

# Fishing With The Proper Bait. “Souls At Stake!”

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June, 1998

What fisherman in his right mind would fish all day long with an empty hook? Any fisherman knows that just a bare hook, without the proper bait, will catch no fish, or if he does it would rather be an accident than the normal thing. Normally, fish are not attracted to a hook that has no bait. Therefore, a good fisherman will have a supply of the bait that will attract the kind of fish he wishes to catch.

The Lord Jesus has promised to make the disciples that He calls “FISHERS OF MEN.” “And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers.”

“And He saith unto them, “Follow Me and I will make you FISHERS OF MEN.”

“And they straightway left their nets, and followed Him.” (Matt. 4:18-20)

But our Lord knew that before they could catch men, they would have to have the PROPER BAIT. There is a SUPERNATURAL BAIT that our Lord has prepared that the natural man cannot resist. He can resist Gospel preaching; he can resist while a minister plays on his emotions; he may even be convicted by the Holy Spirit and yet continue in his resistance, but when he sees God perform miracles of healing, he will almost always rise to investigate that kind of bait.

God has built something into every human that makes him desire to see the *supernatural*. This desire lives in the worst sinner. The lowest reprobate will stop his sinning long enough to go and witness the supernatural. God built us that way on purpose because

He planned to draw us to Himself by demonstrating His awesome power before us.

Never in the scripture did the Lord Jesus send any of His men forth without a supply of that kind of bait.

John 14:12, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto My Father.”

Matt. 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.”

Matt. 10:7-8, “And as you go, preach, saying, The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. HEAL THE SICK, CLEANSE THE LEPERS, RAISE THE DEAD, CAST OUT DEVILS: freely ye have received, freely give.”

QUOTE: CHURCH AGE BOOK PAGE 15, “Now remember this. Christ in the TRUE CHURCH is a continuation of the Book of Acts. But the Book of Revelation shows how that the anti-Christ spirit would come into the Church and defile it, making it lukewarm, formal and powerless—he (Satan) knows that if the people get the TRUE REVELATION OF THE TRUE CHURCH and what she is, what she stands for, and that she can do the greater works, she will be and invincible Army.” (End quote)

QUOTE: CHURCH AGE BOOK, PAGE 251, “And if the Church is the TRUE CHURCH it will have the very same spirit, and Word, and ACTS OF POWER that they had at Pentecost. By EXPERIENCE it will be a Pentecostal Church, and there will be tongues, and interpretation and prophecy and HEALINGS. God will be in the midst of her, and God will declare Himself in the midst of her, as He always has.” (End quote)

QUOTE: CHURCH AGE BOOK, PAGE 67, “Thus, what the Church was at Pentecost is the STANDARD. That is the PATTERN. THERE IS NO OTHER PATTERN. No matter what the scholars say, God has not CHANGED THE PATTERN. What God did at Pentecost He has to keep doing until the Church ages close. Though scholars may tell you the Apostolic Age is over, don’t you believe it.” (End quote)

There has been a period of time since the prophet left, that we have had empty hooks, so to speak, as far as being able to attract even the members of our own families. Even though there have been those that went before the Lord in fasting, prayer, and as much humbleness as they could muster, we have not seen the miraculous works of God that our hearts desire.

But before we condemn ourselves overly much, we need to understand that we have been “Laying in the sun to ripen.” Brother Branham taught us that a vessel not PREPARED to han-

dle the gifts would be like a child given a straight razor to play with. Believing his teaching then, we are brought to this conclusion. After the message had gone forth, and God took His messenger home, there had to be a time of spiritual growth in those who were eating at the Lord's table.

Some of us have become very discouraged during this training and waiting period. But our Lord Jesus has never had one thought of leaving us without His power. Those who have been faithful to stay at their post of duty are now going to have the desire of their hearts fulfilled. They are going to see the supernatural works of God being manifested in their midst, even as God's prophet said we would.

Contrary to the thinking of some, there is still some fishing for the *souls of men* that must be done. How many of us who love the Lord with all our heart and believe His messenger and message, still have family that have not come into the shelter? There are no doubt many of us who have prayed and cried for these loved ones in the night hours, yet they continue to resist.

This is not said to condemn them. This world is so full of the *false vine church* that often even the Elect Bride of Christ is temporarily fooled. No wonder then the unconverted are blinded. But, let it be said that when our Lord Jesus Christ begins to manifest Himself in our midst, in all His *power and glory*, there is going to come a change in the thinking of those who have been on the outside looking in.

When they see that Jesus Christ is alive and well in our midst, healing the sick, casting out devils, delivering from dope and alcohol and meeting every need of His people, then will that desire for the supernatural be stirred up in them, and they will be drawn to such a Christ. But it is the

belief of this writer that we will have to have this *supernatural bait* on our hook.

I do also believe that our Lord is even now starting to demonstrate the preaching of the Gospel with these signs following. This is not to speak lightly of the healings and miracles He has done for us in the past. I do believe we have all seen enough of His works to keep us from being totally discouraged. But there are certain signs and circumstances that lead this writer to believe that we are entering into the time period that has been called "The Bride Revival."

Perhaps no one as yet knows what all this Bride Revival will consist of, but we do know it must start with the Bride herself being awakened. A large part of that awakening has to do with us recognizing that we have been without proper bait for our fishing excursions. Correct doctrine, church order, a Holiness dress code, along with a Holy life style are all necessary, but without the Supernatural in our midst we are still fishing without bait.

QUOTE: A PARADOX, PAGE 3, "Because healing is the children's bread. We realize that. It's in the atonement (payment) and the atonement first is applied to our souls. (Saving souls is the main purpose behind divine healing.) and healing has always forerun every message, and its also been a means to gather people together."...as Brother Bosworth used to say, it's the BAIT ON THE HOOK. And you show the fish the bait, not the hook."

CONT. QUOTE: "And that's just the thing to get the people to listen for a while, till you can really present to them your message (message of salvation first). God has done that in every age. Through every age there has always been a HEALING CAMPAIGN. And if it is a genuine healing

campaign, behind that campaign, always, there is a MESSAGE. There never is a sign given just for a sign. It's forerunning a message." (End quote)

Brother Branham once said that "Healing is a MINOR." That is exactly right. When compared to the saving of a soul, it is a minor. But when that minor is used as bait on the hook to catch SOULS, then it is a MAJOR indeed, and that is exactly what he taught about it. The lost will come where the desperately sick are being healed. Then through the preaching of the Gospel, God can send His WORD, that *sharp two edged sword*, to do a work in their hearts. They can be both *healed* and *saved*.

Ps. 107:20, "**He sent His WORD and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.**"

God and His WORD cannot be separated. God lives in His Word. His Word is SPIRIT.

John 1:1, "**In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD WAS GOD.**" When the GOSPEL WORD is preached to the people, we are to expect it to save, and heal and deliver, and fill with the Holy Ghost. We are not responsible for doing these things. We simply preach the Gospel and the WORD performs the works.

Perhaps some of our problem has been to look at the unbelief of the people and let it hinder our faith. This writer will be quick to confess this error in years past. But to do so is to discredit God's Word. The Word is sharp and quick and powerful enough to enter into a human heart and drive out the unbelief. We should never consider the unbelief of the people that we may be preaching or witnessing to, but consider only the Word that cuts it away.

The signs and miracles will follow any man who will preach the Gospel and EXPECT them to follow. You may ask, "How can I really expect it?" The answer is so simple that we find it hard to accept. We expect it on the grounds of His promise.

Mk. 16:19-20, "**So then after the Lord had spoken unto them** (gave them the great commission), **He was received up into Heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.**"

Verse 20, "**And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and CONFIRMING THE WORD WITH SIGNS FOLLOWING.**"

The Lord is now ready to WORK WITH HIS BRIDE as they go forth preaching His Word. We are not to suppose that we have stuck our neck out when we announce a healing meeting and tell the sick, lame, blind and deaf to come and be healed. We are not responsible to do the healing. Our part is simply to preach His Word that pertains to healing. The Lord Jesus will strike it into the hearts of those that He sees fit to heal. He will heal their unbelief first, then meet the other needs.

And how great are those needs! Every day there are more sick than the day before. The doctors offices and hospitals are full of the incurable and desperate. The thing that is so grievous and heart breaking is that many of our message believers are in that number. But God has declared through His prophet that He does not intend to leave us in such a strait.

QUOTE: THE SPOKEN WORD IS THE ORIGINAL SEED, PAGES 120-121, "Now let us stand as Joshua and Caleb. Now watch close. This is going to have a spiritual background. Now let us stand like Joshua and Caleb as we see the promised land coming in sight. ITS NEARING THE

TIME! To be given—to take the Church over. Caleb represents the true believer who stayed with Joshua. God started Israel as a virgin, with His Word (standing on His Word). But they wanted something different. SO DID THE LAST DAY CHURCH.

CONT. QUOTE: "Notice how God did not move Israel until HIS OWN APPOINTED TIME. Now listen, this is going to mean something. Joshua waited for THAT TIME. No matter how much people might have said, "God gave us the land, the promise, let us go now and take it." They might have said, "Joshua, you lost your commission. You're all washed up. Why are you not doing something? You used to do—know THUS SAITH THE LORD in a moment, and what was the will of God." But this wise, God-sent prophet knew the promise of God, but also knew TO WAIT FOR THAT PROMISE—a clear cut decision from God for HIS TIME."

CONT. QUOTE: "These parables? Now watch! And when the time came God gave it to Joshua, who had stayed with Him by the Word, for he could not trust others. He could trust him. SO WILL IT REPEAT!" (End quote)

It did repeat! God has sent the Gentiles their prophet. We have been feasting on God's message, opened by the revealing of the Seven Seals. We have stayed true to our Joshua. We have waited in our little churches while our hearts have grieved because we could not get our loved ones and friends in to investigate the message.

But take heart Bride of Christ, the former planting, rain came and now the harvest rain is beginning to fall. For years we have waited. We have gone through times of discouragement and have even seen a falling away in our own churches. Some of us have

sought God long and hard for the extra gift, or anointing, that we have needed to bring in the lost. Even so it could not come until God's own appointed time.

QUOTE: THE SPOKEN WORD IS THE ORIGINAL SEED, PAGE 124, "Remember, Moses born for the work, had to wait on God for the extra gift for the job. He had to go back and wait. And for the time appointed by God a certain pharaoh had to be on the throne. And the people had to be wanting the Bread of Life before God would send him back." (End quote)

With all my heart I believe the waiting period is coming to an end. I believe it is time for the last true Seeds of God to be brought into the circle of safety. If these things be true, then we are about to see a RESTORATION of the churches that have been following the prophet's message. This restoration will have to include the return of signs, wonders, and miracles because our God cannot deny His Word.

QUOTE: CHURCH AGE BOOK, PAGES 379-380, "Now it says God is going to RESTORE. The Lutheran Age did not restore the Church, it started the reformation. The Wesleyan Age did not restore. The Pentecostal Age did not restore. But God has to restore for He cannot deny His Word. This is not the RESURRECTION of the Church (Not yet), it is the RESTORATION. God will take the Church right back to Pentecost of the beginning. —And that poor little root and stalk is going to be restored."

CONT. QUOTE, PAGE 380, "God isn't going to plant a new Church, but is going to bring His original planting back to original seed. He is doing it as stated in verse 23 (Joel 2:23) by the teaching, or *former rain*. Next will come the *harvest rain* or *rapturing faith*." (End quote)

This harvest rain will be an anointing of God's Spirit upon the Seed Word that has been planted (taught) by the prophet. For years we have had the mechanics, but the Word without the Spirit to anoint it is dead. That anointing was on the prophet. Now it is to be on the Bride for the prophet was only the FIRST FRUITS for this last age.

With God's Spirit quickening the Word concerning healing and miracles, we are being given the bait we need to attract those beautiful rainbow trout that must yet be caught. But it behooves us to remember God's number one motive is the SAVING OF SOULS. Surely He is concerned with our suffering due to sickness, but any healing program where the ministry forgets WHY God is giving the miracles is off the track.

The supernatural healings will awaken the sleeping Bride. It will cause those who have drifted back into the world to return to the revealed Word. When any people, whether they are lost or saved, see the Lord Jesus Christ miraculously healing the sick, they are stirred. Some are stirred to unbelief and denial, but those who are to receive Eternal Life are stirred to that Life.

It is true that real healings are happening in the ministry of some men who are off the Word in some points. We thank God for each person that is helped. It is the mercy of our God reaching out to His people who are

believing, even though the vessel used lacks much revelation of the Word. There is a mighty lesson in this for us who are striving to walk in the light of the Endtime Message.

If our Father will honor the preaching of the Gospel by these others when they proclaim that He is a healer, how much more does He want to honor His Word for those who have come to His prophet for His "Thus Saith the Lord" doctrine.

But He has waited until He knew we were mature enough so that we would not be overtaken by the love for money or fame. There is a great difference between being SENT BY GOD and in going out yourself to establish a ministry. To those who went themselves He will say some day, "I never knew you, depart from me." Even though they had the gifts and performed miracles, we know they were not sent.

We know them by their fruits. They love money and are constantly begging the people to send in all they can. They build great cathedrals costing millions of dollars, while some of God's children down the block are in dire need.

Even though the *false vine* has seemed to be flourishing for years now, there will come an accounting time. We should be so very thankful that our Lord has saved us from this false revival. We have been taught that a healing campaign that does not later point the people to the true Word

is not God's revival. But we have also been taught that there is to be a healing program within the Bride, that will attract the attention of God's Lost Sheep, cause their souls to be saved, then point them to the true Gospel Message. We are entering that time now according to all the signs we are seeing.

I will close with another word from the Prophet Messenger who has spearheaded this Bride Revival that has been started.

QUOTE: CHURCH AGE BOOK, PAGE 381. "Not for one moment do I bring a message to the people that they may follow me, or join my church, or start some fellowship and organization. I have never done that and will not do that now. I have no interest in those things, but I do have an interest in the things of God and people, and if I can accomplish just one thing I will be satisfied. That one thing is to see established a true spiritual relationship between God and men, wherein men become new creatures in Christ, filled with His Spirit and live according to His Word. I would invite, plead and warn all to hear HIS VOICE at this time, and yield your lives completely to Him— —."(End quote)

Our prayer. "Lord Jesus Christ, make this above statement to become a part of us also and give us the anointing so we can bait our hook and catch these men and women. Amen!"

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