

Jesse Rich Ministries

Newsletter

"Called to reach the World with the Word of Faith"

February 2005

Putting the Word of God First

Dear Friend and Partner,

When faced with a need, go to the Word. When nothing seems to work, stay with the Word. When feelings of fear, doubt, and unbelief are overwhelming, say only what the Word says. When praying, pray the Word. When thinking, think the Word.

Don't think about the problem. Think about what the Word says about the problem. When having a struggle believing God, get into the Word until the Word gets in you.

A sign that you have been putting adequate time in the Word is that your mind is being renewed to the Word of God.

*This means that when confronted with problems and issues, the first thing you think and say is what the Word says.

*You're no longer double-minded about the situation. You have peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7). For you to walk in victory, you must be totally committed to God's Word. Keep your tape player playing the Word 24-7, because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

A believer will always have difficulty in receiving from God when they haven't been putting adequate time in the Word of God. You cannot afford to let a day or two go by that you haven't been listening to, or spending time in the Word.

You should be listening to faith tapes so much that you're wearing them out! It should be that you can't wait to hear the next tape, and you'd rather be listening to the Word than watching TV or any other kind of entertainment. A deception that many charismatic, Bible believing, spirit-filled faith people have fallen to is they think that because they've already heard it, (the Word) they know it.

Begin to evaluate your spiritual life to see if you're getting lukewarm or becoming deceived. How many tapes do you listen to a week? Do you ever say the word "sick" in reference to yourself? Are you saying things like, "I'm afraid not", "I'm afraid so," "I'm scared to death," "I'm dying to go"?

Do you ever find yourself talking about how expensive things are? Are you worrying about how you're going to pay the oil bill, rent or mortgage, or how you will buy your necessities, food or clothing? Have you convinced yourself that you can no longer tithe?

Do you find yourself taking on the cares of the world? Are you getting stressed out? Do you find yourself judging others and criticizing? Are you irritable, moody and faultfinding with everyone? Are you difficult to live with, frustrated or anxious? When was the last time you stood for prosperity and rebuked poverty and lack?

So you see, it's really easy to become complacent to the point that you're no longer fighting the good fight of faith. Satan does not want us in the Word of God. If he can keep us away from the Word, he can prevent us from living in total victory.

A believer never becomes weary doing the Word. A believer only becomes weary when they try to live their Christian life without the Word.

The more you stand on God's Word by holding fast your confession of faith, casting down imaginations, thinking in line with the Word, listening to the Word day and night, the stronger (not weaker) you become. If the mountains are not moving when you speak to them, you need to get into the Word more. (See Heb.4:14, 2 Cor. 10:5, Josh. 1:8, Rom. 10:17)

The worst mind you, as a believer, can have is to be double minded (James 1:8,9). Double mindedness is only cured by constantly feeding on the Word.

Here is something you can practice and begin to implement immediately in your life. Listen to faith tapes so much that you get to the place that no matter what comes up in conversation or situation concerning yourself or others, the first thing you say is what the Word says about it.

If it's a financial matter, say, "My God shall supply all of my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). If it is sickness, say, "By His stripes, I am healed" (1 Peter 2:24). If it's depression, say, "The Joy of the Lord is my strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). In other words, when anything comes up, if you're full of the Word, you are immediately going to think, "What does the Word say?" and act accordingly.

Jesus said in Matthew 4: 4, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

It's important for us, as believers, to feed daily on God's Word. We read in 1 Peter 2: 2, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Feeding daily on God's Word helps us grow and develop spiritually. In order for us to prosper financially, live in divine health, and enjoy all the provisions and blessings that God has purchased for us through Christ Jesus, we must stay built up spiritually, as we read in Ephesians 6:10-18:

¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which

is the word of God:

¹⁸Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

We have an unseen enemy who does not want us to live in victory and enjoy life. He's going to contest us every day of our lives with worry, fear, doubt and unbelief in order to try to confuse and rob us of the inheritance we have in Christ Jesus. It's important that we stay focused on God's promises. His promises are seen in scriptures such as:

3 John 2: Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

2 Corinthians 8:9: For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Mark 10:29, 30: ...Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Malachi 3:10-12: Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts.

These verses reveal to us how much God wants us to be blessed. We're His children and He wants to help us in every area of our lives -- that includes finances. Sometimes we can limit God from helping us by wavering, wondering and being double minded.

I remember when I was in Bible school. I had fallen behind in paying my rent, tuition and utilities. I began to feel so discouraged, wondering where I had failed and why things weren't going the way I thought they should.

The Lord began to show me in my heart what I needed to do. He brought me James 1:2-8 and revealed to me that if I really believed I had the money, I would act like it.

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. ⁵If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

⁶But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸A double minded man is unstable in all his ways) . I saw where I had gotten behind in praising and thanking God.

We need to understand that one way we can release our faith is by praising and thanking God. I had already prayed and asked the Lord for the money. But I was struggling so much with my mind and emotions that I had allowed discouragement to take over. Sometimes our worst enemy can be our own mind and thoughts. That can be true if we allow it to stay that way. It is Satan who brings the negative thoughts to us, as we see in Matthew 4:1-11:

¹Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ²And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

³And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

⁴But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

~~⁵Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,~~ ⁶And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

⁷Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ~~⁸Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;~~ ⁹~~And saith unto him~~, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

¹⁰Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is

written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. ¹¹Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

When we are double minded, it hinders God from working in our lives. It's not that God doesn't love us, or that He doesn't care, or that He's being hard on us. It's just that faith in His promises is what causes Him to move in our lives. It's the principle that He established when He created mankind. He gave us dominion over all this earth. When we fail to appropriate His promises, or when we don't continually act on His Word, we short circuit His power from flowing to us and through us.

Do you remember when the disciples' boat was beginning to sink in Mark 4:35-41?

³⁵And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. ³⁶And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

³⁷And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. ³⁸And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

³⁹And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

⁴⁰And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? ⁴¹And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

The disciples asked the question, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" That's exactly how we think and even sometimes talk when we haven't been meditating on the promises of God and putting quality time in prayer. Those feelings come to all of us at one time or another. I know I have felt that way many times before. The more we think that way, the more we allow those feelings to govern us. Then, they will persuade us that we're not going to make it or receive all we need from God. But the sooner we stir ourselves up and make ourselves be doers of the Word and not just hearers, the sooner we will get back in faith. Period.

Whether a person realizes it or not, wavering and wondering is being double minded. If we don't deal with the double mindedness, we're not going to receive anything from the

Lord. As hard and as cruel as that may sound, we must realize that we receive everything we get from God by faith: even our very salvation -the new birth- is by faith, as we read in Ephesians 2:8,9: ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

We receive our healing by faith: ...Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague. Mark 5:34

We receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit by faith: If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? Luke 11:13

Our righteousness is by faith: Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Galatians 3:6

Our faith is what pleases God: But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6

Faith is believing that we have received what God has promised. A good scriptural illustration is found in Romans 4:17-22: ¹⁷(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

¹⁸Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. ¹⁹And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

²⁰ He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹ And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. ²² And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

***~All Abraham had to base his faith on was what God said... ...and that's all that anyone needs!
~All you need is a verse of scripture.***

~For healing, one could take 1 Peter 2:24: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

~For finances, one could take Malachi 3:10-12: ¹⁰Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

¹¹And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. ¹²And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

~For raising children, one could take Isaiah 54:13: And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

~For protection, read the 91st Psalm:

¹He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

²I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. ³Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

⁴He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

⁵Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; ⁶Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

⁷A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. ⁸Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

⁹Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; ¹⁰There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

¹¹For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹²They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

¹³Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. ¹⁴Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

¹⁵He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

¹⁶With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

~To be delivered out of trouble, take Psalm 91:15: He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

~For a long life, take Psalm 91:16: With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

~When faced with trouble, take Isaiah 54:17: No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

~When Satan has already robbed you, take Job: 42:10: And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

~When you have failed repeatedly, use Job 42:12: So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

~When you've sinned and gotten in trouble, use Hebrews 4:16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

~When doubting that God wants to help you, use Acts 10:34: Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

~When feeling like God is no longer with you, read 1 John 4:4: Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

~When tormented with fear, take 2 Timothy 1:7: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

~When faced with a lack of ability, take Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

~When wondering what to say, read Psalm 107:2: Let the

redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

~When you wonder if God loves you, read John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

~When doubting that God has forgiven you of your sin, read Isaiah 43:25: I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Romans 8:1: There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

~When you've given your best and nothing seems to be working, take Luke 6:38: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

~When you feel like a failure, take Romans 8:37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

~When you feel that there's no way out, take Mark 10:27: ...With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

~When faced with a mountain, take Mark 11:23: For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

~When stressed out, read 1 Peter 5:7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

~When having difficulty overcoming the flesh, read 1 Corinthians 9:27: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

~When faced with a need, quote Philippians 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

~When people tell you that God 'doesn't do that anymore', read Hebrews 13:8:
Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not...

Acts 10:34: Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

~When feeling frustrated, pray in the Spirit: Romans 8:26-28: ²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

²⁷And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

~When feeling depressed, read Hebrews 13:15: By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

~When you're feeling like giving up and quitting, read Hebrews 10:35-38:

³⁵Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

³⁶For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. ³⁷For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

³⁸Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

~When you need guidance from God, wait on Him in prayer: Matthew 26:36-45: ³⁶Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. ³⁷And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

³⁸Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. ³⁹And he

went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

⁴⁰And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

⁴²He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

⁴³And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

⁴⁵Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

~When you've done all that you know to do, keep standing on God's Word: Ephesians 6:13, 14: ¹³Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

These are just some of the exceedingly great and precious promises that are for you to take hold of in that time of need.

God has never failed; He always comes through. Instead of listening to the lies of the devil, listen to yourself speak God's Word, and in Jesus' Name, keep praising God for His holy promises. Keep in mind that as long as you are doing the Word, God is working on your behalf!

Your partner in faith,

Brother Rich

JESSE RICH MINISTRIES
Post Office Box 237170
New York, NY 10023

or

JESSE RICH MINISTRIES
Post Office Box 2250
Hartford, CT 06145

PHONE: (212) 501-7999