



ORAL ROBERTS

IF YOU NEED

HEALING

DO THESE THINGS

by Oral Roberts

ORAL ROBERTS

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

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SECOND REVISED EDITION

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND REVISED EDITION

by G. H. Montgomery

This great Oral Roberts organization is a miracle within itself. It would be impossible for a man by himself to go out and within a period of 10 years, or even an entire lifetime, set up such an organization . . . you can't do that by yourself! You have to have help from above . . . you have to have help from our Father in Heaven. Oral Roberts has had that—and has it now.

The words in the preceding paragraph were spoken by the Honorable Raymond Gary, Governor of the State of Oklahoma. They give expression to the convictions of uncounted thousands of people around the world who are familiar with the Oral Roberts ministry. Like Nicodemus of old, thinking people everywhere

are asking the question, "How can a man do these things except God be with him?"

The evangelistic crusades of Oral Roberts are one of the great phenomena of the twentieth century. To these crusades, conducted in his giant tent cathedral seating some 18,000 people, go an average of one and one-half million people annually. Presented under the slogan, "For all people of all churches," these crusades attract a cross section of American life when they are conducted in the United States. An average of 100 denominations are represented in every crusade. In addition to these who are already church members, there are multitudes who hold no membership in any Christian denomination. Thousands of these respond to the invitation to be saved. Others who are members of some church, but for one reason or another have lost contact with God, join these penitents who come forward nightly to give their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ.

Oral Roberts operates on the premise, "First things first!" To him, "the salvation of a lost soul is God's greatest miracle!" And when one considers the miracles of spiritual healing that are wrought in every crusade, no greater tribute

could be paid to the wonder and the glory of the miracle of conversion. For around the world there are uncounted thousands of people who are testifying daily to the fact that they found healing for their bodies in an Oral Roberts crusade.

Yet, as phenomenal as they are, the crusades represent only a fraction of the ministry of this man of God from Oklahoma. Some 350 radio stations beam his message of deliverance to more than one-half of the world's population every Sunday. His television ministry, while telecast over fewer stations than his radio outlets, is still even more dynamic and fruitful. One hundred and thirty strategically located TV stations send portions of the Oral Roberts tent crusades into areas where it can be tuned in by eighty per cent of all the television sets in the United States of America. And from these outreaches come testimonies of miracles as thrilling as any of those that you can read about in the Bible: a victim of spondylitis in Texas, who had not walked without aid in three years, healed instantly while watching an Oral Roberts telecast; a man in New York, discharged from his job as totally disabled 17 years before, instantly healed and able to walk

without crutches five days after he had been sent home from the hospital as a permanent and hopeless cripple.

A typical testimony comes from a lady in Virginia, who writes: "My blood pressure was so high that I could not walk without staggering. I couldn't stoop or look up without becoming overbalanced. A skin cancer on my head sent pains like streaks of fire through my neck and shoulders . . . I wrote and asked you to pray for me. The following Sunday when you offered prayer (on your television program) for those in their homes, I asked God to heal me. By the time your prayer was finished, I felt the power of God going through my entire being. The pain was gone. The soreness was gone. I could walk normally. . . . When I went to my doctor, he was so pleased and surprised that he checked my blood pressure twice before he would believe that it was normal. In three days' time the cancer was just a pink scar. I have not felt a pain from it since that day!"

Are these cases representative? From 1,000 to 5,000 testimonies flow into Oral Roberts' Tulsa office every week telling about what God has done for people in answer to Oral Roberts'

prayers over television, radio, or through some other part of his ministry.

His literature outreach has kept pace with the miraculous progress and accomplishment of all the other phases of his ministry. Outstanding in this field is ABUNDANT LIFE magazine, successor to the original *Healing Waters Magazine*. This periodical was first published in the form of an 8-page paper in November and December 1947. At that time, Oral Roberts had secured approximately 500 subscribers for the publication. However, acting upon the impulse of faith, he actually published 10,000 copies. Six years later, when the publication became *America's Healing Magazine*, it had reached a circulation of 210,000. Three years later, the circulation had climbed to 750,000; and in July 1956, the name of the magazine was changed to ABUNDANT LIFE. The occasion was celebrated by publishing 1,000,000 copies. Yet, in addition to the magazine, millions of copies of occasional periodicals, gospel tracts, books and booklets have gone out from the Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Also, there is a weekly newspaper column which is published in some 500 newspapers in the United States and Can-

ada. This column by Oral Roberts, appropriately called *Abundant Life*, is reaching some 500,000 readers every week.

From this overwhelming combination of world outreaches, come the fantastic results of approximately 80,000 conversions a month.

This is the story of the man from Oklahoma, a man born in comparative obscurity to a humble Christian pastor and his wife near Ada, Oklahoma, on January 24, 1918. Oral Roberts grew up with an ambition to become a lawyer and with the ultimate goal of becoming governor of his state. His subsequent illness and healing which will be described in detail in this book brought about a change in his plans. His conversion, plus a definite call from God, turned his mind from law and politics to the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and his power to save man completely, soul, mind and body. Out of that calling have come the results described in the preceding paragraphs. It was evidently with that picture in mind that Governor Gary said:

“Certainly, we are thankful to God for Oral Roberts. We are thankful for the work that he

has done and is doing. . . . I know that we as a nation spend millions of dollars each year in an effort to buy good will in foreign countries of the world. We buy it through providing physical aid such as food, clothing, medical care, and physical aid to people in the underprivileged nations of the world . . . and then here comes Oral Roberts with this great crusade of his. His message is for their spiritual needs, and that gives us a more nearly balanced program. . . . All of that combined is creating a good will in the hearts and minds of the people of other nations toward our great nation. . . . His goal is to win them to Christ. To win them for Christ! . . . That is what counts! I am happy that he is a citizen of Oklahoma. He is bringing many praises to this state. He is promoting good will toward our state, but most of all he is winning souls for Christ. That is his aim, that is his goal, that is his mission!” *

And again I say, these words by the honorable governor of a great state are giving voice to the sentiments of uncounted millions of peo-

* From an address by Governor Gary at special groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Abundant Life Building, May 23, 1957.

ple in every state in the United States of America and in every one of the 125 countries, who, through the various outreaches of Oral Roberts, have felt the power and inspiration of his ministry.

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**IF YOU NEED HEALING
DO THESE THINGS**

The Steps to Your Deliverance

Jesus Christ did not come with a life-shortening suggestion but with a life-saving power. His highest wish is for us to prosper materially and have physical health equal to his peace and power in our soul. He said, *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth* (3 John 2).

The story of Jesus is the story of deliverance. In the power of his pure and healthy being and in the strength of an undivided personality, the Master of men came into this world to bring release to mankind from his fears and frustra-

tion and from his spiritual, physical and mental illnesses.

Those he healed loved him for in loving him they could believe in his healing power. And, loving them, he could believe in them for he knew that through their faith he would heal them.

God is God and he cannot be changed. Faith in him is based on love.

The healing that Jesus brings is more than spiritual, more than mental, more than physical—it is that and more. His healing is to make us “whole”—health in soul, mind and body, healthy relations, healthy attitudes, healthy habits.

Jesus is a complete deliverer from the hurts and ills of life.

A Legend of the Cross

There is an old legend handed down that tells how even the wooden cross that Jesus died on brought healing. “Helena, the mother of Constantine, while on a pilgrimage to Jerusa-

lem, gave instructions to search for the cross of Christ. The workmen, as they looked through the rubbish heaps of Calvary, found three crosses but the inscription which was over the head of Christ was lying in a separate place, so there was no clue as to which of the three crosses was the one on which our Lord died. Maarius, the minister of the Christian church in Jerusalem said, ‘We will test the true cross.’ The sick were gathered together. They tried one cross, but there was no leaping of the lame, nor opening of the eyes of the blind. They took the second cross, yet there was no response. But when they took the third cross, blind eyes were opened, deaf ears unstopped, the lame leaped to their feet; the sick were made whole.”

The wooden cross that stood on Calvary is gone. The Christ who hung thereon is ascended and reigns from Heaven. Outwardly we see the cross no more. But the reality of the cross lives on and in it the lost, straying, suffering multitudes of every generation may find perfect deliverance. The cross is just as real today as when the multitudes saw it with the physical eye. It is a spiritual reality—the center of the plan of redemption of humanity, spirit, soul and body.

God's Abundance of Life

The cross unfolds a loving and helpful Redeemer. He overshadows, surrounds and undergirds those who place their trust in him. With ever-active concern he watches over us. The details of our human existence are so important with him that he has numbered the hairs of our head (Luke 12:6,7). The sparrow cannot fall to the earth without this same concern being aroused, and by him the lilies of the field are clothed.

My life, your life, are as much a necessary part of God's design as the thread the weaver weaves into the pattern of his carpet. Not only am I responsible to God, he is responsible for me. The course of our lives is his business.

God seeks to give men life—more abundant life. Life in its abounding fullness, in joy and strength. He is full of life himself and he seeks to share it with us. When the people, struggling with fear, frustration, sickness and sorrow, could get to him, they found him full of healing virtue and ready to set them free. He would say, *Go in peace; thy faith hath made thee whole.* And it didn't make any difference who the people were or

what church they belonged to. He demanded only two things: Faith and "sin no more."

He wanted the person to have faith in God and to change his life so he could continue to use his faith to successfully meet the enemies of life.

The Bible tells of a woman, whose name was not even important enough to be recorded, who had dragged herself in and out of the hospitals of her day only to be told nothing could be done to cure her "bloody issue." One day she heard of Jesus and said, "If I can touch the hem of his garment I shall be made whole." By this act she brought herself into harmony with God. Jesus said, *Somebody hath touched me.* When the disciples reminded him that the entire crowd was brushing up against him, he said, *Yes, but this was a different touch.* The reason was that Christ declared he felt *healing virtue* had gone out of him.

This woman, unknown to Jesus' group, had come with her need. When she touched him in faith, she tapped the healing power of Christ, called *virtue*, and was instantly cured of her malady. This is a beautiful example of God's

abundance of life which is available to all of us.

If this sounds too good to be true then please read and believe this Scripture where Jesus said, . . . *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly* (John 10:10). Jesus, then, is a fountain of life and whoever turns away from sin so that his soul is unfettered and his faith can be released can receive this abundant life.

Jesus' greatest thrill is over the faith of humanity as it is released for liberation from the evil powers of sickness and disease and from fear and frustration. (Luke 8:48; 10:17-24; Matthew 8:13; 15:28). When we allow our faith to take hold of the promises of God, then the mighty power of life surges into action in our behalf and we are liberated. God is glorified in our faith which brings his answer to our prayers.

Now, with this background, I urge you to take these steps for your healing.

1. Know That God's Will Is To Heal You

Practically everyone recognizes the fact of

God's healing power. Mental acceptance is not enough. We must have personal, active faith in God for our own healing.

If God has ever healed one person, he will heal two; if he heals two; he will heal four; if four, then eight; and if eight, he will heal all who will believe. Else you would make him have healing compassion for one and not another. Should that be done he would not be God, but a man. I love God because he first loved me (1 John 4:19). I love him because he loves me *and* my family, and my friends, and all others. I am saying this because he healed me of tuberculosis and gave me perfect health which I am enjoying now through his love. But should he love only me, I would be disappointed for then if one of my children took tuberculosis, it is likely (on that basis) that he would refuse to heal him.

No, you will not be able to say it is God's will to heal one but it is not his will to heal another—he is either a God of love, perfect love, or he is not God at all. Isn't that right?

It is my sincere belief and hope that Christ's death on the cross includes all people every-

where and in all generations. The Apostle Peter writes of Jesus, *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* (1 Peter 2:24). The prophet Isaiah had known that Christ would be the Saviour and healer more than seven hundred years before the crucifixion. Said he, *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed* (Isaiah 53:5).

The Apostle Matthew tells the story of Jesus as the Great Physician and at the end of the day's labor of deliverance he says that Jesus' healing power is a fulfillment of Scripture. Matthew writes, . . . *they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses* (Matthew 8:16,17 is referring to Isaiah 53:4).

When Jesus healed the people of their sicknesses—spiritual, mental and physical—he was freeing them from the oppression of the devil. This is made clear by Peter who said, . . . *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).

Sickness is not numbered among the blessings of the gospel but is counted an enemy of human life. Jesus Christ healed the people, taking from them the heavy, oppressive hand of disease, releasing them with life and strength to work for God. He explained that, *The Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them* (Luke 9:56).

God looks upon sickness as the oppression of the devil (Acts 10:38), as the captivity of Satan (Job 42:10), as a part of the curse of law (Deut. 28:15, 20, 22-29, 58-61, 65, 66 and Galatians 3:13), as something he took himself and bore on the cross (Matthew 8:17), as something to be healed and destroyed by faith and prayer and special gifts (Mark 16:17,18; James 5:15 and 1 Corinthians 12:6-11).

Portrait of the Great Physician

Every act, every movement, every work of the Master was pitched toward human deliverance. When the centurion rushed up to Jesus

and implored his mercy for the healing of his suffering and dying servant, Jesus immediately replied, *I will come and heal him*. And he did! When the little woman touched the hem of his garment by faith, healing virtue went out of Jesus and made her free from disease. When the ruler cried that his little daughter was at the point of death, but if Jesus would only come and lay his hands upon her she would not die but live, Jesus went with him and raised the child (who by this time had died) back to life. When blind Bartimaeus shouted, *Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me*, Jesus stopped the crowds, had the beggar brought to him, and restored his sight saying, *Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole*. This is the portrait of the Great Physician: he was either on his way to heal, he was there delivering the captive or he had just left and the captive was free.

2. Remember That Healing Begins Within

You reach God and he reaches you through your soul. When God breathed the breath of life into man, he became a living soul. Jesus declares that *God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth* (John 4:24).

Your soul governs your physical life and passes off to the body and mind its illnesses, its distresses and torments. As the strings of an instrument respond to the touch of human fingers, your body responds to the impressions of your soul.

There are organic and functional diseases. A person can suffer and die prematurely with either or both. The functionally induced diseases principally are heart trouble, high blood pressure, mucous colitis, ulcers and certain forms of asthma. Heart trouble is the number-one killer of our times.

High tension, nervousness, insecurity, lack of faith, fear (both real and imagined), frustrations are symptoms of man's soul-sickness.

Why is a man dominated by fear? Because he is not using his faith. Why is he not using faith? Because he is out of tune and harmony with his God. There is only one thing that can separate a man from God, . . . *your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear* (Isaiah 59:2).

Man's most severe struggle is within himself for he is condemned by his own sins. As long as this is true, faith will not work. *If our heart condemn us not, then we have confidence (faith) toward God* (1 John 3:21).

I imagine this question presents itself, "Does a person have faith whether he is right with God or not?" The answer is, "Yes, he does." Everybody has faith for God gives a measure of faith to every man. The difference is that faith will not work as long as there is sin in the person's life. Sin is a dominating thing and it produces a division in the soul. Faith lies dormant and inactive (James 2:17). Without the power of active faith the soul is no match for the grueling grind of life. The body and mind, keenly responsible to the soul, feel the impact of the soul's fears and weaknesses and are easy prey for mental and physical ills.

It adds up to this: You cannot serve the devil with your life without losing out in the battle of life.

Ye must be born again, says Jesus (John 3:3). The new birth is a transforming spiritual experience (2 Corinthians 5:17). Condemnation

is lifted. *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).

When a person is born again by the spirit of God, it means a change of attitudes, a change of habits and a change in daily living. *Walking not after the flesh*, refers to the unselfish living of the person *in Christ*. Your attitude is important. There cannot be physical healing until a miracle has happened in your soul. God miraculously heals the soul first. When we refuse him that, we stop the flow of his healing power into our bodies. Let God into your soul and you let his healing virtue into your body.

3. Use a Point of Contact for the Release of Your Faith

God is the only Healer. Doctors perform a good work but they only assist nature while God can actually bring deliverance. The authority of Satan's oppression over human life is in God and in his children. But God is a Spirit and sometimes we are confused because he is not directly before us in a human body. He does not come into your room as your family physician with medical potions and

instruments. You cannot see him with the human eye, nor can you take a trip to Heaven and present your case as you would go to your doctor's office. How, then, can we reach him? *By establishing a point of contact.* Faith is the meetingground between your limited self and your limitless God. A point of contact is given as a means of steadying and helping you to release your faith. Establishing a point of contact is like stepping on the starter of your car—you expect something to happen. The Roman centurion said, *I am not worthy for you to come under my roof, but speak the word only and my servant shall be healed.* Speak the word! He went on to say, *For I (also) am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this and he doeth it* (Matthew 8:5-13).

This Roman soldier is saying that he recognizes authority and is obedient to it. His master, Caesar, does not have to be present for his commands to be carried out for the power and authority of the empire were vested in Caesar. This power was delegated to the emperor's servants; therefore, when the centurion gave an order to the soldiers under him, they obeyed

without question. "Now," he is saying to Jesus, "you have authority over my servant's affliction; you don't need to come to my house; I am not worthy for such an honor. Just say *the word* that my servant shall live, and I will believe it, returning home with assurance that he is well." That is living faith, unquestioning, unfaltering, simple, childlike faith that believes God is honest and true and sends his power to accomplish whatsoever faith asks for. The Lord answered simply, *Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.* And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour! His point of contact was the spoken word of Jesus who had all power of Heaven and earth over human hurts and ills. The moment Jesus spoke, he released his faith and his servant was made whole. This is the master key to healing.

The point of contact *sets the time.* The centurion's time for the healing of his servant was to be the very moment that Jesus spoke.

Remember that the woman with the issue of blood also used a point of contact which helped her set the time for healing. She said, *If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.* There was no healing in his clothes, but touching the

clothes helped her release her faith and her faith made her whole. That's why God gives us a point of contact. The Book of Acts tells how that handkerchiefs or aprons were sent from the body of the Apostle Paul to the sick and demon-possessed and how that through these little faith-cloths deliverance was wrought. These cloths became points of contact and when placed upon the body of the sick and afflicted, the captives turned their faith loose and were set free. Today, many lay their hands on their radios as points of contact during our broadcast. Through this means they release their faith and through faith they are healed during the "prayer time" of the broadcast.

Jesus is not here today with the seamless robe, nor Paul with his blest cloths, nor Peter with his shadow that brought healing, nor the elders of the church with their anointing oil, but God has not left himself without human instrumentalities to deliver this generation. I have heard his voice: first, that I was to be healed; next, that I was to bring healing to the sick and demon-possessed and that his healing power would be felt in my right hand for all who would believe. It is happening just as the Lord said. I seldom feel anything in my left

POINT OF CONTACT

YESTERDAY

IF I MAY BUT
TOUCH HIS
GARMENT, I
SHALL BE
WHOLE.

MATTHEW 9:21



TODAY

THEY SHALL LAY HANDS ON THE
SICK, AND THEY SHALL RECOVER.
MARK 16:18

hand, but through my right hand I feel the healing virtue of the Son of God. Thousands have witnessed this power as it surged through every fiber of their beings. God uses this human agency as a point of contact. The time is set when I lay my right hand upon the captive and adjure the afflictions to come out of him in the name of the Master, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. I feel the pressure of the disease rising to meet my right hand, but then as God's healing virtue surges into the person, this pressure is relieved and deliverance is wrought. The deaf ears are opened, the cancers wither and die and pass from the body, demons come out and humanity is set free through faith in God. This gift in my humble life is for the deliverance of my generation and not for my personal gratification. Any gift from God is to be used for the deliverance of others only.

But a gift of healing is not the sole means of healing or point of contact for your faith. There is the anointing oil which God's minister anoints you with in Jesus' name for the purpose of praying the prayer of faith for your healing, using the anointing oil as a point of contact. The moment it is applied turn your faith loose. This was my point of contact when

I was healed in 1935 in a big healing revival in Ada, Oklahoma, where Reverend George W. Moncey prayed the prayer of faith for my deliverance. As I was being brought to the meeting on a mattress in the back seat of a car, after having been bedfast five months with tuberculosis in both lungs, I was led to use the anointing oil and laying on of hands as a point of contact. Down deep in my heart I was believing in God for deliverance and I told the Lord that when Brother Moncey anointed me and laid his hands on my head that then, and then alone, would I believe the work was done. The prayer line was long. Midnight came and I was still waiting. I was suffering but I did not become discouraged nor angry with having to be the last one prayed for. Trembling with anticipation, I was waiting for him to anoint and touch me with his hands, through which God was performing miracles. At last my time had come.

They helped me to my feet. I watched every move that was made; above all, I was watching for his hands to be laid on my head. Then the anointing oil touched my forehead. His hands were upon me and at that instant I turned my faith loose; the deepest desires and

emotions of my hungry spirit pushed outward toward God. I believed God! I found myself thanking him for deliverance. Every ache and pain disappeared. The glory rushed into my soul. I was tingling from head to toe with new life. And, then, for several minutes I was lost in the sheer ecstasy of divine deliverance. I opened my eyes to the surroundings a little later, astonished to realize that I was leaping and shouting and running on the long platform. I was healed! Faith had wrought it!

Oh, suffering friend, turn your faith loose. Hang it on some Bible means of deliverance and let go of it. Hold nothing back. Pour all your pent-up faith-emotions into the act of believing God for your deliverance.

4. Turn Your Faith Loose—Now!

So many times I have seen the need of saying, "Believe *now* and you may have deliverance." On the other hand, many captives, when asked when they expect to get healed, will reply, "Oh, when God gets ready, I am." God has been ready all the time; it's your move next. Others reply, "I'm expecting God to heal me anytime." On the face of that statement is a certain amount of reasonable value, but I

remind you that it is not scriptural. There is a definite time when faith works and unless you set a time, it is doubtful if you will ever be delivered. God says, *Today is the day of salvation* (deliverance).

When you expect healing at no certain time, you are putting it into the dim, vague and distant future. God wants to heal you *now*. The best time is when God is ready; he is ready now!

The woman with the issue of blood set a time: when she touched his garment. The centurion set a time for deliverance: when Jesus spoke the Word. The ruler of the synagogue set a time: come and lay hands on my child. They expected deliverance at the moment the Lord did what they asked him to do. God will respond and work in our behalf when we believe and set the time. This is a glorious privilege and matchless opportunity. *This very hour* is what the Lord is saying. The longer you wait to believe, the weaker your faith will grow; the more quickly you believe, the stronger your faith will develop. Strike a blow for deliverance this very minute. If faith has risen in your heart, turn it loose; don't even finish reading

this chapter, believe God now! The time for deliverance is when you can believe. The secret of deliverance is in instant obedience.

5. Close the Case for Victory

When Bible conditions have been met and you feel the power of healing surging through your body in answer to the faith-prayer, then close the case; take up the old road you have been traveling and believe God every step of the way. Burn every bridge between you and the old affliction. Don't talk about the affliction except when God especially impresses you to give your testimony, then dwell more on his mighty power of deliverance than on what the devil afflicted you with and how you suffered. Change your outlook and live on the sunny side of life.

6. Join Yourself to Companions of Faith

I know how important it is to have encouragement and an atmosphere of faith to live in after having been healed.

A few days after I had been healed I was feeling extremely weak in my body. My mother, a devout woman of faith, sensed my discouragement and said, "Son, you were sick a long time

HOW TO WRITE YOUR OWN TICKET WITH GOD

Matthew 15:22-28

How would you feel if you discovered that your own child was possessed with demons? What would you do first? Would you pray? Would you seek a higher power to deliver your child?

A woman in the Bible was faced with this problem. When there was absolutely no hope for her little girl to be restored to normal living she did the one thing that every one of us can do if we want to enough. She approached God with her problem and secured deliverance, but not before she was turned down exactly three

times! And every refusal was an answer. God's *no* is just as much an answer as his *yes*. She finally understood God's answers and why he had turned her down. Then she faced herself and saw that her attitudes were wrong; also, her approach. She saw that she could not remake God but he could remake her; she could not get him to agree to her way which would bring failure but she could accept his way and secure the very thing she wanted.

The fourth time she asked him to heal her child, he responded and told her to write her own ticket—to ask and she would receive.

Suppose you take a trip to Heaven today and bring your case before God in person. When you arrive at the gate you meet the Apostle Peter and say, "Peter, do you suppose he will receive me and heal my child? Oh, will he, Peter?" Peter replies, "Now don't you worry; he will receive you. I have never known of his turning anyone away. You go right on in and tell him your need."

The next one you meet is Paul. You say, "Oh, Paul, I am so glad to see you. I am going in to see God. Do you think he will grant my

petition?" Paul answers, "I was the chief of sinners and he heard my prayer, the least of the apostles and he gave me an answer. I am sure he will not turn you away."

Later you talk with John and he assures you that you will be given every consideration by the Lord.

Then they let you in and you find yourself standing before the Saviour.

You say, "Oh, Master, my little child is possessed with demon spirits and I have come to thee, for thou alone can help me. Heal her, Lord, please."

Not a word does he answer.

You turn and stumble out. "Oh, John, he didn't answer me a word. Why, oh, why?" "Now, don't be upset; go right back in and repeat your request," says John.

The second time you stand there, he replies, "I am not sent to people like you." Once more you leave, this time badly broken. You meet Paul again. "Oh, great apostle, you told me he

helped you and would not turn me away. But he has just said my kind is not acceptable to him." Paul answers, "Didn't you wait for him to explain what he meant by that? You didn't leave before he finished, did you? You did, I can see that. You see, woman, God may have a better way than yours if you will only give him a chance to show you."

The third time you stand before him and plead your cause, he says, "It is not meet to give the children's bread to dogs." This is the last straw. You can take no more. Out you go. Running up to Peter you burst into tears and say, "He called me a dog. Said I wasn't worthy. I'll never try again."

Then Peter takes hold of you and says very gently, "Woman, all that Jesus said to you was an answer."

"Why, he insulted me!"

"No, God doesn't insult anyone."

"Well, why did he say such hard things to me?"

"Whatever he said to you, he had a reason for saying."

"You mean he did not mean to hurt me?"

"I can assure you that what he said was intended to reveal your attitude to help you see that a good work done in you is often more important than working a miracle of healing."

"But I wanted my child healed."

"I know, but the Master wants not only to heal your child but also to do something in you."

"Do you suppose—why, I guess you are right, Peter. The first time I came before him he showed no sign of recognition. I guess that was because I wasn't his child and wasn't seeking to be. The next time he said he was not sent to people like me. I felt I was as good as anybody else but, at that, I showed a very bad attitude, didn't I? And now he says that I am a dog. But even that is a symbolic word, meaning a wicked, selfish Gentile who will have nothing to do with God. Peter! Peter! I see it all now. He wasn't refusing me, was he, but only trying to get me into the right condition to answer my prayer. I am going back and this time I will know how to pray!"

This time before the Lord you say, "Truth, Lord. All you say about me is true. I am unclean and selfish. But Master, even the dogs eat of the crumbs that fall from their masters' table. Give me a crumb, Lord."

He smiles, reaches out his hands and says, *O woman, great is thy faith. Be it unto thee even as thou wilt!* This is writing your own ticket with God!

There are thousands of people who are being turned down when they pray to God all because they refuse to let God truly change them. They want God on their own terms or not at all. Consequently they have reached a dead-end street; they are stymied and frustrated. Fear dominates them and they have turned away from God, ceasing even to pray anymore.

Neighbor, listen to me today and I will show you a way out of your dilemma, a royal roadway to the place where God will let you write your own ticket.

Here is what to do when in your prayer to God you are shown—

Divine Disinterest

Suppose you pray and apparently there is no word, no response whatever from God. You can't feel any assurance, any hope that your prayer has been heard. There is no tangible evidence of the answer.

This means that God does not answer prayer indiscriminately. What is back of your prayer? Your motives?

God has given us an example of this. He told the story of a widow who was unjustly treated. The judge listened impatiently to her story and said, "Come back later."

On her next visit he was even less courteous and brushed her off. When she thought it over, she decided that her chances of getting fairness were pretty slim, that is, unless she could arouse this unjust judge. Planning her course she went again and stood before him.

She said, "Judge, I insist on your taking immediate action!"

"Woman," he replied, "there has been a delay in your case. I am very sorry."

Once again she said, "Judge, I am not leaving until you take action in my behalf."

The judge summoned his secretary but the woman would not relent.

Said she, "I am right here until you help me."

He looked at her and saw that she meant it and—this is important—because he saw he could not put her off any longer he said, "Oh, all right, if it will stop you from annoying me, I will do what you say."

God says that the unjust judge avenged the woman of her adversaries, not because he was in sympathy with her cause, but because she aroused him to action by her unrelenting demands. *And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily* (Luke 18:7,8).

If the unjust judge would help a woman only because of her insistence, how much more will God, who is in sympathy with our cause, help those who love him and pray to him?

In other words, if when you pray to God you have any thought of relenting, of giving up before the answer comes, your prayer will doubtless go unanswered.

This indicates the kind of people whose prayers God answers. If you have a quitter's spirit, God will let you quit. The kind of person you are counts more than the words or petitions in your prayer.

The prayer is not as important as the attitude back of it.

Therefore, if there seems to be no answer to your prayers, God is seeking to change and improve the kind of person you are by causing you to re-examine yourself, to see if you have right attitudes and desires and if you have will-power and fortitude.

What To Do When God Says No

When Jesus told this woman that he "was not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," he was saying *no* to her prayer. But before it was over, even though he had said *no*, he gave her what she wanted—healing for her child.

This means, then, that when God answers *no*, he has a better way. He doesn't mean *no* in the same sense that people do. God's refusal is subject to the change we make in ourselves to conform to his will or what is ultimately best for us.

It does not mean that we are completely cut off but that we have the opportunity to find a better position in which to pray successfully and receive the very things in life that we want most.

This leads me to explain *the thorn that God uses and the sickness that glorifies God*.

The Apostle Paul tells us of his *thorn in the flesh* (2 Corinthians 12:1,12). He says that it was given to him for two reasons: He had been caught up to the third heaven where he had abundant revelations. For this reason, his being a man, he was in danger of becoming proud and the people might give him more praise than he was worthy of. Hence, he says, *there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure*.

Notice he describes his thorn in the flesh as *the messenger of Satan to buffet me*. So then his thorn

was an evil power that brought continuous physical buffetings.

He says that this thing was so powerful that he *besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities* (weaknesses, marginal rendering), *that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses* (straits) *for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong*.

Paul prayed three times; God answered each time by saying *no*, which meant he had a better and happier way. He reminded Paul that *My strength is made perfect in weakness*.

How was this weakness induced? By the messenger of Satan who buffeted (smote) him with weaknesses, persecutions, straits, shipwrecks, betrayal of friendship, and the long list of other opposing powers. No matter where Paul went, this messenger of evil was present to stir up the people against him. He fought with wild beasts in Ephesus, was shipwrecked three times, five times was he beaten, frequently

was imprisoned and was continually in danger (2 Corinthians 11:23,30). He said, *I die daily*.

Out of this onslaught of Satan he became weak and weary. He would pray for the thorn to be removed. God would answer, *My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness*. In this state of physical weakness, mental weariness and spiritual battle Paul would cast himself utterly upon God; thus the Lord's greater strength would come upon Paul and he would rise undaunted and unconquerable. He said, *in labors more abundant*, and that *in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostle*—and adds, *Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds*.

Through the enabling power and grace of God, Paul was able to outtravel, outpreach, outlabor, outwrite and outperform any other of his co-laborers.

God had a better way for Paul. The thorn became an instrument to keep him humble and dependent on God. God does his mightiest works through such yielded people.

The sickness that glorifies God is the one he does not feel best to heal but that gives way to a greater miracle and to serve a larger purpose.

This is found in the story of Lazarus, brother to Mary and Martha (John 11:1-45).

When Lazarus fell sick his sisters sent for Jesus. The messenger said to him, *Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick*. When Jesus heard that, he said, *This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby*.

So he said, *no*. Yet it is recorded that *Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus*.

In spite of this he abode two days where he was and did not return until Lazarus had been dead and buried four days.

He had said that Lazarus' sickness was to glorify God. Jesus intended to raise Lazarus from the dead! Raising him from the dead would glorify God more than healing him. So when Jesus says *no*, he has a better way.

After Lazarus had been called forth from the grave, it is said, *Then many of the Jews which had*

come to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. Also speaking of Lazarus being alive again, the Bible states, *Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus* (John 12:11).

Don't be afraid to trust God for he knows what he is doing and knows best how to bless and guide you and me.

What It Means When God Says Wait

When God says *wait*, it means that in a special way his will or purpose is involved. In other words, it is more important to wait a little while for the working out of certain details in your life, certain changes being wrought, than it is to answer you instantly. This is very true in healing. In most cases God heals instantly but where his purpose is involved he says *wait*. When his will has been worked out, then the healing comes.

When Jesus told Mary and Martha to wait, his will was to perform a greater miracle so many more would believe on him. This he accomplished by the delay.

However, there is another instance when there may be an enforced wait: God has nothing to do with the delay.

When Daniel prayed unto God for his blessing, the devil hindered and the man of God had to wait twenty-one complete days for the answer. It was not because God would not respond, or that he said *no* or *wait*, but demons were directly opposing (Daniel 10:11,13).

It happened in this manner. The devil was his authority as the "Prince of the powers of the air" and has his headquarters between this earth and Heaven where God's throne is. Daniel prayed in Babylon and the prayer was received in Heaven. God dispatched the answer through regular channels. The demon-hordes of Satan kept the answer bottled up for twenty days. Daniel lay before God in faithfulness, refusing to give up. Although he could not understand the long delay, he would not quit. On the twenty-first day God spoke to the mighty angel Michael and said, "Michael, take the answer through the enemy lines to my beloved servant." Michael stormed the devil's fort, pushed through the demon guards, lifted the gates off Satan's

inner sanctum, reached in and got the answer to Daniel's prayer and kept right on going. When Michael arrived in Babylon, Daniel was on his face before God. Michael raised him up and said, *O Daniel, greatly beloved . . . from the first day . . . thy words were heard. But the Prince of Persia (refers to demons) withstood me one and twenty days.*

If you pray in all sincerity and faithfulness according to the will of God and the answer will not come through, you may know that the devil has thrown up a blockade. Hold on; God will get the answer through even if he has to put his mighty angels on the case. They will get the answer through to you provided in the meantime you have held on.

How To Pray God's Way

Finally Jesus told the woman that *it is not meet to give the children's bread to dogs.*

Remember, she came to ask Christ to heal her little demon-possessed child and Jesus replied that she was asking for the *children's bread* which he would not give to her because she was *unclean* or not right with God.

Healing *is* the children's bread. This is why he is so careful to lead her on, to probe her soul, to work a change in her life, to get her into the attitude of humility, love and faith.

Jesus says that healing is the children's bread. Thank God, it is. This is one of the most amazing revelations Jesus ever made. Healing is the heritage of the righteous. *I am the Lord that healeth thee (Exodus 15:26). Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases (Psalm 103:3).*

Each one of us has a perfect right to God and just as he will forgive all our sins, he will heal all our diseases.

Faith in God is based on love. We cannot believe unless we love. God will not give healing, his children's bread (staff of life), to people who do not love and worship him. You do not wish to love God and you have no faith. Faith is like a grain of mustard seed. It must grow in fertile, responsive soil, in a life that is guided and motivated by love and unselfishness.

Love God and you work with God; co-operate with him and his mighty power is at your command.

Then this woman showed the kind of stuff she was made of. When she saw the truth of his statements, she admitted she was not in harmony with God. She saw that she was outside his saving grace and at the same time was asking for healing which is God's gift to those who love and serve him.

She bowed her head, humbled her spirit, acknowledged that she needed his saving power, saying, "Truth Lord, I am unclean and not in the least worthy to sit with the children." She had a sense of unworthiness which is important in seeking healing from God.

Then she said, "Yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their Master's table." In other words, "A crumb, please." She asked for only a healing crumb because she felt unworthy to sit with the children. "Pitch it under the table, Lord," she is saying out of her modesty, determination and humble devotion.

Now—Write Your Own Ticket with God

Jesus was thrilled and immediately cried, *O Woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.*

"O woman. . . ." By her willingness to change her attitude and enter the kingdom of God she caused him to think of her as an individual. Her faith put Christ to work in her behalf. Faith is always rewarded. The key to the things we want is our faith in God.

A little girl was tormented with a devil; out across the country her mother is standing before Jesus in sincere worship and faith. Jesus, removed by a great distance from the child back in her home, responds to the mother's faith by saying what he will say to any of us who will humble ourselves and believe him, *Be it unto thee even as thou wilt.*

She can now write her own ticket. She did. *And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*

Nothing is too hard with God. He can do all things and do them well. He seeks our co-operation. He wants us to be his partners, sharing with him the abundance of life—peace, health and happiness.

You can get results when you pray. You can write your own ticket with God. Believe it and do it today.

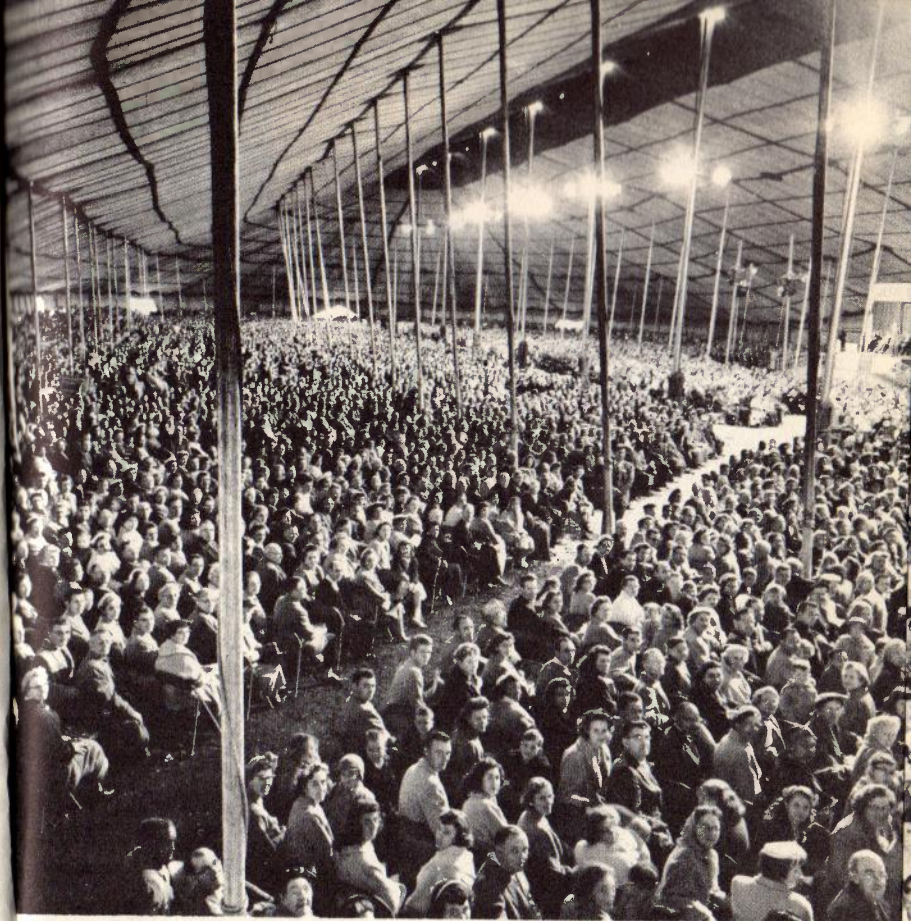
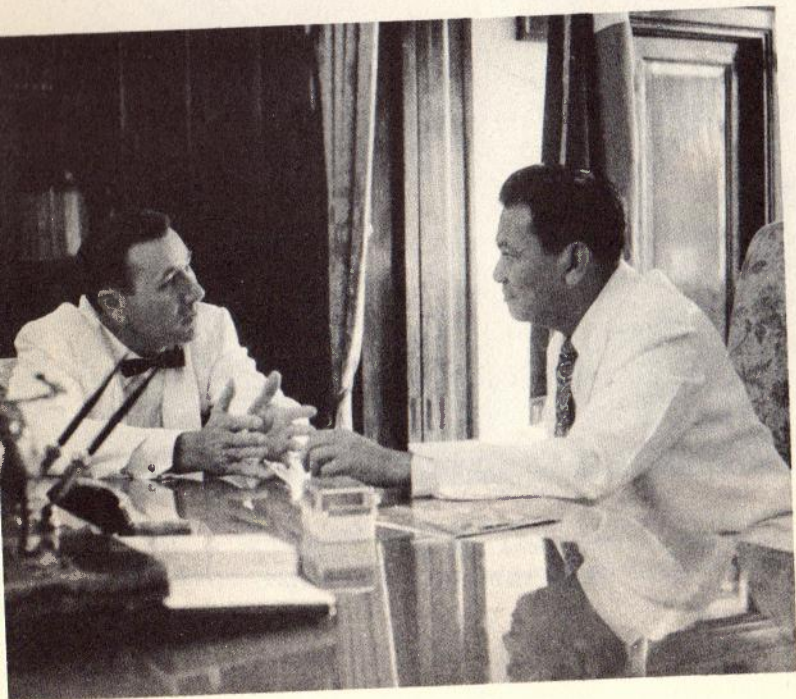
SUMMED UP

1. If there is no answer to your prayer, there is a reason.
2. Your attitude is more important than the words of your prayer.
3. If there is no indication that your prayer has been answered, it may be that God is seeking to work a change in you.
4. When God says *no*, it indicates he has a better way for you.
5. His delay in answering your prayer means his will for your life is involved or the devil is opposing in a special manner. In either case don't give up—keep trusting.
6. Remember, healing is the children's bread. You have no right to it until you become God's child. Once you have changed your ways and received Christ, it is your heritage. Have faith and you will be healed.
7. Faith is always rewarded. Through it you can write your own ticket with God.



GOVERNOR RAYMOND GARY of Oklahoma, Oral Roberts, Mayor George Norvel of Tulsa. Governor Gary said, "This great Oral Roberts organization is a miracle within itself."

ORAL ROBERTS AND PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY of the Philippines. The President said, "Thank you for coming. This has been a great day in my life."



THE GREAT CANVAS CATHEDRAL, seating 18,000. A Florence, S. C., congregation. This scene has been duplicated in cities from coast to coast.



IN JOHANNESBURG. *Throngs of "blacks" and "coloreds" stood under the trees to hear Oral Roberts and to receive his prayers.*



IN WEMBLEY STADIUM, *Johannesburg. Part of 3,000 "whites" who came forward in one night to be saved. There were 21,400 saved in one week.*

HELEN MAVIS BARRETT, *Sydney, Australia, was only one of multitudes of sick and afflicted who were prayed for in the Australia crusades.*



ORAL ROBERTS *has endeared himself to people around the world by his compassion for little children.*





YOUR PARTNER FOR DELIVERANCE, AT PRAYER.

THE SEVEN RULES OF FAITH THAT BRING YOU WHAT YOU WANT

The Healing of a Famous General

2 Kings 5:1-15

There is unlimited power—available now—in God which each of us can have through the proper use of our faith. Limitless, available power now! at the instant command of any person who brings himself into harmony with the rules of faith.

The vast hidden forces of nature are gradually being tapped by those men who obey the laws governing this universe. Long before Benjamin Franklin flew a kite and discovered the principles of electricity, that power was existent

in the elements. It remained only to be discovered and put to the use of mankind.

Hidden in God are the unlimited powers which bring healing to man's spiritual, mental and physical life. God is not exhausted, neither is he unwilling. He waits only to be recognized, to be believed and worshiped, his power to be utilized and put to work for the deliverance of human life. Thousands of thinking people the world over are discovering that God's power is available, and has been, for their hurts and ills.

The power of God is not given indiscriminately to any man, but anyone can have that power who will seek God and bring himself into harmony with God's laws and rules.

The story centers around a famous man, General Naaman of Syria. Naaman was Commander in Chief of Syria's Expeditionary Forces and because of his outstanding military successes, had been hailed as the national hero.

It was shocking news when the General's personal physician found that his chief had contracted leprosy which was widely prevalent in those days.

Across the nation, the cry went up, "General Naaman is a leper! Our beloved leader is a leper!"

Leprosy meant living death—slow, torturous and isolating suffering.

Disease is a foul and inhuman thing and is not numbered among the blessings of life. Jesus Christ came against it in the power of his pure and healthy humanity, laying his healing hands upon the sick and tormented, making them *every whit whole* (Matthew 9:35). The Bible record states that, *as many as touched him were made whole* (Mark 6:56).

Now as I tell you the story of Naaman's miraculous healing through his faith in Almighty God, I wish to point out to you the seven rules of faith that will bring you what you want.

RULE ONE:

Recognize Sickness and Disease As the Oppression of the Devil (Acts 10:38)

This rule of faith is made plain to us by the leading member of the twelve apostles—Simon Peter. The great apostle knew the Saviour's love for suffering humanity. After the resurrection

of Christ, the apostle was preaching to the soldiers in the house of Cornelius in Caesarea. He said, . . . *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).

Healing all that were oppressed of the devil. This is Peter's summation of the ministry of the Lord Jesus.

Satan, Peter is saying, is a destroyer of human life while Jesus is a destroyer of the oppressions (human afflictions) of the devil.

The writers of the four gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—tell the story of Jesus and his healing power. All of them tell how Jesus found the people oppressed with *all manner of sickness and all manner of disease and demons and he healed their sick* (Matthew 14:14).

They tell how compassion flowed through him, like the water of a mountain stream, and became healing virtue for all who would believe (Mark 5:30). The healing virtue of Jesus is God's antidote against disease and is instantly available to all who will "turn their faith loose."

The Saviour was a healer and did not turn any person away who had faith. Making no difference as to race, he demanded only one thing: faith. *As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee* (Matthew 8:13).

He healed the blind, the deaf, the crippled, the demon-possessed, the fevered, the broken-hearted and all who were oppressed.

These afflictions were classified by the Apostle Peter as "oppression." He saw people with these diseases healed by the Master.

Later, Peter in writing his New Testament book declares, *by whose stripes ye were healed* (1 Peter 2:24).

Healing power was given to the followers of Jesus Christ and many of them were outstandingly successful in delivering the people. Peter's shadow was used as a *point of contact* and those upon whom it fell were healed (Acts 5:15). This was after the day of Pentecost. Similarly, Stephen and Philip, laymen of the early church, brought through faith outstanding healings to many oppressed people (Acts 6:8; 8:5-8).

Paul describes the nine gifts of the spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, including the gift of healing, the gift of miracles and the gift of discerning of spirits. These three gifts are given to certain believers, principally ministers, for the direct purpose of healing the sick and casting out demons. These gifts are additional stimulants to faith and will bring deliverance when other means fail.

Paul, apostle to the Gentiles, describes the gifts of the spirit, three of which are for healing—miracles, healing and discerning of spirits (1 Corinthians 12:4-10).

This, then, is our God: loving, tender, compassionate and full of healing virtue. *It is wise to know the difference between Satan, the oppressor, and Christ, the lifesaver* (John 10:10). Just as Satan is the source of all human torment, God is the source of life. The appeal of Christ's healthy, undivided personality is to men and women everywhere who want health, peace and happiness.

Remember, the Bible pictures Jesus as coming into a world full of sickness and demon-oppression. He found the church cold and

indifferent toward human misery. When the so-called religious leaders would not work with him, he went alone, yet not alone, for God was with him (Acts 10:38). He chose men and women to be his partners and through them he transmitted his healing power.

He had glorious success in healing the souls, minds and physical lives of the multitudes. He never said to one, "It is not my will to heal you," and to another, "It is my will to heal you," but towering above respect of persons he healed those *who were oppressed of the devil*.

Only once are we told that he was powerless to heal. But even this had a reason. The people of Nazareth were his boyhood acquaintances and they were skeptical; they looked upon the accounts of his wonders with cynical scorn and when he came to preach to them, they met him with cold unbelief. The gospel writers do not omit this failure of Jesus in his own home town but record it in a terse, tragic sentence. *And he did not many mighty works, they tell us, because of their unbelief* (Matthew 13:58).

This means that in the use of his miraculous

power, he requires faith in those who would be healed.

His deep sorrow is traceable not only to the power of Satan over mankind but also to the unbelief of the people he came to deliver.

The most thrilling question ever asked by the Son of God is, *Wilt thou be made whole?* His answer then was the same as it is now, *Rise, thy faith doth make thee whole.* Faith does it.

God who is busy with the affairs of an entire generation has both time and power and desire to save, to heal, to reward and bless. Wherever there is human need, he is present to heal (Luke 5:17).

The power of God to heal human life is still active today—in the faith and love of his people in all churches and in all walks of life. God honors their faith for their faith honors God.

Remember, Rule One of faith is that Satan is the oppressor of human life; God brings life with health, peace and happiness.

A Little Girl Knows the Way

General Naaman had made a victorious march across the Bible land of Israel and had taken captive a little maid to be servant to his wife. This child was familiar with God and his prophets and knew they could heal. Seeing the General was a leper, she said, "Would God my Lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria (Israel) for he would recover him of his leprosy."

Naaman was grateful for this hope, believed the little girl's message and made preparation to leave at once for Israel.

SECOND RULE OF FAITH:

Believe the Message

What matter if the message came from a servant girl; the message of God is more important than its messenger. Oh, that all of us would believe this. We are becoming so denominationalized until we all but demand that God's messenger be a member of our particular denomination or church. We lose sight of the importance of the message because of our insistence that the messenger carry our own label. God does not place as much stress upon our

different theological emphases as we do. In becoming narrow and bigoted in our theologies and creeds, we place ourselves in the same position of the disciples who were sternly rebuked by Christ. *And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me* (Mark 9:38,39).

This is Christ's indictment against sectarianism. More and more it is the tendency to exclude the messengers outside our own ecclesiastical control. Let us take care, neighbor; the message is above the messenger as much as the Lord is above his servant. God is raising up men of deliverance, imparting gifts to them both inside and outside the denominational churches; he does not compel us all to wear the same denominational label, but rather that we work with his anointed people, whoever they are, and to bring about another world-wide revival.

Peter and John brought God's healing power to a lame man and were called before the *religious authorities* to answer for this miracle of deliverance. They were chiefly accused as being *ignorant and unlearned men* (Acts 4:13).

Peter and John were well-educated and deeply intelligent men but because they had not been schooled in certain theological seminaries, they were classed as unlettered preachers and upon this basis their miracles were rejected. Someone has humorously suggested that had Peter and John been educated in certain church colleges, they would not have even believed in miracles for their day, let alone actually have performed a miracle.

Christ says if you find it difficult to believe theologically, *Believe for the very works' sake* (John 14:11).

We are negative by nature and are more apt to reject the messenger than we are to accept him.

The little Jewish maid said, *Would God my Lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria for he would recover him of his leprosy.* This is also the basis for the

THIRD RULE OF FAITH:

Go Where the Power Is

Israel represented God; and Elisha, who lived there, was God's prophet. Syria was a worshiper of idols and Naaman must get away

from the old haunts of sin and connect himself with God. "Go where the power is," the little girl is saying, "back to God, back to moral vows and saving religion."

This is a profound truth—God is everywhere present because he is omnipresent, and omnipotent. His all-prevailing power is usable by the people who maintain right attitudes and whose faith creates an atmosphere conducive to human deliverance.

Even in his day, Christ found that some places were antagonistic to his truth. *These cities became the objects of his bitterest denunciations* (Matthew 11:20-24).

This may come as a shock to you. You may find it wise to change creeds and church connections before you can truly be healed. Why? There are some churches whose creeds and ministers deny the healing virtue of Christ and reject his gifts of the Spirit for our day. They present to us a paradox: While fully believing in man's scientific and medical skill, they shut their eyes in the face of God's healing power. The herbs from which our most curative medicines are extracted were made by God and the

skill in their most effective use is a gift of the Almighty God. I, too, believe in medical science, in our great hospitals, in our medicine, but I know, and you know, that no doctor can heal. He assists nature. Only God can heal. *What a man cannot do, our heavenly Father can do.*

The blessing of God is upon medical science for all healing power is of God. However, God is not limited to earthly powers and human skills which we know to be, by their own admission, limited and restricted. He is God of miraculous power and gives to certain of his humblest and most believing servants his gifts which complement the doctor's skill and rise above the laws of nature and bring forth mighty miracles of Bible deliverance.

Full gospel churches, more than all others, believe in God's supernatural power to heal. Although we embrace the healing properties of medicine and have recourse to medical science as need arises, we most emphatically accept God's special power to heal on the basis of faith alone. In such churches you will receive definite instruction and encouragement to use your faith for healing by the power of God. We believe and teach that *Jesus Christ is the same*

yesterday, to day and for ever and that all who believe may be healed from all manner of sickness and disease. I personally count it a high honor to be joined to and associated with the most believing people of our time.

General Naaman acted upon the advice of the little maid and set forth on his trip to the land of Israel. But he made a serious mistake. Instead of going to the prophet, he went to the king of Israel. The king was outraged and declared he could do nothing for him. About that time a messenger came into the king's court with word from Elisha, *Let him come to me now and he shall know there is a prophet left in Israel.* This is important for it has to do with rule four.

RULE FOUR:

Put Your Faith in God, Not Man

The little girl had clearly told Naaman that the prophet would teach him how to use his faith to be recovered from leprosy. Instead, he had gone to the king.

I cannot insist too strongly that you put your faith in God. Have *confidence* in his servant or prophet, but put your *faith* in Almighty God, not man.

The person God has chosen to help you receive healing is an instrument only—the means to an end—your deliverance is by faith in the power of God.

At the Prophet's House

Naaman rode up to the house of Elisha and sent his servant to announce his arrival. Being forewarned of God that Naaman's attitude would have to be changed and discerning the general's pride and arrogance, the prophet acted accordingly.

Elisha was the servant of God, the human instrument only. He was in the delicate position of having to deal with a proud, dying man and to govern his acts according to the rules of faith. Faith must be gendered in Naaman; otherwise, he will return home and die. A man's heart must be right with God, his soul in tune with his Maker. God, not the prophet or preacher, is the Healer.

I am faced with the same conditions many times in our meetings across the nation where the multitudes throng for my ministry of faith and love. To show a man his condition, pointing out the rules of faith, so that God will honor

prayer for him is a responsible assignment to any servant of God. But that is the preacher's charge.

In order to receive healing from God who is love, the seeker must be a partaker of that love. Faith is based on love. Else, how could God believe in us, or we in him? One must love to believe. Any attitude of selfishness, pride, stubbornness makes it impossible for faith to work. When God's minister can help you, let wrong attitudes give way to love, as he is doing you a real favor and making it possible for you to be healed by the power of God.

With great detachment Elisha remained in his house. He sent the famous general a message by his servant: "Sir, the prophet said for you to go and dip seven times in the Jordan River and your flesh shall be clean" (paraphrased).

Naaman was astonished, then enraged and commanded his aides to depart at once. As he went away he muttered, "Go dip in that filthy river. Bah! I thought he at least would come out to me and do some great thing and recover me. If I wanted to bathe I would have stayed at home; at least the water is clean in the rivers of Syria."

Elisha saw him leave and perhaps said, "Yes, that is the way it goes with the proud. They are bound by their own little conceptions and notions, never once thinking that when they ask for healing they are dealing with Jehovah God and that there are rules which govern faith. Humility, respect for God's message and his prophets, a desire to give up sin and to worship the true God—these attitudes help a man get in harmony with God and help him believe."

How many precious people are letting some little preconceived idea keep them from being healed. This thought occurred to one of Naaman's servants who said, "Master, we want our lord to be recovered from his leprosy. We know that the prophet is right. Sir, you *were* expecting the prophet to do some great thing over you and because he did the opposite you were offended and now you are returning to die. Master, in your servant's humble opinion, it is better to go wash and be clean."

What a wonderful way to reason things out among friends.

RULE FIVE:

Accept the Correction of God

Naaman listened and when the servant had

finished, he nodded his head and agreed. Said he, "You are right. I *am* wrong, I came here that way. Ah, this Elisha is a great one—saw right through me. And his God must have shown the prophet the kind of man I was. "Go dip in the Jordan' the prophet says. Surely I can do that. Let's go."

It takes a great and humble spirit for one to change like that. This is a marvelous thing. It doesn't take long for a man to change if he wants to. When he accepts God's correction, the Spirit of Christ enters him and he is a "new creature." Repentance is a change of mind before it becomes a change of heart.

General Naaman gave the order and they went to the river. With Elisha's message ringing in his ears, *Go down and go wash*, he plunged into the muddy, yellow waters of the famous River Jordan. There were only a few ripples on the water revealing that the great man was *all under*. This is the accomplishment of rule six.

RULE SIX:

Lose Yourself

What a contrast! The man who went to the wrong place for healing, who was rude to God's prophet, who was bound by his own creeds,

who was a very mad man, the man who had refused to obey, a famous but dying man is now losing himself.

There are a lot of things we would be better off *without*. Losing ourselves in obedience to God, linking ourselves with the limitless power of Christ, getting in tune with the Saviour—these are the things that count most when we seek to be healed through faith in God. Lose yourself (Matthew 16:25).

Naaman has come a long way since he left Syria. Who would have believed the national hero would now be dipping in a river despised by his countrymen? But here he is and enjoying every moment of it.

Something was going on in Naaman's spirit. He is willing, joyously willing, to make the sevenfold plunge. Through it he believes he will be cured. This leads to what many believe to be the most important rule of all—rule seven.

RULE SEVEN:

Use a Point of Contact and Recover Yourself As You Want To Be

The prophet Elisha had said if Naaman would dip *seven times* his flesh would be clean

from leprosy. What is this but a point of contact or a means through which he could “turn his faith loose”? He was to dip seven times—no more, no less—in a designated river. He would find by the time he had got willing to do this he would be in the right attitude, the proper frame of mind, to believe for a miraculous recovery.

He said, “Now I see it all. This is to prepare me for believing that God will cure me.”

He dips once, twice, thrice———and the seventh. He is all under. His pride is under, his attitude, his all.

“Just this seventh time and it will be done. I know God will heal me.”

Your point of contact can be one of several things. Mine is my right hand. God spoke to me and told me that I would feel his power through my right hand. It is a sensation of God’s presence which many of God’s servants might feel going all over them, but it is concentrated in my right hand. When I lay my hand on the head of the person seeking God’s healing and begin to pray, then I feel this power going

through my right hand. The moment I feel it my faith is very strong and that is when the miracle is wrought. This point of contact helps me believe—for healing comes only through faith in God—also it helps the person seeking healing. Our faith makes contact with God and the person is delivered from disease. This is the point of contact to use in our meetings. However, there are many other ways—such as the anointing oil of James 5:15, the laying on of hands in Mark 16:17, the blest cloths of Acts 19:11,12 and so forth. What does it matter what the point of contact is if it helps you turn your faith loose?

Naaman came up out of the water the seventh time, crying, “I’ve done it! Now the Lord God will recover me.”

With unhampered faith in a limitless God, he walked out on the river bank believing his leprosy would go. He had done what the prophet said, he had brought himself into harmony with God, he was turning his faith loose and . . . and it happened!

And his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean (2 Kings 5:14).

He was so grateful he returned to the prophet's house and, as befits all true servants of God, Elisha would receive no private gift for the miracle wrought.

The General made his vows to the true God that he would worship him and henceforth would serve no other gods.

What a fitting climax—he obeyed the rules of faith and got what he wanted. But he did not forget the God who had healed him. His leprosy was gone and God had come into his life.

A new Naaman returned to his land, a healthy man again; he had been healed by a miracle through his own faith.

What God did for Naaman, he will do for you.

SUMMED UP

1. Recognize that sickness is the oppression of the devil and that God wants you to be well and happy (Acts 10:38; John 10:10).
2. Believe the message of deliverance no matter who God's messenger is.
3. Go where the power of God is even though you may have to change creeds or church connections.
4. Put your faith in God, not man. Remember that what man cannot do, our heavenly Father can do.
5. Accept God's correction for he knows best.
6. Lose yourself for then you can become a better person.
7. Use a point of contact and recover yourself as you want to be—healed, a believing servant of God.

HOW TO TURN YOUR FAITH LOOSE

Touching the Hem of His Garment

Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48

This is the story of touching the “hem of Jesus’ garment” and in return receiving his healing virtue. This Bible drama will show you how to turn your faith loose even in the most difficult conditions. Once you turn your faith loose it will put God to work for you. You tap the source of healing power causing it to flow into your body where it will destroy disease and affliction.

The name of this woman who touched the

hem of his garment is unknown; she was not important enough to have her name recorded in the Bible. I think this is true because God would have us draw courage and inspiration from her story by putting our name where hers could have been. Then we, too, will release our faith, not by putting our hands on his clothes as she did, but by using some other point of contact which will enable us to believe Christ for our deliverance and receive from him a healing just as glorious as she received in her day.

Seven things happened in her life which can be very real for us today.

1. She Came to the End of Her Own Way and Stopped Before She Went to Pieces

The Bible says that she had an incurable disease. *She had suffered many things of many physicians and was nothing bettered but rather grew worse.* She had spent every penny she had to recover her health and then with her money gone her affliction grew steadily worse.

One day she faced her problem and realized that she had exhausted medical science, as well as her money. She saw futility, and she made a remarkable decision: to stop before she went

to pieces. She knew where she stood; she was beyond the pale of human cure.

She came to the end of her own way and stopped. "She came to the end of her rope and hung on." Fear sets in when we know there is no cure, yet, we frantically keep seeking human aid. But she stopped before fear could take her to pieces.

2. She Heard the Story of Faith—and Believed It

The story of Jesus reached her. There was a Galilean prophet who was going throughout Judea healing the sick and bringing peace to their souls. So remarkable was his power that totally blind eyes had been opened by his touch; the deaf and dumb now heard and spoke; even some of the hopeless cripples were made whole. Naturally, great crowds were thronging him inasmuch that he hardly had time to rest or eat. The multitudes were so thick around him that there was little opportunity to talk with him or have him put his hands upon one. But his ministry had inspired such faith until now the people wanted only to touch him, and it was reported by thousands that everyone who had got close enough to touch even his clothes was perfectly healed.

Did he charge for his miracles as the doctors did? Oh, no. It was *without money and without price*. But one had to be humble, to change his way of living and be ready to use his new strength to help others by taking up his cross and following the Master.

His name? Jesus of Nazareth.

It was astounding news but the woman believed it—every word of it.

Anyone who can believe in human skill can believe in God's power. For what a man can do a little of, God can do completely; and what a man cannot do at all, our heavenly Father can do.

There is hope in believing but despair in unbelief.

The story they told her about Jesus of Nazareth is the same one I heard when I had tuberculosis. I believed it and through it I found the way to faith and hope and was recovered. It is the same story I am telling the masses, more than a million a year face to face in our prayer Crusades and the several million who hear my

voice on the radio broadcast on a nationwide hookup.

I ask you to believe this story of faith for I know that through it you can do something about your frustrations and fears.

This little woman said to herself, "How wonderful this man must be. He heals those who just touch him. That is the most amazing thing I have ever heard! When they can't get any closer, they can reach out and touch him and he heals them. Think of that!"

"If he can do it for them, he can do it for me. If they can touch him I can too. Oh, if I can touch just the *hem* of his robe I know he will make me whole." This means that—

3. She Was Healed in Her Thinking before She Was Healed in Her Body

She made no mental reservations. God insults the intelligence of no man; neither will he bypass your mind. "As a man thinketh so is he." The thinking capacity of your soul is called mind. If you cannot believe mentally or intellectually, you will not be able to believe from your soul.

She saw herself there touching his clothes, feeling his healing virtue and being restored to health and peace of mind—all this before she ever went to him.

She was getting herself in tune with God for that was the only way she could use the power of faith.

4. She Touched Him for a Cause

After she had touched him and had felt that she was whole of her plague, she “declared unto him for what cause she had touched him.”

Her cause was to be made whole. For that purpose she touched him.

Life is a whole—a unit. Sickness would divide us and weaken us. It would separate one limb from use and another from its strength.

The supreme mission of Christ is to give men *life and that they might have it more abundantly* (John 10:10). He said, *The Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them* (Luke 9:56). He seeks to make men *whole*, sound of limb and mind, full of faith and power, strengthened in the inner man by the grace of God.



This is something to believe in and to use for the glory of God and the deliverance of stricken humanity.

5. She Used a Point of Contact To Touch Him Differently

Her point of contact was touching just the “hem of his garment.”

There is no healing in his clothes for he said to her, *Thy faith hath made thee whole*—not the touching of his clothes, but her faith. But he did not rebuke her for touching his clothes because she touched them for her point of contact. She felt that by touching the robe he wore she could believe; it would be a springboard for her faith.

God will not condemn any point of contact that will help us turn our faith loose.

As she made her way through the crowd she was saying, “If I can only touch his clothes, if I can only touch his clothes!” Her faith cleared a path for her feet and made an opening through the crowd for her.

The people were pressing so closely together that the only way she could have got through was by faith. Faith will move God and man. It will take you through when everything else fails. Have faith in God.

The crowd moved back for her and she plunged on through and then . . . there he was. She had made it through to him. She bent low, reached out a trembling hand and *touched* the hem of his garment. It was like touching a live wire, the mighty healing virtue of Christ surged out of him into her. It went all through her, into every fiber of her being and spent its force against her affliction. In a moment's time *she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.*

Jesus turned around and cried, "Who touched me?"

Peter said, "Lord, what do you mean 'who touched me,' the whole crowd is jostling up against you."

"Yea, but this was a different touch!" said Jesus, "for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me."

Oh, neighbor, believe it—Jesus is full of healing virtue! He is charged with the mighty power of God to make you every whit whole!

Hers was a different touch. She touched him not as part of the crowd but as an individual, touching him knowingly, discriminatingly, purposefully and with a point of contact. She touched a specified part of his clothes—the hem, the part that she would have to humble herself to reach—with a specific purpose, to turn her faith loose. The moment she touched his robe *she believed!* Right then. That is the only way to use a point of contact. The virtue in Jesus heals on contact, bringing deliverance from disease and fear and frustration.

She said if she could touch Jesus' clothes, then and there she would believe that he would heal her. And it happened.

It would have happened had she used some other point of contact, as long as she would have believed then and there.

This is the thing you must grasp and understand. There is more than one point of contact

for God cannot be limited to any special thing or to any certain person.

The Bible tells of the ruler of the synagogue coming to Jesus and imploring him to heal his dying child. Said he, *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* (Mark 5:23).

His child was sick. He believed that if Jesus would lay his hands on her, she would be healed. Jesus' hands was his point of contact.

Before the Lord could get there the ruler's servant appeared and said that the child had already died. Jesus knew the ruler's point of contact and said to him, *Fear not, only believe and she shall be made whole.*

"Fear not—only believe. Hold on to your point of contact, turn your faith loose and your child shall be restored."

When they arrived at the house Jesus placed *his hands* upon the child for he knew this was the ruler's point of contact. The ruler saw Jesus' healing hands on his child and believed. And it happened. She was raised from the dead!

The simple use of a point of contact is to help connect with the healing virtue of Jesus who is full of it.

The Apostle Paul sent forth handkerchiefs from his body (that he had prayed over) and although there was no healing virtue in them as such, they were used as points of contact. The people knew the cloths had been prayed over by Paul and that there was power in his prayers. The moment the handkerchiefs were placed upon them—that moment, I say, they turned their faith loose and God healed them. *And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them* (Acts 19:11,12).

The faith-cloths that I pray over are to be used as points of contact and in the same manner God brings deliverance through faith in his name.

6. She Made Contact with Healing Power

She felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. Contact was made between her faith and the healing virtue resident in Jesus Christ. Like plugging into an electrical connection, making contact with the distant powerhouse, faith that

is released—put into action—makes contact with God's power and releases the healing power. This power healed the woman of literal disease.

7. The Dynamics of Her Own Faith Made Her Whole

When Jesus asked, *Who touched me?* the little woman saw that she could not be hid and sprang tremblingly before him and told him why she had touched him and how she had been healed.

Jesus said, *Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*

Jesus compliments her for her faith and tells her to relax and go in peace. Her faith has made her whole. This is what he gave her to face life with: his commendation, his peace and his healing.

Neighbor, what she did, you can do. She turned her faith loose and so can you. God is a good God and he will reward your faith by bringing deliverance into your life.

SUMMED UP

1. When you come to the end of your own way—stop before you go to pieces.
2. Believe the story of deliverance and that it is for you, too.
3. Make no mental reservations, get your mind and soul in tune with God.
4. Life is a whole. Christ seeks to give you life more abundantly. Think in those terms.
5. Use a point of contact to touch God differently. Your faith will lift you out of the crowd.
6. Make contact with Christ's healing power by turning your faith loose. He heals on contact.
7. Remember that your own faith will make you whole. God rewards and compliments those who have it. Your faith will put God to work for you.

RAISING THE ROOF FOR VICTORY

And the power of the Lord was present to heal . . .
(Luke 5:17). Read Luke 5:16-26 for the full
account of the healing of the man with palsy.

In Luke's account of the healing of the man with palsy we have one of the most remarkable examples of deliverance in the New Testament. Two things stand out in this man's deliverance: his own terrible physical need of healing and the presence of the Lord to heal him. God's power to heal is always present when someone is sick or afflicted. But sometimes we have to

“raise the roof” to get the captives into the attitude and place of deliverance.

Many people expect God to heal them on their own terms or on a silver platter. However, healing does not come except as we meet Bible conditions.

A Victim of Satan

Shaking with a severe case of palsy, shut in and shut out from the world of normally well people, this afflicted man was a victim of the tormenting, afflicting, enslaving power of the devil. God did not place this disease upon him nor was God receiving any glory from its terrible effect upon his life and home.

Many good people teach and believe that sickness and affliction are the blessings of God sent either to punish or more effectively carry out his will. However, this teaching is in direct contradiction to what the Apostle Peter taught of the Lord in the house of Cornelius in Acts 10:38, . . . *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.* Sickness is Satan’s oppression of human life. John declared

that the “Son of God was manifested to destroy the works (or oppression) of the devil.” Jesus himself stated, *For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them* (Luke 9:56). Jesus is a life-saver; Satan is a destroyer and oppressor. Good neighbor, don’t blame God for your hurts and ills for *Every good gift and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning* (James 1:17).

The devil had afflicted this man and somehow he did not have the faith to pray the “prayer of faith” for his own deliverance. Sick in body, lost in soul, he was left alone in his misery and sin.

Jesus Present To Heal

Meanwhile, Jesus had returned to Capernaum. He was staying in a certain house which already was crowded with people who had come from every quarter to see and hear the mighty things of God. Doctors of the law were present and Luke significantly adds: *And the power of the Lord was present to heal.* Hallelujah! Wherever Jesus is, the power of the Lord is present to heal. This is God’s provision for our deliverance from the oppression of the devil in

our bodies. Jesus was then and is now concerned with the needs of suffering humanity. He wants to set us free and will when we dare to do and strike a blow for deliverance.

Jesus was always ready to heal the oppressed. Whenever the captives could go where he was, they found deliverance. They believed him for healing of soul, spirit and body. Too long we have separated all but our soul-needs from his atoning work of blessing and benefit. As he delivered all who came unto him then, so will he meet our needs today through his mighty healing power.

The power of God to heal is present today, and whenever and wherever believers will exercise faith they may *lay hands on the sick and they shall recover* (Mark 16:17). This is not only our privilege but also our responsibility. As believers we are vested with power to heal the sick, cast out devils and bring deliverance, by faith, into the lives of those bound by the devil (James 5:15,16).

Divine Compassion

James says in his book: *Pray for one another that ye may be healed*. We have the responsibility to

assist those suffering under the devil's oppression in a personal, brotherly manner and to bring healing to one another. Four men in Capernaum took the palsied man into their sympathies and resolved to bring him to Jesus for deliverance. Compassion springs from divine love and is more than mere human sympathy. Sympathy seeks to assist in a human way such as securing the aid of a physician or nurse, while compassion seeks God for perfect deliverance. We must always use sympathy when we fail to have compassion, but it is so needful that we manifest compassion since it is only through compassion that we may bring healing to the sufferers. I have always appreciated human sympathy and the kindly hand on the nurse's wrist. The sympathetic spirit of good doctors has soothed many a pain away and the work of these men has brought great relief to thousands. But healing from God is different from the work of human hands. Where the physician and nurse can only assist nature to bring the cure, God can actually heal. No human hand can heal. Human hands merely assist. Faith brings a complete cure. If we sought God as we did the aid of the men and women who devote their lives to medical relief, it is certain that we would be completely healed in a short time.

Having compassion for a helpless neighbor, they took his case into their own hands, bringing him to Jesus, since he himself could not attend the healing service in Capernaum. Prompted by divine love, compassion moves us to bring Satan's victim to God for healing. On the other hand, sympathy, springing from human concern only, inspires us to take the captive to the healing hands of science whose work of human cure has made great strides but ever falls short of a real cure. Many of its leading members frequently say, "Well, you better get in touch with the higher power if you want this loved one to live." I salute the men and women of the medical world for their heroic service to humanity, but I know and you know that only faith can bring perfect deliverance. *The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up* (James 5:15).

Jesus was moved always with compassion when he saw the suffering, straying multitudes (Matthew 14:14). The only way to perform signs and wonders during these last days is through compassion. The church has largely lost this heart-concern for the suffering needs of the multitudes at its doors. Most preachers have forsaken the "anointing oil" of James 5:15

and Mark 6:13. Where Jesus always healed the people by faith, we have largely turned the ministry of healing over to human hands who with drugs and sympathy and high fees have sometimes left the victims in the same condition as the woman of Mark 5:25,26. She *had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse*. But when this same woman heard of Jesus and came to him through faith, she was instantly and completely restored to normal health (verse 29).

It is past time for us to recapture the spirit of compassion that always leads to vigorous action in bringing the suffering captives of Satan to the Christ who delivers.

Setting a Goal

Having convinced the palsied man that he should go to Jesus and pledging themselves to bold, direct action, they set out for their goal—deliverance at any cost! Praise God, these reckless men knew only that Jesus could heal. The higher critics with their doctrine of no miracles and no demonstration had not reached them with the message of defeat and pessimism and they had hopes of certain victory. Jesus had

been in their city before and his work of compassion to all who came for deliverance had convinced them that he would turn none away. Confident that if they got their afflicted neighbor in where Jesus was conducting service he would return home every whit whole, they began pressing their way through the blockade. This is the goal of every intercessor. Determine in your heart and mind that Christ must be reached. Know that you will reach him as you press your way through.

Blockades of Satan

When they arrived with their charge, the four men of compassion found the way to Jesus was blocked with the press of the people. As they advanced, seeking an opening, they were pushed back. They kept trying but each time the human blockade stood in the way. Now what could they do? There was no opening in the crowd. Apparently they must return home defeated! But, no! Refusing to turn back they—

Burned Their Bridges

Here is the secret of deliverance. Healing is for those who forsake not their bold, determined efforts to be healed but who burn the bridges between them and the affliction. Forget the

road back, friend; keep pushing ahead. Many more would be healed today if they would not give up when the way was temporarily blocked.

There are real blockades to healing. There is the church blockade with its "form, but denies the power" of God. There is ecclesiastical disapproval in high places, the ministerial frown on miraculous power, the denial of the higher critics, and the lack of faith in the captive himself.

How many times the four men tried to get their neighbor in, we do not know, but it must have been several. One thing was fixed in their minds: they would not turn back!

Raising the Roof for Victory

When all other things failed, these men of compassion threw caution to the winds and resorted to drastic action: they *raised the roof for victory!* It is time to raise the roof for victory! Here is a case of affliction beyond the pale of human cure; only Jesus can heal him but human blockade is between him and deliverance. Daring to go beyond the conventional, tossing pride to the side of the road, these men turned away from the crowd and, with divine audacity, climbed

upon the housetop and began tearing off the roof. Hallelujah! This is the crowd I want to be identified with. It is time to raise the roof about our needs and get in where the Lord's power is present NOW to heal.

These men were "Partners for Deliverance." They felt they had a job to perform—to get the suffering healed. There should be purpose to every Christian's life. The purpose of Jesus was to deliver humanity. We are his followers. Can we do less?

God has promised victory to Partners for Deliverance. *Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I will be in the midst of them.* And remember that wherever the Lord is, his power is present to heal.

Faith That Works

While Jesus was preaching to the people inside the house, there was a commotion and noise on the housetop. These men were tearing off the roof. As the debris filtered down into the house, the doctors of the law murmured their disapproval. They felt that such action was out of place since it interrupted the service. There are some church leaders whose method of serv-

ice is cut and dried, operated by a prearranged schedule. When their order of service is interrupted by the demonstration of God's miraculous power through someone's faith, they are alarmed and frequently declare that miracles are impossible, that efforts to believe for the supernatural are out of place in this day and are of the flesh. But since God specializes in the impossible and deals in the supernatural shown by divine creation and divine redemption, we have a perfect scriptural right to believe and receive divine help.

Jesus never carried on his service according to a stop watch; he was there to *preach the gospel to the poor; . . . to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised* (Luke 4:18).

When the opportunity to deliver came, Jesus always went into action, setting the captive free. He preached to build faith; when he saw faith, he stopped whatever he was doing and answered with deliverance. Oh, that we could see that today. The purpose of our gospel services is to inspire people to believe in God. We should never be so tied to convention, to human

plans, to set a pattern that we will not stop everything, anytime, to bring deliverance to the souls and bodies of men and women.

Looking up through the opening in the roof the Master saw a couch being lowered by the four men of daring and reckless faith. *And when he saw their faith*, he began to deliver the palsied man. Their faith was responsible for this scene. Their faith, having set as their goal deliverance at any cost, had burned every bridge and now after tearing off the roof, presented the victim to Christ the Healer. Faith is the victory! Thousands will never find deliverance unless we manifest faith in their behalf. Believing with others for deliverance is not only our privilege but our responsibility.

Burning "His" Bridges

The faith-partners had done all they could. The roof was raised, an opening large enough to get him through to Jesus had been made and the palsied man was where the "power of the Lord was present to heal." It is up to him from there on.

There is a lot that I can do to help you get your healing. Through prayer and fasting, by

living, active faith and in bold, direct Holy Ghost preaching plus the prayer of faith—we who believe in God for healing, can actually bring you in where the Lord's power is present to deliver you. But you are on your own from that point. Jesus said to the man, *Arise, take up thy couch, and go into thy house!* It is time now for the palsied man to have personal faith, to set his goal and burn his bridges, to break every connection with the affliction and actually believe NOW for deliverance. Others had told him of the Master, others had brought him to the healing service, others had raised the roof for victory, others had brought him where the healing waters were flowing—but that is not enough. There is no magic connected with healing. Jesus always told the captive to "do something." Hear him say, *Thy faith hath made thee whole.* The thing we must help you do is to "turn your faith loose." Get it into action. Faith accomplishes things only as it *works*. You can have faith only as you exercise it. If you were to place a perfectly normal arm in a sling and keep it there in a state of inaction for several months, you would lose its use; it would become stiff. You may have faith lying dormant in your soul but it will bring deliverance only as you use it.

The palsied man has been bedfast for a long time. His limbs are incapable of lifting and supporting his body. But most people who are healed take the first few steps with no feeling at all and as they move out from the old bed, wheel chair, crutches, and other aids they find deliverance. He must sever all connections with past defeats, with present afflictions and hopes of future freedom—His faith must act now! Jesus is saying, *Arise*.

Here is where we must believe in the supernatural power of deliverance. We must accept the fact that God is honest: He will tell us to do only what we can do by faith. Honesty is the foundation of success. Honesty is pretty closely allied with faith since faith is believing God will do what he says he will.

The man was on the right track when in answer to the critics of miracle-working power, he said, "Well, if God told me to jump through this wall, I would jump and expect God to make a hole in the wall."

There is deliverance for you in the healing of the palsied man; therefore, watch closely the unfolding of his faith. There is only *one time*

that faith can and will act—that is *now*. Without hesitation the palsied man recognized the authority of Jesus over his affliction and without questioning the "command of faith" he made a gallant effort to rise. And to the astonishment of the crowd, he actually *rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay and departed to his house, glorifying God*. There are no bonds that faith cannot break, no fetters it cannot sever, no dungeon it cannot open, no disease it cannot heal, no victory it cannot win. Faith puts you directly in the hands of a limitless God who is "exceeding, abundantly able to do above all that we can ask or think" and who "will in no wise cast us out" but will give sweet deliverance when we believe him for our needs.

Suffering friends, don't try to believe tomorrow or next week or sometime in the distant future—believe *now*. There was only one time this man could have the miracle of healing wrought on his paralyzed body—that was the moment Jesus told him to "Arise!" Obey the directions of God. Move out when the Spirit moves you. Shake loose from doubt, delay and other hindrances. Accept the provision now. If the Lord moves you to have faith for your deliverance as you read this sermon, be bold

and ready to act. "The secret of deliverance is in instant obedience."

You Can Have This, Too

When the man rose under the mighty power of deliverance as it penetrated every fiber of his body, the crowd moved back to let him through. His destination now was home, sweet home. For months he had been bound to his bed, shut in from the world and alone in his misery. The devil had stolen the flower of health and kept him strapped to the couch. But faith sets him free. Throwing his little mattress over his shoulders, he leaps and runs through the crowd, out the door and down the highway home. As the people see him go they glorify God and say to each other, *We have seen strange things this day*. They were impressed more with this one healing than they were with all the cut and dried church services they had ever attended. God was able to get nearer them than at any time before. There is something about God's love and concern and healing for the captives of Satan that touches the heart of humanity and draws it toward God.

There is only one way to reach the world for Christ today and that is to bring this mighty

power of deliverance to them by faith as Partners for Deliverance. We must have revivals for deliverance, not revivals for card-signing, handshaking and social visits. The power of God must fall upon us, the healing waters must flow for our deliverance. The hurts and ills of humanity must find deliverance in our prayer of faith. Dare we fail God and suffering people in this crucial hour of the world's need? Shall we sit supinely by while Satan is ever busy in his work of human oppression when the only kind of revival conducted by Jesus, the seventy apostles, the deacons and missionaries of the early Church was healing, and Jude urges us to *earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints?* They did then, why not now? Let us raise the roof for victory!

A Blessing for the Soul

You may get saved without getting healed, but you cannot get healed without getting a blessing for your soul. The same Christ who healed the palsied man's affliction also said to him, *Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.*

This is a marvelous deliverance. It shows the will of God for us all: deliverance for soul and body through faith. The man went home saved

and healed. He was "whole." Place yourself in the position of this man who found deliverance. Strike a blow for your deliverance. Do something! Raise the roof for victory! Deliverance is yours, now, by faith in the same Christ who healed the palsied man and who lives today to meet your needs.

IF YOU NEED
HEALING
DO THESE THINGS

by Oral Roberts

HOW YOU CAN USE THE POWER OF FAITH IN GOD
FOR SPIRITUAL, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALING, AND
TO ACHIEVE HAPPINESS AND PEACE.

INCLUDING

THE SEVEN RULES OF FAITH THAT BRING YOU WHAT YOU
WANT, AND HOW TO WRITE YOUR OWN TICKET WITH GOD.