

Jesse Rich Ministries

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www.JesseRichMinistries.com

"Reaching the Word with the Word of Faith"

Believing What God Has Said in His Word

Dear Friend and Partner,

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

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. 2 Corinthians 8:9

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. John 10:10

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day. Deuteronomy 8:18

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. Job 42:10

It is clear from God's Word that our Father God wants us to be financially prosperous. Religion did everything it could to rob us of all our expectation that God would want us to prosper financially. But just like divine healing, or divine deliverance, one must fight the good fight of faith to receive whatever it is that we need from God that is promised in His Word.

For example, in Mark 5:21-43, we read of the following miracles:

The Miracle of Jairus' Daughter and the Miracle of the Woman with the Issue of Blood

And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea. ²²And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, ²³And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: *I pray thee*, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

²⁴And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

²⁵And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, ²⁶And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

²⁷When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. ²⁸For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. ²⁹And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of that plague.

³⁰And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? ³¹And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

³²And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. ³³But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. ³⁴And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

³⁵While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's *house certain* which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

³⁶As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

³⁷And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. ³⁹And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

40And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. **41**And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. **42**And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was *of the age* of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment. **43**And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

The Miracle of the Paralyzed Man being Healed

17And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them.

18And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought *means* to bring him in, and to lay *him* before him. **19**And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with *his* couch into the midst before Jesus.

20And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. **21**And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

22But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? **23**Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? **24**But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

25And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. **26**And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day. Luke 5:18-26

The Tenacity to Receive from God

In each of these miracles, all three individuals have something in common: tenacity. It's a key ingredient that you have to use to override your senses, such as feelings, emotions, common sense, as well as what everybody else is thinking and saying about you.

In looking at these scriptural testimonies of the three people who received their healing, remember this: **faith is the same in every area.**

If you're believing God for a healing, or if you're believing God for finances, or if you're believing God for deliverance, or if you're believing God for restoration, you cannot afford to listen to what people say.

If the woman with the issue of blood had gone by what others said, she never would have gotten healed. If Jairus had gone by what others said, he would have buried his daughter. If the man that couldn't walk had given up because they didn't have any special seating for him, he would've died crippled.

Each one of these individuals that we just read about could have gotten offended at God, or at Jesus for whatever reason they chose, and they would've gone without their miracle. In the same way, Satan will do everything he can to intimidate you, discourage you, and offend you. These are all ploys that he uses, whether you realize it or not.

Continue to Persevere and Never Stop Believing and Confessing what God's Word Says about Your Situation

For one to receive and/or maintain their blessing, they must have persevering faith. There are a lot of things you're not going to understand about God, but one thing you can never afford to do is give up believing God for your miracle. And when you quit confessing what the Word says about you, you quit acting like what the Word of God says about you.

Don't allow yourself to become deceived by allowing your mouth to express what others are expressing. Most of your friends, relatives, brothers and sisters in the Lord seemingly cannot refrain from talking about gas prices, their present physical conditions, and how they are unable to do what they used to do.

We must remember that we live in abundance according to John 10:10, and until you experience abundance in every area of your life, you're not going to live up to God's full expectation for you.

We're God's children through Jesus Christ. He's redeemed us from poverty, sickness, lack, and disease. God says in Galatians 3:7, 13, 14, 29, **Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is**

every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Scriptural Proof that God Heals, but the Devil Afflicts

So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. Job 2:7

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Luke 16:13

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. Acts 10:38

To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 1 Corinthians 5:5

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

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 2 Corinthians 4:3,4

Neither give place to the devil. Ephesians 4:27

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Peter 5:6,7

The Formula for Winning Every Battle: Focus on God's Word and Step Out in Faith, Believing

When the pressure of this world seems overwhelming, immerse yourself **more** into God's Word. Shut off the television, and turn on the faith tapes. Read faith building newsletters, books, and articles and build up your spirit man on God's Word.

Stir yourself up out of complacency to have the kind of faith, determination and confidence that you're going to launch out in the deep, and throw out your nets (Luke 5:1-9). This means giving something that challenges you to believe God for a miracle return. It's time that we tear some roofs off of religion and ignore what the crowds are saying and press on in until we get to the place that all we say is what God has said.

Maybe it's been awhile since you have given a sacrificial seed into this ministry. Maybe it's been a while since you risked something for God. When a believer backs off from stepping out, it's an indication that they have succumbed to discouragement. When that happens, they have the tendency to withdraw from expecting the supernatural and they just live in the natural.

When one lives in the natural, they have resolved to take matters into their own hands. They think they can take care of themselves better than God can. They're no longer speaking to mountains or turning their cares over on the Lord, and their Christian life becomes powerless (Mark 11:23, 1 Peter 5:7, Luke 10:19) .

We should always be stepping out of the boat in obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and not allow any of our present circumstances or failures or bad past experiences to offend us and keep us from believing God for the supernatural (Matthew 14:23-33).

No matter what happened to Job, he did not quit trusting or serving God. He may have made some mistakes, but who among us hasn't? Say what you may, Job got twice as much as he had before! (Job 42:10)

One of the reasons so many believers don't receive their miracle is they stop pursuing God like they once did before. We have an adversary. His name is Satan. Not only does he steal, kill, and destroy, he's also a deceiver.

Examine Your Life in Line with the Word of God

We always have to examine our lives with God's Word and maintain a fervent prayer life. We have to examine ourselves to see if we have wandered over into any disobedience, discouragement, depression or deception. We can't afford to allow ourselves to get too busy that we're not immersing ourselves into God's Word on a daily basis.

Check up on yourself and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any areas of your life that are grieving the Spirit of God. God sent the Holy Spirit to be your teacher and guide. He reveals to us anything that's pertinent to our spiritual life. He reveals every affair of our lives, and He brings the Word back to our remembrance.

Expect of Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you in the small things and the major things: from where your car keys are, to where to live.

If we're going to enjoy the prosperity God purchased for us, we must follow the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We cannot just live by doing what makes sense, especially when it doesn't correspond with what God's Word says, or with what we've got in our heart.

Never permit yourself to depart from your prayer life and time in the Word. No matter how busy you may get, or how much it may seem to you that God is not working in your life, you stay with what He told you to do. And God will show up and do what only He can do.

Peter Launching Out on the Word

Peter obeyed God when it didn't make any sense in Luke 5:1-9:

¹And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, ²And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen

were gone out of them, and were washing *their* nets.

³And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

⁴Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. ⁵And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

⁶And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. ⁷And they beckoned unto *their* partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

⁸When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. ⁹For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

Neither give place to the devil. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
Ephesians 4:27, 29, 30

In Numbers and 13:25 - 14:1-30,36-38. The children of Israel talked about what they saw instead of what God said:

The Land flowing with Milk and Honey

²⁵And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. ²⁶And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this *is* the fruit of it.

Talking Doubt and Unbelief

²⁸Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities *are* walled, *and* very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. ²⁹The

Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

Caleb Says what the Word says:

³⁰And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

The Evil Report, contradicting God's Word

³¹But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we. ³²And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature. ³³And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

¹And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. ²And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! ³And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? ⁴And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. ⁵Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

Faith Speaks the Word

⁶And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *which were* of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: ⁷And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, *is* an exceeding good land. ⁸If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. ⁹Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they *are* bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us: fear them not.

¹⁰But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

The Lord's Displeasure at Unbelief

¹¹And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? ¹²I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

Moses' Intercession and the Lord's Pardon

¹³And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear *it*, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;) ¹⁴And they will tell *it* to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD *art* among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and *that* thy cloud standeth over them, and *that* thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night.

¹⁵Now *if* thou shalt kill *all* this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying, ¹⁶Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he sware unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.

¹⁷And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying, ¹⁸The LORD *is* longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation*. ¹⁹Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

²⁰And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:

²¹But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

²²Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; ²³Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

²⁴But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

²⁵(Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwelt in the valley.) To morrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea. ²⁶And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

²⁷How long *shall I bear with* this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me. ²⁸Say unto them, *As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:* ²⁹Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, ³⁰Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, *concerning* which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

³⁶And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, ³⁷Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD.

The Reward of Speaking and Believing God's Word

³⁸But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still.*

The children of Israel had all the reasons not to believe God. People think they're so smart when they're logical and when they talk what they see and feel. Do you know you can sear your conscience and come to the place in your Christian life that it doesn't grieve your spirit when you hear others talk sickness, disease, poverty and lack? You can go as far as when you talk that way, **you** don't even become convicted.

But just because you're not grieved, it doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit is not grieved. Until you come to the place in your Christian life that you've got a new tongue and quit talking how you feel and how things look, you'll never really move any major mountains in your life with God's power.

Diseases will never leave you and lack will always linger around you until you boldly take authority over them, in Jesus' Name. **You may not believe that you may not really believe.** You may not believe that if you make the right confessions of faith based on God's Word, you'll eventually prosper, live in divine health and enjoy success.

The faith message, as some would call it, may anger you or cause you to cringe when you hear it brought up, but no matter what you think, no matter what you believe, and no matter what your opinion of it is, all of God's people, except Caleb and Joshua died in the

wilderness out of God's will, simply because of their big mouths. What the Israelites said is what God called an evil report.

Don't Use Your Mouth Against Yourself... - Use God's Word for Yourself!

You may think that you can't get Mark 11:23 to work for you in the positive, but it will definitely work against you in the negative. Satan is the reason for that. Satan will contest you and do all he can to keep you from prospering physically, emotionally, financially, spiritually or any way!

When you talk the curse of sickness and disease, the devil is not going to contest you. He's going to comply with you. He'll become partners in crime with you. He will get you **thinking** it doesn't work until you **say** it doesn't work. This is one way Satan gets you to use your mouth against yourself.

The Problem of Relying on People's Experiences Rather than the Word of God

So many people in the body of Christ have a dim view of the belief that it is **always** God's will to heal **every** sick person. Most believers know someone who was a seemingly good Christian and became stricken with cancer, or some other disease. Then, after all the church put time in prayer, and tried to minister to the person, they still died sick.

This is what causes the belief that **God doesn't always heal**. Though most people believe God **can** heal, they believe He just doesn't always heal everyone. This kind of belief is not based on God's promises in His Word. Instead, it's based on people's personal experiences. There's much more to divine healing than just getting the whole church to pray for a sick person.

If that person who's been stricken with an illness did not close the door they opened to Satan, who comes to steal, kill and destroy, the door that caused this to happen in the first place is still open. We all have to continually examine our hearts and motives. We don't go digging up guilt and condemnation, but at the same time, we want to make sure we're not giving any place to Satan.

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and

drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? 2 Corinthians 13:5

Two Equally Bad Ditches - Both Leave the Doors open to Satan

It seems like we get into extremes, or ditches in the body of Christ. There's usually a ditch on both sides of the road. **One ditch** is when someone thinks, "*There couldn't possibly be anything I could have done wrong to cause me to forfeit my blessing*".

But what about fear? And worry?

For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. Job 3:25

How about strife? **For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.** James 3:15

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. 1 Peter 3:7 - 12

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses. Mark 11:25,26

You could be sowing discord among the brethren: **These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.** Proverbs 6:16

Fear, worry strife, unforgiveness and disobedience, may not be a real big deal to you. But if you don't deal with them, you'll end up giving place to Satan, who will take advantage of your vulnerability. There are a '*gazillion*' sins a person could commit to cause them to lose their hedge of protection.

And then, there's **the other ditch**, where you're attempting to get someone to receive their healing and they think they're too unworthy, or they haven't been good enough. They go on and on with guilt and condemnation. **Your sins are underneath the blood of Jesus, and you want to keep them there! Don't go digging them up!**

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

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

I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Isaiah 43:25

Attending Church is no Substitute for Attending to the Word

Every believer must keep him/herself built up spiritually, and no one can do this by just going to church! I want to say that again: **You cannot get built up spiritually by just attending church services and helping out with the church.** You, as an individual, must personally spend time in God's Word and pray every day to the point that your mind is renewed to the Word, and all you *talk* is the Word, and all you *believe* is the Word.

If you think all you need to do is attend church regularly, your problem is you're deceived into thinking that going to

church is enough to give you a *card blanche* to walk in divine health.

Very few people who are active in church are active in attending to the Word. If you don't personally attend to the Word every day, you're personally not growing spiritually, and you're personally not making any spiritual progress to any great degree. Anyone, no matter who they are, that ever thinks that they're safe because they attend church regularly, is deceived. They're either self-deceived, or Satan has deceived them.

Every believer is required by God to fellowship with Him every day in His Word, and in prayer. If you don't feed on the Word, and develop a prayer life, you become spiritually anorexic and will be unable to resist the devil, sickness and disease. You hear the following religious lies in church services where people are not attending to the Word: "*It may not be God's will to heal sister so-and-so*", "*It may be their time to go*", "*God uses sickness to teach us*".

The Problem of Religiosity in the Body of Christ

I pastor, and I've preached in a lot of churches. I'm no novice or "*Johnny-come-lately*" One of the biggest problems I've seen today in the Body of Christ is religion. When you get into religion, you don't even know you're in it. Religion robs people of their spiritual authority, so they don't live as more than conquerors, and they're usually offended about something,

When it comes to conversations about God, religious people want to only talk about what they believe and how great their church and pastor are. They don't talk the Word. When they talk about their church and their beliefs, their visions, dreams, prophecies and so-called spiritual experiences, all they want you to do is listen to them. They don't want you to counter anything they say by giving them the Word.

Religious people just want you to believe that if it came from their church, it's ok. But it's not ok, no matter whose church it came from! It's not ok if it came from my churches, or anyone else's churches; it's not ok if it came from my ministry, or anyone else's ministry! If it's not the Word, or backed with the Word, you're not required to accept it or believe it! ***On the contrary, reject it.***

The Word Speaks for Itself -- God's Word about the Word of God

In regard to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, when believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, the Apostle Paul referred to the Word in answering the skeptics. All of the Word that they had at that time was the Old Testament, the written Word of God.

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; Acts 2:14-16

All through the New Testament, the emphasis was always placed on the written Word. If what you believe about God is not backed up with the Word, it's just religion.

Religion is man's opinion. It is not backed up by God. It may mean something to you, but it doesn't mean anything to God. What you believe as a Christian has got to be backed up with the New Testament. In the New Covenant, the emphasis is placed on God's Word:

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. Acts 2:41

Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:4, 31

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. Acts 6:2-4, 7

⁴Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. ¹⁴Now when the apostles

which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ²⁵And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. Acts 8:4, 14, 25, 35

Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. Acts 11:19

But the word of God grew and multiplied. Acts 12:24

⁵And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to *their* minister. ⁷Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. ²⁶Men *and* brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. ⁴⁴And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. ⁴⁹And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. Acts 13:5, 7, 26, 44, 49

⁷And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. ³⁵Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. ³⁶And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and* see how they do. Acts 15:7, 35, 36

And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. Acts 16:32

And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. Acts 18:11

And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. Acts 19:10, 20

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; So

then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:8, 17,

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you: 2 Thessalonians 3:1

For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. 1 Timothy 4:4, 5

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 2 Timothy 4:2

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*. For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:2,12

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. Peter 1:23,25

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 1 Peter 2:2

For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as *they were* moved by the Holy Ghost. 2 Peter 1:17-21

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Revelation 12:11

And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. Revelation 19:13

Doing the Word

The reason people don't talk the Word is one reason, and one reason only: *they don't know the Word*. Religious people may know religion, but they don't know their new covenant. The reason so many people are messed up today in the church is because they don't spend any quality time in God's Word and in prayer. It's not enough to hear the Word. You have to do it, implement it and put it in action.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22

Here's how to do the Word:

If you prayed for healing, act like you're healed! Talk like you're healed. Don't tell us what the doctor said about you. ***Tell us what Jesus said about you!*** If you're going to talk about your physician, talk about the Great Physician! We don't want to hear your complaining. We don't want to hear your ailments, we don't want to hear your doubt and unbelief!

We're not going to sympathize with you, or console you, but we will stand with you on God's promises. We will be moved by compassion, but not sympathy. We're not going to move off the Word to avoid offending you. Satan uses offense to get the person off the Word, as we see in the following parable: **And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? The sower soweth the word. And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.**

And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred. Mark 4:13-20

Believing God Means Believing His Word Force Your Mind to Submit to God's Word

You better believe the Word more than you believe anything else. God and His Word are inseparable. They've never failed to heal one person. God's not a liar, and the Bible is not just some religious book.

The Word of God is God's eternal Word. It's the only thing that is Pure Truth in this World. And what the Word of God says is God talking to you, especially in your new covenant.

Until you make the quality decision that you're going to base your whole life on what God says, you never will amount to anything in faith, believing.

Intellectual Pride messes up Your Mind

Some people have read so many different kinds of books that they've messed up their thinking and their mind through studying the world's philosophies. They've totaled their mind worse than someone who abused their mind with drugs or alcohol. Many people have taken their God-given minds and polluted them with intellectualism to the point that they can't believe something unless they understand it. **Your intellectual mind will take you to hell if you continue to let it dominate you.**

I had a friend in highschool that smoked so much marijuana that he burned out his brain. I thought, "*What a waste!*" But I've seen worse than that. I know people personally, today, who have read so many worldly articles in newspapers and periodicals that they literally cannot believe the Word of God. Do you know anybody like that? Sure you do.

Don't mess up your mind. Renew it with God's Word. Talk to your mind. Tell it: ***We only believe the Word of God.*** You make your mind submit to God's Word. It will rebel, it will try to recoil, but you keep telling it: ***Think in line with the Word.*** You tell your mind it's renewed to the Word of God. You make your mind think in line with the Word of God and

force it to think about the Word. Force it to meditate on the Word, and don't allow it to continually have its way. Cast down anything that comes inside your mind that is contrary to God's Word.

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2 Corinthians 10:4,5

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1,2

Your biggest battle is going to be with your mind. You'll have to discipline it. **But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:14-16**

You intellectual people may think you're smart, but you're no match for God. He made you, you didn't make Him. Be like the person Jesus described in Matthew 7:24,25: **Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.**

Instead, what we've got in the church is people who have not disciplined themselves in God's Word! Jesus went on to say what happens to these people in Matthew 7:26,27: **And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**

You Do Your Own Faith Work

Too many people are trying to get their healing from everyone else praying for them, but you can't get other people's prayers to override your laziness, lack of enthusiasm and slothfulness with God's Word.

People want to talk any way they want to talk, from complaining about how bad they feel, to how sick they've been, and what runs in their family. They love talking about the "generational curse" and such, and when those very same people get attacked with something terminal, they want the rest of us to pray them out of it!

Our prayers for the saints can be very productive. God knows we need to be praying for one another. But all the prayers in the world cannot override the time that you wasted and didn't put in the Word. If you neglect the Word, you'll fall to Satan's attack every time.

Neglected opportunity brings regret! God did not raise up attending church services to take the place of your personal time in God's Word. He said, **My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Proverbs 4:20-22**

Many dear believers wonder why someone didn't receive their healing, or why they didn't get their miracle. They end up adopting the idea and belief that it just wasn't God's will. There's no sense blaming God that someone didn't get healed. Blame Satan! He's the one that brought the disease. And if you don't resist the devil in Jesus' Name by speaking the Word of God, the devil will make your life miserable.

Not spending time in God's Word will cause you to spend your life wondering why you can't get God to move in your life. People are going to God after these things when they should be going after Satan! Jesus said in Matthew 11:12, **And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.**

Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and

dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Matthew 12:29, 43-45

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10:19

If you just go to church once, or even two or three times a week, it's not enough to be any kind of threat to Satan. You'll never become strong spiritually by just attending church. Then, one day, you'll wonder why you're not getting healed.

The Answer to all Your Problems is This:

You've got to be in the Word every day. You've got to listen to faith building tapes every day. You start the day out with the **Word**, you listen to the **Word** during the day, and the last thing you want to hear before you go to sleep is **God's Word**.

Now, this something you need to know. This is very important: You're never going to want a terminal disease. Too many people wait until they get sick and *then* they become interested in listening to a faith tape. But if you've got a lot of pain and discomfort in your body, the devil will work on your mind day and night and do all he can to get you to quit and give up.

An Example of Resisting the Devil with the Word of God

I went and visited a lady in the hospital. Several of her Christian friends were in the room with her. She had a tumor, which was removed through surgery. Everybody seemed to think she was going to be just fine. As I was saying goodbye to her, I knew in my heart that when we all walk out of her room, the devil is going to come in with oppression, depression, doubt, fear and worry.

I asked her if she had a tape player and any faith tapes in her hospital room. She said no, so I told her I was going to go buy a tape player and bring it back to her that night. I wanted her to have something to listen to when we all left.

After I said that, her friend spoke up and said, "*She's just fine. She doesn't need that. We've all been praying*".

Well, they may all have been praying, but they had little or no experience with the devil. I told them I was going to get the tape player anyway, and I did.

When I got back to the hospital room, the lady's . Her friends had left, and I gave her some teaching tapes on divine healing. I told her I wanted her to listen to those, and if she woke up in the middle of the night, to listen to those again and again.

You must realize most of the Christians you know are absolutely clueless when it comes to dealing with the devil. They may have a good talk, but have no experience.

Later on, the lady thanked me. She said, "*Brother Rich, thanks for bringing the tapes. I had a couple of bad nights, and they helped get me through them. I don't know what I'd have done if you hadn't dropped off that tape player and those tapes. You knew something the rest of them didn't know*".

Jesus taught us that Satan comes back, but with the Name of Jesus, and authority in God's Word, we can win every time. So don't get caught napping! Stir yourself up in the Word. The next time you hear someone talking about the bird flu, or how expensive gasoline is, answer back with what the Word says. Remember; you've got a covenant. Use it.

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