

THE FAITH BUILDER

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

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From The Editor

After listening to last week's sermon by Rev. Peter Carter: "*Where do we go from here?*" I thought of the type of church that people want. I remember as a member of the Board of Nomination a number of years ago to call a new minister to replace Rev. Don Fauchelle, our Interim Moderator posed the question to us: "What type of church do you see yourselves as?" We found that question difficult to answer, because we didn't really know.

I guess that if you put ten church members in a room and got them to answer that question, you would get ten different opinions. That's why we have so many different denominations.

In my experience of different types of churches, I have observed the attitude that different church members have in the way they have conducted themselves at church and how they have spoken of it.

Many "traditional" church members prefer the strict, liturgical, old-fashioned service with the Hymns Ancient and Modern (if they are Church of England), or the traditional Presbyterian Hymn Book. They are very careful that all the traditional rituals, placement of the Bible in the service, the position of the organ (the piano might be tolerated, but absolutely no other musical instruments allowed – especially drums!). The church bulletin **must** contain the order of service, and not include any jokes or "frivolous" material (this is because "the work of the Lord is so serious, we have to take it very seriously"). The preaching can be Scripture-based, but from a very academic perspective. Some traditional church members believe that proper qualifications for a minister must involve at least a degree in divinity, ministry, or theology, and a mastorate/doctorate would enhance that minister's competence. Members wear their "Sunday best" to the services, and for men this invariably involves a dark suit.

This is not to say that the majority these members are not passionate, committed Christians just because they choose to worship God in a traditional, liturgical way. When I joined an Anglican church in my city and had a talk with the curate¹, he told me: "After you've been with us for three weeks, you will be as mad as the rest of us." I found that to be very true,

¹ An Anglican priest, assistant to the Vicar of the parish.

because beneath the formal, liturgical services, I found a very warm, loving, fun-loving group of committed Christians.

I was going to write that, in the main, formal, liturgical services do not generally attract young people. While that is true in too many churches, I found in that Anglican church a very active group of young Anglican Charismatics, who accepted me as one of them within five minutes of joining them for the first time. They were a very good example of the combination of the traditional heritage of the Church, and the liberty and expressive nature of Charismatic worship.

The second category of churches is what is generally called “the middle of the road” church. This is neither strictly traditional, although it does have enough traditional components to satisfy those of a more formal attitude to worship, nor is it wildly “charismatic”, but it does contain some of the more “free” styles of worship, commonly found in purely Charismatic churches, to satisfy those who desire more innovation and freedom in worship.

Some might think that this is putting “a dollar each way” on a racehorse in the hope of winning something.

Unfortunately, this type of church tends toward a party spirit where some “are of Paul, Peter, or Apollos” (1 Corinthians 3:4), where some may say, “I am traditional”, others, “I tread the middle line”, and others, “I want to worship the Charismatic way.”

It is great when different “parties” love and tolerate each other, knowing and accepting that it takes all sorts to make up a congregation, but it also can be “hell on earth” in a church where the different factions are “frictioning” and grizzling about each other.

This type of church may or may not attract younger people. It depends of the “welcoming” environment that visitors experience when they enter. And it all depends on whether the church has a good youth group leader who is respected and who is able to attract young people to the church.

The third category of church is the “free worship” type where there is no detectable order of service, and things are more impromptu. Worshippers tend to be much more expressive with the raising of hands, dancing, verbal response to speakers, enthusiastic welcoming of visitors, manifestation of prophecy, tongues, impromptu prayers, passionate preaching, extended time-length of services, a wide range of musical instruments, louder music, expressive singing.

These churches tend to have a more community attitude in that members spend much time “fellowshipping” in homes during the week, having meals together, treating fellow members as close friends rather than as just other members who attend the same church.

These are the churches that are experiencing greater growth, because they tend to be more attractive to younger people. In fact, the churches’ age range of members tend to be skewed toward youth and young adults. One of the foremost reasons for the growth, which is coming from the unsaved

community in most cases, is the powerful and passionate preaching of the basic Gospel, and not so much of the more academic style of the other two types of churches already mentioned.

There are many people in traditional and “middle of the road” churches who look at the churches that are rapidly growing in size, and then look at their own basically stagnating church, and have that unsatisfied feeling, and want growth, but are not willing to get out of their “comfort zone” and change to the type of church that would attract the young people that they want.

Too many people in stagnated and declining churches are excusing their lack of progress by saying that “people in society are not interested in religion any more”, and “many young people are playing sport on Sundays”, and other excuses like that. But they do not realise that if they don’t have anything in their church that would attract and retain youth and young adults, single, married, married with children, then expecting these ones to join the church is, in reality, wishful thinking and a “pipe dream”.

Many are praying, “Oh, Lord, cause our church to be one that attracts young people”, and yet they won’t change the things that would keep them away, and they will not accept that they are the ones responsible for the problem. Until they are prepared to accept responsibility and are willing to change, their requests to the Lord for more young people will not have any effect.

There is a church that grew from a small, struggling congregation, to one that doubled the number of people attending in one year after a new minister was appointed. When asked why this happened, a member of the Northern Presbytery told the group: “This happened because that minister preached the Gospel!” And he is right.

So, if your church is not growing, or it is declining, the first question you need to ask is, “Is the Gospel being preached here?” Now, I must emphasise that Gospel preaching is not merely teaching grownup versions of children’s Bible stories. Just because the Bible is preached, it does not mean that it is actually the Gospel that is preached. A preacher can preach academic and theoretical Bible knowledge and still have a declining church.

One of the first things that the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church was this: **“I determined not to know anything among you except Christ and Him crucified”** (1 Corinthians 2:2). To the natural mind this seems simplistic. Paul recognised this when he said: **“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God”** (1 Corinthians 1:18).

This is the difference between a ministry being of the flesh and of the Spirit. The flesh makes the simple truths of God’s Word complicated and academic. The Spirit makes God’s Word simple, straight-forward, and very easy for even children to understand.

There is something very powerful about preaching that Jesus took our sins on the Cross and became our substitute, that **“He who knew no sin,**

became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21), that attracts people out of the community, to the church.

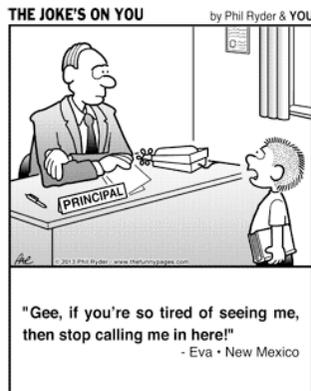
Also, we need to find out for sure what was the Gospel according to Jesus. We need to see what Jesus said and did that attracted multitudes of the common people, as well as the highly educated, to Him. He said, **“If I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto Me”** (John 12:32).

We can't help but notice that a large part of Jesus' Gospel involved healing of the sick and casting out of demons. Paul knew this when he said, **“The kingdom of God does not just consist in words, but in power”** (1 Corinthians 4:20). He proved this in establishing very strong Christian churches in Corinth and Ephesus, centres of pagan worship, by healing the sick and casting out demons. These acts of power gave credence to the words of the Gospel he preached.

Perhaps those churches that will not believe that divine healing and the casting out of demons in these days is an integral part of the Gospel, are the ones that are declining; and the ones that minister healing and deliverance to those who come within range, and whose members even go out into the community to heal the sick and cast out demons, are the churches that are experiencing the rapid growth.

My view is that when people see that our Gospel consists in more than just words, they will be attracted to a Christ who can and will meet their deepest needs. And the deepest need of unconverted folks is that they will be right with God when they arrive in eternity.

Paul Christensen, 14 April 2013.



A man goes skydiving. After a fantastic free fall he pulls the rip cord to open his parachute but nothing happens. He tries everything but can't get it open.

Just then another man flies by him, going UP. The skydiver yells, "Hey, you know anything about parachutes? The man replies, "No, you know anything about gas stoves?"

Simple Operation

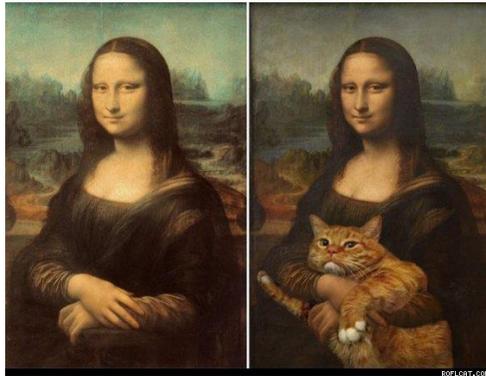
A man was seen fleeing down the hall of the hospital just before his operation.

"What's the matter?" he was asked.

He said, "I heard the nurse say, 'It's a very simple operation, don't worry, I'm sure it will be all right.'"

"She was just trying to comfort you, what's so frightening about that?"

"She wasn't talking to me. She was talking to the doctor."



Always room for improvement.



SERMON – “The Glory Of God”

Preached at St Aidan’s Presbyterian Church
14 April 2013

Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:7-23, 34:1-9.

Moses said, “Please. Let me see your Glory.”

GOD said, “I will make my Goodness pass right in front of you; I’ll call out the name, GOD, right before you. I’ll treat well whomever I want to treat well and I’ll be kind to whomever I want to be kind.”

GOD continued, “But you may not see my face. No one can see me and live.”

GOD said, “Look, here is a place right beside me. Put yourself on this rock. When my Glory passes by, I’ll put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with my hand until I’ve passed by. Then I’ll take my hand away and you’ll see my back. But you won’t see my face.” (Exodus 33:18-23).

Moses had had some marvellous encounters with God up till now.

- He had heard the voice of God in the burning bush;
- Saw the miracles God did before Pharaoh;
- Followed the cloud by the day and the pillar of fire by night;
- Experienced the parting of the Red sea;
- Seen the fire of God on Mt Sinai;
- And was now having an intimate conversation with God as a person talks to their closest friend.

But Moses was the type of person who wanted all he could get from God. He wasn’t content with half measures.

The Apostle Peter was the same. Remember when Jesus went to wash his feet, he was reluctant until Jesus told him that unless He washed his feet he could have no part of him (John 13:8).

And Peter responded, **“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”** (John 13:9).

Moses wanted to have the full view of the full glory of God. He cried out to God, **“Show me your glory!”**

But, out of mercy for him, and for the whole company of Israel, God could not expose His full glory, because the sheer power and intensity of it would nuke not only Moses, but everyone else as well.

The devastation would have been the equivalent of a large asteroid hitting the earth. The whole planet could have been vaporised.

That is how powerful the full power of the glory of God could be.

Even when the three disciples saw the transfiguration of Jesus, they only saw the beginning stages of it before they were put into a deep sleep. (Mark 9:2).

So Moses was put into a cleft of the rock and got to see just the hind parts of the Lord as He passed by. That was enough to completely transform him, and when he came back down to the camp, his face shone with the reflection of just a small glimpse of the glory of God.

The Scripture says that **“all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3:23).

Now, if that is the case, when a person is converted to Christ, he or she no longer falls short, but is able to enter right into the glory of God!

Therefore, there is a place where we, as converted Christians, can get as close to God as we can get. There are a number of descriptions of this place.

The foundation Scripture is this one: ***“What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ”*** (1 John 1:3).

This is what “getting into the glory” means: a walk of fellowship with God.

The Lord encourages us to enter this place: ***“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need”*** (Hebrews 4:16).

In these days, the glory of God is seen in the person of Jesus Christ:

“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ” (2Corinthians 4:6).

So, when we ask God to show us His glory, He will direct us to Jesus Christ and to consider Him as our Saviour and Lord.

We don’t need to ask for permission to accept an invitation already given by the Lord to come and fellowship with Him on a deeper level.

This has always been the invitation that God extends to those who are hungry for a deeper walk with Him: ***“Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost”*** (Isaiah 55:1).

It is also reflected in the Gospel by Jesus: ***“Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink”*** (John 7:37).

He further confirms that the invitation is real and that the person entering in will not be rejected: ***“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out”*** (John 6:37), and will not be disappointed once he gets there; ***“For the Scripture says, “whoever believes in him will not be disappointed”*** (Romans 10:11, quoting Isaiah 28:16). It is also known as being ***“in the Spirit”***.

The example of this is the Apostle John, on the Isle of Patmos, being *“in the Spirit on the Lord’s day”* (Revelation 1:10), when he was lifted up in the heavenlies to receive the revelation that the Holy Spirit purposed to have recorded for all the generations to follow.

He knew what it is to fellowship with the Lord Jesus and encouraged others to do so: *“But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin”* (1 John 1:17).

So, walking in the light is another way of describing what it is to “get into the glory”.

Another example is that of Enoch: *“Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him”* (Genesis 5:24). He was so hungry for God that he took every opportunity to fellowship with Him, and he was regularly raised into heaven as he fellowshiped with God; and one day, he never came down again! So, **what is “getting into the glory”?**

For one thing, it is not primarily a sensory experience, and we should not base our faith on any emotional feeling that might make us think that we are experiencing the glory of God in us.

The evidence that others will see of us being in the glory is that the fruit of the Spirit is radiating out of us.

Of course we are going to have emotional feelings because love, joy, and peace have connected emotions attached to them.

The glory is not an emotionless place, but we don’t base everything on emotion, but enter into God’s glory by faith in the promises of God’s Word.

The walk in the Spirit is a walk of faith and of power, in that the fruit of the Spirit are evident in us, and the gifts of the Spirit are flowing freely wherever we have influence.

THE GLORY AFFECTS US!

This is what happens when a group of believers in a meeting enters into the glory of God. In the Old Testament, the glory of God was something that affected believers external to them.

The best example was the glory coming so powerfully *“so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD”* (1 Kings 8:11).

However, on the Day of Pentecost, the glory came in the Person of the Holy Spirit and entered into every believer in the Upper Room: *“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit*

was giving them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4). From that time on, the glory of God inhabited the spirits of every Spirit-filled believer.

Later on, in the midst of persecution, a group of believers gathered for prayer *"and when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness"* (Acts 4:31).

I believe that two things happened when they 'got into the glory' in that prayer meeting. When they *"spoke the word of God with boldness"*,

I can quite easily believe that while they were in the room they were released in prophecy, and when they went out to preach the Gospel to others, their preaching was with boldness. This is what happens when a group gets into the glory. **There is a release of the word of God with boldness.**

Believers speak as the word of God comes to them, and there is a charged environment where faith is generated, miracles happen, and sick people get healed.

This is what many Christians call "revival". It is a group of believers getting immersed in the glory of God and they are raised into a realm where they are as close to Heaven as they can get.

An unbeliever entering such a meeting has the following experience: *"But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you"* (1 Corinthians 14:24, 25).

IT IS A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A group of "revived" believers who are in the glory will have an effect on the wider community of unbelievers around them. This is commonly called an "awakening". Look at this example:

"With whom does a spiritual awakening begin? It's not caused by earnest Christians trying to merely awaken the apathetic Christians on campus. As a rule, it begins with the most spiritual students themselves. The two most active and godly men of one university were led at a student conference to see this secret. When they went back to their university, they spent many days in humiliation, special prayer and Bible study. After they were themselves thoroughly on fire, they invited another Christian to their daily meeting. When he was awakened they invited a fourth. So the fire spread, until the unconverted students began to come under its influence. Before three months had passed, over thirty students had accepted Christ as their Savior". (Quoted from John R Mott, *A Spiritual Awakening in a University*; <http://www.watchword.org>).

This experience has been repeated many times all over the world where there have been revivals.

They start with a group of believers seeking God in prayer and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in them to bring them into the centre of His will.

This can happen to an individual believer as well as in a group. Every time a person goes into his private prayer place with God and opens himself to the Holy Spirit and becomes sensitive to God's voice, he is getting into the glory, walking in the light, being in the Spirit, all descriptions of having fellowship with God.

So, what we now see, is that it is possible for us to get close to God and "in the glory".

We can now see that we get "*in the Spirit*" every time we spend time in private fellowship with God.

Because being in the glory is a walk of faith, believing in the promises of God in His Word, we do not always have an emotional experience.

This does not mean that the glory of God is not present. It is just that God wants us to trust in His Word first, before He will allow the bonus of an emotional manifestation.

THE HOLY SPIRIT MANIFESTS HIMSELF!

But, as we see in the book of Acts, and in Christian practice, manifestations do take place when the Holy Spirit is present.

Because people are people, there is a mixture of the flesh and the Spirit when the Holy Spirit is present and flowing in a meeting, and there should be much fun and laughter when we gather together to worship the Lord.

But the standard is: **does it glorify Christ and strengthen the believers, and does it draw unbelievers to accept Christ as their Saviour?**

Just as excesses of the flesh with inappropriate shakings, falling over, holy rolling, etc., can quench and grieve the Spirit, it is also true that people wearing black clothing, carrying big Bibles, and glaring at others with a super-holy, forbidding expressions that signal the impending judgment of God on all those who have the least bit of levity, are just as quenching and grieving to the Spirit.

The Scripture instruction is: "*let everything be done for edifying*" (1 Corinthians 14:26).

There is nothing more edifying to see Christians having fun in church, with healings and miracles happening, and the word of prophecy strengthening and comforting many people.

This is the type of church that attracts unbelievers to Christ more than any others who might be more "orthodox" in the doctrine, but barren in the flow of the Spirit in their services.

The flow of the Holy Spirit is mainly experienced through the spoken word that comes from believers inspired by the Holy Spirit.

If the nine gifts of the Spirit are examined, we can see that they all involve the spoken word. It has been said that the gifts of the Spirit are all different expressions of the voice of God.

When we, as a group, agree in faith and start speaking as the Holy Spirit leads us, there is an environment where the Holy Spirit can move freely.

As the Holy Spirit inspires various ones of us to speak miracles into being, healing into the lives of sick people, words of knowledge and wisdom, and upbuilding prophecies, then we start to rejoice *“with joy unspeakable and full of glory”* (1 Peter 1:18)

*With joy unspeakable and full of glory,
Full of Glory,
Full of Glory.
With joy unspeakable and full of glory,
And the half has never yet been told.*

Now that we have established a firm foundation that there is a place where we can enter into full fellowship with the Father and the Son through faith, which can call “the glory”, and that it has a mighty strengthening effect on us as believers, and attracts unbelievers to Christ.

So, to summarize:

- There is a place that we can rise to, called the glory of God.
- God invites us there.
- We enter into this place by faith.
- Jesus will not cast us out once we get there.
- We radiate the fruit of the Spirit when we are in the glory.
- We create an environment around us that causes the Holy Spirit to move freely in the nine gifts.
- There can be manifestations that go along with being in the glory and we should welcome and enjoy them.
- When we are in the glory and the glory is in us, we can take other believers along with us.
- Unbelievers who are coming short of the glory, can be drawn to Christ, be converted, and be transported into the glory.
- The glory is the place where we fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation and so gain wonderful insights into the plans and purposes of God when we get into the glory.

*Heaven came down, and glory filled my soul;
When at the Cross my Saviour made me whole.
My sins were washed away,
And my night was turned to day.
When Heaven came down, and glory filled my soul.*

A Scripture to end with:

"Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24).

Although this speaks of us going to be with Jesus in glory after this life is over, there is a hint that we can get a foretaste of that wonderful glory here on earth as we seek to fellowship with Him more closely on a higher level.

May the Holy Spirit do it in us as we reach out to him, praying with the understanding and praying with the spirit (1 Corinthians 14:15).



"Don't let your worries get the best of you, remember, Moses started out as a basket case"

2013 and You ~ Will It Be Different?

By Rodney W. Francis

I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the goals and ambitions you may have for 2013, and beyond? **What will your focus be this year? Will it be more clearly defined than last year?** Remember, it is God's will that you live life to the full through Jesus Christ Who lives in you. With Him in your life you can be an overcomer every day. **You can achieve what He created you to achieve!** "You can do all things through Christ Who strengthens you" ([Philippians 4:13](#)  )!

We all need to be encouraged, exhorted, inspired, challenged, even provoked at times to rise up more into that which God has purposed for us. The world situation is such that unless they hear, see and know a demonstration of the Living Jesus Christ, then they will continue to slide into a hopeless and lost eternity. Jesus Christ has saved us to make a positive difference. He has filled us with His Holy Spirit to make us effective witnesses of Him. If the world does not see Jesus in us, then they don't see Him at all! Be inspired to know who you are as a believer and follower of Jesus Christ in 2013 and beyond! My heart for you is that 2013 (and beyond) will be the greatest and grandest times yet in your walk with God and in your service for Jesus Christ the Lord. To do this you will need to have a right and positive confession ~ based on the Word of God ~ that will cause you to rise above every obstacle, and to enable you to triumph in every situation. I pray that your life will not be hindered by the frustration of wanting to serve God and yet not knowing where you fit. So many Christians are disillusioned and frustrated because they are not being trained, equipped and released into their God-ordained calling. **Right now our generation needs every born-again, Holy Spirit-filled Christian believer to be living and occupied in the very centre of God's will.** His heart for us is that we not only **know God's will for our life, but that we prove God's will for our life by our living and walking in it** ([Romans 12:1-2](#)  )!

Jesus said:

- "The labourers are few!" (see [Matthew 9:35-38](#)  .
- **Does this not concern us?**

Life is too short for us to be wasting our time, gifts and finances on things other than the purposes of God. I speak out of the burden of my heart. I see so many

who are not fulfilled in their calling. Or they are placed in a position where their frustration only grows larger! Unless we, personally, know our calling in God ~ and give ourselves wholeheartedly to that call ~ we will continue to “short-change” ourselves in the work of the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. If we really want this year to be a whole lot better than our previous years, then **we have to sow into this year in such a way that we will reap the benefits of that which we sow.** We have to be willing to make whatever changes are necessary to see God using us more. The problem cannot be blamed on other people. I have learned that if I am available to God, then He can move every obstacle in order to get me where He wants me to be. We have to be finished with making excuses, and simply come before God as we are, offer ourselves wholeheartedly to Him, let Him be LORD OF ALL, and make whatever changes are necessary. We will be amazed at what He can do in and through us. I well remember the saying: **“If Jesus Christ is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.”**

- **We DO reap what we sow!** (see [Galatians 6:1-10](#)  .
- **We ARE the products of our believing, or not believing!**

The Holy Spirit, Who lives inside of every born-again, Holy Spirit-filled believer, **is power for service** ([Luke 24:49](#)  ; [Acts 1:8](#)  ). **Service, not simply an added blessing!** We cannot experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit ~ which is **power for service** ~ and then simply sit in church or meetings as passive hearers only. That frustrates the Holy Spirit within us! And if He is frustrated within us, you can guarantee we will be frustrated more! So . . .

- **What obstacles are there in the way?**
- **What decisions need to be made?**
- **What excuses need to be deleted?**
- **What is stopping you?**
- **What changes need to be made?**
- **What challenges need to be faced up to?**
- **The call and will of God does not just “fall into our laps” ~ we have to pursue it with all our heart.**

The fact is that unless we do something about desiring change, then nothing changes! **To change means making some definite decisions that show God you are serious about wanting to change for the better.**

Whatever the time, date and year, **YOU CAN cultivate YOUR faith in the Promises of God NOW and be the man or woman He says you can be, and what He has called you to be. It is not too late!**

- Say what God says about you today ~ it really does do wonders, increases your vision, opens up new dimensions to you, and gives opportunity to be a powerful witness for Jesus Christ.
- Does your faith move mountains ~ or do mountains move your faith?

Be a mountain mover in 2013 and beyond! Be a mountain mover on the authority of God's Word given to you through Jesus Christ and the revelation of the Holy Spirit! **He will not fail you.**

Right now the doors of opportunity are open for those who will hear God's voice, listen to what He says and are prepared to demonstrate to God by our faith actions that we do believe Him. Faith is an action. Faith is demonstrated by what we do with what God says. He is speaking today to His people.

"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, 'Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them' (Mark 11:23-24  , NKJV).

Other helpful Scriptures to consider: [Isaiah 6](#)   and 54; [Acts 2](#)  ; [Hebrews 11](#)  .

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Preaching the good news and healing
the sick in New Zealand, Nepal
And the World



Nepal village life - Nov 2010 - Chandranigapur and Hetauda

If Ilam was beautiful, Chandranigapur was plain. But the people were not. Pastor Dipak and his team served and served and served, and it is clear why his church is full of beautiful believers. We were humbled by their grace.

Our team tolerated our guest house without complaint, finding Kiwi-ingenuous ways around its shortcomings, the most effective being that we were only there one night, thanks to a flight cancelled at the last minute that had us an extra day in Kathmandu. We accept the unpredictability of missions, because somewhere God has his reasons!

It was the rice harvest, which drew many away, but those who came were hungry for God. This time we began by calling forward all who were sick (including members of our own team, who had been fighting colds and tummy bugs). Those who weren't sick prayed for them, and most were healed within a matter of minutes! Later we also saw several demons cast out, and the faces of the newly liberated shone with Jesus. In the streets, our team ministered while the street loungers eyed us suspiciously, arms akimbo. Then one lady was healed of a frozen hand, and promptly ran to fetch her neighbour. Curiosity overcame scepticism, and a now eager crowd gathered and heard about the love of Jesus – many said they would come to church on Saturday. Surely this is the method that Jesus, our example, mostly used! Why don't we do the same?

Risky? Yes! But we all take risks, if we consider it worthwhile. Surely one soul more in heaven is worth it? Jesus evidently thought so.

Then it was on to the Youth Conference. The Lonely Planet Guide to Nepal says that 'there is no reason to stop in Hetauda except to change buses!' We found a better one – to change lives! Almost 300 young enthusiasts bopped and screamed to Hillsong numbers in a packed and steamy upstairs room. Very sadly they were not expecting a team, just myself, so the programme did not really make space for multiple involvement. However, God had given me a series of messages on the Prodigal Son from Luke 15.

About 80 responded to the altar call for salvation on the first night, and from then on they lapped up the Word. Many were filled with the Spirit too, and on the final evening we asked for all who had back-pain – about 15 came forward. I was just calling our team to minister to them, when the Lord

showed me another way. We lined them up, each with their right hand on the back of the one to their right! When they commanded, 'Be healed, in the Name of Jesus,' about one third were instantly healed. We closed them up and did it again! More healed... now we had only three left, who were also healed after the third prayer! God is good!

Despite our delayed return due to another cancelled internal flight, we are still planning to go again in March. God has been speaking to me about training others who are willing to teach Schools of Healing themselves, on how to run these Schools. Hopefully our visit to the Far West of Nepal will include that, so that in future others will take this ministry into the towns and villages that we are unable to reach. Why not join us?



300 zealots attended the Youth Conference at Hetauda. Almost 80 responded to the call for salvation!

Below: Traditional Chandranigapur houses on stilts avoid floods and mosquitoes! Here they are drying maize cobs



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Have Faith in God

By Smith Wigglesworth

"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. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:23,24).

These are days when we need to have our faith strengthened, when we need to know God. God has designed that the just shall live by faith. Any man can be changed by faith, no matter how he may be fettered. I know that God's word is sufficient. One word from Him can change a nation. His word is from everlasting to everlasting. It is through the entrance of this everlasting Word, this incorruptible seed, that we are born again, and come into this wonderful salvation. Man cannot live by bread alone, but must live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. This is the food of faith. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Everywhere men are trying to discredit the Bible and take from it all the miraculous. One preacher says, "Well, you know, Jesus arranged beforehand to have that colt tied where it was, and for the men to say just what they did." I tell you God can arrange everything without going near. He can plan for you, and when He plans for you, all is peace. All things are possible if you will believe.

Another preacher said, "It was an easy thing for Jesus to feed the people with five loaves. The loaves were so big in those days that it was a simple matter to cut them into a thousand pieces each." But He forgot that one little boy brought those five loaves all the way in his lunch basket. There is nothing impossible with god. All the impossibility is with us when we measure God by the limitations of our unbelief.

We have a wonderful God, a God whose ways are past finding out, and whose grace and power are limitless. I was in Belfast one day and saw one of the brethren of the assembly. He said to me, "Wigglesworth, I am troubled. I have had a good deal of sorrow during the past five months. I had a woman in my assembly who could always pray the blessing of heaven down on our meetings.

She is an old woman, but her presence is always an inspiration. But five months ago she fell and broke her thigh. The doctors put her into a plaster cast, and after five months they broke the cast. But the bones were not properly set and so she fell and broke the thigh again."

He took me to her house, and there was a woman lying in a bed on the right hand side of the room. I said to her, "Well, what about it now?" She said, "They have sent me home incurable. The doctors say that I am so old that my bones won't knit. There is no nutriment in my bones and they could never do anything for me and they say I shall have to lie in bed for the rest of my life." I said to her, "Can you believe God?" She replied, "Yes, ever since I heard that you had come to Belfast my faith has been quickened. If you will pray, I will believe. I know there is no power on earth that can make the bones of my thigh knit, but I know there is nothing impossible with God." I said, "Do you believe He will meet you now?" She answered, "I do."

It is grand to see people believe God. God knew all about this leg and that it was broken in two places. I said to the woman, "When I pray, something will happen." Her husband was sitting there; he had been in his chair for four years and could not walk a step. He called out, "I don't believe. I won't believe. You will never get me to believe." I said, "All right," and laid my hands on his wife in the name of the Lord Jesus. The moment hands were laid upon her the power of God went right through her and she cried out, "I'm healed." I said, "I'm not going to assist you to rise. God will do it all." She rose and walked up and down the room, praising God.

The old man was amazed, at what had happened to his wife, and he cried out, "Make me walk, make me walk." I said to him, "You old sinner, repent." He cried out, "Lord, You know I never meant what I said. You know I believe." I don't think he meant what he said; anyhow the Lord was full of compassion. If He marked our sins, where would any of us be? If we will meet the conditions, God will always meet us. If we believe, all things are possible. I laid my hands on him and the power went right through the old man's body; and those legs, for the first time in four years, received power to carry his body, and he walked up and down and in and out. He said, "O what great things God has done for us tonight!"

"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Desire toward God, and you will have desires from God; and He will meet you on the line of those desires when you reach out in simple faith.

A man came to me in one of my meetings who had seen other people healed and wanted to be healed, too. He explained that his arm had been fixed in a certain position for many years and he could not move it. "Got any faith?" I asked. He said he had a lot of faith. After prayer he was able to swing his arm round and round. But he was not satisfied and complained, "I feel a little bit of trouble just there," pointing to a certain place. "Do you know what is the trouble with you?" He answered, "No." I said, "Imperfect faith." "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, *believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*"

Did you believe before you were saved? So many people would be saved, but they want to feel saved first. There was never a man who felt saved before he believed. God's plan is always this, if you will believe, you shall see the glory of God. I believe God wants to bring us all to a definite place of unswerving faith and confidence in Himself.

Jesus here uses the figure of a mountain. Why does He say a mountain? Because, if faith can remove a mountain, it can remove anything. The plan of God is so marvelous, that if you will only believe, all things are possible.

There is one special phrase to which I want to call to your attention, "And shall not doubt in his heart." The heart is the mainspring. See that young man and young woman. They have fallen in love at first sight. In a short while there is a deep affection, and a strong heart love, the one toward the other. What is a heart of love? A heart of faith. Faith and love are kin. In the measure that that young man and that young woman love one another they are true. One may go to the North and the other to the South, but because of their love they will be true to each other.

It is the same when there is a deep love in the heart toward the Lord Jesus Christ. In this new life into which God has brought us, Paul tells us that we have become dead to the law by the body of Christ, that we should be *married to another*; even to Him who is raised from the dead. God brings us into a place of perfect love and perfect faith. A man who is born of God is brought into an inward affection, a loyalty to the Lord Jesus that shrinks from anything impure. You see the purity of a man and woman when there is a deep natural affection between them; they disdain the very thought of either of them being untrue. I say that, in the measure that a man has faith in Jesus, he is pure. He that believes that Jesus is the Christ overcomes the world. It is a faith that works by love.

Just as we have heart fellowship with our Lord, our faith cannot be daunted. We cannot doubt in our hearts. There comes, as we go on with God, a wonderful association, an impartation of His very life and nature within. As we read His

Word and believe the promises that He has so graciously given to us, we are made partakers of His very essence and life. The Lord is made to us a Bridegroom, and we are His bride. His words to us are spirit and life, transforming us and changing us, expelling that which is natural and bringing in that which is divine.

It is impossible to comprehend the love of God as we think on natural lines. We must have the revelation from the Spirit of God. God giveth liberally. He that asketh, receiveth. God is willing to bestow on us all things that pertain to life and godliness. Oh, it was the love of God that brought Jesus. And it is this same love that helps you and me to believe. In every weakness God will be your strength. You who need His touch, remember that He loves you. Look, wretched, helpless, sick one, away to the God of all grace, whose very essence is love, who delights to give liberally all the inheritance of life and strength and power that you are in need of.

When I was in Switzerland the Lord was graciously working and healing many of the people. I was staying with Brother Reuss of Goldwil and two policemen were sent to arrest me. The charge was that I was healing the people without a license. Mr. Reuss said to them, "I am sorry that he is not here just now. He is holding a meeting about two miles away, but before you arrest him let me show you something."

Brother Reuss took these two policemen down to one of the lower parts of that district, to a house with which they were familiar, for they had often gone to that place to arrest a certain woman, who was repeatedly put in prison because of continually being engaged in drunken brawls. He took them to this woman and said to them, "This is one of the many cases of blessing that have come through the ministry of the man you have come to arrest. This woman came to our meeting in a drunken condition. Her body was broken, for she was ruptured in two places. While she was drunk, the evangelist laid his hands on her and asked God to heal her and deliver her." The woman joined in, "Yes, and God saved me, and I have not tasted a drop of liquor since." The policemen had a warrant for my arrest, but they said with disgust, "Let the doctors do this kind of thing." They turned and went away and that was the last we heard of them.

We have a Jesus that heals the broken-hearted, who lets the captives go free, who saves the very worst. Dare you, *dare you*, spurn this glorious Gospel of God for spirit, soul and body? Dare you spurn this grace? I realize that this full Gospel has in great measure been hid, this Gospel that brings liberty, this Gospel that brings souls out of bondage, this Gospel that brings perfect health to the

body, this Gospel of entire salvation. Listen again to this word of Him who left the glory to bring us this great salvation, "Verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, . . . he shall have *whatsoever* he saith." *Whatsoever!*

I realize that God can never bless us on the lines of being hard-hearted, critical or unforgiving. This will hinder faith quicker than anything. I remember being at a meeting where there were some people tarrying for the Baptism - seeking for cleansing, for the moment a person is cleansed the Spirit will fall. There was one man with eyes red from weeping bitterly. He said to me, "I shall have to leave. It is no good my staying without I change things. I have written a letter to my brother-in-law, and filled it with hard words, and this thing must first be straightened out." He went home and told his wife, "I'm going to write a letter to your brother and ask him to forgive me for writing to him the way I did." "You fool!" she said. "Never mind," he replied, "this is between God and me, and it has got to be cleared away." He wrote the letter and came again, and straightway God filled him with the Spirit.

I believe there are a great many people who would be healed, but they are harboring things in their hearts that are as a blight. Let these things go. Forgive, and the Lord will forgive you. There are many good people, people that mean well, but they have no power to do anything for God. There is just some little thing that came in their hearts years ago, and their faith has been paralyzed ever since. Bring everything to the light. God will sweep it all away if you will let Him. Let the precious blood of Christ cleanse from all sin. If you will but believe, God will meet you and bring into your lies the sunshine of His love.

HEALINGS IN NEW ZEALAND

We have received a few testimonies of those healed in the meeting conducted by Brother Smith Wigglesworth at Wellington, New Zealand. Mrs. E. Curtis of Christchurch, New Zealand, was suffering with septic poisoning. She had become only a skeleton and the doctors could do nothing for her. She had agonizing pains all day and all night. She was healed immediately prayer was made for her. She states that for the past sixteen years she has been a martyr to pain but is now wonderfully well. Another testified to healing to deafness, goiter, adenoids and bad eyesight. Another testified to healing of double curvature of the spine from infancy, hip disease, weak heart, leg lengthened three inches, which grew normal like the other leg. It was also three inches less

in circumference. She wore a large boot but now walks on even feet, the large boot having been discarded. Another was healed from goiter through a handkerchief. --*Pentecostal Evangel*.

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Next week (21 April) I (Paul) will be preaching again at St Aidan's, and the text will be:

"The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward" (Exodus 14:15).

Visit My Website

<http://www.divinehealingtraining.org.nz>

Divine Healing/Prophetic Equipping Training Ministry

This site is for those who are wanting to be equipped for an effective ministry for the Lord

This site was last updated on 14 April 2013.



Paul Christensen, Webmaster [CONTACT ME](#)

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My focus is to work towards equipping believers in the divine healing/prophetic ministries, and to work in the area of domestic violence in the church.

I am part of the ministry team of [Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry](#) in the Auckland region.

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