

# ***Having a Doable Knowledge of God's Word***

**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...** Hosea 4:6 Hosea 4:6

**Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge...**

Isaiah 5:13

Isaiah 5:13

**If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.** John 15:7 John 15:7

**Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;** Hebrews 2:14 Hebrews 2:14

**Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.** 2 Corinthians 2:11 2 Corinthians 2:11

**Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us...** 1Thessalonians 2:18 1Thessalonians 2:18

The lack of knowledge of God's Word hinders us more than we realize. We are never going to know all of the Bible, but we definitely need to know what comes from God and what comes from the devil. In order to be able to grow and develop spiritually, every believer needs to have a scriptural foundation taught to them. This does not refer to a historical knowledge of God's Word, but a *doable knowledge of God's Word*.

A doable knowledge of God's Word means that we have in our heart a knowledge of scriptures that we can take and use to put into action. As when the apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Ghost, said in Ephesians 6:17,

**And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

A doable knowledge of God's Word also means

~ being able to use the written Word of God and speak it out of your mouth to the devil in Jesus' Name, as Jesus did in Matthew 4:1-10,

~ learning to take the Word of God and using it to approach God in prayer, in Jesus' Name, and using the Word of God to plead your case and cause in Jesus' Name,

~ using the written Word of God to stand on in the times of tests and trials,

~ meditating on the Word of God to renew your mind to God's Word,

~ using the Word of God to witness to others,

~ using the written Word of God to cast down imaginations,

~ using the Word of God to find out what God's will is for your life,

~ and using the Word of God to remind yourself, as well as others, what God has promised, ***for what God has promised, He will do, if we will not waver or doubt.***

If a believer is not taught God's Word, they will never be bold to approach God in prayer. They will hesitate to resist the attacks of the devil because they will think that what is happening to them was sent by God and/or is God's will. For example, there's no way in the world that a person can be bold and claim their healing when sick if they believe that God put sickness on them. People can become so contaminated in their thinking and believing from religious teachings and beliefs that sometimes it can be very difficult for them to appropriate the promises of God.

For instance, almost every born-again child of God believes in the salvation message of John 3:16 and the great commission of Mark 16:15&16. But, that same believer may have a very difficult time believing 3 John 2 (that God wants them to prosper and be in good health). No one tries to explain John 3:16 to the church, but when it comes to 3 John 2, it is a different story. There always seems to be some preacher (who probably means well) who tries to talk us out of our divine healing and prosperity which is found in 3 John 2.

In some instances, the believer may have an even more difficult time believing Mark 16:17 & 18, which reads,

<sup>17</sup> **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;** <sup>18</sup> **They shall take up serpents; and if**

**they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup>They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

The majority of the body of Christ today probably *never* casts out devils in Jesus' Name; the majority of the body of Christ today probably *has not* been filled with the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues; and the majority of the body of Christ today probably believes that *if* God wants them to have good health, He'll give it to them. As far as financial prosperity, they feel, *'He knows my needs better than I do!'*

It doesn't take any fight of faith to stay defeated, afflicted, depressed or poor, but it is going to take the good fight of faith to lay hold of the promises of God and claim what belongs to us in Christ Jesus through knowledge of God's Word. ***There is no way in the world that some scriptures mean what they say, and others don't — that God meant one verse, and not another verse!***

One of the great benefits of having a knowledge of scriptures like 1 Peter 2:24 and Matthew 8:17 is that, even if you are sick, you will know that it is not God's will for you to be sick and you will be able to claim your healing.

**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. 1Peter 2:24 1Peter 2:24**

**That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. Matthew 8:17 Matthew 8:17**

But, if you don't know any healing scriptures and you get stricken with something that is severe, just about all you will be able to do is lie in bed and wonder why this happened to you, or what you did wrong to deserve this, or why God put this on you. Just knowing 1 Peter 2:24 alone can be enough to help you to know that God doesn't want you to be sick!

All my life, I believed that God *could* heal *if* it was His will. It wasn't until after I'd gotten saved that I began to see from God's Word that God did not want me to be sick. And, from the day that one dear brother in the Lord came up to me and handed me some faith teaching tapes, I began to see that sickness was a curse of the broken law and that I'd been redeemed from sickness and disease.

From then on, I tried to never again listen to any minister, by way of radio, television, books, tapes, and/or public meetings, who did not believe or teach the Word of faith message. It wasn't because I believed that they weren't sincere, or that they weren't good ministers, or that they taught a false doctrine, or that they were of the devil, or that they were not called of God or anointed, or that they weren't totally dedicated to God or that they wouldn't do anything that God would ask them to do. *It was because they just didn't have a revelation in the area of divine healing.*

I just felt that I could not afford to expose myself to the teaching that so many dear ministers teach, that *"God does not always heal; God sent sickness to teach us things; sickness is just our cross to bear; God could heal you if He wants to; if you pray to God for healing, you should always pray, '...if it be Thy will'"*. It took me a long time and a lot of work to become single-minded and fully persuaded in the area of divine healing to ever expose myself to anything other than to the Word of faith message.

Everybody in the body of Christ is always going to have different beliefs and opinions about the rapture of the church, the great tribulation, whether Jesus died spiritually or not, who the antichrist is, how to be water-baptized, where Cain got his wife, and other debates such as these. These are not life-threatening issues that you would be thinking a whole lot about if you were in the emergency room with a loved one. You would not be overly concerned with these questions at this time. All you would be thinking about is how to get God to show up and perform a miracle.

I don't mean to minimize the importance of the rapture of the church, or the great tribulation, or any of those things, but once you get saved, you only have so much time to get yourself built-up spiritually before Satan comes around to steal, kill and destroy in your life (John 10:10). And he does all these things when a person is most vulnerable and spiritually naive and weak because they are just a baby in Christ. As God said in 1 Peter 2:2,

**As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**

Once we get saved, we need to start growing and developing spiritually until we become people like those described in Ephesians 6:10-18:

**<sup>10</sup>Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>Wherefore 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.**

<sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; <sup>15</sup>And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup>Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. <sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: <sup>18</sup>Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>Wherefore 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. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; <sup>15</sup>And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup>Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. <sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: <sup>18</sup>Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

So many believers are confused today because they are experiencing some kind of trial and don't know how to get through it. This is because they have not been taught the Word of faith. Pertaining to His children, God told me that most of them are spiritually weak and suffer things He never intended for them to suffer. Most of this is due to the fact that they've never been taught the Word of faith. Consequently, they are blaming Him for what they are experiencing, such as sickness, disease, poverty and lack. As we read in Romans 10:8, 14-17,

<sup>8</sup> But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; <sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? <sup>17</sup> So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; <sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath

**believed our report? <sup>17</sup> So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

God has called and commissioned me to go teach His people all over the world the Word of faith. He said that I would be able to do this through radio, television, the Internet, publications and through audio, visual and printed materials. He said, *"Use every possible means you can to get the message out to my people, along with your meetings and seminars."*

Your gifts of support are more important right now than ever because they enable me to reach more of God's people. Their very lives hinge on us reaching them with the message. They need to be fed on God's Word because they are starving spiritually and are being taken advantage of by the devil. The sooner we reach them, the sooner they'll walk in victory!

Thank you for doing your part, and thank you for being my partner and co-laborer in the work of the Lord. As Jesus referred to in Matthew 9:35-38,

**<sup>35</sup> And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. <sup>36</sup> But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; <sup>38</sup> Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.**

This month, in appreciation for your financial support, I have something that I want to send you to help build you up in the area of divine healing. It is my, *"Divine Healing Scriptures"* prayer card. I use it myself. I would like for you to read your healing scriptures every day. This will help you minister to others in the area of divine healing. Your gifts of support this month help will help me to fulfill the call of God on my life. Also, when you give and obey God's Word and the voice of the Holy Spirit in your giving, it puts you in the position to receive your miracle from God. When we help God reach others, it never goes unnoticed by our Father and He always blesses us back, far greater than we could ever imagine.

*Thank you for doing something today.*

Your partner in faith,

**Pastor Rich**

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## **Prayer and Being Led by the Holy Ghost**

*Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. Matthew 26:36*

Jesus gave us an example in the above scripture of how we can go somewhere and pray until we are clear about what God wants us to do. This kind of waiting on God in prayer takes a lot of time. When I got saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit, I sensed in my heart that God had called me to preach. You've got to realize that I did not know the terms then that I do now. At the time, the Christians that I was fellowshiping with didn't know them either. As far as I know or can recall, there was no teaching at all about being led by the Holy Spirit among Pentecostal circles. All I knew was that when I'd got over into prayer for any length of time, I kept seeing myself ministering. The less I'd pray, the less I believed that I was going to minister.

I hadn't heard any teaching about being led by the Holy Spirit or that we are spirit beings or that, as believers, the Holy Spirit dwells in us and leads us and guides us. Jesus taught us this in John 14:26, John 15:26, and John 16:1-14 and also seen in Romans 8:16. Because I had not been taught, I didn't know what to do with this feeling I got in my heart. We don't *feel* it; we *sense* it. It's an inward witness. A better, scriptural way of expressing things like that is to say, "*I had an inward witness, I perceived,*" or "*I had a prompting*".

You can't trust feelings because they are part of the soulish realm – your emotions. I'm not saying that you can't feel God sometimes or that you can't feel a tangible anointing at times. The people I associated with when I first got saved went by their feelings. They *felt* that God heard them pray that night. They 'felt' that God was going to do something for them. They 'felt' the anointing upon the minister, and they 'felt' the song service was anointed. But if we keep talking like that, we leave the wrong impression on baby Christians. One of the most difficult transitions a person will make in their Christian life is from their feelings over to being led by the spirit. In other words, it is making the transition going from the soulish realm over to walking in the spirit. Soulsh ties and habits are hard to break and to overcome.

**And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,**

Luke 4:1

**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.** Romans 8:14

**And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?** Mark 2:8

You can imagine not being taught anything from the Word of God and not having anybody to talk to about this. There was not one person to go to who could even understand what I was talking about! I would tell people, *"I feel like God has called me to preach."* It was all the vocabulary I had at the time to use to try to express what was going on in my heart. I probably caused myself more problems and stirred up more persecution against myself. When you've got something in your heart and no one else understands what in the world you're talking about, *it can be one of the most frustrating experiences in your life!*

Learning to be led by the Holy Spirit is one of the greatest benefits of being taught the faith message. As far as I know, it's the only message in the world that goes into depth about being led by the Holy Ghost. Other ministries may touch on how to be led by the Holy Ghost, but not to the in-depth degree that the faith people do. The faith message goes in depth by not only teaching you the scriptures on being led by the Holy Ghost, but it also teaches *how to* use the Word of God to do so.

I can't thank God enough for sending someone to teach me the Word of faith. It becomes more valuable to me every day of my life. Fortunately, God sent someone to teach me to go with what I had in my heart, no matter what human reasoning says. It is something I knew in my spirit all along, but because I wasn't adequately taught, didn't have confidence that God would speak to me and didn't have anyone to fellowship with who knew anything about it, this caused me to struggle for a period of time until God could get someone to teach me.

**For as many as led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.** Romans 8:14

As Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He got it settled in His heart what He was to do. I liked the part where He said, *"What, could ye not watch with me one hour?"* I picked up on that statement in my pursuit of God and set a goal to pray an hour every day. At first, I was very zealous and kept my commitment, but then I started to slack off. I learned that when I did slack off in prayer, I'd become more carnal. I'd become more worldly and not as zealous or on fire for God as when I prayed. I just wasn't the best person to be around when I wasn't praying.

We get so many benefits when we wait on God daily in prayer. Set up some kind of schedule for yourself that you will have prayer time every day. I know a man who gets up early before he goes to work and he puts that time in prayer. I also know a lady who had little children. She'd wait until her kids took their naps in the afternoon and take that time to put it in to prayer. Both people ended up being great blessings to the kingdom of God. Though they had two totally different kinds of schedules, they both put time in to prayer every day.

I know of another lady who worked for a certain ministry. She found herself wishing she had more time to pray and found herself saying things like, *"Oh, Lord, I wish I had more time to pray and spend with You."* Every day when she'd come home from work, she would watch two 1/2-hour programs on TV. to unwind. They were old classic reruns, and she really enjoyed them and looked forward to them. One day on the way home from work, the Lord said to her, *"You could give Me your TV. time."* She said, *"But Lord, I work for You all the time, I pray every day, and I teach prayer."* But the Lord kept moving on her heart to take this time and give it to Him. Although it was a sacrifice to her flesh, it was a way that she could delegate more time to God. ***The point is that we really do have the time. The question is, are you going to take the time?***

With the time we invest in prayer, God blesses us back, far greater than all the work we could have done in the natural. We all have busy schedules, but we shouldn't allow ourselves to get into the position that we aren't praying as we should. Our prayer life is the greatest investment we will ever make. Why not let today be the first day that you begin to develop your prayer life? Go somewhere today and pray 10 minutes, and add 5 minutes to it tomorrow. Get to the place that you can pray an hour a day. But it has to start today, not tomorrow. I look forward to hearing what you heard from the Lord in prayer.

**Pastor Jesse Rich**

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