine. I have it now.” Faith says, “I have it even though I can’t see it.”

I’ve heard people say, “But the thing I have been praying about hasn’t come to pass yet.” If you already have it, you wouldn’t have to believe it, for then you would know it. You have to take that step of believing in order to come to the place of knowing. Too many people want to know it from the standpoint of its coming to pass, and then believe it. We must believe it because God’s Word says it is ours, then it materializes.

Notice from the verse quoted above that the receiving comes after the believing. “*What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them*” (Mark 11:24). Jesus was simply saying, “You’ve got to believe you have it before you can receive it.”

I have never been able to receive physical healing for myself without first believing that I had it, while every symptom in my body was crying out, “You don’t have it.” I simply stand firm on what God’s Word says about my healing and continue to claim that I am healed. Results are then forthcoming. But if I were to sit around, groan and sigh, gripe and complain, waiting until every symptom is gone and my feelings correspond with my faith before I will believe, I would never get very far. For “*faith is ... the evidence of things not seen.*”

## **Abraham’s Faith vs. Thomas’ Faith**

Too many Christians have a “Thomas faith” when they should have an “Abraham faith.” Thomas said, “I’ll not believe until I can see Him,” whereas “*Abraham staggered not at the promise of God ... but was strong in faith.*”

John 20:24-29

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing.

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Why did Thomas find it hard to believe that Jesus was alive? (Thomas had seen the nails pierce Jesus’ hands and had seen the spear thrust into His side. His physical senses told him that Jesus was dead. Thomas was using head knowledge, rather than heart faith.)

## **Compare Now the Faith of Abraham**

Romans 4:17-21

17 (As it is written, I have made thee [Abraham] 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.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body, now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Notice the difference in Thomas’ faith and Abraham’s faith. Thomas had only a natural, human faith which said, “I’m not going to believe unless I can see and feel.” Abraham, however, believed God’s Word, considering not his own body – his own natural senses. If Abraham didn’t consider physical knowledge or feelings, what did he consider then? (The Word of God)

A number of years ago when I was healed of heart trouble, I was struggling along some of these faith lines that many people do. Alarming heart symptoms would return. While praying and standing on the promises of God, even while suffering severe pain, the Lord reminded me of Abraham who “*considered not his own body.*” He showed me that I should not consider my body, but rather should consider His Word. As I did this, repeating to myself some of God’s promises in the scriptures regarding healing, such as, “*For himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses,*” every symptom would leave. Too many times we focus our attention on the wrong thing. We consider our physical body and the symptoms rather than looking to God’s Word.

“Well, God hasn’t heard my prayer yet. I’m just getting worse, and I guess I’ll wind up being operated on,” moaned one dear brother. And he will as long as he travels that road of unbelief. In one church where I visited, a certain woman would end her testimony regularly with, “You pray for me. I just believe I’ve got cancer.” No doubt if she keeps believing it she will get it. Jesus said, “According to your faith so be it unto you.” Another person requested prayer saying, “Please pray for me. I believe I’m taking a cold.” If that is the way you believe, it won’t do any good for me to pray, for “*According to your faith so be it unto you.*” We need to walk by faith, not by sight.

Some have misunderstood this type of teaching, thinking I tell folks to deny all symptoms and go on as if they weren’t even there. They think I am teaching Christian Science. However, this is not Christian Science, this is Christian sense. We do not deny pains and other symptoms, for they are very real. Instead, we look beyond them to God’s promises.

Real faith in the Word says, “If God says it is so, then it is so. If He says ‘*By his stripes ye were healed,*’ then I am healed. If He says, ‘*God shall supply your every need,*’ then He does it. If He says, ‘*The Lord is the strength of my life,*’ then He is.” In other words, real faith simply says about one’s self what the Word says.

Real faith is built on the Word. We should meditate on the Word; dig deeply into it and feed upon it. Then the Word becomes a part of us just as natural food becomes a part of our physical body when we eat. What natural food is to the physical man, the Word of God is to the spiritual man. The Word builds into us confidence and assurance.

**Memory Text: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).**

**Faith in Action: “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....” (James 1:22).**

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 1 – How Do We Get Faith?](#)

Next Lesson - [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 3 – Faith vs. Hope](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 3 – Faith vs. Hope « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: It takes a positive faith – a now faith – to get positive results.**

When Paul, writing to the Corinthians, said, “*And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love*” (I Corinthians 13:13), he was not inferring that hope and faith are not important. Each has its place, and one cannot be substituted for another. We cannot substitute love for hope. Neither can we substitute hope for faith. Yet so many people try to receive things from God on the basis of hope rather than faith.

## Faith Is Now

Hope looks to the future. It is always future tense. Faith is now. Faith says, “I’ll receive the answer right now. I have it now.” It is not hoping that gets the job done, it is believing. Someone said, “Well, I believe I will receive my healing – sometime.” That’s not faith, that’s hope, because it is looking to some indefinite future time. Faith says, “I receive my healing – now!” In one modern translation of the New Testament, the familiar verse in Hebrews 11:1 reads, “*Faith is giving substance ... to things hoped for.*”

If you need healing, you don’t want it in the future – you want it right now, especially if you’re in pain. If you are seeking the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, you want to receive now – not at some future indefinite time. If you need salvation, you cannot put it off to the future, for that may be too late. I have talked to people who told me that they hoped to be saved. Yet some of them are now dead. They left the world unsaved, because salvation that is based on hope never comes to fruition.

Ephesians 2:8, 9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 10:9, 10, 13

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The above verses point man to the plan of salvation. We see that it is by faith – not hope – that we are saved. Jesus promised that He will not cast any out who come to Him, but will save all who “call upon the name of the Lord.” Therefore, we don’t need to hope that He will save us. He said He would.

## How Do We Get Faith?

Faith, we know, grows out of the Word of God. “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Romans 10:17). Another translation of this verse reads, “*Faith is the warranty deed, that the thing for which you have fondly hoped is at last yours.*”

Faith is “*the evidence of things not seen,*” as we read in Hebrews 11:1. To illustrate, you might hope for finances to meet a certain obligation, but faith gives you the assurance that you will have the money when you need it. You might hope for physical strength to do a job that you must do, but faith says, “*The Lord is the strength of my life*” (Psalm 27:1). In other words, faith says the same thing that the Word of God says.

Unbelief is really taking sides against God’s Word. There are those who talk unbelief and take sides against the Word of God and then wonder why God’s Word doesn’t work for them. If we want God’s Word to work for us, we must side in with it.

Many times when I ask folks who come for prayer in my meetings if they believe that they will be healed they answer, “Well, I sure hope I will.” I simply tell them that they won’t for we receive from God by faith, not through hope. Still others will answer my question by saying, “Well, I want to.” But I tell them, “You might want a new Cadillac, but that doesn’t mean you’ll get one. You see, just wanting to won’t get the job done.”

It is not hoping or wanting, it's faith that gets the job done. You will not receive from God because you hope. Nowhere does the Bible say that when we pray, we shall receive what we hope for. God's Word does say, however, *"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them"* (Mark 11:24). Jesus also said, *"And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive"* (Matthew 21:22). Not hoping, but believing.

Notice in the definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1 – *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"* – that the verb used is present tense. Remember, if it's not now, it's not faith. Faith is present tense, hope is future tense. Even though you might say that you believe, if you are putting it into the future, then you are not believing, you're hoping. In order for it to work, it must be in the right tense – the present tense. Some people are always believing that God is going to do something for them, but faith believes that He has done, and is doing.

Several years ago while preaching in the state of Oklahoma, a lady who hadn't taken a step in four years was brought to the service one night for prayer. She was an older woman in her seventies, and the doctors had said that she would never walk again. At the close of the service when we were ready to have prayer for the sick, her friends brought her forward and sat her down on the altar. I knelt in front of her, laid my hands on her and prayed. Then I said, "Now arise and walk in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

She did her best to get up, but all the time she was crying and praying, "Oh, dear Jesus, please heal me, please let me walk, oh, please ... please!" She continued in this vein for some time until finally I was able to quiet her enough to talk to her. I asked her, "Sister, did you know that you are healed?"

Astonished, she looked up at me and said, "Oh, am I?"

"Yes," I said, "you are healed, and I will prove it to you from the Bible." Then I opened my Bible to I Peter 2:24, handed it to her and asked her to read the verse aloud. She read, *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed."* I asked her to repeat the last phrase, and she read, "... by whose stripes ye were healed."

Then I asked her the question, "Is 'were' past tense, future tense, or present tense?"

"It is past tense," she answered.

"If you were healed by Jesus' stripes, then you are healed now, aren't you?" I said. A smile spread across her face and her eyes lit up with new understanding. Then I told her, "Just lift your hands and look up to Him. Begin to praise Him because you are healed, present tense. Because you are healed – not going to be, you are ... now."

With child-like faith she looked up and said, "Dear Lord Jesus, I'm so glad I'm healed." She hadn't walked a step and therefore had no physical evidence of healing whatsoever. Yet she said, "I'm so glad I'm healed."

I turned to her and said, "Now my sister, arise and walk in Jesus' Name." Immediately she jumped off that altar like a sixteen-year-old, and walked, leaped, ran, and praised God.

You see, we had to help her to get it in the right tense – for faith is present tense. As long as we are struggling to receive, hoping to see the answer sometime, it won't work. That is just hope. Faith says, "It's mine, I have it now."

Hope, of course, used properly is most blessed and beautiful. We have a Blessed Hope in the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the righteous dead, the rapture of the living saints, the hope of heaven, and the hope of seeing our loved ones and friends. We thank God for that hope. But this is all future tense. Jesus is coming, whether we believe it or not. He is coming because the Word says so. The Resurrection will take place whether we have faith or not. The dead in Christ will rise to meet Him in the air, whether we believe or not. Our faith, or lack of faith, will not affect these events. Jesus is coming back again, for the Word says that He will. This is the Blessed Hope that all Christians look forward to.

But it is faith, not hope, that can change the impossible to the possible. It is faith, not hope, that brings healing and victory.

Hope is a good waiter, but a poor receiver. Too many times I've heard folks say, "I'm hoping and praying ..." or "All we can do now is hope and pray." If that is all you are doing, you're defeated. It takes a positive faith – a now faith –



to get positive results.

**Memory Text:** “And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (I Corinthians 13:13).

**Faith in Action:** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....” (James 1:22).

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 2 – What Is Faith?](#)

Next Lesson - [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 4 – Faith Sees the Answer](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 4 – Faith Sees the Answer « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: By continually looking at the Word, faith sees the answer.**

In our past lessons on faith we have been learning that faith is not something which we have as much as it is something which we do. We have seen that faith is not hoping that we will see the answer in the future, faith is believing that we have the answer now. The eyes of faith see the answer as having already happened.

Proverbs 4:20-22

20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they (my words) are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Notice that this Scripture says, “Let them (my words) not depart from thine eyes ...” Many people fail because they see themselves as failing. If they are sick, they think of themselves as dying. God’s Word says, “Himself (Jesus) took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses” (Matthew 8:17). If that Word does not depart from before your eyes, you are bound to see yourself without sickness and without disease. You will see yourself as well. If, however, you do not see yourself as without sickness, then that Word has departed from before your eyes. And even though He wants to make health a reality in your life, He cannot because you are not acting on His Word.

Notice also in verse 22, “*For they (my words) are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*” The Hebrew word translated “health” here is also the word for medicine. In other words, “*My words are medicine to all their flesh.*” The first two verses of this passage tell us the directions for taking this medicine. What are these directions? (“Attend unto” or study God’s Word, and obey this Word, “keep them in the midst of thine heart.”)

And what is God’s medicine? “My words are life unto those that find them and medicine to all their flesh.” But the medicine has to be taken according to directions in order to work, and one of the directions is, “*Let them (my words) not depart from before thine eyes.*” Keep looking at what the Word says.

Too many people pray and pray, but they never see themselves with the answer. They just see everything getting worse. They keep looking at the wrong thing – at the symptoms, at conditions, at themselves – and so they walk in unbelief and destroy the effects of their praying. Get your mind on the answer. See yourself as having received. Constantly affirm, even in the face of contradictory evidence, that God has heard your prayer because the Word says so. That’s when you’ll get results.

You have to believe you’ve got it before you can receive it. “*What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them*” (Mark 11:24). The believing comes before the receiving. There are those who say, “I’m not going to believe anything I can’t see.” But in the natural we believe a lot of things we can’t see. The whole world became alarmed when atomic bombs were being exploded, releasing radioactive material into the atmosphere. You can’t see it or feel it, but it is a destructive power nevertheless.

## Faith Contradicts Circumstances

Hebrews 13:5, 6

5 ... For he hath said, I’ll never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Are we boldly saying that the Lord is our helper? That is what we should be saying. “Well, you all pray for me. I feel as if the Lord has forsaken me,” cried one poor sister. Yet God said, “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.”

“I don’t know if I can make it or not, I hope I can. Pray for me that I’ll hold out faithful to the end,” is a familiar request in prayer and testimony meetings. But that is not what God told us to boldly say. Too many people are boldly saying, “I’m whipped, I’m defeated. The devil’s got me bound.” But nowhere in the Bible do we find where God said to boldly say that. Paul said, “*He said I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper.*”

Let’s quit saying the wrong thing and start saying the right thing. Say that the Lord is your helper. Say that the Lord is your healer. Say that the Lord took your infirmities and bare your sicknesses. Keep talking about the right thing. Keep

believing the right thing.

It is simply wrong thinking, wrong believing, and wrong talking that whips folks. The devil can't defeat you because Jesus has already defeated the devil for you. Satan doesn't defeat you, you defeat yourself. Or if he does, you permit him to do so. It is a consent of ignorance. God has given us His Word to direct us so that our believing will be right. And if our thinking is right and our believing is right, then our talking will be right. "The Lord is my helper." "The Lord is my strength."

## **Faith "Says" the Answer**

Real faith in the Word says that if God says it is so, then it's so. If He says that "*by whose stripes ye were healed*" (I Peter 2:24), then we are healed. If He says that, "*My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 4:19), then He does it. If the Word says, "*The Lord is the strength of my life*" (Psalm 27:1), then He is. In other words, real faith in God simply says about one's self what the Word says. We have what the Word says we have. We are what the Word says we are. If God says we are strong, then we are. If He says we are healed, then we are. If He says He cares for me, then He does.

Hebrews 4:14

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Because Jesus is our High Priest and sits at the right hand of God in heaven, making intercession for us, we can have the answers to our petitions right now. In looking up the Greek word that is here translated "profession," I learned that it should read, "*Let us hold fast to saying the same things.*" Jesus is in heaven, representing us at the throne of God. He is saying, "I took their place, I died for them as their substitute." Jesus didn't die for Himself. He didn't need to redeem Himself because He wasn't lost. He died for us. He became our substitute, He took our sins, He bare our sicknesses and carried our diseases. He died for us, arose from the dead for us, and ascended on high for us. He is up there now saying, "I did that for them," and we are to hold fast to saying the same things down here.

Mark 11:23

23 Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

It isn't just a matter of faith going out of your heart toward God, without your saying anything. That won't work. Nowhere in the Bible do we read that. Faith, kept only in your heart, will never bring healing to your body or the infilling of the Holy Spirit, or an answer to prayer. But faith in your heart, released through your lips, will bring results.

**Memory Text: "Let them (my words) not depart from thine eyes ..." (Proverbs 4:21).**

**Faith in Action: "But he Ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ...." James 1:22).**

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 3 – Faith vs. Hope](#)

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 5 – Faith in Action \(Part I\)](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 5 – Faith in Action (Part I) « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: Great miracles are wrought by those who act upon God's Word.**

In both the Old Testament and the New Testament we see examples of how God's people, by putting their faith into action, were able to accomplish mighty deeds. Great miracles were wrought by humble men who, in simple believing faith, acted upon God's Word.

## Faith in Action in the Old Testament

Joshua 6:2-5, 16, 20

2 And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. 3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go around about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. 5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. 16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city.

20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

In verse 2 we read that God told Joshua He had given the city of Jericho "*into thine hand.*" This didn't mean, however, that Joshua and the children of Israel could sit back and relax while the city automatically became theirs. They had to do something. And God gave them explicit instructions how to go about possessing the land that He had already given to them.

God told them exactly what to do, but they had to believe that Word and act upon it. And their acting upon the Word was their faith in action. They were to march around the walls of the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times. Then when the musical instruments sounded, they were to shout. Notice that they shouted while the walls were still up. Anybody can shout when the walls are down – it doesn't take any faith to do that. But they acted their faith – they "shouted with a great shout." And then the walls fell down.

Too many people are sitting back waiting for something to come to them. They just lie more or less inert with a passive faith instead of an active faith, waiting for something to happen. I met a man like this a few years ago in Colorado who had no job. He had a wife and five children, and was just waiting for something to turn up. But the only thing that turned up was more bills to pay. He needed to get busy. We all have certain obligations and can't just stay at home and expect something to come to us. But if we pray, believe, and then act, something will happen.

## Faith in Action in the New Testament

Luke 5:18-20, 24, 25

18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. 19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. 20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. 24 ... I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. 25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

While Jesus was in a house teaching, some men brought their friend to Jesus to be healed. The man had palsy and was bedfast. The crowd was so large that these men could not get to Jesus. But rather than give up defeated, they determined to find a way to get their friend to Jesus. They climbed onto the roof and through an opening in the tiling they lowered the bedfast man into the room before the Lord.

By whose faith was this miracle brought about – the man on the cot, or the friends who brought him to the Lord? The Scripture says, “*And when he saw their faith ...*” The word, “their” is plural. It was the faith of all of them. It would have been easy for the man’s friends, upon seeing the great throng surrounding Jesus, to have shrugged their shoulders, given up, and gone back home, saying, “Well, at least we tried. We did the best we could.” But they didn’t give up that easily. They found a way to get to Jesus.

The sick man demonstrated great faith, too, for how many invalids would allow themselves to be carried up on some rooftop? Furthermore, when Jesus told him to rise and walk, he wasn’t any better. He lay there just as helpless as he ever had been. He could have said, “Rise and walk? Why, didn’t you see these men carry me in here? I can’t possibly get up. You’ll have to heal me first.” But no, when Jesus told him to rise, he began to move and when he did, healing was the result. If he had refused to act on the word of the Master, he would not have received healing. But because he acted, he received.

## **Faith in Action in the Twentieth Century**

In the early days of Pentecost, a lady evangelist was ministering to four people in wheelchairs. In a very quiet tone she said, “Rise and walk in Jesus’ Name.” Three of these people got up and walked. The fourth said, “I can’t walk.”

“The others couldn’t walk either,” the evangelist said, “but they did.”

“I know they did,” the crippled lady answered, “but I can’t. You see, I haven’t walked in years.” And the evangelist had to walk away and leave her sitting there. The others acted their faith and reaped the results.

In one church where I was ministering there was a man who had been burned over the lower part of his body, leaving him unable to walk. He just scooted his feet along on the floor. During the healing service one evening this man came forward for prayer. The Lord had told me what to do, and when I came to this man I said to him, “Can you run?”

Astonished at such a question, he said, “Oh, no, I can’t even walk, much less run.”

Then I said, “The Lord has told me to tell you to run.” The man didn’t even give it a second thought, he just turned and started scooting up the aisle as fast as he could. He scooted around the church in this manner for three or four times, and by the time he got back to the front he was walking normally. The man was perfectly healed. He acted his faith.

In the service the next night we saw another miracle as the result of the first. Two elderly gentlemen responded to the invitation – something which is not often seen. I learned later that these men were brothers, ages seventy-two and seventy-four. It seems that these brothers lived next door to the man who was healed the night before. When they saw the crippled man out working in his yard the next day they thought he had crawled out there. But then they saw him get up, straight and well, and walk around the house. They hurried over to see what had happened, and he told them of his healing and what the Lord had done for him. As a result, both men came to the service that night and gave their hearts to the Lord.

One of the best definitions of faith is: If you believe, you will act. If we believe God’s Word, we will act as though it is true. “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*” (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is giving substance to the thing hoped for.

**Memory Text:** “Now, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

**Faith in Action:** “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ...” (James 1:22).

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 4 – Faith Sees the Answer](#)

Next Lesson - [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 6 – Faith in Action \(Part II\)](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 6 – Faith in Action (Part II) « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: The formula of faith in action can apply to receiving the Holy Spirit just as it does to receiving any of God's gifts.**

In the previous lesson, we talked about how faith is an act, it is putting God's Word into practice. Many miracles of healing have come about as people have acted on their faith, stepped out on God's promises, and received from God. The same thing applies to receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. In order to receive this mighty endowment of God's power, we must also step out in faith and lay claim to the promise of the Father.

## The Gift of the Holy Spirit Already Given

Acts 19:1-6

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied.

As we study the Book of Acts we notice that after the Day of Pentecost, the disciples always asked believers the question, *"Have you received the Holy Ghost?"* They didn't say, "Has God given you the Holy Ghost?" God is not going to give you the Holy Ghost. As far as He is concerned, He already has. It is up to you to receive. It is something, which you do yourself.

Some say, "I just wish it were as simple and easy to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as you make it sound." But just how hard is it to receive a gift? If a man were to ask me for a book which I held, I would hand it to him. I would be giving him a gift of the book. But suppose he were then to start crying and begging, "Please, oh please, Brother Hagin, please give it to me!" Of course, people would think he was crazy. They would wonder why he didn't just reach out and take it.

Spiritual things are just as real as material things. God offers us the gift of the Holy Spirit. We don't have to cry and beg for it. God says, "Here is the gift of the Holy Ghost. If you are born again, you can receive now. You don't have to wait, you're ready now to receive the Holy Ghost." *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17). We have His promise in the Word. Faith is acting on the Word.

During a meeting, which I was conducting in a town in Texas, a lady came forward for prayer to receive the Holy Spirit. I laid hands on her and prayed, the Holy Ghost came upon her, but she wouldn't respond. I laid hands on her a second time and prayed, but again she wouldn't respond. I opened my Bible to Acts 2:4 and asked her to read that verse of scripture aloud. She read, *"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

"Who does that scripture say did the speaking in tongues?" I asked.

"It says the Holy Ghost did," she answered.

I told her to read it again until finally after reading it four times she saw what she had missed before. Astonished, she looked at me and said, "Why, they did the speaking in tongues! I had always thought that the Holy Ghost did the speaking."

Then I said, "Let's read several other scriptures and not take just this one," and I pointed her to Acts 10:44-46, "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all of them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God."

We then turned to Acts 19:6, “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”

“Now I want to ask you a question,” I said. “When I laid hands on you earlier, did the Holy Ghost come upon you? Did you feel the power of God upon you?”

“Absolutely,” she said.

“Did your tongue want to say something that wasn’t English?” I asked.

“Why,” she said, “it was all I could do to keep from it.”

“You’re not supposed to keep from it,” I said, “you’re supposed to cooperate with it.” Some people seem to think that they are supposed to fight against that urge as long as they can and finally be overpowered by the Spirit. When the Holy Ghost gives you utterance, you must have faith to act.

Sometime ago I was talking to a fellow who had been tarrying for some fifteen years. He said, “You can’t tell me one thing about tarrying. I know all about seeking God.” He knew all about seeking but nothing about receiving. And there is a great deal of difference between the two.

A minister friend of mine told me about a man who said to him, “I’ve been seeking the Holy Ghost for nineteen years.” The minister replied, “You haven’t done any such thing. Jesus said, ‘Seek and ye shall find’ (Matthew 7:7). If you had been seeking, you would have found. All you’ve been doing is just hanging around the altar.” It seems that this is all that many are doing, just hanging around the altar. It’s time to quit hanging around and start acting on the Word of God, for faith is acting.

## **The Gift of the Holy Spirit a Spiritual Experience**

I Corinthians 14:14

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

Receiving the Holy Spirit is a spiritual experience, not a mental or physical experience. The Holy Spirit comes to dwell in your spirit and your body becomes the temple of the Holy Ghost. The reason your body becomes the temple of the Holy Ghost is that your body is the temple or house of your own spirit. The Holy Spirit is dwelling in your spirit. You cannot contact God with your mind. God is not a mind. Numbers 23:19 says, “*God is not a man ...*” which means that He is not a physical being. He is a spirit.

Notice that He is not “spirit,” but He is “a spirit.” The word “spirit” to many people means an influence or an atmosphere. But God is not spirit. Jesus said, “God is a Spirit ...” (John 4:24). He is a divine personality. We cannot contact God with our minds; we cannot contact Him with our bodies. We contact God with our spirits for He is a spirit. And this is where many people have difficulty in trying to receive the Holy Spirit. They try to receive the Holy Spirit mentally or physically. They want a physical experience, but it is a spiritual experience. The only physical part of it is the actual speaking in tongues. He will give you utterance, but that utterance comes out of your spirit and you speak the words.

Paul said, “For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful” (I Corinthians 14:14). The Amplified translation reads, “*My spirit by the Holy Spirit within me prayeth.*” In other words, it is the Holy Spirit within you that gives you the ability to speak with other tongues.

Jesus said, “*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever*” (John 14:16). He comes in to live and dwell in you, and you must learn to respond to Him. He will give you the utterance. Many people fail here because they rely on their natural senses – what they can see, hear, or feel. They will not believe that they have the Holy Ghost until they speak with tongues. However, you believe and receive the Holy Ghost first, then you speak with tongues as a result of having received.

“*And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost ...*” (Acts 2:4). Notice that this scripture says they were filled. Then, after they were filled, they began to speak with other tongues. This is the very thing that many people stumble over. They want to talk in tongues first and then believe that they have the Holy Ghost. But you have to believe first. In order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, just as to receive anything from God, you have to step out in faith, putting your faith

to work. Then you will have faith in action.

**Memory Text: “... The Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied” (Acts 19:6).**

**Faith in Action: “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....” (James 1:22).**

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 5 – Faith in Action \(Part I\)](#)

Next Lesson - [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 7 – Faith vs. Feelings](#)



# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 7 – Faith vs. Feelings

## « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: A formula for faith is: (1) Find a promise in God's Word for whatever you are seeking, (2) Believe God's Word, (3) Do not consider contradictory circumstances, and (4) Praise God for the answer.**

The beloved man of faith, Smith Wigglesworth, once said, "I can't understand God by feelings. I can't understand the Lord Jesus Christ by feelings. I can only understand God the Father and Jesus Christ by what the Word says about them. God is everything the Word says He is. We need to get acquainted with Him through the Word." Too many people try to get acquainted with God through their personal feelings. When they feel good, they think God has heard their prayers. If they don't feel particularly good they think He has not heard them. Their faith is based on their feelings whereas it should be based on God's word.

### A 'Thomas' Faith

John 20:24-29

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them; then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Thomas was one who based his faith upon his feelings, upon what his physical senses told him. He said that he would not believe unless he could see with his own eyes the prints of the nails in Jesus' hands, and touch these nail prints with his own hands. He relied on what he could see and touch, not on what God had to say. We have so many "Thomas Christians" today – those who believe only what they feel, believe only what they can see, hear, or touch. But real faith in God is based upon the Word of God. Real faith in the Word says, "If God says it is true, it is." Believing God is believing His Word.

If God's Word says He hears me, then I know he hears me because He says so and His Word cannot lie.

If our faith is based upon feelings, then we are just using a natural human faith. We cannot get spiritual results with natural human faith. We have to use scriptural faith, Bible faith, believing in God's Word. If our faith is based upon the Word of God, then we believe the Word regardless of evidences that would satisfy our physical senses.

I prayed for a lady once who had been through many healing lines, and yet had never received her healing. After I prayed for her she immediately said, "I haven't got it yet, pray again." I prayed again and when I finished, she said the same thing.

After praying a third time with seemingly no results I asked her, "When are you going to start believing that you are healed?"

"Well," she said, "when I get healed."

"What in the world would you want to believe it for then? It seems to me that you would know it then."

Anyone can believe what he can feel, hear, or see. We live and operate in the physical realm most of the time and obviously, we have to walk by sight then. But when it comes to Bible things, to spiritual things, then we don't walk by sight – we walk by faith.

### Healing Is Spiritual

God's healing is spiritual healing. If medical science heals, it heals through the physical. Christian Science heals through the mind. But when God heals, He heals through the spirit.

## II Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Spiritual healing, or divine healing, is received from God in the same way that the new birth, which is a rebirth of the spirit, is received. When you are born again, it is not your body that is born again, for you still have the same body you always had. When Paul said, "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature ...*," he was not talking about man's body being made new. It doesn't change the physical in any way. After you are saved, the man on the inside is to dominate the physical, of course, but it is the man on the inside, the inner man, that is born again.

The new birth is the rebirth of the human spirit. Jesus said, "*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit*" (John 3:6). A person cannot tell just by looking at someone what has happened to him on the inside, but in the process of time it will become obvious.

We have been mistaken many times when we have seen folks come to the altar, pray and cry, jump up and hug everyone around, acting so happy. Then they are never seen again. We really thought they had received something marvelous from God. But it was just an emotional something, and not the new birth. At other times we see people come to the altar for salvation. They are not emotional at all, and we wonder if they have received anything from the Lord. We might think they were not at the altar long enough for anything. Yet many of these become very outstanding Christians during their lifetimes. This is another example of faith being based upon physical senses.

I certainly believe in feeling, but I put it last. God's Word comes first, faith in God's Word second, and feeling last. Too many people turn it around and put feeling up front, faith in their feelings second, and the Word of God last. These people will never make a success of anything. We cannot tell immediately just what has happened on the inside of a person because it takes place in the human spirit. But if he walks in the light of what he has, it will show up on the outside.

Walking in the natural, we do have to go by our physical senses. For example, if we are crossing a street and our eyes tell us there are cars coming, we must wait until the cars pass. In many instances we have to walk by natural faith: faith in our sight, faith in our sense of smell, and faith in our feelings. But what too many people try to do is believe in God with that physical or natural faith, and if their physical senses tell them it's not so, then they believe it's not so. But our physical senses have nothing to do with the Bible. God's Word is true whether we feel that it is or whether circumstances appear that it is or not. God's Word is true. "*For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven*" (Psalm 119:89).

## Formula for Faith

Here is a formula for faith that you can make work for you. First, have God's Word for whatever you may be seeking; second, believe God's Word; third, refuse to consider the contradictory circumstances, or what your physical senses may tell you about it; and fourth, give praise to God for the answer. Follow these four steps, and you will always get results. These are four certain steps to deliverance, healing, answered prayer, or whatever you may be seeking from the Lord.

**Memory Text:** "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89).

**Faith in Action:** "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only..." (James 1:22).

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 6 – Faith in Action \(Part II\)](#)

Next Lesson - [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 8 – What It Means to Believe With the Heart \(Part 1\)](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 8 – What It Means to Believe With the Heart (Part 1) « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: Man is a spirit, he has a soul, and he lives in a body.**

For years I searched for a satisfactory explanation of what it means to believe with the heart. I read Mark 11:23 which says, *“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”* Romans 10:10 also talks about believing with the heart. *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness ...”*

The word “heart” that is used in these scriptures does not refer to the physical organ that pumps blood through our body and keeps us alive. That would be believing God with our body. We couldn’t believe with our physical heart any more than we could believe with our physical hand or finger. The word “heart” is used to convey a thought.

Notice how we use the word “heart” today. When we talk about the heart of a tree, we mean the center, the very core. When we talk about the heart of a subject, we mean the most important part of that subject, the very center of it, the main part around which the rest revolves. And when God speaks of man’s heart, He is speaking about the main part of man, the very center of his being, which is the spirit.

## Man Is a Spirit

I Thessalonians 5:23

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The terms, “spirit of man” and “heart of man,” are used interchangeably throughout the Bible. We know that man is a spirit because he is made in the image and likeness of God, and Jesus said, *“God is a Spirit”* (John 4:24). It is not our physical bodies that are like God, for the Bible says that God is not a man. Remember that there is an inward man and an outward man. Man is a spirit, he has a soul, and he lives in a body.

Paul said in his letter to the Romans, *“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God”* (Romans 2:28-29). According to this text, the heart is the spirit.

Speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus said, *“... Ye must be born again”* (John 3:7). Nicodemus, being human, could think only in the natural, and therefore he asked, *“... How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?”* (verse 4). Jesus answered, *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”* (verse 6). The new birth is a rebirth of the human spirit.

Then in the fourth chapter of John’s gospel we read where Jesus told the woman at the well in Samaria, *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”* (John 4:24). We cannot contact God with our body or with our mind. We can contact God only with our spirit.

I Corinthians 14:14 says, *“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”* The spirit is not the mind. Some people mistakenly think that the mind is the spirit. However, as this verse indicates, we know that when we speak in tongues, this does not come from our mind, or our own human thinking, but from our spirit, from our innermost being, from the Holy Spirit within our spirit. Paul went on to say, *“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and with the understanding also ...”* (verse 15). In other words, Paul was saying that his spirit is the real him.

## The Inward Man

Paul also said, *“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day”* (II Corinthians 4:16). Paul pointed out that there is an outward man and an inward man. The outward man is the body. The inward man is the spirit, and the spirit has a soul.

In I Corinthians 9:27 Paul said, *“But I keep under my body, and bring it unto subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”* If the body were the real man, Paul would have said, *“I keep myself under, I bring myself into subjection.”* He refers to his body as “it.” “I” is the man on the inside, the inward man that has been reborn. We do something with our body. We bring it into subjection. The man we look at is not the real man; it is just the house we live in.

We can now more easily understand Paul’s writings to the saints at Rome:

Romans 12:1, 2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

In this epistle Paul was not writing to unbelievers but to Christians. He addresses his letter, *“To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints ...”* (Romans 1:7). Although he was writing to men and women who had been born again, yet he said that they needed to do something with their bodies and their minds. The new birth is not a rebirth of the human body but a rebirth of the human spirit. And the infilling of the Holy Ghost is not a physical experience but a spiritual experience.

Paul said we have to do something with our bodies. We have to present them to God a living sacrifice. We have to get our minds renewed with the Word. Notice that this is something that we do, not God. God gives eternal life. He offers us His Spirit. But God doesn’t do anything with our bodies. If anything is done with them, we will have to do it. The Word says that you present your body unto God. Nobody else can do it for you. The Word says that you are to be *“transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* Our minds are renewed through the Word of God.

We know that man is a spirit, made in the image and likeness of God. Some people believe that man is just an animal. However, if that were true, it wouldn’t be any more wrong to kill a man and eat him than it would be to kill a cow and eat it. Man has a physical body that he is living in, but he is not an animal. He is more than just mind and body. He is spirit, soul, and body. He is a spirit, he has a soul, and he lives in a body.

That is what makes man different from animals. Animals do have souls, but they are not spirits. There is nothing in them that is like God. God took something of Himself and put in man. He made the body of man out of the dust of the earth, but He breathed into man’s nostrils the breath of life. The word “breath” or “ruach” in the Hebrew, means breath or spirit, and is translated “Holy Spirit” many times in the Old Testament. God is Spirit, so He took something of Himself, which is spirit, and put it into man. When He did, man became a living soul. He wasn’t alive until then, but he became a living soul. He became conscious of himself because the body was dead without the spirit.

Animals have souls, for the soul possesses intellectual and emotional qualities, and animals have these. But it is all physical, and when the physical is dead, all is gone. Our souls, our intellectual and emotional qualities, are not based upon the physical, but upon the spirit, and when the body is dead they still exist.

Luke 16:19-25

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

In this passage of scripture we have a very vivid illustration of man’s three parts – spirit, soul, and body. Notice that verse 22 says, *“... the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom.”* Who was carried away? (The beggar – not his body, but him.) His spirit is the real person. His body was put in the grave, but he was in “Abraham’s bosom.”

The rich man also died. His body was put in the grave, but *“in hell he lift up his eyes.”* Although Abraham’s body had been in the grave for many years, the rich man saw him. He also recognized Lazarus. Therefore, in the spirit realm,

man looks very similar to what he does in this life. He cried out to Abraham, *“Have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember ...”* Man is a spirit, and he has a soul. We see in this scripture that his soul is still intact. He can still remember. He has emotion. He was tormented. He was concerned about his five brothers still living (verses 27, 28).

God is a Spirit. He became a man, for Jesus was God manifested in the flesh, living in a human body. He took on a physical body and when He did He was no less God than He was before. We know that man leaves his physical body at death, and when he does he is no less man than he was when he had his physical body, as proven by the story of the rich man and Lazarus.

We cannot know God through our human knowledge, through our mind. God is only revealed to man through his spirit. It is the spirit of man that contacts God, for God is a Spirit.

**Memory Text: “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10).**

**Faith in Action: “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....” (James 1:22).**

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 7 – Faith vs. Feelings](#)

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 9 – What It Means to Believe With the Heart \(Part II\)](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 9 – What It Means to Believe With the Heart (Part II) « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: To believe with all of our heart is to believe with our spirit, to believe independently of our mind or our body.**

Spiritual things are just as real as material things. God is just as real a person as though He had a physical body, although He doesn't. He is a Spirit. Jesus has a physical body now, a flesh and bone body, but not flesh and blood. After His resurrection He appeared to the disciples, and they thought it was a spirit or a ghost. Jesus said, "... *handle me ... for a spirit hath not flesh and bone ...*" (Luke 24:39).

On another occasion while Peter and some of the other disciples were fishing, they saw Jesus on the shore. He called to them, and they went to Him and ate with Him the fish He cooked there on an open fire. So He has a physical body right now, a resurrected flesh and bone body. And Jesus with His physical body now in heaven is not more real than the Holy Spirit or God the Father is real.

Notice that we do not say God is spirit, but rather that God is a Spirit. Some people think that God is spirit, meaning some sort of an impersonal influence. Even though we say that God is a Spirit, that doesn't mean that He doesn't have a shape or a form in the spiritual realm, because He does. Angels are spirits, yet angels have a form or a spirit body.

On one occasion when the Israelites were surrounded by the Syrian army, the servant of the prophet Elisha was filled with fear as he saw the enemy's host of horses and chariots which compassed the city. Elisha merely answered, "*Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord ... open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha*" (II Kings 6:16, 17). Sometimes, as God wills, angels can take on a form in the material realm where they can be seen.

In Exodus 33 we read that God talked to Moses "*face to face*" (verse 11), although Moses did not see God's face because a cloud was there. "*Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live*" (verse 20). Then God said to Moses, "*And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen*" (verses 22, 23). Even though God is a Spirit, we know that He has a face and hands, a form of some kind. He is no less real because He is a Spirit than He would be if He had a physical body. Spiritual things are just as real as material.

II Corinthians 5:1, 6-8

1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

When our body is put in the grave, we still have a building with God, not made with hands, and we shall live eternally in the heavens. Who is going to be absent from the body? (We are, the real man, the inward man.)

In I Peter 3:4 our spirit is called "*the hidden man of the heart.*" Here we see the word "*heart*" again. The inward man, our spirit, is called the hidden man. He is a man of the heart, of the spirit. He is hidden to the physical or the natural man. In Romans 7:22 the spirit is called the "*inward man.*" "*For I delight in the law of God after the inward man.*" So we see this "*inward man*" and the "*hidden man*" give us God's definition of the human spirit.

The real man is spirit, he has a body and a soul. With his spirit he contacts the spiritual realm. With his soul he contacts the intellectual realm. With his body he contacts the physical realm. We cannot contact God with our mind.

Neither can we contact God with our body. We can contact God only with our spirit.

## **The Word of God – Key to Heart Faith**

When we hear the Word of God preached, we hear it with our natural mind. We can remember how that before we were Christians the Word of God affected us in our spirit. The Holy Spirit, through the Word, spoke to our heart or our spirit. We read in I Corinthians 2:14, *“The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God ...”* One translation says, *“The natural man or the natural mind understandeth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him. Neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.”* We don’t understand the Bible with our mind, it is spiritually understood. We understand it with our spirit, or our heart. That is the reason we may read certain passages dozens of times and never understand their true meaning. Then one day we suddenly see what God is showing us through His Word. It is at that moment that we understand it with our heart. We have to get the revelation of God’s Word in our heart. That is why we must depend upon the Spirit of God to open and unveil the Word to us.

Therefore, to believe with the heart means to believe with the spirit. How does our spirit get faith that our intellect cannot obtain? The answer is through the Word. When Jesus said, *“... Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (Matthew 4:4), He was speaking of spiritual food. He used a natural term to convey a spiritual thought. Our spirits become filled with assurance and confidence as we meditate on the Word. The Word is spirit and faith food. The Word of God is food that makes our spirit strong.

To believe with the heart means to believe apart from what our physical body may tell us or what our physical senses may indicate. This is because the physical man believes what he sees with his physical eyes or hears with his physical ears, or what his physical feelings tell him. But the spirit, or the heart, believes in the Word regardless of seeing, hearing, or feeling.

Proverbs 3:5-7

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

Most folks practice verse five all right, but they practice it in reverse. They trust with all their understanding and lean not to their own heart: James 1:19 says, *“... let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”* This is another verse we are inclined to practice in reverse. We are swift to speak and swift to wrath, but slow to hear.

Then verse 7 in the passage of scripture above says, *“Be not wise in thine own eyes ...”* In other words, *“Don’t be wise with natural human knowledge, which would cause you to act independently of the Word of God.”*

In the New Testament we find the counterpart to this scripture. *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; Casting down imaginations (reasoning), and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”* (II Corinthians 10:4, 5).

## **Peace – A Result of Heart Faith**

If we want to walk by faith, the Word must be uppermost to everything else. And as we trust God with all of our heart, a quietness and a peace come to our spirit. *“For we which have believed do enter into rest ...”* (Hebrews 4:3). *“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:7). *“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee”* (Isaiah 26:3).

When we trust in God’s Word which says, *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:19), we simply know in our spirit that everything we need will be supplied and we don’t worry. We have no anxiety. If we are worrying, then we are not believing. Our heart takes courage as we read the Word. As we meditate in this Word, our assurance becomes deeper. This assurance in our spirit is independent of our human reasoning or of human knowledge. It may even contradict human reasoning or physical evidence. But to believe God with our heart means to believe apart from our body.

Dr. Lillian Yeomans said, *“God delights in his children stepping out over the aching void with nothing underneath their feet but the Word of God.”*

The reason that many people are defeated is that they accept it. But God’s Word says, *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world”* (I John 4:4). The Holy Spirit rises up in us and we know we cannot be conquered. We know because we believe!

**Memory Text:** *“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding”* (Proverbs 3:5).

**Faith in Action:** *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....”*(James 1:22).

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 8 – What It Means to Believe With the Heart \(Part 1\)](#)

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 10 – Confession: Key to Unlocking Faith](#)



# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 10 – Confession: Key to Unlocking Faith « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: Confessing the Lordship of Jesus Christ is the very heart of the gospel.**

In the last two lessons we have studied the first part of Romans 10:10, “*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness ...*” and we have learned what it means to believe with the heart. In these next series of lessons we will look into the second half of this verse, “*And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation,*” to try to gain new insights into the connection of confession with faith.

Very few Christians actually realize the place that confession holds in God’s scheme of things. And it is to be regretted that whenever we use the word “confession,” folks invariably think of confessing sins, weaknesses, and failings. That is the negative side of confession, but there is a positive side. And the Bible has more to say about the positive aspects of confession than the negative.

The dictionary says that to confess means “*to acknowledge or to own, to acknowledge faith in.*” To confess, according to the dictionary, means to make confession of one’s faults, but it also says it means to make confession of one’s faith.

There are four kinds of confessions spoken of in the New Testament: (1) The teachings of John the Baptist and Jesus regarding confession of sins of the Jews; (2) The confession of the sinner today; (3) The believer’s confession of his sins when he is out of fellowship with God; and (4) The confessing of our faith in God’s Word. In this lesson we will deal with the first two types of confession.

## Confession of Sins of the Jews

It is important that we make the distinction between the sins of the Jews under the first covenant, to whom Jesus and John the Baptist were talking, and the sins of the unbeliever today who has never met Christ.

Matthew 3:5, 6

5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan,

6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Here we see the picture of God’s covenant people confessing their sins and being baptized by John. This is not Christian baptism. Jesus had not died and risen. John did not baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. He baptized only in the name of the Father. They were Jews under the law.

## Confession of the Sinner Today

John 16:7-11

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Notice the words of Jesus in verse 9: “*Of sin, because they believe not on me.*” Jesus shows us that the sinner will be convicted by the Holy Spirit of but one sin, and that is “*because they believe not on me.*” How many times have we insisted that the sinner confess all the sins he has ever committed in order to be saved. However, he couldn’t confess

all the sins he has ever committed. He couldn't remember everything he has ever done. The chief confession that the sinner must make is the Lordship of Jesus.

In Acts 19:18 we read, *"And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds."* These were Gentiles. It doesn't say what they confessed, but it is evident from the verse which follows that they were confessing the magical arts that they were practicing. *"Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men ..."* (verse 19). They were not confessing these things to get saved, for they were already saved. They gave them up because they were saved. After they were saved, it was easier to do.

So many times people have gotten the cart before the horse. They tell unsaved people, *"You are going to have to quit this and you're going to have to give up that before you can get saved."* But the main thing is that they accept the Lordship of Jesus. Then those other things will take care of themselves.

There was a family in the last church I pastored in which the wife was saved but the husband wasn't. When I visited in the home and invited the husband to come to church, he said, *"No, I don't want to come to church because when I do I feel uneasy. I get under conviction. Just this morning my wife asked me why I didn't give up this and that, and get saved. She doesn't know it, but for weeks at a time I have tried giving up these things, but I always go back to them. I've tried it and failed. There's no use in my coming to church. I just can't live it."*

Here is an example of confession in reverse. He was trying to clean up his life, quit all his habits – he was trying to do it all himself – so that he could get saved. But what he should have done was just to confess the Lordship of Jesus. *"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved"* (Romans 10:9). Then these other matters will take care of themselves.

The sinner has served Satan. He is guilty of only one sin in the sight of God and that is the rejection of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. God demands that the sinner confess the Lordship of Jesus. To demand that a sinner confess his sins before God can make him a new creature makes no more sense than it would for the governor of a state to say to a convict in prison, *"I will parole you if you will confess that you are in prison."* It is a self-evident fact that he is in prison. It is a self-evident fact that the sinner is a child of the devil. What he must confess is the Lordship of Christ. He must be truly sorry for the sins of the past and turn from them, forsaking them completely, and acknowledging his need of a Saviour. Then he must let Jesus dominate his daily life. Confessing the Lordship of Jesus is the very heart of the gospel.

Notice also the words, *"Thou shalt confess with thy mouth ..."* There must be a vocal confession. The lips must frame the words. Confession is not only for our sake, but it is also for the sake of the world around about us and for the sake of Satan who has ruled our life.

While I was conducting a meeting in Dallas, Texas, a number of years ago some men in the church came to me asking prayer for a certain man who still was unsaved, although he had been coming to their early morning prayer services five days a week for six months.

When I met him a few nights later at a special Saturday night Bible class I was conducting especially for the men who worked and couldn't attend our day sessions, the Lord immediately spoke to my heart and showed me what was the problem. We had a few testimonies in this meeting, and then I asked this man to stand and give his testimony. Startled, he stammered and said, *"Why, I can't. I'm not saved yet."*

Then I asked him to turn in his Bible to Romans 10:9, 10 and read these verses aloud. He read, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* When I asked him to read the last phrase again, he repeated, *"And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

I said, *"Certainly you can't be saved until you confess. It is with the mouth that confession is made unto salvation, according to the scripture which you have just read. Now stand and confess that you are saved."*

*"But I don't feel that I am saved,"* he replied.

*"Maybe so,"* I said, *"but you have been coming to this church very early every morning for six months praying to be saved."*

*“Yes, I have repented and prayed, cried and begged God for forgiveness,” he said.*

*“Then all you lack is standing on this verse,” I said. Then, somewhat reluctantly, he stood and said, “Well, I do believe these verses, that Jesus died for my sins and was raised from the dead, and that God raised him up for my justification. So I just take Him as my Saviour and confess Him as my Lord.” Then he quickly sat down.*

To direct attention away from him, I called on another man to testify. Several others testified as well. Glancing back at the other man I noticed his face was just shining with the glory of God. I turned to him and said, *“Now would you like to testify again?”*

He leaped to his feet and said, *“When I made that statement, when I confessed Jesus as my Lord, something happened inside of me,”* and he went on to praise the Lord joyfully.

I told him, *“Most assuredly something happened to you. Eternal life was imparted to your spirit.”*

## **Confession in Public**

Matthew 10:32, 33

33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Notice that in these verses Jesus states that our confession must be public. Public confession is really the break with the world. It defines our position. It shows our change of Lordship. The confession of the Lordship of Jesus puts us immediately under His supervision, care, and protection. Before this Satan was our Lord, but now Jesus is our Lord. Not only do we confess this to ourselves and to the world, but we confess it to the devil. In this way we overcome his hold on us and have victory through Jesus.

**Memory Text:** *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10).*

**Faith in Action:** *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....”(James 1:22).*

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 9 – What It Means to Believe With the Heart \(Part II\)](#)

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 11 – Confession Restores Broken Fellowship](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 11 – Confession Restores Broken Fellowship « HopeFaithPrayer

## Central Truth: Faith has no song when fellowship is broken

In our studies on the subject of confession we have covered the first two types: the confession of the sins of the Jews, and the confession of the sinner today. In today's lesson we will deal with the confession of a believer who is out of fellowship with God.

In Psalm 137 we see a dramatic example of broken fellowship. As a result of sin, Israel had been carried away into Babylon.

Psalm 137:1-4

1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.

4 How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

In this passage of scripture Israel laments her captivity. God's people could remember Zion, but they are now in sorrow, and their harps are hung on the willows. They could not "sing the Lord's song in a strange land."

Faith has no song when fellowship is broken. We lose our testimony the moment we sin. Sin always puts the light out. Faith trembles in the darkness of broken fellowship.

## Confession Brings Forgiveness

I John 1:3-10

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Notice that the word "*fellowship*" is mentioned four times in these verses. These words, which are written to the believer and not the sinner, were given, first, as a warning against broken fellowship, and second, to show the way back into fellowship with the Lord.

Verse 6 says, "*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.*" In other

words, if we are out of fellowship and declare that we are all right, we are not telling the truth. If we say we have not committed sin and yet the fellowship is broken, then our faith is feeble. But He says that if we will confess our sins, He is *“faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* Many folks use these verses only when dealing with the unsaved. However, they were written to the believer and should only be used in connection with Christians who are out of fellowship with God because of sin in their lives.

One point that we should make clear here is that if you have sinned you will know it. If you don't know it, don't try to drag up something with which to condemn yourself. When you are always looking for something with which to condemn yourself, you rob yourself of faith. If you sin, you will know it. The instant you do wrong, something on the inside of you will tell you. The Holy Spirit, who dwells within the believer, will instantly let you know you have committed sin. If we miss the mark in some way, it is important that we not wait, but that we stop right then and ask the Lord's forgiveness. He will forgive, and we will continue walking in fellowship with Him.

## **Forgiveness Restores Fellowship**

When you have confessed your sins, He forgives you at that moment and you stand in His presence as though you had never sinned. It is not necessary to keep confessing those same sins over and over again, for this builds weakness, doubt, and sin consciousness into the spirit. If you confessed it once, He forgave you and He forgot it. He has no memory of it. *“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins”* (Isaiah 43:25). And in Jeremiah 31:34 we read, *“... For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”*

If God has no memory of that sin which broke your fellowship with Him why should you? That is not the Holy Spirit that is condemning or convicting you. It is Satan trying to take advantage of you. If he can keep you thinking of that mistake, he has you right where he wants you. What you must do is erase that sin from your memory too. You must stop reproaching yourself for something which God has already forgiven and forgotten.

Psalm 103:1-3 says, *“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.”*

Sometimes folks ask me to pray for them and say, *“I don't know if the Lord will hear me or not because I have sinned and failed.”* However, if they have asked God's forgiveness, He doesn't remember that they have done anything wrong. So why should they remember it? They have talked themselves right out of faith, and there is no need for it. Although we may have sinned, if we have asked God to forgive us, then He did and He has forgotten it. The believer must be willing to forgive himself just as God is willing to forgive him. Too many people have robbed themselves of faith because they are not willing to forgive themselves.

## **Forgiveness in Healing**

James 5:14, 15

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

These verses are often used in connection with prayer for healing, and rightly so. But let us not overlook the last part – *“... and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”*

Many times when we see someone become ill whom we know to be out of fellowship with the Lord, we think, *“He's done wrong; now he's going to reap the results of his wrong-doing. He is sick because of his sin.”* And sometimes broken fellowship will cause sickness. But the Word of God says, *“... and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”*

I have known people who thought they had to lie on the bed of affliction indefinitely because they had failed and sinned. This is not necessary, however, for the scripture says, *“The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”* There is forgiveness in healing.

## Hebrews 10:1-4

1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

This is the story of the failure of the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Their blood could only cover it. It left the sin in the heart of men whom the blood had covered. And with the sin was sin consciousness. But in our redemption in Christ, God hath redeemed us from sin consciousness. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (I John 1:9). You should have no more knowledge of your sin. God doesn't, why should you? Then we can see with what confidence and boldness we can come in prayer, knowing with a certainty that He hears us.

**Memory Text:** *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (I John 1:9).

**Faith in Action:** *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....”*(James 1:22).

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 10 – Confession: Key to Unlocking Faith](#)

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 12 – Confession of God's Word Builds Faith](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 12 – Confession of God's Word Builds Faith « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: Confession is faith's way of expressing itself. Faith's confession creates reality.**

It is always possible to tell if a person is believing right by what he says. If his confession is wrong, his believing is wrong. If his believing is wrong, his thinking is wrong. If his thinking is wrong, it is because his mind has not been renewed with the Word of God. All three – believing, thinking, saying – go together. God has given us His Word to get our thinking straightened out. We can think in line with God's Word.

In our studies on the subject of confession we have dealt with three types of confession: the confession of the sins of the Jews, the confession of the sinner today, and the confession of a believer who is out of fellowship with God. In this lesson we will discuss the confessing of our faith in God's Word.

As we mentioned in a previous lesson, whenever the word “confession” is used, we instinctively think of sin and failure. But that is the negative side. That is important in its place, of course, but there is a positive side and the Bible has more to say about the positive than the negative.

## Confession's Five Parts

Confessing is affirming something we believe. It is testifying to something we know. It is witnessing for a truth that we have embraced. Our confession should center around five things:

1. What God in Christ has wrought for us in His plan of redemption.
2. What God, through the Word and the Holy Spirit, has wrought in us in the new birth and the infilling of the Holy Ghost.
3. What we are to God the Father in Christ Jesus.
4. What Jesus is doing for us now at the right hand of the Father, where He ever lives to make intercession for us.
5. What God can do through us, or what His Word can do through our lips.

## Confession at Work – Preaching the Word

Mark 16:15-20

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 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.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.

God works through us by His Word through our lips. Jesus said, “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*” That is the way God works through us. We carry the Word to the lost. If we do not carry the Word to

the world, then we waste our time praying that God will do something. In other words, it would be useless to pray for someone who is lost if we do not also carry the gospel of salvation to him. If we could just pray and get people saved, we wouldn't have to send missionaries all over the world. We could just pray all the heathen into the Kingdom. However, the Holy Ghost works only in connection with the Word.

In obedience to Christ's command to go into all the world and preach the gospel, the disciples went forth preaching the Word everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed the Word with signs following. God didn't do a thing until the disciples preached the Word. Then signs followed.

Speaking of signs following, they do not follow an individual, they follow the Word. Give the Word out and the signs will take care of themselves. You don't follow signs. Signs follow the Word.

In the last church I pastored I became greatly concerned that there weren't enough signs following my ministry. I shut myself away in prayer for several days asking God for more signs to follow. Finally the Lord spoke to me and said, *"You have been praying that I would confirm my Word and that signs will follow, but all you have to do is to preach the Word and I will confirm it. If you will preach the Word, signs will follow. If the Signs aren't following, then you are not preaching the Word."*

I was startled by this, but upon closer examination of my preaching, I discovered that it was true. I had mingled a lot of tradition and personal opinion into my sermons. And God won't confirm tradition with signs following. As I began preaching more and more of the undiluted Word of God, I began to see more signs following. The more Word I preached, the more signs I had.

God moves only in line with His Word. He has magnified His Word above His name. And we cannot expect to get help from God if we are taking sides against His Word, even though it may be an unconscious act on our part. We should treat the Word of God with the same reverence that we would show to Jesus if He were present in the natural.

## **Confession Dispeles Fear**

Isaiah 41:10

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Have you ever noticed, in reading the Bible, how many times God has told His children to "fear not"? When Jairus sought Jesus to heal his daughter, the Lord said to him, *"... Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole"* (Luke 8:50). When Christ was preaching to His disciples, He said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). When the Lord appeared unto Isaac, renewing the covenant He had made with Isaac's father Abraham, the Lord said, *"... Fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee ..."* (Gen. 26:24).

If God had just said, *"Don't be afraid,"* and left us there, we might say, *"But I can't help being afraid."* But not only did He say, *"Fear not,"* He also said, *"for I am with thee."* Can we really believe that He is with us and still be afraid? No, if we are afraid, it is because we are doubting Him. *"But,"* someone might say, *"I am so weak."* God said, *"I will strengthen thee."* *"But I am so helpless,"* someone might say. God said, *"I will uphold thee."*

Psalms 119:28, 130

28 My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.

130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

It is true that in ourselves we may be weak and helpless, burdened down with cares and problems. But in our weakness we look to His Word for strength, for *"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."*

Our confession can be, *"God is with me."* We can say, *"... Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world"* (I John 4:4). *"... If God be for me who can be against me?"* (Romans 8:31). You may be facing some problem that seems impossible. Instead of talking about how impossible it is, look to Him who is inside you and say, *"God is in me now."*



You'll find that your confession of faith will cause Him to work in your behalf. He will rise up in you and give you success. The Master of Creation is in you. You can face life fearlessly because you know that greater is He that is in you than any forces that may be arrayed against you. This should be your continual confession.

## **Confession Increases Faith**

There is no faith without confession. Confession is faith's way of expressing itself. Faith, like love, is of the heart, of the spirit. And we know that there is no love without word or action. We cannot reason love into people nor can we reason love out of them. It is of the heart. As faith too is of the spirit or heart, we can safely say that there is no faith without confession. Faith grows with confession.

The confession of the believer does several things for him. First, it locates him. Second, it fixes the landmarks of his life. He will never have more than his confession. *"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith"* (Mark 11:23). If we say that we cannot do something, then of course we can't. But if we say that we can, then we can. According to Mark 11:23, we can have whatever we say, or confess, whether it be belief or unbelief, success or failure, sickness or health.

The reason the majority of Christians, although they are sincere, are weak is that they have never dared to make a confession of what they are in Christ. What they must do is find out how in the mind of God He looks at them and then confess it. We will look into this in more detail in the next lesson, but these privileges are found mostly in the New Testament epistles, as they were written to the church. When you discover all that God has for you, then boldly confess what the Word declares you are in Christ. As you do this, your faith will abound.

The reason that faith is throttled and held in bondage is that you have never dared to confess what God says you are. Remember, faith never grows beyond your confession. Your daily confession of what the Father is to you, of what Jesus is doing for you now at the right hand of the Father, and of what His Holy Spirit is doing in you will build a solid positive faith life.

You will not be afraid of any circumstances. You will not be afraid of any disease. You will not be afraid of any conditions. You will face life fearlessly, a conqueror. And to be a conqueror you must confess that you are one. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37).

Looking again at the key scripture in Romans 10:10, we see in capsule form God's law of faith. *"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* In seeking anything from God, we must first believe in our heart, because the Word said it. Then we must confess with our mouth that it is so. For example, to be saved a man must believe in his heart and then confess with his mouth that Jesus died for him according to the scriptures, and that He was raised from the dead for his justification.

We confess with our mouth that it is so. For example, to be saved a man must believe in his heart and then confess with his mouth what God's Word says about it; and third, we see the answer to our prayer. Believe it, confess it, receive it. *"... Whosoever ... shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith"* (Mark 11:23).

As you study God's Word and learn what His Word says you are, who you are, and what you have in Christ Jesus, even though it may not seem real to you, start confessing, *"Yes, that's mine, according to God's Word."* You will then find that faith's confession creates reality.

**Memory Text:** *"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith"* (Mark 11:23).

**Faith in Action:** *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ...."*(James 1:22).

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 11 – Confession Restores Broken Fellowship](#)

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 13 – Confession of the Believer's Privileges in Christ](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 13 – Confession of the Believer's Privileges in Christ « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: When we know what we are in Christ and think in line with that, when we believe that and confess that, then there can be no failure for us.**

In our last lesson we said that confession is actually three things: first, affirming something we believe; second, testifying to something we know; and third, witnessing for a truth we have embraced. The major problem for us to face is to know exactly what we are to confess.

We briefly touched on confession's five parts in our last lesson, but we will go into more detail on these in our study for today as we endeavor to learn more about just what we are to confess. Our confession centers around these five things:

1. What God in Christ has wrought for us in His plan of redemption.
2. What God, through the Word and the Holy Spirit, has wrought for us in the new birth and the infilling of the Holy Ghost.
3. What we are to God the Father in Christ Jesus.
4. What Jesus is doing for us now at the right hand of the Father, where He ever lives to make intercession for us.
5. What God can do through us, or what His Word can do through our lips.

## Discovering Our Privileges in Christ

As we have said, confession is testifying to something we know. It is impossible to testify to something we don't know. And it is what we know personally about the Lord Jesus Christ and what we are in Him that counts. First of all, we can know Him personally, and it is of primary importance to be born again. But just because someone has been born again does not necessarily mean that he is a successful Christian. He must also know what he is in Christ Jesus. When we know what we are in Him and think in line with that, when we believe that and confess that, then there is no failure for us.

To discover what we are in Christ, we must look to the Word of God. Go to the New Testament, primarily the epistles written to the church, and underline with a red pencil every scripture that has the expression "in Him," "in Christ," and "in whom." Better yet, take several sheets of paper and write down all of these scriptures. (You will find about 133 of these scriptures.)

The moment you find them, begin to confess that this is who you are and what you have in Christ. If you will do this, I will guarantee that before many days, life will be different for you.

While neither time nor space here permit us to go into all these scriptures, let us look at just a few.

## Becoming a New Creature in Christ

II Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Notice the expression "in Christ." What a revolutionary thing that is for believers to believe and confess! We are new creatures in Christ Jesus. We are not just forgiven sinners. We are not poor, weak, staggering, sinning, barely-getting-along church members. We are new creatures, created by God in Christ Jesus. We are new creatures with the life of God, the nature of God, and the ability of God in us.

As a new convert at the age of seventeen, I never had the problems that so many have because I was quick to tell everybody, “I am a new creature.” I was quick to witness to Christ’s saving grace in my life wherever I went. I found that the more I talked about it, the more real the new creation became to me, because that is who we are and what we are.

I was active in soul winning – preaching in jail services, on the streets, and working in the church. While I was standing on the street corner one day, a boy who I knew came up to me and asked me to do him a favor. “I wouldn’t ask you to do this,” he explained, “but I’m running late now and I promised my girl friend that I would bring a date for her cousin who is visiting her from out of town. Would you come along and help me out of this jam? I’ll always be grateful and I’ll promise that we won’t stay over thirty or forty minutes, and that we won’t have any smoking, drinking, or dancing while you’re there.” Reluctantly I went along to help him out.

When we got to his girl friend’s house, she introduced me to her cousin. We had barely gotten seated when they put a record on the phonograph and started dancing. When the girl’s cousin asked me to dance, I said, “No, thank you, I don’t dance.”

She looked at me as if I had just come from Mars and said, “You don’t dance? Why?”

“Because I’m a new creature,” I answered.

“What do you mean, you’re a new creature?” she asked.

Then I quoted II Corinthians 5:17 to her, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” There was a time when I was interested in things like dancing, but now my life is different. I have been made a new creature in Christ, with new interests and new desires.” While the record continued to play and the other couple were dancing, I continued to give this girl my testimony of faith in Christ. The words began to grip her heart with conviction and she started crying. When the record stopped, the boy saw what was happening. He turned to me and said, “Let’s go!” and took me right home.

It didn’t matter where I was – whether in the jails, on the streets, at school, or church – I was quick to witness to everyone I came in contact with that I had been born again and was a new creature in Christ Jesus. And if we will confess that, it will make a big difference in our lives. I wasn’t tempted by the things of the world because I constantly confessed that I was a new creature in Christ Jesus.

## **Redemption From the Curse of the Law**

Ephesians 1:7, 8

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence.

Notice the words, “In whom we have redemption ...” How thankful we can be that we are not trying to get it, we already have it. We are not going to have it sometime, we have it now. Satan’s dominion has been broken; he lost his dominion over our life the moment we became a new creature. We received a new Lord. Jesus Christ reigns over us. Satan was our Lord, but now Jesus is our Lord. Romans 10:9 says, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus ...” or “Jesus as Lord.” Satan’s dominion ended; Jesus’ dominion began the moment we accepted Him as Lord and were born again.

From what and from whom are we redeemed? When asked this question many people say, “I am redeemed from sin.” And that is part of the answer, but not nearly all of it. Galatians 3:13 says, “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.” We are redeemed from the curse of the law.

To find out just what the curse of the law is, we must go back to the first five books of the Bible. There we see that the curse or the punishment for breaking God’s law is threefold: poverty, sickness, and the second death. God has redeemed us from the curse of poverty, from the curse of sickness, and from the curse of death – spiritual death now and physical death when Jesus comes again. We need have no fear of the second death. (In one of the lessons to follow we will look in more detail at our rights in Christ’s redemption from the curse of poverty.)

Acts 17:28

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being ...

What a vast storehouse of power we overlook so many times! In Him, Christ our Saviour and Lord, we have life, energy, strength for the impossible tasks. It does not say that we can do these things in ourselves, but it is through Him, through His power, for it is “in him we live, and move, and have our being.”

## **Deliverance From the Power of Satan**

Then let us look at two scriptures that, although they do not contain the words “in Him,” “in whom,” or “in Christ,” yet they convey something of the same message of what we do have in Him. “Who (God) hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Colossians 1:13). This verse says that we are delivered from the authority of darkness, from the power of Satan.

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4). The Old Testament counterpart to this scripture is found in Isaiah 41:10: “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

Then in the New Testament we find, “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31). We can take this as a personal message for ourselves. Because we are under the new covenant, we can say, “Thank God, for He is in us.” This is the best reason I can think of for not being afraid.

People have come to me and said, “I have read all those scriptures you said to read, but it doesn’t seem real to me.”

“Have you confessed it is so?” I ask them.

One woman said to me, “But it isn’t so in my life. I know it is not.”

“God says it is so, you say it isn’t. Therefore, either you or God is lying about it. If you were to stand before your mother and call her a liar, you would feel badly, wouldn’t you? Then how can you expect to feel right when you stand before God and say, ‘Your Word is not true, it isn’t so. You’re a liar.’ To remedy this situation you must start confessing that it is so whether you feel like it is so in your life or not. Then it will become a reality.”

We must get our thinking in line with God’s Word and then our believing will be right. When our believing is right we can confess – say, affirm, witness, testify – to what God’s Word says about us. Then we will succeed. Then life will be different for us!

**Memory Text: “For in him we live, and move, and have our being ...” Acts 17:18).**

**Faith in Action: “But be Ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....” (James 1:22).**

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 12 – Confession of God’s Word Builds Faith](#)

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 14 – Right and Wrong Confession](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 14 – Right and Wrong Confession « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: The confession of our lips will give either God dominion over us or Satan dominion over us.**

The Bible is the Word of God and contains God's thoughts. And of course, God's thoughts are different than man's thoughts. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8, 9). As we study God's Word and know His thoughts, we can dare to think God's thoughts after Him as we get our thinking in line with His Word.

As we have been studying about confession, we have learned that if our confessing is wrong it is because our believing is wrong. If our believing is wrong, it is because our thinking is wrong. And if our thinking is wrong, it is because our mind has not yet been renewed with the Word of God.

Sometimes the teachings of the Word of God may not seem reasonable to the natural man, but that is because his mind hasn't been renewed by the Word. Mark 11:22-24 says, "... Have faith in God (or the God kind of faith). For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say ... and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe ... shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." The Amplified version of this last verse reads, "For this reason I'm telling you, when you pray, you trust and be confident that it's granted you. Then you are going to say, 'It's mine, I have it.'"

The greatest things that will ever happen to the Christian will be when he moves out into this realm. The intellect and the physical senses will fight him every step of the way to keep him from entering that realm, because if the natural mind is not renewed by the Word of God, it wants to hold him in the natural realm. But there is a spiritual realm, and this is really the realm of the Christian.

## Right and Wrong Confession

Looking into the matter of wrong thinking, wrong believing, and wrong confessing, let us ask the question, just what is a wrong confession? Wrong confession is a confession of defeat and failure, and of the supremacy of Satan. Talking about how the devil is hindering you and keeping you from success, about how he is holding you in bondage, about how he is keeping you sick, is a confession of defeat. And such a confession simply glorifies the devil.

As we have said in previous lessons, confession is witnessing for a truth that we have embraced, testifying of something we know, and affirming something that we believe. And many times our confessions, rather than witnessing to what God's Word has to say about a matter, admit to our defeat and glorify the devil rather than God.

Few of us are like the dear old sister who stood in church to testify, "The devil has been after me all week, bless his holy name." Yet many of our testimonies do more to witness to the supremacy of Satan in our lives than to Christ's dominion. Just as when we testify to what God has done for us, we are glorifying Him; by the same token, when we talk about what the devil is doing, of our failures and defeats, we are glorifying the devil. Many people lose the blessing that God has for them just by making a wrong confession. They are defeated and life is just a grind to them.

Actually a wrong confession that glorifies the devil is an unconscious declaration that God is a failure. Such a confession destroys our faith and holds us in bondage. The confession of Satan's ability to hinder and keep us from success gives him dominion over us. Therefore, with your mouth you are going to either give God dominion over you; or you are going to give Satan dominion over you. The confession of your lips that has grown out of faith in your heart will absolutely defeat the devil in every combat.

When we are saved, we confess the Lordship of Jesus, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus ..." (Romans 10:9) or Jesus as Lord. That means He is our Lord. When we confess His Lordship over us, He begins to have dominion over us and rule in our life. But when we confess Satan's ability to hinder and keep us from success, then even though we may be a Christian, we are giving Satan dominion over us. He is the god of this world, and he will move right in because we permitted him to do so. Even though it may be a permission of ignorance or an unconscious consent, it is nevertheless consent. And when Satan has dominion, we are filled with weakness and fear.

# Overcoming Fear and Doubt

II Timothy 1:7

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Even though in the natural we may sometimes feel afraid, we should never confess fear. Fear is not of God. The above scripture says that God has not given us a spirit of fear, “but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” Fear isn’t something that is coming from the inside of you. It is something that is coming from outside, trying to get hold of you. It is the enemy. We should not confess fear, but rather we should confess “power ... love, and a sound mind.”

The same thing is true of doubt. Don’t confess your doubts or your fears. This is not to say that you should not admit doubt and fear if you have them. Just don’t say anything about it. Doubt is of the devil. Doubt is contraband goods. Doubt is evil. The Christian has no business talking about doubt, for it doesn’t belong to him. A lot of people think they are being honest when they confess that they are afraid or that they doubt. You may have been tempted to doubt and have listened to the devil, but you can put him on the run by resisting him.

So don’t confess doubt, confess faith. Start talking about who you are and what you are in Christ, as we discussed in our last lesson. You are a believer. You are a new creature. Talk that, believe that, think that. And if you are tempted, and none of us is above temptation, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Refuse in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to doubt and fear and they will leave you. If you entertain them, however, they will come right in and rob and defeat you.

## Confessing God’s Word

Instead of confessing your doubts and fears, confess what God’s Word says. God said, “Fear thou not; for I am with thee ...” (Isaiah 41:10). Therefore, you can say, “I am not afraid. I am a child of God and He is with me. He has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, and love and of a sound mind.” We are not doubters, we are believers. We can stop talking the devil’s language of doubt and fear and can start talking God’s language of faith. God is a faith God. We are faith children of a faith God.

In one of my meetings a lady told me about her sister who was in a mental institution. She said, “She is not too bad but does need institutional care. She understands what is said to her. Occasionally I can bring her home for two-week periods. I am going to bring her home now so she can attend these meetings. I believe they will help her.”

I didn’t pray for the woman during those two weeks, but she was in every service and just from hearing the Word her mind became clear and she never had to return to the institution. The doctors released her, giving her a clean bill of health. In the past she had been confessing defeat, fear, and doubt until they became a part of her. But as she listened to the Word preached, she saw where she had missed it; she began to confess the right thing and was healed.

Seeing the remarkable recovery of this woman, another lady in the church was inspired to bring her neighbor who had just been assigned to the state mental hospital but had not yet left. Neither the woman nor her husband were Christians, but he consented to let her attend our services with her neighbor. Within a week the woman had been saved, healed, and filled with the Holy Ghost; and she never did go to the mental hospital.

People can become sick mentally as well as physically, and God can heal mental illnesses as easily as He can physical. We have to recognize that God has not given us a spirit of fear. We need to learn to stand against the enemy.

Remember, confession of fear gives fear dominion over you. Your fears become stronger and you come more into the bondage of the enemy. But if you will boldly confess your Father’s care, confess His protection, confess His Word, and declare that what God says about you is true, confess that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world, you will rise above Satanic influence every time.

When you confess your doubts and fears, your weaknesses and diseases, you are openly confessing that the Word of God is not true and that God has failed to make it good. His Word declares that by His stripes you were healed.

I Peter 2:24

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Matthew 8:17

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

If instead of confessing that Jesus “took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses,” and we declare that we still have them, we will remain sick. But when we start confessing that He has already done something about our sickness, then we will receive healing. Too much of the time we take the testimony of our physical senses instead of taking the testimony of God’s Word. We have to practice God’s Word for it to work for us.

**Memory Text:** *“For God bath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (II Timothy 1:7).*

**Faith in Action:** *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....”(James 1:22).*

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 13 – Confession of the Believer’s Privileges in Christ](#)

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 15 – Faith for Prosperity](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 15 – Faith for Prosperity « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: As born-again believers, we are redeemed from the curse of the law and are heirs to Abraham's blessing and God's promises of prosperity.**

For many years I did not understand that it is God's will for His children to prosper. I thought as many do that poverty was a characteristic of humility – that in order to be humble one must be poor. I thought that a righteous man could not be wealthy and that a wealthy man could not be righteous. Any promise in the scriptures regarding financial blessing applied only to the Jews, I thought. I have since learned, through studying God's Word and applying it in my own life, that God wants His children to "prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (III John 2).

"But," someone might say, "the Bible says that money is the root of all evil." However, the Bible does not say that at all. I Timothy 6:10 says, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." A person can be guilty of that sin and not have one dime.

I have heard people say, "Well, I guess I'm just another Job." Some people think that poor old Job went through life poverty stricken, sick, and afflicted. However, the entire Book of Job happened within a period of nine months, and the last chapter says that God turned Job's captivity, and that "the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before" (Job 42:10).

When the thieves broke in and stole Job's things, he was captive of Satan. When the fire fell and burned up his crops, he was in captivity to Satan. When the storm came and blew the house down on his children and they were killed, when Job was smitten with boils from his head to his feet, when his wife turned against him and said, "Curse God and die," Job was in captivity to Satan. But God turned Job's captivity.

If you think you are another Job, that means you'll be one of the richest men around. You'll have twice as much as you've ever had, and you will be healed and live to be old. Job lived one hundred years after the events recorded in the Bible. If you are another Job, you are going to prosper.

## Redeemed From the Curse of the Law

Galatians 3:13, 14, 29

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The above scriptures tell us that "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law." What, then, is the curse of the law? We turn for this answer to the first five books of the Old Testament, referred to as the Pentateuch, or the Books of the Law. There we learn that the curse, or punishment for breaking God's law, is threefold: poverty, sickness, and the second death. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of poverty. He has redeemed us from the curse of sickness. He has redeemed us from the curse of death – spiritual death now and physical death when Jesus comes again. We need have no fear of the second death.

## Abraham's Blessing

Just as the curse is three-fold in nature, so was Abraham's blessing. First, it was a material, financial blessing. Second, it was a physical blessing. Third, it was a spiritual blessing. The New Testament scripture, III John 2, agrees that God wants us to have material, physical, and spiritual prosperity; for it says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." Too many people are under the impression that any



promises in the Bible for material blessing and prosperity refer only to the Jews. However, this verse was written to New Testament Christians.

The word “Jew” is a short term or a nickname for “Judah.” The Israelites were never called Jews until after the split of the tribes. Judah didn’t have any more promise of material and financial blessing than the other tribes of Israel. They received or inherited the blessing through their father Jacob. Jacob inherited the blessing through his father Isaac. Isaac inherited the blessing through his father Abraham. So it is not the Jews’ blessing or promise. It is not Israel’s blessing. It is Abraham’s blessing. And that blessing is mine. “That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ ...” (Galatians 3:14). In this third chapter of Galatians we also read in verse 7, “Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.” If we are born-again Christians, “then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29).

After these scriptures became plain to me and I saw what belonged to me as a child of God, through faith in Him, other scriptures began to open up to me. Everything belongs to God and is at His disposal, “For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills ... for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof” (Psalm 50:10, 12). “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof ...” (Psalm 24:1). God created everything, then He made man, Adam, and gave him dominion over all of it. God made it all for His man Adam. He gave Adam dominion over the cattle on a thousand hills, over the silver and gold, over the world and the fullness thereof. In other words, Adam was the god of this world.

But Adam committed high treason and sold out to Satan. Thus Satan became the god of this world. Jesus, however, came to redeem us from Satan’s power and dominion over us. Romans 5:17 says, “For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.” The Amplified version of the scripture reads, “They shall reign as kings in life, by one Jesus Christ.” We are to reign as kings in life. That means that we have dominion over our lives. We are to dominate, not to be dominated. Circumstances are not to dominate you. You are to dominate circumstances. Poverty is not to rule and reign over you. You are to rule and reign over poverty. Disease and sickness are not to rule and reign over you. You are to rule and reign over sickness. We are to reign as kings in life by Christ Jesus, in whom we have our redemption.

Deuteronomy 28:1-8, 11, 12

1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.

3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle ...

5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

6 Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shall thou be when thou goest out.

7 The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face...

8 The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto ...

11 And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods ...

12 The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season and to bless all the work of thine hand ...

The first part of Deuteronomy 28 lists the many ways the Lord would bless His people if they would obey Him. He promised to bless their children, their crops and cattle, He promised to bless and protect them in battle, He promised to make them “plenteous in goods,” and to bless them in “all that thou settest thine hand unto.”

This blessing was all-inclusive, but it was also conditional. They must keep all of God’s commandments. They must

be a holy people, not straying from Him and seeking after other gods, but serving Him with all their heart. The remainder of this chapter, verses 15 through 68, lists the curses that would fall upon His people if they did not keep His commandments.

When I first realized this truth and saw the prosperity, material and spiritual, that God has planned for His people, and that every born-again believer in Christ is an heir to this promise, I could hardly contain my joy. I was so thrilled to find out that I was redeemed from the curse of the law, from the curse of poverty, and that Abraham's blessing was mine. We as Christians need not suffer financial setbacks; we need not be captive to poverty or sickness. God has provided healing and prosperity for His children if they will obey His commandments.

When Jesus was here on earth He said, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:11). How many of us who are parents want our children to go through life hungry, sick, or afflicted, never having enough to get along? No parent wants that. In fact, we work and sacrifice to try to help our children get a better education than we had so they can make a better living than we did.

God put all the cattle here, all the silver and gold, and is it reasonable to think that He did all of this only for the ungodly? Certainly He loves the sinner, but does He love the sinner more than His own children? No. God put all these things here for His people. He said to Israel, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land" (Isaiah 1:19). And if God wants His children to eat the best, He wants them to wear the best clothing, He wants them to drive the best cars, and He wants them to have the best of everything.

## **Proven Through Personal Experience**

When this truth became real to my heart, the Lord spoke to me and said, "Don't pray for money anymore. You have authority through my name to claim prosperity. I have already put gold, silver, and cattle on a thousand hills for my man Adam, and I gave him dominion over it. After he sold out to Satan, the second Adam, Jesus Christ, came to redeem you from the hand of the enemy and to remove you from the curse of the law. Now, instead of praying that I would do it, because I have made provision for your needs, all you need do is say, 'Satan, take your hands off my money.' Just claim what you need. You reign in life by Christ Jesus."

In the next church I went to I said, "Lord, if I get what I need here this will have to work. The last time I was here I received only about \$60 a week. I am going to claim \$150 for this week." Then I said, "Satan, take your hands off my money, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." You see, you never believe for the possible, because you believe for the impossible. I was supposed to be in this church for just a week, but as it turned out I was there ten days. I claimed \$200 for these ten days. The pastor did not beg for money at all, but he simply passed the offering plates; and, when the offering was counted, I had \$240.

After that when I would go into churches to hold meetings, finances came in easily; and many times the pastor would say in amazement, "That is the biggest offering this church has ever given to an evangelist. "And I had made no strong pleas at all. I had the key that unlocks the door.

Thank God, we are not under the curse, for Jesus has set us free! "For sickness I have health, for poverty wealth, since Jesus has ransomed me."

**Memory Text:** *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth"* (III John 2).

**Faith in Action:** *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ...."*(James 1:22).

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 14 – Right and Wrong Confession](#)

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 16 – Seven Steps to the Highest Kind of Faith \(Part I\)](#)

# **Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 16 - Seven Steps to the Highest Kind of Faith (Part I)**

**Central Truth: It is by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony that we overcome Satan, that we are delivered from the power of darkness and that we are translated into the kingdom of His dear Son.**

In this next series of lessons on faith I have a two-fold purpose in mind. We have already covered most of these next points in some form or another, but I wanted to bring them together so that you can check up on the progress you are making and get ready for the final exam, so to speak. If you have studied these faith lessons and they have taken hold in your life, the devil is going to contest you. The Lord wants us to be prepared for the future, and through the power of God's Word we can be ready for any emergency that may arise.

## **Step 1 – The Integrity of the Word of God**

The first thing we need to know is that the Word of God is actually what it declares itself to be. It is a revelation from God to us. It is God speaking to us now. Not only is it a book of the past and a book of the future, it is also a book of now. This book is a God-breathed, God-indwelt, and a God-inspired message. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Moffatt's translation of this verse reads, "For the word of God is a living thing ..." The word "quick" actually means "alive, living." The Word of God is a living thing. But it will only come alive to you as you accept it and act upon it.

So we see that the first step toward the highest kind of faith is to accept and understand the integrity of God's Word. The Word is of foremost importance.

Sometimes folks think God hasn't spoken to them unless they have a message in tongues or prophecy. But the Word of God is God speaking to us. The gifts of prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues do not supersede the Word. The Word comes first. These inspirational vocal gifts are given to us to inspire us in line with the Word, but if they say something apart from the Word, it is not the Holy Spirit speaking. That person is just speaking from his own thinking. We must always judge these things in the light of God's Word.

Also, there are those who try to read certain things into the Word because they want it to say what they believe. They are trying to fit the Word to their beliefs rather than fitting their beliefs to the Word. Some people try to overlook certain passages or explain them away. But we must accept it for what it says and walk in the light of it. We must believe what the Word says, not what we think it says.

As you begin to study the Word in this light, accepting it as it is, you will be amazed to learn that some of the things you have always believed are not in the Word at all. You will wonder why you believed some things the way you did.

I found this true in my own experience. As I lay for many months on the bed of affliction, I studied the Bible and saw in it the truths of faith and healing. This was new to me as my church didn't teach about healing. But the more I studied God's Word the more I saw it was true. And regardless of my church's teaching, I determined I was going to walk in the light of God's Word because I believed that this Word is God speaking to us today. When I made this commitment the biggest part of the battle was won.

To actually believe God's Word I had to go against not only the teachings of my church but of my family as well. It is amazing how we can become more church-minded than Bible-minded. And sometimes our loved ones, thinking they have our best interests at heart, will oppose us from walking in the fullest light of God's Word. Nevertheless, I determined to follow the Word of God, knowing that this is God speaking to me today.

## **Step 2 – Our Redemption in Christ**

The second thing we need to know is the reality of our redemption in Christ, not as a doctrine, philosophy or creed of some kind, but an actual redemption from the authority of Satan. For by the new birth we have been translated into the kingdom of His Son, the Kingdom of God. In other words, we have been born into the very family of God.

Colossians 1:12-14

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (able) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

How wonderful that we can enter into our inheritance in Christ. God has made us able to have part of this inheritance, as we have just read in verse 12 of the above passage.

Verse 13 goes on to say, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness ..." The Greek word which was translated "power" here means "authority." "Who hath delivered us from the authority of darkness ..." referring to Satan's kingdom. Notice too that the scripture doesn't say that He is going to deliver us. It says, "Who hath delivered us ..."

Verse 14 tells us the price of redemption. "In whom we have redemption through his blood ..." In connection with this scripture let us look at Revelation 12:11, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony ..." The American Revised Version of this verse reads, "because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony."

The blood of Jesus is the basis of our victory. But we have to add our testimony, our confession, to it. We have to stand our ground with the enemy. Because he is the god of this world he will try to have authority over you. But he needn't win for you have been delivered through the blood of Jesus Christ from the power of darkness, from the authority of Satan. By virtue of the new birth you have been translated into the kingdom of His dear Son. In every contest with Satan you can overcome no matter what the test may be, because you have redemption through the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of your testimony. There is power in the blood!

Satan's dominion over us as new creatures in Christ is ended. Jesus is the Lord and Head of this new Body. He is referred to in the scriptures as the Head of the Church. The Church, which is all born-again believers, is called the Body of Christ. Satan has no right to rule over the Body of Christ. Christ is the Head of the Body. He is the one that is to rule and dominate the Body.

Some people accept defeat in life because they don't fully understand the Word. They have told me that they didn't succeed because it wasn't God's will. They have said, "Our spirits belong to the Lord, but our bodies haven't been redeemed as yet. Therefore, we must suffer sickness and disease in the physical realm now. But the time is coming when we won't have to." In answer to this I turn to I Corinthians 6:19, 20.

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

This passage tells us that not only our spirit, but our body is also bought with a price. Therefore you are to "glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." Does God get any glory out of Satan's dominating us physically? Could God get any glory out of the body, the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is deformed or defaced with sickness? Certainly not. We need to understand this clearly and learn to take a stand against the devil when he attacks our bodies just as quickly as we would when he attacks our spirits.

Let us look again at Colossians 1:12, "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (able) to be partakers of the inheritance in light." This is part of our inheritance as children of God as we walk in the light. We have dominion and authority over the devil through the blood of Jesus. It is by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony that we overcome Satan, that we are delivered from the power of darkness and are translated into the kingdom of His dear Son.

Notice the words, "Giving thanks to the Father, which hath made us able to be partakers of the inheritance ..." I can partake of my inheritance right now. We don't have to relegate that to the future. We have an inheritance now. We are delivered from the authority or darkness now. We are translated into the kingdom of His dear Son now. We have deliverance and redemption from the hand of Satan now. We can overcome him now by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony. We can glorify God now in our bodies and in our spirits, which are God's.

**Memory Text: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony ..." (Revelation 12:11).**

**Faith in Action: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ...." (James 1:22).**

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 17 - Seven Steps to the Highest Kind of Faith (Part II)

**Central Truth: Fellowship is the very mother of faith. It is the parent of joy. It is the source of victory.**

As we press on in our study of God's Word toward a deeper understanding of the meaning of faith, we will in this lesson look at three more steps to the highest kind of faith. These steps will impress on us the reality of (1) the new creation, (2) our fellowship with the Father, and (3) the authority of Jesus' name.

## **Step 3 – The Reality of the New Creation**

II Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

In order to achieve the highest kind of faith it is necessary for us to know the reality of the new creation. We need to know that in the mind of Justice, we were created in Christ Jesus when He was recreated after He had been made sin as our substitute. We should know that the moment we accepted Christ as Saviour and confessed Him as Lord we were recreated. That is when the legal aspect became a reality in our life.

We have today in our spirits the very life and nature of God. This is not an experience, it is not a religion, nor is it joining a church. It is an actual birth of our spirit. We are the very sons and daughters of God. He is our very own Father. We know that we have passed from Satan's dominion and spiritual death into the realm of life through Jesus Christ. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren" (I John 3:14). We know that we are in the family of God; we are children of God. One cannot join this family, he must be born into it.

How does this affect us in everyday life? If God is our very own Father and we are His very own children, we have as much freedom and fellowship with the Father as Jesus had in His earthly walk, because the Father loves us even as He loved Jesus. "... That the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me" (John 17:23).

Colossians 1:18 says, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence." Jesus is the firstborn, but we too are born from the dead. Peter said,

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Peter 1:23). We are begotten of God, we are born of God. We are God’s children, heirs of God and joint (equal) heirs with Christ.

When we say this, we are not magnifying ourselves, we are magnifying God and what He has done for us through the Lord Jesus. We did not make ourselves new creatures, He made us new creatures. He is the author and the finisher of our faith. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works ...” (Ephesians 2:10). We didn’t make ourselves who and what we are, God did.

When a person belittles himself, he is actually belittling God’s workmanship. He is criticizing something which God has made. We should quit looking at ourselves from the natural standpoint, but instead see ourselves as God sees us, as created in Christ Jesus. The Father doesn’t see us as anybody else sees us, He sees us in Christ. Many Christians are defeated because they look at themselves from the natural standpoint, when they could be victorious by looking at themselves as God does.

One Christian who was having severe problems in his life once said to me, “I guess I’m just paying for the life I lived before I got saved. I was so sinful.” However, when we are born again, we are redeemed not only from sin, but from the penalty of sin. We do not have to pay for our sins because Christ has already done this for us. It is not even possible for us to pay for them.

Many folks don’t know the difference between repentance and doing penance. Yet if you would accuse them of following the teachings of certain other religions, they would hotly deny it. But that is exactly what they are doing—they are trying to do penance for their past life.

When a man repents, God then doesn’t have any knowledge that that man ever did anything wrong. “I, even I, am he that blot out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (Isaiah 43:25). If God doesn’t remember, why should you?

If after being saved a man had to continue to reap what he had sown as a sinner, he would then have to go to Hell when he died because that’s part of the penalty too. If he is going to reap any part of the penalty, he will reap all of it. But, we are redeemed not only from the power but also from the penalty of sin. Jesus took our place. He suffered the penalty for our sin. He has made us able to enjoy the inheritance of saints in light, as we discussed in our last lesson.

#### **Step 4 – The Reality of Our Fellowship with the Father**



The very heart reason for redemption is fellowship. "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (I Corinthians 1:9). Notice here that we were called "unto the fellowship of his Son."

1 John 1:3, 4, 7

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

The highest honor that the Father has conferred upon us is that of having joint-fellowship with Him, with His Son, and with the Holy Spirit in carrying out His dream for the redemption of the human race. Relationship without fellowship is an insipid thing. It is like marriage without love or companionship. Fellowship is the very mother of faith. It is the parent of joy. It is the source of victory. And He has called us individually into fellowship with His Son.

If we have fellowship with Him and are walking in the light as He is in the light, then prayer becomes one of the sweetest and greatest privileges to which we have fallen heir in Christ. To hear some people talk one would think that prayer is pure drudgery. We hear them talk about fighting and struggling, about trying to believe. But it has never been a problem or a fight for me to pray. It has always been a joy. It has never taken anything out of me to pray, because it puts something in me. And I often pray five or more hours a day.

The trouble with people who have such difficulty with prayer is that instead of letting the Holy Spirit help them and pray through them, they are trying to do it all on their own and in their own energy. Naturally, this would wear them out. But God would have us come to the place of resting in Him. "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing" (Isaiah 28:11, 12). We can find a time of refreshing in the Lord as we pray in other tongues.

## **Step 5 – The Reality of the Authority of Jesus' Name**

John 14:13, 14

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Suppose that a wealthy man were to give you a signed statement saying that you were entitled to use his name and thereby receive anything you might need in order to live comfortably. Suppose that this was a legal document, given before witnesses, whereby every one of your needs could be met for the rest of your life. Does this sound too good to be true? The wonderful part of it is that it is true!

God has given us the “power of attorney” to use the name of Jesus to meet our every need – spiritual, physical, or financial. He has given us power over Satanic forces. He has said that, “whatsoever ye shall ask in my name” He would give it to you. We have authority to use His name. The fact that many do not is not a matter of lack of faith but a matter of not knowing our legal rights in Christ. It is a matter of taking the place of a son or daughter and taking advantage of our rights as a child of God. It is a matter of knowing what belongs to us and doing what the Word says.

**Memory Text:** *“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord”(I Corinthians 1:9).*

**Faith in Action:** *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ... .” (James 1:22).*

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 18 - Seven Steps to the Highest Kind of Faith (Part III)

Central Truth: We can approach God with full assurance because we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

This lesson brings us up to Step 6 in our study of the highest faith. In it we want to help You gain new insight into the meaning of the words "righteous" and "righteousness" as shown in the scriptures.

## Step 6 – The Reality of Our Righteousness in Christ

II Corinthians 6:14-16

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Reading the above scripture, many people see in it only teaching of separation from the world. And they immediately practice segregation, thinking it is separation. They feel that they cannot have anything to do with the world or anyone in the world. They even segregate themselves from other Christians, if they don't completely agree with them. However, Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth ... Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13, 14). And in order to be the "salt" in the world, in order to be the "light" in the world, we must remain in the world, doing our job for the Lord.

A man once said to me, "I am the only Christian where I work. Pray that God will move me out."

"Oh, no," I told him, "the place would really be corrupt without your influence. You stay right there. You're the salt of the earth; you stay right there and salt it." We are in the world, but not of the world. I want you to notice something else in this scripture, something equally important. Notice that believers are called believers and unbelievers are called unbelievers. Then it says, "For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with

darkness?" Notice that the believer is called "righteousness" and the unbeliever is referred to as "unrighteousness." The scripture also refers to the believer as "light" and the unbeliever as "darkness."

Have you ever thought of yourself as "righteousness"? To many, the idea of calling oneself "righteousness" sounds egotistical. Yet these same persons do not object to calling themselves "believers" or "light." This scripture uses all three terms to refer to believers.

Continuing with verse 15 we read, "And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" In this verse we see the church, or believers, referred to as Christ, for He is the Head and we are the Body. And of course, our head doesn't go by one name and our body another. The church is Christ, and we are the body of Christ. Holding these thoughts in mind, let us look at some more scriptures in the Book of Romans.

Romans 3:23-26

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

In this passage of scripture the Greek word that is translated "righteousness" or "righteous" is translated "just" and "justifier" here. In other words, verse 26 could just as easily read, "that he might be righteous, and the righteousness of him which believeth in Jesus." The words used here for "righteous" and "just" are interchangeable.

What does all this mean? What is God teaching us through this scripture? That God through Jesus declared His righteousness. That God Himself is righteous, and that God is my righteousness. He is the "righteousness of him which believeth in Jesus."

Romans 5:17 says, "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." Most people have thought that righteousness is something that one attains by right living. Righteousness does mean rightness or right standing. But this scripture says that it is a gift – not something which we can earn by good deeds and clean living. A gift is something which we receive instantly; a stage of

spiritual development is fruit. If righteousness were fruit, the scripture would read, "and the fruit of righteousness." However, it says, "the gift of righteousness."

Every one of God's dear children has the same righteousness and the same standing with God. He doesn't love one more than another. He won't listen to one's prayers more than to another's. When this truth fully sinks in, your praying will work. Your prayers will get answers.

So many people struggle along in the realm of self-condemnation, letting the enemy rob them of the inheritance that is theirs in Christ Jesus. They think that their prayers won't work and that God won't hear them. They think that if they could just find a righteous man to pray for them, his prayers would work. They have read James 5:16, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," but they feel they have not attained the place of spiritual growth to qualify as "righteous" and therefore look for someone else's prayers to reach heaven for them.

How sad that they have not seen the truth in the scriptures we have just read in Romans 3:23-26 that God is our righteousness. He became our righteousness when He imparted to us His nature, eternal life, and when we were born again in the new creation. He became our righteousness the moment we accepted Jesus as our Saviour and confessed Him as our Lord.

I first discovered the truths of these scriptures as a young Christian when for months I lay bedfast. I did not understand them as thoroughly then as I do now, for at first they were as a small gleam of light in a dark corner. I was having the same struggles as many of you to overcome some problem in your life or achieve health. I teach on these things that others may grasp them as I did and be complete overcomers.

Reading my Bible I came across the scripture in James 5:14, 15, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he have committed any sins, they shall be forgiven him." But as I read, any faith which momentarily flickered was quickly extinguished by the thought that I knew my church didn't believe in healing or in anointing with oil. I did not have anyone to call on for prayer, as this scripture said.

Then the Lord spoke to me and said, "It is the prayer of faith that heals the sick. You can pray that prayer yourself as well as anybody can."

I was just a babe in Christ. I was just sixteen years old and had been saved only a few months, yet the Lord said that I could pray that prayer. Immediately my wrong thinking defeated me. I thought, "Yes, I could – if I were righteous." I was acquainted with all of my shortcomings and I knew that I wasn't righteous, at least according to my understanding of the meaning of the word.

Reading further in the Book of James, I read where James gave Elias, or Elijah, as an example of a righteous man praying. Then he said, "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months" (James 5:17).

As I studied about Elijah, I thought that he surely was not my idea of a righteous man. I knew he had his high moments, as most of us do; but he had his low moments too. When the hand of the Lord was upon him, he could outrun the king's chariot. But when he learned that Queen Jezebel wanted to kill him, he ran and hid under a juniper tree and begged the Lord to let him die. Of course, he didn't really want to die. If he did, Jezebel would have taken care of that for him. Then he whined to the Lord, "Everybody has backslidden but me. I'm the only one who is serving you, Lord." Such inconsistency was hardly the mark of a righteous man, I thought. How could James have given him as an example of a righteous man praying? He was no more righteous than I!

Then I remembered that James said Elijah was a "man subject to like passions as we are." And not only was he subject to these passions, but he also gave in to them. He allowed discouragement to dominate his actions. Yet he was called a righteous man.

## **A Better Covenant**

Psalms 32:1, 2

1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Under the old covenant, the blood of innocent animals covered sin. God did not impute iniquity to them even though they had done wrong. He covered it and forgave it and He imputed righteousness unto them. In His sight they were righteous. "When I see the blood, I will pass over you ..." (Exodus 12:13).

If God did this for His children under the Law, how much more will He do for us, for under grace we have a better covenant, established upon better promises. The blood of Jesus Christ not only covers our sins, it cleanses us "from all unrighteousness." "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Revelation 1:5). As I read this scripture, I saw that when I was born again all of my sins were remitted and my past life stopped being. I saw that I had become a new creature in Christ, and I knew that He didn't make any unrighteous new creatures.

Immediately the devil was right there saying, "That may be true, but what about since then? It hasn't been very long ago that you lost your temper. That's certainly

no way for a righteous person to act." He got me looking at the natural again instead of at God's Word.

Then I read I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (This scripture wasn't written to sinners but to believers.) This meant that I had become the righteousness of God in Christ when I was born again. If I had sinned since that time, and I had, I just confessed my sins and He forgave me and cleansed me from my unrighteousness. If I'm cleansed from unrighteousness, then I am righteous again.

Before when I had read James 5:16, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," I had thought that if I could ever become righteous, then I would have a really tremendous prayer life and see outstanding answers to prayer. Now I saw that my prayers would work, for God would hear me as quickly as He will hear anyone else. In my Bible beside this scripture in James 5:16 I wrote the words, "I am that Righteous Man."

This is not bragging on anything I have done; it is bragging on what I am in Christ. It is bragging or praising God for what He has wrought for us in Him.

This means that we can stand in God's presence without any sense of guilt, condemnation, or inferiority. This means the prayer problem is settled. We no longer need to go into His presence tongue-tied because of condemnation or filled with fear because of ignorance. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21). We can enter His presence in full assurance, because we have been made righteous through the blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Memory Text: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21).**

**Faith in Action: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ...." (James 1:22).**

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 19 - Seven Steps to the Highest Kind of Faith (Part IV)

**Central Truth: God Himself, in the person of the Holy Spirit, dwells within the believer.**

Too many times those who have been filled with the Holy Spirit think of themselves as just having received a wonderful blessing or some kind of rich spiritual experience. And they miss the teaching of the Word entirely. I John 4:4 says, "... Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

The infilling of the Holy Ghost means that He – the Holy Ghost – comes to dwell in us. Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever" (John 14:16).

Therefore, the seventh – and extremely vital – step in our search for the highest kind of faith is to realize that our body is the temple of God. God Himself, in the person of the Holy Ghost, dwells within us.

## **Step 7 – The Reality of the Indwelling Spirit**

In Old Testament times God's earthly dwelling place was the tabernacle or the temple. But after Christ died on the cross, rose again, and returned to heaven, sending the Holy Ghost upon the believers on the Day of Pentecost, He no longer dwells in a man-made Holy of Holies. Our bodies have become His temple.

I Corinthians 6:19, 20

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

II Corinthians 6:16

16 ... For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

In every crisis of life we should instinctively say, "I am a conqueror. I am more than a victor, for the Creator dwells in me. The Greater One lives in me. He can put me over. He can make me a success. I cannot fail!" This is not bragging on yourself. It is



bragging on the One that is in you. However, too many times Spirit-filled believers cringe before the trials of life, and needlessly allow the devil to defeat them. They run around crying on one another's shoulders, praying some pitiful, weak, little prayer, wondering why victory doesn't come. Yet all the time help is present, for the Holy Spirit is inside of them ready to help them.

### **The Enduement of Power on the Early Church**

In the New Testament church it was the exception rather than the rule for there to be any believers who had not received the infilling of the Holy Spirit with the supernatural sign of speaking in other tongues. The apostles recognized the necessity of the indwelling Spirit of God and stressed this in their teachings to the new converts.

Acts 8:14, 15

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost.

Acts 9:17

17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 19:1, 2

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Certainly the church today is no less in need of this enduement of power.

The Apostle Paul said, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Corinthians 3:16). The Amplified Version of this verse reads, "Do you not discern and understand that you (the whole church at Corinth) are God's temple (His sanctuary), and that God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you, to be at home in you (collectively as a church and also individually)?" We are the temple of God. God indwells us, not only as a body, but as individuals.

Notice the expression, "to be at home in you." God is actually making His home in our bodies. No longer does He dwell in a man-made Holy of Holies, as in Old Testament times. Then it was required that every male present himself at least once a year in Jerusalem before the Lord. They had to travel to Jerusalem as the presence of God was only in the Holy of Holies. No one dared to approach the holy presence except the high priest, and he only with great precaution. Anyone else who intruded into the holy place fell dead instantly.

But now all this has been done away with, and we may "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

### **Calvary Removes Barrier Separating Man from God**

Just before Jesus died He said, "It is finished." He was not talking about the plan of redemption being finished, because it wasn't finished when He died. He had to arise from the dead and ascend into the heavenly Holy of Holies with His own blood as a sacrifice to obtain eternal redemption for us. Then He had to ascend on high to be seated at the right hand of the Father and begin His mediatorial intercession, to be the mediator between God and man. Until then the New Covenant was not in effect. When Jesus said on the Cross, "It is finished," He was referring to the Old Covenant's being finished.

When this happened the veil, or curtain, that separated the Holy of Holies was torn in two from top to bottom. Jewish historians tell us that this curtain was forty feet wide, twenty feet high and four inches thick. Imagine how difficult it would be for a man to tear in two something of this size! But notice that the scriptures do not say that the curtain was torn from the bottom to the top. Rather "... the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom ..." (Matthew 27:51). This signified that it was God and not man who tore down the curtain, the barrier separating man from God.

The presence of God moved out of that man-made Holy of Holies and He has never dwelt there any more. Now His divine presence indwells us.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is much more than just a thrilling experience. The Holy Spirit, the divine personality, actually comes to live in you. "... For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (II Corinthians 6:16). But how many of us fully realize this marvelous truth? How many of us recognize the fact that in us, ready for our use, is all the power that we will ever need to put us over in life?

If we will just begin to believe what the Bible says, to confess what God's Word says, then the Holy Spirit will rise up within us and give illumination to our minds. He will

give direction to our spirits, health to our bodies, and help in every aspect of life. We can be conscious of His indwelling presence every moment.

Let us look again at the Amplified translation of I Corinthians 3:16, "... God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you, to be at home in you." Very few of us are conscious of God's living in our bodies, for we could not be conscious of His living within us and still talk the way we do.

For example, when asked to do some difficult thing, how quick we are to say, "No, I can't do that." Why do we do this? It is because we are trusting in ourselves to do it, and we know that we don't have the ability. But if we know that He is in us, we know that He has the ability. Then we change the "I can't" to "I can," because we are trusting in Him. We say, "I can, because He is in me. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world." No matter what impossibilities we may be facing, we can say, "He will make me a success, for He indwells me."

This kind of believing, this kind of talking is faith talking, and it will put Him to work for you.

Some people have a wrong conception of the Holy Spirit's role in their life. They think that He will come in, take over, and run the show. They expect him to become sort of a big boss, without their having to do anything. However, the Holy Ghost is a gentleman: He will guide and direct you. He will prompt and urge, but He will never force or control your life. Demons and evil spirits will control those whom they enter, forcing them to do things they don't want to do. But the Holy Spirit gently leads and guides us. He won't do anything until we put Him to work for us. For He is sent to be our helper. He is not sent to do the job, but to help us do the job. "For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Hebrews 13:5, 6).

The Amplified Version of Ephesians 3:16, 17 says, "May he grant you out of the rich treasures of His glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the Holy Spirit Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality. May Christ through your faith actually dwell, settle down, abide and make home in your hearts. May you be rooted deep in the love, and founded securely on love." In this passage of scripture Paul was writing to those who were already born again and filled with the Holy Ghost. How does Christ abide in our hearts? (Through our faith).

Christ wants to dwell in our hearts, to reign as King on the throne of our hearts. But too few have allowed Him to do this.

People look outside of themselves for God to do something, and so they sing, "Come by here, Lord, come by here." We think that if we could only get Him to come by

here, He might do something for us. Then we sing, "Reach out and touch the Lord as He goes by." But this is all sense knowledge. It is all on the outside; it is all physical.

Someone might argue, "But in the Bible didn't the woman with the issue of blood reach out and touch the Lord?" Yes, but that was when He was here on earth in physical form. Now He is not only with us, He is in us. We don't have to reach out and touch Him, He is always in us. Some people sing, "Just to have a touch, Lord, from you." But why should we want just a touch from the Lord when we have Him inside us?

He is in me, and He is in you. But it is not going to do you any good unless you know it and believe it, because the Holy Spirit will not rise up and take over. When you know He is in there and act upon God's Word intelligently, then He will work through you.

You can say, "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. The Greater One is in me. I am depending on Him. He will put me over. He will make me a success, for He is in me. The Master of creation is making His home in my body."

**Memory Text: ".... Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).**

**Faith in Action: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only..." (James 1:22).**

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 20 - Six Enemies to Faith

**Central Truth: When we “fight the good fight of faith,” we can step out of the narrow place of failure into the boundless power of God.**

Our lesson today discusses the Christian’s “good fight of faith,” as referred to in our text in I Timothy 6:12. I have sometimes heard folk say that they are going to fight the devil. I don’t know why, because in the first place they are no match for him. Secondly, Jesus has already defeated the devil for us. Jesus was our substitute. I have also heard folk say that they are going to fight sin. But I am not going to fight sin. I’m going to preach the cure for sin. Jesus is the cure.

The only fight that the believer is called upon to fight is the “good fight of faith.” And if there is a fight, then there must be enemies or hindrances to faith. If there were no enemies to faith, there would be no fight to it. In this lesson we deal with six enemies to faith.

## **Enemy No. 1 – Failure to Understand What It Means to Be a New Creature in Christ**

II Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

A lack of understanding of what it means to be a new creature hinders our faith life. Many people do not realize that they are actually new creatures; they think that when they were saved God just forgave them of their sins. But it would do little good if this were all the sinner received, for he is a child of the devil and would still go to hell. He has to be born again. He has to become a new creature, putting off his old sinful ways. No, we are not just forgiven sinners. We are not barely-getting-along church members. We are not living at the end of the block on Struggling-to-get-to-heaven Street next to Grumble Alley. That’s not for us. We are new creatures, created by God in Christ Jesus with the very life and nature of God in our spirits. We are children of God, sons of God, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ Jesus.

## **Enemy No. 2 – Failure to Understand Our Place in Christ**

Everywhere I go I suggest that Christians go through the New Testament, particularly the epistles, and write down the phrases, “in Christ,” “in whom,” and “in Him.” Writing them down will help you to remember them. There are 133 such expressions in the New Testament. If you will read and meditate on these scriptures

until they become a part of you, life will be different for you. As you read these verses, say to yourself, "This is who I am. This is what I have in Christ Jesus."

In one church where I visited, there was a woman who the pastor described as one of the most outstanding Christian workers he had ever known. She was graduated from a leading seminary with a degree in Christian education, and she gave her services to the church free of charge. During our revival there I urged the people to begin memorizing and claiming these verses. After awhile this woman came to me and said that she had written down twenty-five of these scriptures and had begun to confess them. She said that since she had been doing this, she had become an entirely new and different person. She had found that she didn't worry any more. She said that she thought and acted differently. She felt differently. She was amazed at herself and couldn't help but say sometimes, "Is this really me?" I told her that she was just now beginning to walk in the light of what she had all the time. She, just as many other Christians, didn't have an understanding of what Christ is in her life, and this hinders faith. Getting this understanding cured this woman of her worry habit.

### **Enemy No. 3 – Failure to Understand Righteousness**

II Corinthians 5:21

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:7) and therefore by the new birth we become a righteous new creature. We know that God did not make any unrighteous new creature. We are created by God in Christ Jesus. He made a righteous new creature. We are sons and daughters of God as though we had never sinned. We can stand in His presence without sin-consciousness, without any feelings of guilt or shame. We don't have to be tongue-tied because of fear. We can come into God's presence because we belong there. When we were born again, our sins were remitted because our past life stopped existing. God said that He would not remember our transgressions (Jeremiah 31:34). And if He doesn't remember them, why should we?

"But I have committed sins since becoming a Christian. How can I be righteous?" some may ask. The answer to this question is found in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." When the believer who has sinned confesses his sin and asks for forgiveness, the Lord does two things: First, He forgives him. Second, He cleanses him from all unrighteousness.

When we have sinned, we feel guilty and have a sense of unrighteousness. We feel unworthy to come into God's presence. But when we confess our sin, He forgives and He also cleanses. We regain our right standing with Him.

The word "unrighteousness" is just the word "righteousness" with the prefix "un" in front of it meaning "not" or "non-righteousness." If we are cleansed from "nonrighteousness," then we are righteous again.

## **Enemy No. 4 – Failure to Understand Our Right To Use the Name of Jesus**

John 16:23, 24

23 ... Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

When we fully realize the power of Jesus' name, when we understand what that name will do, then we can defeat Satan and enjoy victory.

In the sixteenth chapter of Mark, Jesus told His disciples, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe ... (Mark 16:15-17).

To them that believe the gospel these signs shall follow them – not just the Early Church, not just the apostles, not just the preachers. All believers can cast out devils in His name. Every believer has authority over demons and evil spirits in the name of Jesus. In His name they will speak with new tongues. In His name they will lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. [Note: But the scripture also says: "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure" (1 Timothy 5:22). You can only cast out demons where you have the approval of the person prayed for, and it is dangerous to be presumptuous about this. We should be specifically instructed by God. However, when it comes to ourselves, our family, and those for whom we are spiritually responsible, we have this authority].

The name of Jesus has authority and power today, and that name belongs to us.

## **Enemy No. 5 – Failure To Act Upon the Word**

If we know that God's Word is true, and we act as though it is true, then it becomes a reality in our lives. The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). All that is necessary for us to ask is, "What does God's Word say?"

People often ask me why they don't receive healing. They quote scriptures such as "... Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Matthew 8:17), and "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). They tell me they believe these scriptures. Then I ask them, "But have you ever acted like these verses of scripture are true?"

At the age of forty-six, Dr. A.B. Simpson, a Presbyterian minister who later founded the Christian Missionary Alliance, was told he was dying of a heart condition and had only six months to live. He took a leave of absence from his church and went to his farm where he could spend time studying the Word of God. At the end of two weeks he wrote, "After searching the Word of God for two weeks, I am convinced the Bible teaches us that divine healing is for us today. And, I this day accept Jesus Christ as my healer and declare that I am now healed from heart trouble and I'm well. I promise God to use this new-found strength and life and energy entirely for His purpose and to further the gospel. I promise God I'll share this truth of healing with others and will help them."

Simpson went to a luncheon where he was the speaker. All that came to him to speak was one word "himself" in Matthew 8:17. So he opened his Bible, read the verse and told the audience he wanted to focus his attention on that word. Then he gave his testimony about how he had been searching the Bible and had come to the conclusion that Jesus still heals today.

After the luncheon he was invited to go mountain climbing by the men to whom he had spoken. His first reaction was that he couldn't because of his heart condition. Then he remembered he had declared his healing, so he accepted their invitation and went. Up to this point he had not really felt his healing but had just declared it. He battled all the way up the mountain. Every time he got his mind off the scripture, he began to feel pain. But he overcame these feelings of doubt, and as he claimed his healing again all the symptoms would go away. He fought this battle all the way to the top of the mountain, but he walked away victorious. He went on to lead an active, energetic life in God's service with no more symptoms whatsoever.

Real faith is the child of the knowledge of God's Word. Simpson acted on the Word and got real faith from it. Instead of trying to believe, he acted upon the Word.

## **Enemy No. 6 – Failure To Hold Fast to Our Confession of Faith**

Romans 10:10

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.



Mark 11:23, 24

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them.

A young minister in St. Louis once said to me, "I am thirty-two and the doctors have said it is impossible for my wife to have children. Will you talk and pray with us?" As we talked and prayed together, his wife said she would confess that they would have a child. In the past she had always said that she would like to have a child. Now she would say that they would have a child. Twelve months later I received a letter saying that they had a bouncing baby girl. All they needed was to act upon the Word.

Faith is measured by our confession. Our usefulness in the Lord is measured by our confession. Eventually we become what we confess, whether for good or bad. There is a confession of our hearts and a confession of our lips, and when these two harmonize, we become mighty in our prayer life. The reason that so many are defeated is that they have a negative confession. They are talking of their weaknesses and failures, and invariably they go down to the level of their confession.

There is a scriptural law that I discovered from the lips of Jesus in Mark 11:23, 24, which is quoted above. This is that our confessions rule us. We are what we say. The woman with the issue of blood, whose story we find in Mark 5:25-34, said, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole." Jesus said, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague." What she said was her faith speaking, and it came to pass.

When we "fight the good fight of faith," as the Apostle Paul admonishes us, we can step out of the narrow place of failure and weakness in which we live into the boundless power of God.

**Memory Text:** *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (I Timothy 6:12).*

**Faith in Action:** *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ... ." (James 1:22).*

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 21 - The God Kind of Faith

**Central Truth: The kind of faith that spoke the universe into existence is dealt to our hearts.**

There are two things to notice about the God kind of faith. First, a man believes with his heart. Second, he believes with his words. It isn't enough just to believe in your heart. In order to get God to work for you, you must believe with your words also. Jesus said, "Whosoever shall say ... and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith" (Mark 11:23). This is the unalterable law of faith.

Mark 11:12-14, 20-24

12 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:

13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

14 And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Let us focus our attention on the statement, "Have faith in God," or as the margin reads, "Have the faith of God." Greek scholars tell us this should be translated, "Have the God kind of faith." Jesus demonstrated that He had the God kind of faith. While He was afar off, He saw that the fig tree had leaves. But as He approached it,

looking for fruit, He saw that it was barren. Some have questioned why Jesus looked for figs on this tree when it was not time for them to be ripe; it was not their season. However, in that country trees that retained their leaves usually had figs also.

Finding no fruit on the tree, Jesus said, "No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever."

The next day when Jesus and His disciples passed by again they found the tree dried up from the roots. Amazed, Peter said, "Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away."

It was then that Jesus made the statement, "Have faith in God (have the faith of God, or the God kind of faith). For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

After telling His disciples in verse 22 to have the God kind of faith, Jesus went on to explain in verse 23 what this meant: The God kind of faith is the kind of faith in which a man believes with his heart and says with his mouth that which he believes in his heart, and it comes to pass.

Jesus showed that He had that kind of faith, for He believed that what He said would come to pass. He said to the tree, "No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever."

This is the kind of faith that spoke the world into existence. "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" (Hebrews 11:3). How did He do it? God believed that what He said would come to pass. He spoke the word and there was an earth. He spoke into existence the vegetable kingdom. He spoke into existence the animal kingdom. He spoke into existence the heavens as well as the earth, the moon, the sun, the stars and the universe. He said it and it was so. That is the God kind of faith. He believed what He said would come to pass and it did.

## **The Measure of Faith**

Jesus demonstrated the God kind of faith to His disciples, and then He told them that they too had that kind of faith – the faith that a man believes with his heart, says with his mouth what he believes, and it comes to pass.

Someone might say, "I want that kind of faith. I am going to pray that God will give it to me." However, you don't need to pray for it – you already have it. "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3). Notice that Paul wrote

this to believers, for he says, "to every man that is among you." The epistle of Romans was not written to the sinners in the world; it was a letter to Christians. He addresses this letter "to all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints ..." (Romans 1:7). And in it he tells them that God has given to "every man the measure of faith."

Paul also said, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Paul is saying here that this faith is not of yourself. He was not referring to grace, for everyone knows that grace is of God. He is saying that the faith by which we are saved is not of ourselves. It is not a natural, human faith. It was given to sinners by God. And how did God give the sinner faith to be saved? Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." In these verses Paul has said that faith (1) is given, (2) is dealt, and (3) cometh.

Romans 10:8 says, "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach." The Bible, this message of God, is called the word of faith. Why is it called the word of faith? Because it causes faith to come even into the heart of the unsaved. It causes the kind of faith that spoke the universe into existence to be dealt to our hearts. Faith is given to us through the Word.

## **Believing and Saying – the Key to Faith**

Notice again the words of Romans 10:8, "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach." How does this compare with the words of Jesus in Mark 11:23? Paul's writings to the Romans agree exactly with what Jesus told His disciples when He said, "Whosoever shall say ... and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe ... shall have whatsoever he saith." We see here the basic principle inherent in the God kind of faith: believing with the heart and saying it with the mouth. Jesus believed it and He said it. God believed it and He said it, speaking the earth into existence.

Verses 9 and 10 of this same tenth chapter of Romans say, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." A measure of faith is dealt to the sinner through hearing the Word. Then he uses it to create the reality of salvation in his own life.

When Christians are asked, "When were you saved?" They often answer by saying something like, "About nine on the night of July tenth." They are mistaken, however, for God saved them nearly two thousand years ago. It only became a reality to them when they believed it and confessed it. Salvation belongs to everyone. Every man

and woman in this world has a legal right to salvation. Jesus died for the whole world, not just for you and me.

When the truth is preached to the sinner it causes faith to come. When he believes and confesses, he creates the reality of it in his own life by his faith.

Romans 10:13, 14, 17

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Just as faith comes from hearing the Word of God, so does anything that we receive from God. The God kind of faith comes by hearing God's Word. In other words, God causes the God kind of faith to come into the hearts of those who hear. No wonder Jesus said, "take heed therefore how you hear" (Luke 8:18). You cannot let it go in one ear and out the other because that won't do any good. Faith won't come. If you act as if the Word of God were some fairy tale, faith will not come. But when you accept it reverently and sincerely, when you act upon it, faith comes.

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (II Corinthians 4:13). Paul said that we have the same spirit of faith. And what belonged to the church at Corinth belongs to the church today. On no occasion did Paul or any of the apostles ever write to encourage the people to believe; never did they tell them to have faith. Our having to encourage believers to believe or have faith is a result of the Word of God's having lost its reality to us. We are believers! When our children are away, we don't have to write to them and say, "Be sure to keep breathing." They will continue to breathe as long as they are alive. Neither do we have to encourage believers to believe because that is what they are – believers.

How many of us realize that our words dominate us? "Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth ..." (Proverbs 6:2). Another version says, "Thou art taken captive with the words of thy mouth." A young man once told me that he was never whipped until he confessed that he was whipped. One writer put it this way, "You said you could not, and the moment you said it you were whipped." You said you did not have faith and doubt rose up like a giant and bound you. You are imprisoned with your own words. You talk failure and failure holds you in bondage.

Defeat and failure do not belong to the child of God. God never made a failure. God made us new creatures. We are not born of the will of the flesh or the will of man, but of the will of God. We are created in Christ Jesus. Failures are man-made. They are made by wrong believing and wrong thinking. I John 4:4 says, "... Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." Learn to trust the Greater One that is in you. He is mightier than anything in the world.

God created the universe with words. Words filled with faith are the most powerful things in all the world.

The key to the God kind of faith is believing with the heart and confessing with the mouth. Our lips can make us millionaires or keep us paupers. Our lips can make us victors or keep us captives. We can fill our words with faith or we can fill our words with doubt. We can fill our words with love that will melt the coldest heart, or we can fill our words with hate and poison. We can fill our words with love that will help the discouraged and broken-hearted, with faith that will stir heaven. We can make our words breathe the very atmosphere of heaven.

Our faith will never rise above the words of our lips. Jesus told the woman with the issue of blood that her faith had made her whole. Thoughts may come and they may persist in staying. But if we refuse to put those thoughts into words, they die unborn. Cultivate the habit of thinking big things. Learn to use words that will react upon your own spirit. Faith's confessions create realities. Realization follows the confession. Confession precedes possession.

**Memory Text:** *"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith which we preach" (Romans 10:8).*

**Faith in Action:** *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ...." (James 1:22).*

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 22 - Actions That Correspond With Faith

**Central Truth: The actions of a doer of the Word coincide with his confession.**

One of the greatest mistakes many believers make is to confess their faith in the Word of God and at the same time contradict their confession by wrong actions. We say that we are trusting God to provide for our financial needs, but at the same time we are worrying about how we're going to pay our bills. There is no corresponding action there. One minute we confess that the Word of God is true, and the very next moment we repudiate everything we say by wrong actions. Our actions have to correspond with our believing if we are to receive from God.

## **Faith Made Perfect**

James 2:14-22

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is but one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect.

Weymouth's translation of verses 14 and 22 reads, "What good is it my brethren, if a man professes to have faith and yet his actions do not correspond? ... You notice that his faith was cooperating with his actions, and by his actions his faith was perfected."

Some have thought that the Book of James is written about salvation. However, James was not writing to the unsaved, but to believers. He said, "What doth it profit, my brethren ..." He was writing to his brothers and sisters in Christ, pointing out that faith without corresponding actions won't work for them, even though they are believers.

James also said, (James 1:22). Another translation reads, "... deluding your own selves." There are many self-deluded people who blame their problems on the devil or on some individual when really they have deluded themselves. This is because they are not doers of the Word. The actions of a doer of the Word coincide with his confession.

## **The Storms of Life**

Matthew 7:24-27

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

When the storms of life come, we see some people going down. Their problem is that they are not doers of the Word. They are not practicing the teaching of the Word. The same wind and storm came upon both of these houses. The reason one was destroyed and the other wasn't was that the wise man was a doer of the Word and the foolish one wasn't. It isn't the storms of life that defeat us. If the storm defeated us, it would defeat all of us. Some people face a storm and are not defeated. Yet others who face the same storm are destroyed. Those who are not defeated act upon God's Word. The defeated ones may be truly saved, yet their actions do not correspond with their faith.

When the test of sickness comes, some are laid low while others stand their ground and refuse to accept it. The storms of life come upon all of us. They may be



sickness, financial difficulty, family problems, or some other test. The winds blow and the floods come, but he who is a doer of the Word will hold fast to his confession of faith, for he knows that God cannot fail.

Many who profess Christ and who declare that they believe the Bible from Genesis to Revelation are not doers of the Word. They are talkers about the Word. There is a difference between talkers about the Word and doers of the Word. They have mentally assented that the Word of God is true, but it doesn't do them any good because they are not making it their own. They are not claiming its promises.

## **To Trust in the Lord is To Trust in His Word**

The way to make God's Word your own is to act upon it. Do what it says. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). The only way to trust in the Lord is to trust His Word. You cannot trust in the Lord without trusting His Word. God and His Word are one just as you and your word are one. If your word is not good, then you are not good. If God's Word isn't any good, then He isn't any good. But His Word is good and He watches over His Word.

"Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it" (Jeremiah 1:12). Another version reads, "I watch over my word to perform it." If you don't take the Word to be yours, He doesn't have anything to make good in your life. He wants to make it good in your life. He wants you to have what His Word promises. But if you don't act upon His Word, then He doesn't have anything to make good in your life.

When I trust in the Word with all of my heart and stop leaning upon human reasoning and stop looking to people for deliverance, then I have actions that correspond with my faith. My actions are in perfect fellowship with my confession of faith. It has taken some of us a long time to learn this; and it will take others longer because they have been walking in the wrong pathway. Their minds are so cluttered with human reasoning that it will take awhile to renew their minds with the Word of God so they will have actions that correspond with their confession of faith.

Until there are corresponding actions, there will be continual failure in life. I can confess and say that God is the strength of my life. But if at the same time I continue to talk about my weaknesses and lack of faith, I will be defeated because there is no corresponding action. I am resorting to human methods instead of trusting the Lord, and this brings confusion to my spirit. It brings weakness and failure to my life. There is just one thing for us to do and that is to turn to God's Word and act upon His Word.

Our worst enemy is the flesh. The flesh and natural human reasoning would limit us to our own ability. We look to the circumstances, the problems, the tests, and storms

and say that we can't. The language of doubt, the flesh, and the senses is "I can't. I haven't the ability, the opportunity, or the strength. I've been limited." But the language of faith says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

Paul didn't say that he could do all things because he was an apostle and had special power or grace. He said, "I can do all things through Christ ..." and we have this same access to Christ. Paul said, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). You are a new creature in Christ too. Christ doesn't belong to Paul any more than He belongs to you.

The language of faith says, "I can do all things through Christ. Our Father strengthens us. I cannot be conquered and I cannot be defeated."

If natural forces come against you, they cannot whip you because there aren't enough natural forces in all the world to conquer Him who dwells within you. "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). You are fortified from within.

I have learned how to put the Greater One to work for me. Not only am I born of God, a partaker of His love, but I have dwelling in me the spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead. I have God's wisdom, strength, and ability in me. I am learning how to let that wisdom govern my intellect. I am letting him govern my mind and speak through my lips. I am daring to think God's thoughts after Him. I am daring to say in the presence of all my old enemies, "God is my ability." "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies" (Psalm 23:5). "The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1). God has made me greater than mine enemies. God has made me put my heel on the neck of weakness, fear, and inability.

The strength of God is mine. I am not trusting in my own strength because the Bible doesn't say a word about my being strong. It says that God is my strength. So many people are struggling and trying to do something themselves. They get up to testify and tell everyone to pray for them that they will hold out to the end. But God doesn't want you to hold out like that. He wants you to let Him do it. Wrap yourself in the promises of God.

In 1937 a dirigible that the government had made was being moored in Akron, Ohio. Two hundred men were holding it, to moor it to a steel mast. Suddenly it shot into the air. Some men hung on and went up with it. Some of them fell and broke legs and arms, others were killed. But one man kept hanging on. People watching him on the ground were screaming, knowing that at any minute he would fall to earth and every bone in his body would be broken.

After nearly two hours had passed the dirigible was brought down, was moored to the mast, and the man was rescued. An ambulance was waiting to take him to the hospital, but he said he was all right. When asked how he had held on, he said that he had found about four feet of rope, and while he held to the dirigible with one hand, he tied the rope securely around his waist and it held him. He had been swinging free, enjoying the scenery, while people on the ground had been worrying about him. Isn't this the way many of us are? Trying to hold on and hold out until we give out. We fall, when all we need to do is wrap ourselves in the promises of God and swing free, enjoying the scenery.

I once heard the story of a man walking down the railroad track with a pack on his back. When he came to a section gang repairing the railroad, he thought the foreman was going to tell him to get off the track, so he showed him a ticket which he had. The foreman told him that this didn't give him the right to walk down the track. Many people are like this in that they are on the right track, but they ought to be riding instead of walking. Also, they should check their baggage because they don't have to carry it. The Bible says, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7). The strength of God is ours. The ability of God is ours. Claim it. Act it. Act upon God's Word. If you do, He will go to work for you.

**Memory Text:** *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22)*

**Faith in Action:** *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ... ." (James 1:22)*

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 23 - How to Write Your Own Ticket With God

**Central Truth: If we find ourselves at the bottom of life's ladder, it is because that is all for which we have believed. When we talk right and believe right, we will climb to the top.**

The four steps to faith outlined in this lesson are so simple that they almost seem foolish. But in Jesus' ministry on earth, He talked in terms that even the uneducated could understand. He talked about vineyards and orchards, sheepfolds and shepherds. He illustrated spiritual verities in such a simple way that the common people could understand. His message was never complicated but rather clear and concise.

Mark 5:25-34

25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

## **Step No. 1 – Say It**

What is the first thing that this woman did? Verse 28 of the above text says, “For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be made whole.” Someone had told this woman about Jesus. She knew that He was healing people. Having this information, what was her first step in receiving healing for herself? The first thing she did was to say it.

There is a Godward side and a manward side to every battle, every victory, to everything that we receive from God. We have our part to play. There is something that we must do. God is not going to fail. If there is any failure, it has to be on our part. If we see to it that we do our part, then we can be sure that there will be an answer and a victory.

This woman could have made a negative statement or confession instead of a positive one. And that would have been what she would have received. She could have said that there wasn’t any use, that she had suffered so long and been to many doctors. She could have said that perhaps it was best for her to die. But she did not speak negatively. She spoke positively. She said, “If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.” And it came to pass, for we can have what we say.

Therefore, the first step in writing our own ticket with God is to say it. If we are defeated, we are defeated with our own lips. “Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth” (Proverbs 6:2).

## **Step No. 2 – Do It**

It wouldn’t have done this woman any good whatsoever if when she said, “If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole,” she hadn’t acted upon it also. Our actions either defeat us or they put us over. According to our actions, we either receive or are kept from receiving. The woman with the issue of blood said it and she acted upon it. She touched His clothes.

## **Step No. 3 – Receive It**

She felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. Jesus said, “Who touched me?” Jesus knew that virtue, or power, had gone out of Him. The woman first of all said it, she confessed her faith. Then she acted upon that faith and reached out and touched the Master. Then, step number three, she received her healing. She felt in her body that she was healed of the plague.

Notice that the feeling and the healing followed the saying and the acting. Most people want the feeling and the healing first, and then they think they will have the

saying and the doing. But it doesn't work that way. You have to have the saying and the doing first. Then you will have the feeling and healing.

Jesus perceived that power had gone out of Him. The whole world has become concerned about the nuclear bombs that have been exploded in the atmosphere because they release radioactive material into the atmosphere-power that cannot be seen or felt, but power that is deadly and dangerous. Yet there is an unseen power at work in the earth that is neither deadly nor dangerous. It is a power that is good, and that power is always present everywhere. This power can deliver from anything that binds or hurts us.

### **Step No. 4 – Tell It**

Verse 33 tells us that the woman with the issue of blood acknowledged what she had done. She "told him all the truth." Jesus wants us to tell it so that others might receive.

The first step in writing our own ticket is to say it; the fourth step is to tell it. There is a difference. At first the woman said what she believed. Then she told what had happened. We have to say some things in faith before we ever receive them from God. People say the wrong thing because they believe the wrong thing. When they start believing the right thing and saying the right thing, then that is what they will have.

I Samuel 17:45-47, 49, 50, 54

45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

46 This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

47 And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with the sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.

49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him ...

54 And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem ...

When David slew the giant with his shepherd's sling, he knew he could write his own ticket with God. He knew that God would do anything he said. And in the above verses we see how David used these four steps to write his own ticket with God.

First, he said it. "This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand ..." (verse 46). David had faith, not in his own strength, but in the strength of his God. David knew that in his own might he was powerless against this Philistine. But he was not trusting in his own might. He was trusting in the Lord.

Then David acted upon his faith. "And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth" (verse 49). If David had been led by his natural senses, if he had listened to human reasoning, he would have known that it would be impossible to kill a giant with a shepherd's sling. But he was tuned to the inner voice of faith, not the outer voice of human reasoning. And the victory was his. He received victory for the Israelites over their enemies the Philistines.

Then David took step number four, and news of the day's great victory was published throughout the land. "And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem ..." (verse 54).

Too few people today know that they can write their own ticket with God. The reason God hasn't done any more for them is that they haven't said more. They haven't acted more. All they have today is the result of what they said yesterday. If you are at the bottom of the ladder, it is because that is all you have believed for. If you will talk right and believe right, you will climb to the top.

Can the sinner use these four steps to write his own ticket with God? Can the sinner take these four steps to salvation?

Luke 15:18-20, 24

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

In the story which Jesus told of the prodigal son, we see that the first thing which the son did was to say it. "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him ..." (verse 18). He confessed his faith and his need. Then he acted. "And he arose, and came to his father" (verse 20). He didn't sit around wondering what kind of reception he might get at home. He picked himself up from the squalor of his sinful life and returned home.

When he did so, he received full pardon and was restored to his father. "... His father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him" (verse 20). The rejoicing father was quick to tell the good news that his wandering son had come home. "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found" (verse 24).

If those who are out of fellowship with God the father will humble themselves as did the prodigal son and take these four simple steps to salvation, God will run to meet them too and bring them into full fellowship with Him.

**Memory Text:** *"And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague" (Mark 5:34).*

**Faith in Action:** *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ... ." (James 1:22).*



# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 24 – Doubt, Thief of God's Greater Blessings « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: Doubt will rob the believer of God's best for his life.**

We have studied the memory verse in Mark 11:23 from a positive point of view in previous lessons, looking at the various ingredients to a perfect faith in God. In today's lesson we will concentrate on the phrase, "and shall not doubt in his heart," looking at some examples of doubt which we find in familiar Bible stories.

## Faith To Walk on Water

Matthew 14:22-31

22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come ..into thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

In this story Jesus sent His disciples across the sea while He went alone to a mountain to pray. In the fourth watch of the night (between four and six o'clock the next morning) the disciples saw Jesus walking toward them on the water. Thinking they were seeing a ghost, they cried out with fear. Then Jesus spoke reassuringly, "It is I, be not afraid."

Impetuous Peter shouted, "Lord, if it is really you, then bid me come to you on the water."

Jesus answered with one word, "Come."

Peter started out in faith and as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus he did just fine. But when he took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the circumstances surrounding him, when he saw the wind whipping the sea about him, he became afraid and began to sink. "Lord, save me!" he called to Jesus.

Jesus took Peter's hand in His and led him safely back into the ship, after rebuking him with the words, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

Faith is acting upon the Word of God. Jesus had said, "Come." and as long as Peter acted upon that word, he was all right. But when he began to doubt, when he quit acting on the words of Jesus, he began to sink. Doubt robbed him of the best that God had for him. Jesus didn't intend that Peter should sink. He meant for Peter to walk back to the ship with Him. But doubt robbed Peter of this blessing.

Peter became afraid and doubted. Doubt and fear go hand in hand, but faith and love go hand in hand. “Perfect love casteth out fear” (I John 4:18).

## **Faith To Cast Out Devils**

Matthew 17:14-20

14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying,

15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

In the above passage of scripture, what was Jesus’ explanation for the disciples’ failure to heal the demon-possessed boy? (It was because of their doubt, or unbelief – verse 20.)

But did the disciples actually have the power to cast the demon out? The answer to this question is found in Matthew 10:1, “And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”

How often do we hear Christians say that they need more power in order to do more for God. However, that is not the trouble at all. If they have the Holy Spirit, they have the power. They think that if they had more power, it would work automatically; but it works by faith. The problem is a lack of faith, not a lack of power. It is doubt that is robbing them of God’s best. Jesus didn’t tell these disciples that they couldn’t cast out the devil because they didn’t have the power. He said, “Because of your unbelief.”

How much faith does it take to cast out demons? Jesus said in the above passage that faith no bigger than a grain of mustard seed could move an entire mountain. Every Spirit-filled believer has within him enough power to claim God’s very best for his life. If he is living beneath his privileges, it is not because of a lack of power but because of a failure to release that power through faith.

## **Faith To Still a Storm**

Mark 4:35-40

35 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

In the evening after a full day of preaching to the multitudes that thronged Him Jesus told His disciples gathered about Him in a boat, "Let us pass over unto the other side." As He was very weary, He went to the back of the ship where He promptly fell asleep. In a sound sleep, He was oblivious to the storm that arose. As the waves pounded the little ship, Jesus continued to sleep peacefully. But His disciples were anything but peaceful. As the howling winds grew more vicious and their boat filled with water, threatening to capsize, the disciples ran to Jesus, awakened Him and said, "Don't you even care that our boat's about to sink and we'll all die?" They had forgotten Christ's words as they started out on their journey, "Let us pass over unto the other side."

Jesus stood, rebuked the wind, and stilled the storm until the sea was once again calm and peaceful. Then He turned to His disciples and rebuked them. "Why did you doubt me? Why are you so full of fear? Where is your faith? Didn't I tell you at the outset of this journey that we would cross to the other side? Why didn't you believe me?" The disciples had allowed doubt and fear to come into their hearts, driving out faith in Christ's promise that they would make it safely to the other side. Once again the thief called Doubt had triumphed.

Let us look at these three Biblical illustrations and notice the similarities in each. Point out the scriptures in each one in which Christ rebuked the disciples for their unbelief (Matthew 14:31; 17:20; Mark 4:40).

In each instance Jesus solved the problem which the disciples, through their lack of faith, had failed to solve. Point out the scripture in each story in which Jesus brought the deliverance that was necessary (Matthew 14:31; 17:18; Mark 4:39).

In every instance the disciples possessed the power to handle each circumstance. Peter had the power to walk on water, as evidenced in the fact that he started out walking on the water and began to sink only when he became fearful and began to doubt. The disciples had the power to deliver the demon-possessed boy, but failed only because of their lack of faith. The disciples had the power to still the storm which threatened their lives, for Jesus had promised that they would "pass over unto the other side."

In every instance that thief of doubt kept the disciples from receiving God's best for them. His highest and best for their lives was for them to receive by their faith. If we will but utilize the power that is within us and act on God's Word, we will achieve God's greatest blessings that He has planned for our lives.

**Memory Text:** *"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he with"* (Mark 11:23)

**Faith in Action:** *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ...."*(James 1:22)

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 23 – How to Write Your Own Ticket With God](#)

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 25 – You Can Have What You Say](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 25 – You Can Have What You Say « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: It was not the giants in the land of Canaan that kept the Israelites out, but the giants of fear in their hearts.**

Our text for this lesson, Mark 11:23 which is quoted below, is one that we have used many times in our series of studies on faith, for in it we see the faith formula for moving whatever mountains may be present in our lives. Whether your particular mountain may be sickness, unsaved loved ones, financial difficulties, or family problems, you can find the solution in this verse of scripture. This particular verse is especially meaningful to me as its truths, shed abroad in my heart as a bed-ridden boy of sixteen, brought to me divine healing and set my feet on the pathway to a deeper faith in God.

The last phrase of our text says, "... he shall have whatsoever he saith." In other words, you can have whatever you say you can have. What you say is your faith speaking. This works in a negative way just as it does in a positive way. We see an example of this in the Old Testament story of the twelve spies who were sent into Canaan to spy out the land.

## A Report of Fear

Numbers 13:17, 18, 25, 27, 28, 30-32

17 And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain:

18 And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many;

25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.

27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

Of the twelve spies who went into Canaan to search out the land, only two, Caleb and Joshua, were men of faith and vision who said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." The other ten came back with a negative, fearful report of giants in the land. The Bible called their report an "evil report." Why? It was a report of doubt and fear. What then is a good report? (A report of faith).

The ten fearful spies were in the majority, and the children of Israel accepted the majority report. When they did this they were saying that they couldn't take the land. And they got exactly what they said. These spies and the rest of that generation of Israelites, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, never saw the Promised Land. They believed that they couldn't take it and they didn't. They wandered in the wilderness until they died. What they said came to pass.

Theirs was an example of faith in reverse. After all, even when you doubt, you are believing something. You are believing in defeat. You are believing the wrong thing. You always get in your life what you believe for and what you say. If you don't believe what you are saying, then you shouldn't say it, for if you keep saying something long enough those words will eventually register on your spirit. And once they are registered upon your spirit, they will

control your life.

## **A Report of Faith**

Numbers 14:6-9

6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephuneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

8 If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

9 Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.

Notice the good report of Joshua and Caleb. Their trust was in the Lord and their hearts were filled with faith that God was able to bring them into the land that He had promised to their forefathers. Twice in verse 9 they admonished the people not to fear. And what was the result of their report of faith? (They were the only two men of their generation to enter the Promised Land.) You can have whatever you say.

Many people come to me and ask me why they can't get healed. I always smile and tell them that they have already said they can't. Their words give them away. You can locate people by what they say.

Before praying for people, I usually try to get them to make some kind of a confession of their faith. I ask them if they will be healed when I lay hands on them and pray. If they answer that they hope they will, I tell them that they won't, because they are in hope and not faith. Those who have a quick confession full of faith receive almost instantly. Others make a confession with some hesitancy, but that hesitancy is what defeats them. It is the little foxes that spoil the vine.

It is not something big that keeps God's children from being healed. It wasn't the giants of the land of Canaan that kept the children of Israel out. It wasn't the giants that defeated them. If it had been the giants, they would have defeated Joshua and Caleb also. The people defeated themselves by their own thinking, their own unbelief, their own declaration of non-faith.

It is not the giants in life that defeat you. It is not the storms of life that defeat you. If you are defeated, it is because you have defeated yourself. You have defeated yourself by wrong thinking and wrong believing. You have defeated yourself by wrong speaking. You can have what you say.

Caleb and Joshua said that they were able to overcome the giants. After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, and all the people of that generation who had accepted the evil report of the ten spies had died, Joshua became the people's leader, and he and Caleb led them to victory. When Caleb came to Joshua and said, "Give me this mountain," Joshua looked back several years and realized that their talking right had won them victory before. He wanted to locate Caleb, so he asked him if he was able to take the mountain. Joshua wanted to hear his confession of faith. He told Caleb that there were giants in the mountain. But Caleb, full of faith, said that he was well able to take it. And he did.

Many things happen because we expect them to happen a certain way. They happen because we believe it and talk it until it comes to pass. I have found this true in my own experience. Some time ago I read about a scientist who said that when one gets older his brain isn't as soft as it was when he was younger. It gradually keeps hardening. I reached the place where I couldn't remember things as well as I once did. I went along this way for a while until I realized that there wasn't any need for this. The mind is part of my inward being and spirit, and it never grows old. The very moment I started believing right and talking right, I could quote all the scripture I had ever known, and my memory actually got better.

We fail sometimes because we get ready to fail. We prepare for failure. We think and believe it, and then we do it. As believers, however, we have no business talking failure or doubt. We should talk faith.

**Memory Text:** *“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith” (Mark 11:23)*

**Faith in Action:** *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....”(James 1:22)*

Previous Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 24 – Doubt, Thief of God’s Greater Blessings](#)

Next Lesson – [Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 26 – How to Train the Human Spirit](#)

# Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 26 – How to Train the Human Spirit « HopeFaithPrayer

**Central Truth: God will use our own spirit to guide us.**

Just as the human mind can be educated and trained intellectually, so the human spirit can be trained spiritually. It can be built up in strength just as the body can be built up. In this lesson we will look at four ways by which this can be accomplished:

1. Meditating in the Word of God
2. Practicing the Word of God
3. Giving the Word of God First Place
4. Instantly Obeying the Voice of Our Spirit

As we apply these four principles to our daily lives, we can come to know the will of God in even the minor details of life.

God communicates with the spirit and not with our reasoning faculties. As we instantly obey our spirit, we will find that we are obeying the Holy Spirit. God said in His Word, “The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly” (Proverbs 20:27). This means that God is going to use our own spirit to guide us. The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord.

## **Rule 1 – Meditating in the Word of God**

Joshua 1:8

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

After Moses’ death when God anointed Joshua to lead the children of Israel, God told him at the very outset of his ministry of the importance of meditating in the Word. Another translation of the last phrase of Joshua 1:8, quoted above, says, “You will be able to deal wisely in the things of life.” Certainly we wouldn’t have good success if we could not deal wisely in the things of life. God told Joshua to meditate in the Word, and that if he would do so God would make his way prosperous and he would have good success.

The most deeply spiritual men and women I have known are those who give time to meditation. One cannot develop spiritual wisdom without meditation in God’s Word.

One pastor once told me that he had been trying to make a success of his church. He flew all over the country visiting many of the larger churches, studying their methods and trying to find out what made them successful. He would bring home various programs and ideas, but it seemed that they didn’t work in his church. After hearing me teach along these lines of meditating in God’s Word, he decided to follow this course. Daily he set aside a certain time for meditating rather than asking. After thirty days had passed, at the close of his Sunday morning sermon a landslide of souls was at the altar. More people were saved in that one service than had been saved in that church in the past two or three years. His people were revived and he began to have good success.

His testimony can be that of any believer who will follow his example and spend time meditating in God’s Word. Shut yourself alone with your spirit, and shut the world out. If you have ambitions to do something worthwhile, I suggest that you begin by taking ten or fifteen minutes daily for meditation. Begin the development of your spirit.

## **Rule 2 – Practicing the Word of God**

James 1:22

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Practicing the Word is what James called being a “doer of the Word.” Some people think that being a doer of the Word is keeping the Ten Commandments. However, under the new covenant we have one commandment – the commandment of love. If you love someone, you won’t steal from him. You won’t lie about him. Paul said love is the fulfilling of the law. If you walk in love, you won’t break any law that was given to curb sin.

In this verse of scripture James was urging believers to do primarily what is written in the epistles, to act upon this Word. For example, Paul wrote to the Philippians, “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Philippians 4:6). The Amplified translation says, “Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything. But in every thing by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God with thanksgiving.”

Usually we practice only part of this. We don’t mind practicing the part that tells us to pray. But if we just practice one part and not the other, we are not practicing the Word. We are not a doer of the Word.

First of all, the Lord said not to fret. If we are going to fret and have anxieties, then it isn’t going to do any good to make requests. If God said not to fret, then this means that we can keep from it. God is a just God and He won’t ask us to do something that we cannot do. There was a time when I believed that I could make my requests known unto God, but I had difficulty believing that I couldn’t fret. However, God said that we don’t have to fret. So I would say then that I refuse to fret or have any anxiety about anything. I would tell the Lord that I bring my requests to Him, and then I would thank Him. This quiets my spirit and pacifies the troubled spirit that the devil would try to make me have. If this inner turmoil persists, I simply go right back to this verse and read it again. I keep claiming it.

If we follow Paul’s advice and “do not fret or have anxiety about anything,” then we can believe God for the promise of the verse that follows: “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7). Many people want what this seventh verse talks about, but they don’t want to do what the sixth verse says in order to get it. However, to receive this “peace ... which passeth all understanding,” we must “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (verse 6).

“God’s peace will garrison and mount guard,” is the Amplified Version of verse 7. It will keep guard over your heart and your spirit.

The education of our spirits comes by practicing the Word. Can you reap the results and have peace without being a doer of the Word? No, we really can’t. Be a doer of the Word and you’ll grow spiritually.

### **Rule 3 – Giving the Word First Place**

Proverbs 4:20-22

20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

With so many different voices surrounding us, it is often difficult to stop and listen to the voice of the Word of God. Family and friends are always ready to give us their opinions and advice. However, an essential of training the spiritual man is learning to listen to what God’s Word has to say to us. It is giving the Word first place in our lives.

In the verses quoted above, God tells us to do three things with His Word: to listen to it, to read it, and to memorize it. In verse 20 we read, “... incline thine ear unto my sayings.” Anytime the Bible is being read aloud – in church, in family devotions, on a gospel radio or television program – give careful attention to its words. Then verse 21 tells us, “Let them not depart from thine eyes ...” In other words, spend time alone reading God’s Word. Let it sink deep into your thoughts and your heart. Memorize it, as the second part of verse 21 tells us. “... Keep them in the midst of thine heart.”



If we will do these three things, we will find that God's Word is "... life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh" (verse 22). We will enter into the life more abundant in Christ Jesus. We will find physical healing for our bodies. All we need to do is to give God's Word first place in our lives.

## **Rule 4 – Instantly Obeying the Voice of Our Spirit**

The human spirit has a voice. We call that voice conscience. Sometimes it is called intuition. We call it an inner voice of guidance. It is our spirit talking to us. Every man's spirit has a voice, whether he is saved or unsaved. But the new birth is a rebirth of the human spirit. As your spirit meditates upon the Word, this is where your spirit gets its information. Learn to obey your spirit.

Your spirit has the life and nature of God in it, for the Holy Spirit dwells within you. The devil can't be giving you the information because he is not in you. He is on the outside of you. God has to communicate with you through your spirit because that is where He is. He isn't in your head. He isn't in your reasoning faculties. He is in your spirit. Your spirit gets its information through Him. Learn to obey your spirit.

Some people say that conscience isn't a safe guide. But this isn't always true. The conscience is a safe guide in the Spirit-filled believer because God is dwelling within him. The believer's conscience, the voice of his spirit, becomes the voice of God. God is speaking to him. Paul said that he obeyed his conscience (Acts 23:1).

"The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord ..." (Proverbs 20:27). God will use your spirit to guide you. He will use it to enlighten you. As your spirit meditates and feeds upon the Word, then it becomes more and more a safe guide. It is trained in the Word.

With those of us who have certain ministry gifts, the Holy Spirit does speak a little differently. But as a rule in the lives of believers the inward voice is the voice of the spirit speaking, not just the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit often speaks to me about others, but I never hear Him for my own benefit. A prophet's ministry isn't given for his benefit. It is given for the benefit of others. I have to receive guidance for myself through my own inward voice.

As we learn to obey the voice of our spirit, we will come to the place where we know what we should do in all phases of life. The Lord will guide us. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6).

**Memory Text:** *"The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly"* (Proverbs 20:27)

**Faith in Action:** *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ...."* (James 1:22)

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First of all, the Lord said not to fret. If we are going to fret and have anxieties, then it isn't going to do any good to make requests. If God said not to fret, then this means that we can keep from it. God is a just God and He won't ask us to do something that we cannot do. There was a time when I believed that I could make my requests known unto God, but I had difficulty believing that I couldn't fret. However, God said that we don't have to fret. So I would say then that I refuse to fret or have any anxiety about anything. I would tell the Lord that I bring my requests to Him, and then I would thank Him. This quiets my spirit and pacifies the troubled spirit that the devil would try to make me have. If this inner turmoil persists, I simply go right back to this verse and read it again. I keep claiming it.

If we follow Paul's advice and "*do not fret or have anxiety about anything,*" then we can believe God for the promise of the verse that follows: "*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*" (*Philippians 4:7*). Many people want what this *seventh* verse talks about, but they don't want

to do what the *sixth verse* says in order to get it. However, to receive this “*peace ... which passeth all understanding,*” we must “*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*” (verse 6).

“*God’s peace will garrison and mount guard,*” is the *Amplified Version* of verse 7. It will keep guard over your heart and your spirit.

The education of our spirits comes by practicing the Word. Can you reap the results and have peace without being a doer of the Word? No, we really can’t. Be a doer of the Word and you’ll grow spiritually.

### **Rule 3 – Giving the Word First Place**

*Proverbs 4:20-22*

*20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.*

*21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.*

*22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*

With so many different voices surrounding us, it is often difficult to stop and listen to the voice of the Word of God. Family and friends are always ready to give us their opinions and advice. However, an essential of training the spiritual man is learning to listen to what God’s Word has to say to us. It is giving the Word first place in our lives.

In the verses quoted above, God tells us to do three things with His Word: to listen to it, to read it, and to memorize it. In *verse 20* we read, “... *incline thine ear unto my sayings.*” Anytime the Bible is being read aloud – in church, in family devotions, on a gospel radio or television program – give careful attention to its words. Then *verse 21* tells us, “*Let them not depart from thine eyes ...*” In other words, spend time alone reading God’s Word. Let it sink deep into your thoughts and your heart. Memorize it, as the second part of *verse 21* tells us. “... *Keep them in the midst of thine heart.*”

If we will do these three things, we will find that God’s Word is “... *life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh*” (*verse 22*). We will enter into the life more abundant in Christ Jesus. We will find physical healing for our bodies. All we need to do is to give God’s Word first place in our lives.

### **Rule 4 – Instantly Obeying the Voice of Our Spirit**

The human spirit has a voice. We call that voice conscience. Sometimes it is called intuition. We call it an inner voice of guidance. It is our spirit talking to us. Every man’s spirit has a voice, whether he is saved or unsaved. But the new birth is a rebirth of the human spirit. As your spirit meditates upon the Word, this is where your spirit gets its information. Learn to obey your spirit.

Your spirit has the life and nature of God in it, for the Holy Spirit dwells within you. The devil can’t be giving you the information because he is not in you. He is on the outside of you. God has to communicate with you through your spirit because that is where He is. He isn’t in your head. He isn’t in your reasoning faculties. He is in your spirit. Your spirit gets its information through Him. Learn to obey your spirit.

Some people say that conscience isn’t a safe guide. But this isn’t always true. The conscience is a safe guide in the Spirit-filled believer because God is dwelling within him. The believer’s conscience, the voice of his spirit, becomes the voice of God. God is speaking to him. Paul said that he obeyed his conscience (*Acts 23:1*).

“*The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord ...*” (*Proverbs 20:27*) God will use your spirit to guide you. He will use it to enlighten you. As your spirit meditates and feeds upon the Word, then it becomes more and more a safe guide. It is trained in the Word.

With those of us who have certain ministry gifts, the Holy Spirit does speak a little differently. But as a rule in the lives of believers the inward voice is the voice of the spirit speaking, not just the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit often speaks to me about others, but I never hear Him for my own benefit. A prophet’s ministry isn’t given for his benefit. It is given for the benefit of others. I have to receive guidance for myself through my own inward voice.

As we learn to obey the voice of our spirit, we will come to the place where we know what we should do in all phases of life. The Lord will guide us. “*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths*” (*Proverbs 3:6*).

**Memory Text:** “*The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly*” (Proverbs 20:27).

**Faith in Action:** “*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only ....*” (James 1:22).