

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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“GOING TO ROME”

The Apostle Paul was told by the Lord that he was going to Rome so his mindset became the same. While traveling to Rome, the ship in which he was traveling was struck by a storm and all hope of reaching Rome seemed impossible, but Paul made it after many setbacks. From a Roman prison cell, Paul would write most of the New Testament and reached the world with the written Word of God. Here's my point. Many times we are discouraged at the pace of things happening, especially those things that we know are predetermined by our Father but we should always believe that they are going to happen—especially when we have had a word from God. This is a time in history that if we are ever going to trust and believe God, it's now. We should always encourage and exhort one another in the love of God. Being a Christian is the greatest honor given to man. Let's share our faith with the world.

Pastor George Ferrington

PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY “Putting Revelation into Practice”

When revelation is put into practice by a Christian it becomes more powerful than anything else on the earth. In order to help in understanding my statement, let us first consider the concept of salvation by faith. For hundreds of years during the period of the Roman Empire the Church did not understand or have assurance of salvation. The revelation was lost because believers failed to require an experience for their belief concerning salvation. The truth is, most of these new worshipers paid a price. But today you can go into most any church and find this exuberance in worship going on. Why? Because our understanding of the revelation of worship has come through experience and practice, and the church's "mind" has been renewed.

I personally believe that the revelation of healing is on a similar course. It is also my personal belief that the Church has been given the responsibility for bringing divine healing to the people of this world, thus proving the will of God. When we "prove the will of God" we bring "earth's reality" into line with "heaven's reality". The bottom line is: "healing is part of the normal Christian life." God put it in His book. He illustrated it in the life of Jesus, and He told us to emulate what Jesus did. I find it amazing that it is so easy for us to be fully convinced when we pray for someone to be saved, and our prayers work. Yet when we pray for healing we find it difficult to believe that person will be healed. Why? Is it not because salvation, as it pertains to a born again experience, has been embraced and taught continuously for centuries, while the revelation of healing has not been widely embraced, and has even been fought in the Church.

Today, if you pray for people to be healed you are considered by religious people to be working under the influence of the devil while disease is considered a gift from God to make people better Christians! Has the Church missed the mark of the high calling of the Lord? Yes, we have! We have tolerated the deception that accuses God of doing evil, which is why today healing remains so controversial, little-practiced and little understood. Let's look back and ask ourselves the question, what would have happened if centuries ago Christians had embraced the power of the gospel to bring healing to the physical body, to the emotions, and to the mind? What if the Church had plowed through that tough soil for generation after generation? Instead of a few "heroes of healing" marking the trail of history, the entire Body of Christ would recognize healing as an essential part of the Great Commission. Normal Christians would see deformities and say, "No problem," cancer, "No problem," missing limbs, "No problem." We would pray in power without one iota of doubt. Can you imagine Jesus telling blind Bartimaeus, "This blindness is a gift from my Father to make you a better person"? And yet that's the approach many Christians take. They don't understand healing because they have no experience with it. They either do not have the revelation of healing or they have not put it into practice. Pastor Bill Johnson made the statement, "I've grown so tired of people praying for blind people and asking God to open the eyes of their heart. The problem is with their natural eyes! The Church doesn't know what to do with the blind people, or anyone with a real affliction." Part of what is holding us back is our concern with being excessive. We don't want people to think we are religious nuts; we fear excess much more than we fear lack!

So here we are again on the subject of requiring an experience from revelation and belief. When a believer puts revelation into practice, they won't get it 100 percent right every time. They might not even get it 50 percent right, but they will learn, and they will grow into a level of maturity that they would not have otherwise. I know people who have reached a point in their believing that they get excited when they come across a person who needs God's special touch through the manifestation of healing. Their eyes glow with the light of God and their breath comes fast as they prepare to see God move in power. Pastor Bill Johnson relates a story of one such young man and says: "One young man I know walks into a store and sees somebody with a broken leg and thinks, 'God loves me so much that He put a man with a broken leg right in front of me.' He then ministers to that person and others and people get healed! His perspective is absolutely reversed. He does not avoid the impossible; he is drawn to it. Why? He is convinced God is showing him favor by putting somebody in front of him who needs a supernatural intervention." Bill Johnson tells another story of a pastor and wife team he knows: "They were at a Target store in the parking lot and saw a man with metal crutches, his body twisted up. He was in obvious pain. The pastor's wife, who is passionate about the things of God, asked if she could pray for him and so they took him aside. The man's wife was embarrassed to talk about God and she didn't want anything to do with the impromptu prayer meeting. But this man was miserable, and had been praying for 18 years to die. He allowed them to pray for him and his body untwisted and became straight. He sprinted around the parking lot, came back, picked up his metal crutches, and threw them across the parking lot. He was absolutely set free and healed." This is what happens when a believer unpacks his or her revelation and puts it to work in people's lives! Jesus had one concern about His return and it wasn't that He would find people were excessive. Rather, He said, "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)

Gene R. Brown

CHRIST WITHIN

Bear with me for just a moment as I explain a vision I have. It is a borrowed vision, as I am interpreting from a book I have read. It is a vision of a beautiful lake view, sunset in the distance, stillness, peaceful sounds as one would expect. In the lake is a small boat that is attached to a floating wooden dock. A closer examination of this vision reveals that the boat is attached to the dock, but the dock is not attached to the shore. Such is our relationship to our Savior. Although we know Who He is, and where He is, we cannot “see” beyond our own connection in order to know and understand the full intensity and integrity of Him. Why is He as He is? The Apostle Paul spoke several times of the “mysteries” of God’s Word. Things that we may not have revealed in this life, but are no less real and significant to the Kingdom of God.

In order to grasp “Jesus Christ in me” you must first understand that we are all called to live “Christlike” lives. Christ was not moved by trials and temptations, but rather He moved them by virtue of His faith and power. We are to do the same, exhibiting to the world and the enemy that we are disciples of Jesus. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:8-11, **“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we who live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.”** Now having read that, you must see our relationship to Jesus as being like that boat attached to a floating dock. The world looks and calls it utter foolishness, but we know that in Him, we are safe and secure. The world hates us and tries to destroy us, but in Him we are protected and blessed. You see, the dock is not attached to the land (world system) although it is in the world. We can conquer the world because we are not attached (drawing our strength) from it.

Galatians 2:20 tells us, **“I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”** By living as a man and ultimately overcoming the world, Jesus purchased the right to be our source of power and anointing. As He received from the Father, we receive through Him. Although a vision, what I have portrayed to you is actually a reality inside of us. Jesus is that dock to which we are attached. His power is the force of the water that supports us, and the tether that ties us to Him is our faith and trust, for which He will never let us down. It is by the Holy Spirit that we can know and be empowered in this truth, but you must first “see” His Word in you. This scripture in Galatians shows us that He is within us. Heretofore we have considered ourselves in Him, but now we look at Him in us. Paul spoke of the “mystery of God’s Word in Colossians 1:26-27, **“Even the mystery which hath been hidden from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints. To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory; Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present**

every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”

So in this we see that Christ resides in us, so that the fullness of God through Christ Jesus can have its presence in this world, yet not be subject or enslaved to the world. This great truth is not made evident to the world system, nor has it been revealed to any other than the elect of God. It is only with a pure heart that we can receive the truth of Jesus in us, and thus understand that the Kingdom of God is within us; this rendering a great responsibility upon us, but also a great privilege to be of service to the Lord of the Universe. And we can see this in Colossians 2:2-3, where Paul states that it is the Father’s will that we have all understanding in God and Christ, in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

In the vision, we are the boat, and Christ is the dock, to which the boat is tied (our anchor). **“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil, Where the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus,”** (Hebrews 6:19-20).

Bro. Mike Woods

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

“KINGDOM OF THE SON” Vacation Bible School for children ages 3 to 12 will be held each Sunday morning beginning July 26th, at 10:00 AM, in the children’s church room. Subsequent meetings will be August 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd. Then on Saturday, August 29th, we will have family night to show off the kid’s activities and enjoy food and fellowship. Parents are encouraged to see Miss Judy or Miss Cheryl about registering your children for VBS. Helpers are still needed.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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KINGDOM OF THE SON
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
BEGINS JULY 26TH