

For years the honest hearted people, who have been called of God, have known that there is something wrong with our efforts to exercise what we have been calling faith. Why have our prayers gone unanswered? Why do our churches have so many sick, in spite of the fact that we have prayed what we thought was "The prayer of faith?"

Is there no balm left in Gilead? Has the man with the nail prints in His Hands been emptied of compassion? Do not we have Ministers and congregations that love the Lord, and are as dedicated to Him as were the people in the days of our Prophet William Branham? Have not we ministers held up the truth of divine Healing and believed in it whole heartedly?

Generally speaking I believe we have been as faithful to the teaching as we have known how to be. Yet, to be honest we must admit that there is something wrong. We must face the facts, why is not the Bride seeing more of the same results that were forth coming when God's Prophet was here?

It is the belief of this writer that the signs, wonders and miracles are to last until the very end of this age. In support of this, I offer the following quotes and scriptures.

QUOTE: MODERN EVENTS MADE CLEAR BY PROPHECY (Dec. 1965), Page 20 And so will the church come thru Justification, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost and the restoration of the gifts. Right on into the formed Image of Christ. Christ is the Bridegroom, the church is the Bride, and the Bride is a part of the Bridegroom. It will have to be a word church. (End quote)

QUOTE: THE THIRD EXODUS (June 1963), Page 13 When they see the same Bible and the nature of the same God that wrote the Bible, vindicating Himself, and then turn that down without a reason - - - watching God heal the sick and raise up the dead. The same God that lived in the days of the Apostles. It's the same God that does the same things - - -. They think that because our churches have become intellectual, that (because) we have the best dressed crowds, the biggest organization, the most smartest Ministers, that we have no need of the Holy Spirit in the way it was back there. - - - We don't need the Holy

Belief V. S. Faith

What Is Bible Faith?

By C. W. Wood

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Spirit to heal the sick, we have doctors. We don't need the Holy Spirit to speak with tongues, we are all intelligent people. And when you do (do away with these gifts) you take right from your frame work, the life-line. (End quote)

QUOTE: THE EASTER SEAL, April 10, 1965, Page 19 The Holy Spirit itself is here to bear record of this hour. Jesus said so. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. How dare any man to wipe that out of there. The works that I do shall you do also. These signs shall follow them that believe (meaning the gifts will operate). When you see a group of people sitting together, and these signs (gifts) manifesting themselves that's the assurance that the abstract is there to vindicate that that's Gods property. Amen. (End of quote).

QUOTE: SATANSEDEN August 1965) Page 14 Every word is a seed of God, Jesus said so. So if Mark 16 is God's word it will bring forth of its kind. If Malichi 4 is God's word it will bring forth of its kind. And every promise must bring forth of its kind. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word - - -. Satan, he will take something else but God said "every seed after its kind." If the promise said these signs shall follow them that believe, in My name they shall cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues - - if they lay hands on the sick they shall recover, who is any man to deny that? (End quote)

QUOTE: MIGHTY GOD UNVEILED (June 1964) Page 23 It changed from the pagan down into Luther, and from Luther down into Wesley, and from Wesley out into Pentecost, and on and on, from glory to glory, producing the hidden manna, And now it's ripe to bring Him back exactly like He was at the beginning, His same ministry, the same Jesus, the same power, the same Holy Ghost - - - back to its original seed with the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with the same signs, (gifts), same wonders, same kind of people acting the same way,

with the same power, the same sensation. (End quote)

Mark 16:15 "And He said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. (Verse 17) And these signs shall follow them that believe, in My Name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues. (Verse 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." "

Concerning the above scriptures our prophet made the following statement:

QUOTE: THE INDICTMENT (July 1963), Page 27 And if Jesus said that His last commandment to the church "Go ye into all the world", Mark 16 — "go ye into all the world and preach the gospel, these signs shall follow them that believe, — all the world to every creature, it ain't half reached yet - - -. So it's still the general orders, it's still the commandment of God - - - go all over the world and preach the gospel to every creature. And these signs shall follow them that believe. In My name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues — and they say that was (just) for that generation, and they make the commandment of God of non-effect. And they crucify the effect of the word to the people. (End quote)

Now with these statements of the prophet, and the word of God fresh in our minds, we again ask the question, what is wrong? Why are we, the Bride, not seeing what the prophet and the Bible say we are to see? There is, no doubt, more than one reason, but I want to point out a reason that I believe the Holy Ghost has brought to my attention.

I believe that we have failed to see the difference between belief and faith as Brother Branham and the Bible teach it. There is a vast difference between our natural belief in the scriptures, and in the supernatural faith that was once delivered

to the saints. The Bible makes a clear difference between the faith mentioned in Gal. 5:22 and the faith of 1st Cor. 12:9. The faith of Gal. chapter five is a fruit of the spirit. Fruit has to be cultivated and fertilized, to be made to grow. We can grow this fruit faith by our study of the word. "**Faith commeth by hearing the word of God.**" (Rom. 10:17) We can cause this fruit faith to grow as we obey the Lord, so that our hearts do not condemn us. (1st John 3:21)

We also increase this kind of faith as we have experiences with our God, and see Him take care of us in every way. But the Gift of faith seen in 1st Cor. 12:9 is beyond our ability to grow or produce. It is exactly as stated, a Gift. No amount of straining on our part, to believe harder, can produce this supernatural Gift of faith.

Our prophet taught that this gift of faith can only come as a revelation, when, and to whom God sees fit. We can believe God, and we are duty bound to do so, yet we cannot give ourselves a revelation. Believing the word with our intellect is our responsibility. We are to believe Him in the same simple way that we believe a trusted family member.

Yet, after we have believed with our mind the Lord must spark, or quicken, this intellectual believing. We were taught that believing with our mind will cause the Lord to create in us a perfect faith. This He does by quickening the word we have accepted in our mind, we call this a revelation.

QUOTE: PERFECT FAITH, Page, 27 "There is nothing left for us to do but believe it, (the word) and believing it is the substance that creates perfect faith." (End quote)

Let's take the above statement to the scriptures. Brother Branham said "Believing the word brings perfect faith." Notice, he said it brings it, not that we have perfect faith thru our intellect alone.

Heb. 11:6 "**But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that commeth to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.**"

The Holy Ghost said "He that commeth to God must believe that He is." In other words, we must use our intellect to believe that God is there, and that He is true and faithful to meet our every need. We must believe that He is no deceiver, we must believe in His power and knowledge and wisdom.

Every born-again person already has

this revelation concerning the God they serve. We know He is always faithful, and this makes us a believer in God. Confidence in ourselves is not required before God sees us as believers in Himself. We must discern that we do trust Him and that it is self that we doubt, and rightly so. Phil. 3:3 "**Have no confidence in the flesh.**"

Then the scripture goes on to say, in Heb. 11:6, when we have believed God in this simple manner that He will reward us with something. What will our reward be? Please notice that the subject matter of the Holy Ghost in this chapter is faith. Supernatural faith will be our reward!

When we have turned the same simple trust that we have in another human being up toward God, then He will eventually reward us with His Gift of faith, a revelation. It is then that we can see miracles, see the sick healed, and the crooked limbs become straight.

But our problem is that we have tried to take our mental faith and see these mighty works of God. We have failed to see that the prophet said God must take hold of our mental faith and turn it into a spiritual faith.

QUOTE: BLASPHEMOUS NAMES, Pages 22-23 "And the biggest part of our faith is mental faith. (And we must have this mental faith). Hearing the word brings us a mental recognition of God, but if this coming from above, oh brother, if it ever strikes this (heart) then there is a Godly spiritual faith. Our mental faith becomes a spiritual faith. And upon this foundation (or revelation) I will build my church. When that stream of grace is pouring into that mental faith that you've got, then upon this, a spiritual revelation, I will build my church." (End quote)

There must come a time for the true Bride when she understands that we will never be able to manufacture this miracle working faith. We must see that we will never have it until the Lord "Delivers it as He once did to the saints of old." No amount of praying can produce it, though we must pray. No amount of fasting will produce it, though we must fast. No amount of obedience will produce it, though we must obey.

All these things are our "Reasonable Service" but without a direct move of God toward us, we will never have supernatural, miracle working faith.

QUOTE: CHURCH AGE BOOK, Page 179 "In Acts 3:16 when Peter was asked how the mighty miracle had taken place

upon the crippled one at the gate beautiful, he explained it like this - - - "And His name, thru faith in His Name hath made this man strong. Yes, the faith which is from Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." See, there it is, Jesus Name and Jesus Faith brought about the miracle. Peter did not claim that it was his own human faith. (End quote)

And so we see that to believe in a miracle and to have faith for it are two different things. What a beautiful and scriptural prayer the man prayed in Mark 9:24. He had brought his son to the Disciples and they could not cast out the dumb spirit. Taking him then to Jesus he was told "All things are possible to him that believeth."

Verse 24 "**And straight way the father of the child cried out, Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief.**" Very apparently this man had the knowledge that his mental acceptance of Jesus as the Christ, and his mental belief in healing was not enough. He did believe these things, yet he cried out for help with his unbelief.

This man was in the same place we are in today, he believed with all his mind and strength, yet could not rid his heart of all the doubts that were there. Doubts are supernatural and from the enemy, it takes a supernatural Gift of faith from our God to remove them.

The disciples believed in casting out devils, they had done it before. But they were in the process of learning, even as we are now, that there is a great difference between Belief in a promise and in the Faith to bring it to pass.

Paul, in Acts, Chapter 16 was grieved "Many Days" by a spirit of divination in a woman. Who can deny that Paul believed in casting out devils? Yet many days passed and he did not stop the woman that was grieving him and disrupting his meetings. Paul had learned that his belief alone was not enough. But one day God delivered to him the Gift of faith, and he turned and said, "**I command you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.**"

God wanted this kind of faith to be so easy for us to come into, but we have made it so hard. What could be simpler than to look up to our Lord and confess that we do believe in Him and all His promises, then wait for Him to send us His faith, to rid us of all doubt.

Many of us in this message have been discouraged because of our failure to exercise active, working, faith in the Lord. We have stood bewildered and confused about

this thing of faith. We have supposed that faith is a condition of the mind only, when our Prophet said it is a Divinely imparted revelation to the heart, after the mind has accepted it. We have not understood that our belief is not the oak tree itself, but only the acorn that will eventually produce our oak tree faith.

QUOTE: PERFECT FAITH, Page 7

"Now these are real deep lessons and I will catch the top of it, then you dig down in it. Faith is in God because God is the word. (Notice, his subject is faith). If you ask me for an oak tree and I give you an acorn, potentially you have an oak tree, but it hasn't produced itself yet. (Our mental belief is the acorn). But when it really brings itself out, it is an oak tree. (Or when God drops His gift of faith into the channel of our mental belief, then it's an oak tree or the gift of faith). And when it's revealed to you it's faith then. A perfect faith that cannot fail." (End quote)

God must turn our believing into supernatural faith. Until He does, our miracles are not possible. But first we must get ourselves out of the way. We must stop struggling to believe hard enough, we can never do it. If God sent His gift of faith while we struggled to believe, would not we conclude that somehow we had done it.

But to save us from this spiritual death that false pride brings, He waits until we are sure that we are helpless without His Gift. How often on the tapes do we hear Brother Branham confess that he was waiting for the anointing to come. In other words, he was waiting for the gift of faith to be delivered into his heart.

QUOTE: PERFECT FAITH, Page 8

"We are close to the end now and I believe the church is in a position where we can teach it a little deeper things and rule some of this make believe out, and get something real." (End quote)

The make believe that he speaks of here, at least a part of it, is our supposing that we can exercise our mental, or intellectual faith in a promise and see it come to pass. Truth is, we can believe in Divine healing for years and yet not be healed. To exercise the will in the matter of intellectually believing is good, we must do this, but at the same time we must have the revelation that this is only our part in the matter of faith.

We must believe with our mental faculties, then we must come to the realization that we can receive miracle working faith only as our Lord gives it. In that great and glorious hour, our struggles will cease, we

will stop trying to believe hard enough to see a miracle. The storms that have been raging in our hearts will give way to a blessed peace, as we look up to Him. We will say as the man of long ago "Lord, I believe, help me with my unbelief."

In the message RISING OF THE SUN Brother Branham teaches again on the difference between belief and faith.

QUOTE: RISING OF THE SUN, Page 15, 16, 17 "Waving of the sheaf. What was the sheaf? The first one that came to maturity, the first one that proved it was a wheat. He was waved to them - - - on the day of Pentecost - - - and as I say it is to be waved again on the last day." (The real faith to be shown again in the last day).

"But now for instance, what if we were going back to Tucson this afternoon, and each of us was going to go in a big Cadillac, brand new and all the seats were made of doe skin - - - and the floor boards were plush, the steering wheel nickel plated and had diamond studs all over it. And the engine was mechanically tested to be exactly the right engine. The wheels all had bearings and greased up. And the tires were puncture proof and blow out free. All had been tested scientifically."

"They had been pushed off the assembly line both of them, and both of them filled up with gasoline. That's the running power, the gasoline, because in it is the octane. But now when you're going to start them, although both of them look just alike, but there is one of them that don't have any spark - - - any firing power."

"Well, you say, the power is in the gasoline, Brother Branham. But I don't care how much power is in the gasoline, unless there is a spark there to manifest that power - - - it just might as well be water. Until the Holy Spirit comes on that person to quicken that word, the gasoline represents the word. It's the truth, but without the spark it won't move." (End quote)

Dear reader, we have filled the gas tank of our minds with the word of the hour, then we have tried to drive away in the Cadillac without waiting for the precious Lord to send the spark. (The revelation of a gift of faith). We have supposed that we could do it ourselves, if we could only believe hard enough.

We have tried to make this miracle of Divine faith into a self works program. We have tried to move out into the area of the supernatural without waiting for our Lord to "Deliver" to us His own powerful, devil destroying faith. We have supposed that

we could somehow do things different than Jesus Himself did them.

We have listened to the ministry of our Brother Branham, and we heard his testimony of helplessness unless the Lord came and brought him supernatural faith. Then in spite of the words of Jesus, and His Prophet, we have tried to forge ahead on our own. We have been guilty of presuming that the Lord would follow our program.

But the Lord already has His program, He already knows what He will do, and where, when, and to whom, How then does He show us what His plan is? How else but to deliver to us His faith for the work He wants done.

You may ask, how can I know when I really have this faith of His? How can I tell the difference between my mental belief and His supernatural faith? Herein lies a problem that only experience can solve. We must experience this supernatural "knowing that we know." Until we have received this positive knowing a few times we may still confuse the two. If you will pardon a personal testimony, I would like to share with you one of the experiences that helped me to see the difference between belief and faith.

In 1971, while on a carpenter job, I injured my back as I lifted a heavy piece of equipment. By quitting time that evening I was experiencing quite a lot of pain. After a restless night I arose the next day to find that the pain was much worse as I tried to walk.

Not only was the pain severe, but I was being stooped over and could not hold myself erect. By the end of a week my condition had steadily worsened. The pain was such that I could not sleep, I couldn't lay in a bed. By this time I was stooped far forward and could in no way raise myself up.

In desperation, I placed a board between two chairs and piled pillows onto the board. Managing to get one leg over the board, I could lay forward on the pillows for a short while. This terrible condition lasted for thirty days, during which time I rode the highways at night to keep from disturbing my family with my prayers and my groanings.

All this time I was believing in Divine healing with all the strength of my mind. It is true that the enemy came to convince me that it was not for me, But God knows my heart, I could not be dissuaded. I was in the message of the hour and I knew that God's

healing power was real and that it is still for us today.

But even with my holding to my intellectual belief in healing there was no relief forthcoming. At the end of the thirty days I was at the end of my strength. I was determined to trust the Lord for my healing, perhaps stories of conditions made worse by back operations had helped with my decision.

It was on, or about, the thirtieth day that I entered my bedroom and cried out to the Lord in total desperation. I had gone as far as I could go without some relief. I was haggard and drawn from lack of sleep and not eating. Kneeling by my bed as best I could I was pouring my heart out to God.

It was at that time, dear reader, that I had an experience that started to change my thinking about what real faith is. Suddenly, as I knelt, a great peace came over me, then in a matter of minutes I began to realize that I knew I was going to recover. Before that time I was hoping that I would, but now it was different, I knew that I knew. And not only that, but I knew that my healing had already started, even though there was, as yet, no let up in the pain.

Looking back, I now see that I had received a revelation of faith. There was no longer any doubt in my mind, or heart. How clearly I have been made to see the difference between belief and supernatural faith. God tells us we must believe, (Mark 11:24) and this is something we can do, but He does not require the impossible from us, He leaves that for Himself.

To try and manufacture the faith of God in our hearts is an impossible chore. It is our helplessness that He would have us to understand. His faith can no more come into our hearts without results than the sun can rise without bringing light and heat.

When God's faith is imparted to us there is a deep calm that brings peace to the soul. Rather than the voice of pleading there will be the voice of thanksgiving and praise. Oh, dear friends we need the full realiza-

tion that it is not our ability to believe that brings the miracle, but it is His faith imparted to the heart.

Again, let me say that I am convinced that we have mistaken our ability to believe with the faith which has to be sent us by Jesus. When it comes there will be an end to our long sessions of commanding the enemy to leave. Our struggle will be over as we speak out the faith He imparted.

Truly there is a place for intercessory prayer before the Lord. Intercession and groaning may come before He imparts His faith to us, but when it comes the praying and groaning is finished. Shouts of victory will fill our mouths instead. In the evening time it shall be light, the shadows of night are now fleeing away.

The possibility of a miraculous ministry had now come into full view. Thank God for the many doctrines of His prophet.

Thank God for this teaching by Brother Branham on the difference between belief and faith. Thank God we now understand that we are not responsible for trying to work up supernatural faith. With all our struggles we have not been able to manufacture the faith of God. Truth is, until our struggles cease we are not in line to receive the gift.

All we need is a portion of His faith the size of a mustard seed, and the things the world calls impossible will be brought to pass. One word from our Lord Jesus and our mental believing is turned into a force so powerful that mountains shake before it. " - - - if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say to this mountain, remove hence to yonder place and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible to you." (Matt. 17:20)

We have been promised an endtime bride revival. No doubt at this late date, it is already in progress, at least in part. It is the opinion of this writer that the prophets teaching on the difference between belief and faith will be a great factor in bringing such a revival to pass.

Let us face the issue of our helplessness squarely, and with humble, open, and surrendered hearts ask the Lord Jesus to lead us past the foothills of our own struggles, to the high mountain of His own faith, delivered to us by revelation.

When His faith is in operation in us we will no longer be standing around our sick folk time after time, rebuking, commanding, and struggling. Our pleading, as in times past, will be over. He never intended for us to have to beg, but only realize that He must speak and deliver His faith to us.

Let us then earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. (Jude verse 3). And how do we contend? Of course thru study of the word, prayer, fasting and obedience. And last, but not at all least, we must confess our helplessness without a revelation of faith from Him.

This teaching of the prophet has answered my questions, it has solved the problems I have had concerning a supernatural ministry. It is not our ministry at all, but His. He will finish His work thru His bride members by delivering His faith to them when and where, and for whatever purpose He sees fit. This takes all the strain from our shoulders, all we have to do is be a vessel meet for His use. . .

In times past my heart has been heavy, as perhaps yours has. Discouragement has been over us as a dark cloud, as the enemy has taunted us for our failure to exercise faith that works. But now the SON light has flooded thru the clouds, now the doors to the supernatural have swung open.

Now the impossible has become very possible. Now we can cast ourselves at His feet and expect Him to lift us up to the place we could not reach by our efforts alone. He is truly the same yesterday, today, and forever, as we are going to witness more and more in the days to come.

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