

# CATCHING THE THIEF?

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In this article, entitled "*Catching The Thief*," I will bring to our attention, the severe and subtle actions of the one called satan, who is described by Jesus as one full of evil intentions, and a thief among Gods people.

Jesus speaks of satan, as one who is constantly attempting to steal from us whatever and whenever he can. The list is long, but I will mention here such things as our health, and blessings.

There is convincing evidence in both the Old and New Testaments of God's Word, clearly indicating His will to heal His people. Of course in the Gospels, this is endorsed especially through the ministry and the power of Christ among the people. This is then confirmed by the eye witnesses who wrote of these accounts. It does not stop there however, as the healing power of Christ is continued through the ministry of the believers after His resurrection. This re-enforces to us, that what happened then, and now, is still a normal part of sharing the gospel.

I have met many Christians who push this subject into the 'too hard basket,' whilst others just don't seem to want to address the subject at all. It is true to say, that we can become victims to indifference, and unbelief, if we lose our conviction that Christ heals today.

We can be ‘robbed’ of blessings in this life through our ignorance, and by unbelief.

My prayer is: God help us to know that Jesus Christ is *‘The same yesterday, today and forever’* Amen

## CATCHING THE THIEF?

This material can be used for personal study or as a guide for group discussion.

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# CATCH THE THIEF

Recently, whilst in preparation for Sunday ministry in a church, and with a message that I had titled; ***“The healing power of Christ,”*** I felt challenged by God to look at a scripture that I had read countless times before.

Feeling that I already knew what this scripture says and means, I argued with God a little, but then decided it was better to obey His prompting, rather than miss out on something that He was wanting to enforce into my spirit.

This scripture is well known as being the direct words of Christ. This verse is also one that is well quoted by believers; **John 10:10** *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly”.*

Certain words in this passage immediately stood out to me this day. They came with fresh impact, even though I had read them countless times before. Words like *“steal” “kill” and “destroy”*

Having grown up on a farm, I knew first hand that the words used here, can be applied to a vulnerable animal such as a sheep. They can become a victim of a rogue dog. But as I read this passage again this day, I was soon reminded that Jesus was not talking about sheep, as in animals, but that He was using them as an analogy to portray a powerful truth to us.

I need to say here that I am not one who seeks to dwell on satan all of the time. But then again, some believers just stick their heads in the sand hoping that he will never bother them if they just lie low, or never ever really get in his face.

I felt strongly at the moment of reading this well known scripture, that Jesus was seeking to get my attention. He wanted to impact me with the content and meaning of these three words. He was seeking to alert me for the purpose of me seeing the evil intentions of satan, whom He describes here, as a ***“Thief”***

The three words used here by Jesus, describe what lengths this thief will go to on his mission against us; to ***“Steal”*** and to ***“Kill”*** and to ***“Destroy”***

I grew up on a farm. There was period when a stray dog would come onto our farm from a direction that remained undetected by us.

**May I remind you, that satan always likes to remain undetected.**

This rogue dog would attack our sheep, and do so with the sole purpose of isolating one of them. It would do this by hounding a single sheep into a drain, or into a place where it could wear it down, thus immobilizing it for its ultimate evil intention.

Once it had the sheep where it could not defend itself, it would then attack the flesh of the sheep in such a vicious way, and inflicting hideous wounds upon it. It would then even devour its flesh while it was still alive. Of course, the ultimate intention of this thief was to conquer it. If it did not kill the sheep immediately, it would leave it to die a painful death. After it had destroyed it, it would then sneak away as a thief does, and with the satisfaction of its conquest.

**Friends, that is exactly the evil nature of satan, and his intentions toward us.**

Sometimes this dog would savagely attack the throat of a sheep, resulting in its death, or leaving it die a cruel death.

In our case, the outcome was always the same. The dog had destroyed the life of the sheep, and it had stolen our lively hood from us.

**It was always a cruel and ugly scene.**

We could never seem to catch the culprit at its evil work. It was crafty, and always seemed to come onto the farm by stealth, and then after it had done its evil, slip away.

As I read **John 10:10** this day, I was immediately reminded of that terrible event on the farm, and I was made acutely aware of how appropriate the lesson is here.

What happened then, is exactly what happens to the believers of Christ today as they get isolated, attacked, and hounded by satan and his demons. The wicked intentions of the enemy, satan, and of course his demons, are carried out by him with the intention of immobilizing Gods people, and then leave them bereft of life. **He is a thief!**

People get absolutely incensed if they hear of such a thing happening to a poor defensive animal. But sadly, the same people can remain un-moved by such a thing happening to a child of God.

Jesus uses strong words here to describe what *“A thief”* will do to us if he is not detected, and then dealt with.

As the shepherd of the sheep, I firstly became incensed by what was happening. I then took decisive action by becoming vigilant. I then began waiting and watching. **I fully armed myself in readiness for this thief.**

The day came, when the dog came back to my flock with the same stealth and intention that it had preciously. Its intention was to isolate one of the sheep so that it could *steal, and kill, and destroy*.

Right before my eyes, I watched this predator dog made its way to one of the sheep. It then started hounding it to isolate it, and then drive it toward its last killing pace. I watched this obsessed thief as it carried out its same evil intended purpose of doing what it had done before, and may I say, had previously got away with.

Well this time, this thief had no idea that **I was armed**, and that I was about to catch it at its evil destructive purposes.

I am sure that on this day, this predator thief thought that he was about to get away with, yet another destructive kill. He had no idea that this would be the last time that he would be stealing from me.

**He was now discovered** and he had no idea that I was armed with something more powerful, and more destructive, than he could ever have been aware of!

God wonderfully describes to us in the book of Revelations, chapter twelve, how we can deal with the thief, satan. Ch 12:11 *“The overcame him, (the thief) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...”*

***ONCE DISCOVERED, I ENDED THIS THIEF’S FUTURE.***

**MANY OF GODS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN UNDER ATTACK HEALTH WISE:**

***The thief has been coming to steal and rob from Gods people.***

As I write this article, I am speaking from personal experience. I watch people that I know and love contending with things that have come to devour their flesh. Sickness and disease is immobilizing them, and robbing them of life.

**This article is about catching the thief. I want to make it clear that I am alluding to the one, named satan.**

He is the one who has been attacking the flesh and the health of Gods people by afflicting them with sickness and disease. My purpose in writing is to remind us, how we can use the greater weapons given to us by Christ, to deal with this thief. My intention of writing this article, is to firstly **enlighten us**, and then to **motivate us** to stand together, and to put a stop to what satan, the thief, is stealing from us.

### **JOHN 10:10 IS A WARNING FROM JESUS:**

He is warning us of the evil intentions of this thief.

As I began to look at the meanings of these words in the context of this chapter, I was amazed and astonished at how similar the description of satan's evil intentions are, to that of the thief that came to my farm to rob from me.

Jesus is most certainly referring to satan here. There must be no doubt in our thinking that satan is the one who comes to rob, steal, and kill from God people.  
**If we are in doubt about this thief, then we are defeated already!**

### **TO BEGIN, LETS LOOK AT HOW CHRIST ALLUDES TO THE INTENTIONS OF A THIEF:**

**This is meant to be a shocking reminder to us:..**

- The definition of a *"thief"* is someone who comes for the sole purpose of stealing something that belongs to you. A thief robs and seeks to do so, without getting caught.
- It is true also, that many thieves have a backup plan. If for some reason they get caught, or exposed, or identified in their act of stealing from you, they will then seek to maim, or even kill a person to escape being identified or caught. Many come with a hood over their face to stop being identified.
- A thief's whole intention is to commit a theft by stealing what belongs to you, thus leaving you bereft of what is rightfully yours.
- A thief has no respect for you. He has no concern that you have been left feeling helpless, and a violated victim.

Some years ago we had a break-in whilst away on ministry. We were left with a terrible feeling of having been violated and vulnerable. It took some time to get our confidence back again.

## LOOK HOW CHRIST DESCRIBES HIS INTENTIONS FOR YOU.

NOTE THAT THEY ARE IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THAT OF THIS THIEF:

**It is simply stated; “I have come that they (talking about you and me) may have life and that they may have it more abundantly”**

Jesus uses the word **“Life”** here, and then promises us that we can have it **“More abundantly”**

The definition of the word **“Life”** is ‘Zoe in the Greek’

1. It means a life possessed, or blessed with God vitality and wholeness.
2. It is the picture of a believer. One who has been rescued from the thief, and is now positioned in Christ, with God life.
3. This person has access to absolute fullness of life. This life power, given by God to us, is in direct contrast to the intentions of satan. His whole purpose is to rob us of God life, health, and vitality. God does not give us son-ship, and then withdraw His life flow to us to live a lesser quality of life. What He gives is in direct opposition to that of the thief. Jesus spoke of satan, as one who seeks only to steal from you.
4. A blessed life is one that is active in, and vigorous in expressing its creator. In this case, it is a believer in Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is now the author and giver of life to His people.
5. It is the life-power of God Himself, infused into His people so that they can now live in the fullness of His plans and purposes, and beyond this world into eternity, to ever be with God.

## JESUS THEN PROMISES THIS:

*“That they may have it more abundantly”*

The word *“Have”* here, is a strong word that means: *‘to take and hold in one’s own possession.’*

It is in absolute difference to a passive person doing nothing, or someone who does nothing to possess what is rightfully theirs.

It is someone *‘Holding fast to something’* knowing that they have been given it by God himself, and now have the right to have it, and to keep it, and to possess it, and the right to enjoying it.

## THE SECRET PLACE

Another scripture that is packed with hidden meaning is **Psalms 91**

Although this Psalm has obvious power packed statements, there is so much divine insight and revelation just underneath some of the words.

They say that the best gold nuggets are underneath. We know that of course, they take more effort to discover.

As you begin to break down these powerful statements, you soon discover that there are hidden treasures and meanings. These treasures are not so obvious to a reader that is in a hurry.

I will just focus on 4 verses here to help us see Gods provision and his will for a life that is blessed in Him.

**Psa 91:1** *“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty”.*

**Psa 91:3** *“Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence”.*

**Psa 91:10** *“No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling”*

**Psa 91:16** *“With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.”*

## FIRSTLY, LET ME DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE SECRET PLACE.

### **Vs1 THE SECRET PLACE IS WITH A PERSON**

This *‘Secret Place’* is not like some steel vault. A place that you might lock yourself away in due to fear, or even a place you escape to in the face of every obstacle, or attack from the thief as we go through this life.

No, this “*Secret place*” is with the most powerful person in the whole world; God Himself.

God’s people can go to and from this place anytime to be renewed in intimacy with Him, and to be empowered by Him.

- It is a place of secrecy and intimacy with someone.
- It is like the “Sheepfold” that Jesus is speaks of in **John 10**
- It is place of covering and shelter that is with someone who is more powerful than any other. With Christ Himself, our perfect protector.
- He is a hiding place for us when the battle is intense.
- Our God is a stronghold from an enemy, or an opposing army.
- He is the place of protection from the tongue of the slanderous.

**Rev 12:11**

## **SECONDLY, TO THIS PERSON, GOD PROMISES PROTECTION FROM CERTAIN THINGS THAT HE DEFINES FOR US HERE.**

### **Vs10 THE PROMISE OF TOTAL PROTECTION**

- **Psa 91:10** “No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling”

The definition of “*a plague*” according to Strong’s is this:...

- That which causes certain hardship. A plague is that which is often associated with disease, want, and loss of life.
- A “*Plague*” can also mean a stroke. We all know what happens when a person has a stroke. A part of the body dies or loses function. This is due to the lack of blood flow to the brain, or because of the blockage of blood flow. This results in the loss of body function and movement.  
God promises us protection from a stroke.

- Protection from a disease
- Protection from a deadly wound
- **This verse actually covers all that is metaphorical of diseases.**

## **THIRDLY THERE IS THE PROMISE OF PROVISION**

### **Vs16 THE PERSON SPOKEN OF HERE, MAKES PROVISION FOR ALL OF OUR NEEDS:..**

**Psa 91:16** “With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.”

## WE NEED TO LET THESE WORDS IMPACT A FAITH RESPONSE FROM US.

The definitions of these words are amazing and powerful!

- *Long life, will I satisfy him and show salvation*
- Salvation here includes healing and wholeness
- Deliverance
- Welfare
- Prosperity
- Victory in the face of your enemies

My point is, you cannot read the bible without being confronted repeatedly, with what I am calling, convincing proofs of God's will, and His power to protect and to bless His people. He has displayed His power, not only in the past to His people, but does so today by healing, and by protecting, His redeemed people.

The bible is full of repeat scriptures. These scriptures indicate that God has always provided for the healing of His people in response to faith.

## HE CAN AND WILL DO IT AGAIN

I am sure that a lot of people who read this article, may find themselves a lot like me.

I have been a Christian for many years now.

Along my journey with God, I have seen periods, especially in the 70's, when God undeniably healed people right before our eyes. It was a lot like what Luke describes in **Luke 5:17** *"The power of the Lord was present to heal"*

But then, there have been periods where nothing much seems to have happened. Prayer seemed to go un-answered for His healing power for the sick.

The need of this hour, is for us to have a renewed passion to rise up with a clear conviction, and a bold declaration that Christ still heals today.

If we are going to see a breakout of healings, and the Gospel evidenced with power again in this hour, then it will require a greater conviction among Gods people. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and forever. **All that He has done in the past, can be done again in this hour.**

**Our expectation in the 70's was so high. We just expected that He would do exactly what He said He would do.**

I don't think for a moment, that we are living in a disadvantaged period in time. That would make God changeable, and He cannot be such. We do not have another Gospel that is less powerful than before.

We cannot afford to sit around for a few more years just hoping that one day it may be different again. I find that there are a lot of Christians who live their lives; just hoping.

My urgent plea through this article is to get us focused in on the simplicity of the teaching of scripture. **Scripture must always have final authority.**

Scripture is that which has the power to establish in our hearts fresh conviction. It is that which can, and will ignite us to a new faith response to God, and to His Word.

I believe that this will result in the healing power of Christ breaking forth again.

## **HAVE YOU NOT HEARD**

I wanted to take this scripture as a heading, because it reminds us repeatedly, that faith that works, comes from hearing. We have to be in God's word so that we can hear and be able to make faith responses to Him and His word.

Look how God uses repeated statement of what He himself is like to Isaiah!

**Isaiah 40:28** *"Have you not known? Have you not heard that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, faints not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup> Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: <sup>31</sup> But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint"*

God is trying to make an impact on the people of that day by declaring just how great He is and what great provisions He has made for them.

If we do not let scriptures like this impact us, we will get talked out of what God has talked us into.

I have added a few things here that are not necessarily in order of importance. But each one of these truths are absolutely essential for establishing courage in our hearts. They are truths that will establish foundations that will in turn allow to make faith responses to God, and to His word. Truths that deliver us from fear and bondage.

- God is love. A loving God does not afflict us with disease. **1 John 4:16** *“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him”*
- Listen; this is an un-challengeable truth, *Jesus Christ is the same*. Jesus was constantly demonstrating His willingness to heal. **Heb 13:8** *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever”*.
- He is full of compassion and mercy toward you. **Ps. 86:15**, *“But you, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in mercy and truth”* **Acts 10:38** *“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him”*
- He is no respecter of persons, **Acts 10:34** *“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Truthfully I perceive that God is no respecter of persons”*
- He does only good. **Luke 18:19** *“And Jesus said unto him, Why do you call me good? none is good, except one, that is, God”*
- God does not put sickness on you! The devil does.
- It is Gods' will to heal... YOU!
- He is just waiting for you to catch up and to make a claim upon the “Benefits” **Ps 68:19**. *“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits, even the God of our salvation”*.
- You do not have to overcome Gods reluctance to heal you. God will heal you because it is His will, if it is your will. **Math 8:2-** *“And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if you will, you can make me clean. <sup>3</sup> And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be you clean”*
- Faith has always been the only response that we can have toward God. It is that which will invoke His attention toward us...

**It is not need**

# MOVING ON FROM BABY FAITH

**ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES TODAY, IS FOR EACH OF US TO MOVE ON FROM BABY FAITH:..**

Have you noticed that when we first got saved, it seemed easier to get healed? But the longer that we went on in our walk, it appeared like it got harder to receive?

**Don't you think that there may be a reason for this?**

I think that God wants each one of us to begin to walk in the faith zone ourselves, and to stop just relying on others.

**YOU HAVE TO WORK AT YOUR OWN FAITH!**

**“BABY FAITH” CAN BE SUCH A HUGE OBSTACLE**

**As new Christians, God would heal us on the faith of ANOTHER PERSON?**

Why did He do that? I am sure that God allowed this to happen this way when we were new babes in the Lord, just to show us that it was His will for our healing. He did that to show us that faith really works, even if it was someone else's faith!

Many times the healing would come by the faith and the prayers of others. It happened that way, because God was showing us that healing is His will for His children.

**THERE IS THE CAUTION TO BE NOTED HERE:**

**ALWAYS RELYING UPON THE FAITH OF OTHERS, DOES NOT HELP US GROW PERSONALLY BY PLEASING GOD WITH OUR OWN FAITH RESPONSES:...**

**We are never meant to rely upon the faith of others alone!**

We are to develop our own faith responses to God, otherwise we can become lazy in regard to exercising our faith and growing in our trust of God.

As we mature, we begin to discover that we have to live by our own faith, or by the consequences of our unbelief.

God wants us to grow up, and begin to understand, that there is not only a great benefit to having our own faith, but it is essential to walking in the miraculous power of God.

We can all fall into a lazy mindset, that the healing power of the Lord is just not present like it was in the late 60's and early 70's, or in others periods throughout history. **That is absolutely not true! Maybe they were just a whole lot more desperate at that time?**

**GOD WANTS TO BRING US, RIGHT HERE AND NOW, TO THE PLACE OF THE EXERCISE OF OUR OWN FAITH!**

**I may be wrong, but it seems to me that God will only heal on the faith of another person perhaps a few times, just to get us started.**

**This is especially true when we are still baby Christians.**

After this, we should begin to mature and realize that God expects us to begin to exercise **OUR OWN FAITH**.

As preachers, we have to be careful that we don't create what I call; ACD believers.

I term this acronym; altar call dependants.

I will state right here, that I absolutely believe in having altar calls to allow people to come forward and to have someone stand with them in prayer.

We should teach people however, that this is not the only way to have our needs met. We should never put our total focus or faith on the one praying, but upon Jesus. The one who seeks prayer at the altar needs to exercise their own faith in God, and then seek to get the other person to come into the power of agreement with them.

**Jesus never made His disciples dependant on Him being with them all of the**

**time.** In fact in Luke 9, He sent them out to exercise their own faith. They came back with excitement. What had happened through them as they exercised their own faith, and invoked of the power of the name of Jesus over sickness and demons, was exactly as Jesus had promised.

**BABY FAITH CAN BE A MAJOR REASON WHY WE ARE NOT HEALED TODAY:..**

**There are just too many baby Christians!**

It is all well and good to know that Jesus can heal, but that will not get us healed. We can even know that He is capable of healing as a mind belief, but then not actually exercise the faith that we need to have, to be healed.

**Faith that works has to be exercised.**

Understanding about personal faith, and then operating that faith, is the key to receiving.

## YOU ACTUALLY HAVE SOME FAITH

**ALL OF US HAVE SOME FAITH AT LEAST?**

I created this heading because it is absolutely essential that we believe this.

**It is not true faith, if it does not have an action on our part.**

**Rom. 12:3** *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*

If we believe the word of God, and have accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and are reading and hearing His word, then we **DO HAVE at least, the faith of the mustard seed!**

## YOU HAVE TO WORK YOUR FAITH

**HOW THEN DO WE ESTABLISH AND OUT-WORK PERSONAL FAITH?...**

This is what I am terming, the exercise of your own faith.

**HOW DOES THIS WORK IN THE PRACTICE?**

In **Mat. 17:20** we have this very important teaching given by Jesus to His disciples. They stood in awe of Him after just having seen Him demonstrate faith with profound results. What Jesus teaches here to His disciples is this; **it is faith that is actioned**, that is absolutely essential to getting profound results.

**YOU NEED TO PONDER ON THE DETAILS OF THE FAITH OF JESUS IN OPERATION HERE, BECAUSE HE IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE.**

**He is not asking us to do anything, that He himself did not do.**

**Mat. 17:20** ...*"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you"*

I wonder how many of us have tried this one out on one of our local mountains, only to discover, that it did not move a bit.

**SO THAT WE DON'T MISS ANY OF THE KEY BITS HERE, WE WILL COME TO WHAT IS BASIC AND ESSENTIAL BY ASKING THE QUESTION: WHAT FAITH IS?**

**HOW DOES MIRACLE WORKING FAITH COME TO US, AND WORK FOR US?**

**Heb 11:1** *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

*"Substance"* here means the key or the integral part of something. It is that which is foundational and essential for something else to get built on.

The *"Substance"* spoken of here, is of course the Word of God, or the Word of truth. It is the spoken word of God to us concerning His will to meet our needs.

**Rom 10:17** Listen to what Paul taught: *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"*

**THAT IS ALL YOU NEED TO START.**

Yes, even if our measure of our faith seems as tiny as a seed, Jesus promises that this will be enough to get a miracle to come your way, if you exercise that faith!

**The miracle is in the operation and exercise of your faith.**

## THE POINT OF ASKING AND RECEIVING

**There is always a point at which your miracle begins.**

It is at the point of you asking, and then believing that you have actually received. **That is the beginning of any faith transaction.**

If you need healing for example, you ask God the father in the name of Jesus Christ His Son. He has already provided for your healing through His Word, but He wants you to remind Him that you are now coming for His provision of healing, as promised in His Word. **When you do this, you are making a faith connection, or a faith transaction.**

The “Evidence” to the miracle that you need is founded on the Word that you have received from Gods word, covering your need.

**Listen, it is not in the feeling of being healed.**

It is that you actually receive your miracle, even though you may not yet see the evidence in your body yet! **THIS IS FAITH IN ACTION!**

## MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH

Jesus is not talking about a literal mountain here. No He is talking about a circumstantial mountain.

**SO WHY THEN DOES THE MOUNTAIN NOT GET MOVED WHEN I ASK JESUS TO MOVE IT, YOU MIGHT SAY?**

Because He did not teach that you should ask Him to move it. He said that you should move it.

**The key to this is realizing that this scripture is an analogy... and a *very important analogy* at that.**

It is an extremely important that you realize that **'this mountain'** is an analogy of anything that is seemingly huge, and is standing in the way of you advancing in life..

For an example: it could be an immovable problem that is stopping you from moving forward. Perhaps like some terrible illness that is blocking your way in life!

## THIS SCRIPTURE TELLS US EXACTLY WHAT SOMEONE IN FAITH MUST DO IN THIS CASE!

Listen to the words of Jesus Himself here. He actually gives us a detailed explanation of how someone actually operates in faith, and what they do. They demonstrate their faith by dealing with issues that need moving. A faith action on our part, will release supernatural power from God. **Faith is the action of us co-operating with God.**

Jesus tells us, that we are to boldly step up to any mountainous problem that we may have, and to speak to it by saying, "*mountain, I command you to get out of my way in the authority of Jesus name... !*"

**Jesus wants us to be bold, just like He was.**

This bold action on our part, is like us taking a bold stance, where we would use a bold language similar to casting out a demon, or when resisting the devil. You do this by the power and the authority of the name of Jesus.

**Mark 11:23** *"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says".*

**Mark 11:24** *"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. "*

**If you have asked for healing, then you have it.**

If you have asked for a miracle, then you have it.

You may argue by saying, 'well I have no feeling that I have been healed'. The centurion, in Matthew chapter 8, had no feeling that his servant was healed, when he left the presence of Jesus. He just had the word from Jesus. That is what he acted on.

Jesus taught that you cannot ask for bread, and then get a stone. He also taught that healing is the children's bread.

**WOW! NOTE ALSO WHAT JESUS SAYS HERE; THAT YOU MAY HAVE WHAT YOU ASK FOR OR SAY?**

If you find a word that covers your need, then you have a miraculous seed to meet your need. **You don't have to keep asking Jesus to heal you.** You just tell everything that is standing in the way of your miracle manifesting, or materializing, to be moved.

You don't have to keep trying to overcome what you may think is Gods reluctance to heal you, to move. No, you declare war on the thief who is trying to steal from you. Christ is within you the Hope of glory, the perfect healer. He is not sitting some place as a stubborn or a reluctant ancient God!

Jesus makes a powerful promise to you and me here, by saying; *"you shall have whatever you SAID!"*

Faith is not your religion!

There is no power in religion!

Faith is not even just a state of mind belief that you actually believe that God can do anything. No, **It is you putting God on the spot concerning His word.**

**FAITH IS THE ACTION OF A BELIEVER, CLAIMING THE EVIDENCE OF GODS WILL, AS ALREADY PROMISED IN HIS WORD.**

**It is us SAYING it as well!**

Jesus is actually telling us, that everything that still stands in the way of you getting what is promised, and is stopping you from moving forward, **it is now down to you to tell it all to move.**

**SAYING, is just as important as the BELIEVING.**

I know that it would be easier in life just to believe that God can do it all, and us not have to do anything. That is not however the way that it is, or how faith works.

A person in faith, knows God's will, because he discovers it in God's word.

It is already written. You just have to discover it!

A person standing in faith, believes also that God will perform His word, just as He said He would. A person in faith will action that word as a 'Sword' for their breakthrough.

**Faith is BELIEVING God, and then ACTING on it.**

**God is the only One who can actually give us the foundation for our believing.**

It is that which comes from His word. All we have to do is believe it, and then act on it. It is when we wield that word like a sword, **That miracles begin to happen!**

At some point you actually have to **make the connection** of receiving.

You do this without any other evidence to you, except His Word to you.

You boldly declare that you are going forward in the power of faith, and in Jesus miracle working power and name.

**You see, faith is not just something that you have.**

**It is something that you have to use!**

**James 2:14-26** *“What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he has faith, and have not works can faith save him?”*

**You can cry out of your need only to find that it does not move the hand of God. It is not need that moves His hand...it is faith in action.**

## STAYING IN THE FAITH ZONE

### MY TESTIMONY:..

Back in 1992, I was diagnosed with severe heart blockage issues and needed by-pass surgery. I ended up having 5 by-passes done to my heart. The surgeon told me that I should not be alive as I had less than 25% of an effective working heart. At that time, the surgeon warned me that I would have to live a restricted life from thereon out. He made me aware that the future outlook for my life was not positive, due to the operation.

Immediately, the devil started telling me that I needed to put my life on hold. I soon found out that this was not what God had in mind. Every letter, card, and quote of scripture that I received at that time, was from the same passage and verse. Coincidence, I think not!

God was assuring me that He had a future that was beyond my physical weakness, and the medical prognosis.

**God had His finger on it all!**

He began encouraging me to rise up in the now, and to look to a future beyond that point in my life. I kept feeling the challenge to get ready for the things that God had intended for me beyond that point.

As the years went by, I began to experience some chest pains again.

**The battle was on.**

The devil started using his weapon of lies. His strategy was to talk me out of what I had stood on for so long. Being wise I subjected myself to the medical professionals as well as keeping my faith focused. I was told by another surgeon after an angiogram, that one of the main arteries had collapsed, and that they were reluctant to open my chest up again. His word to me was, *'you will just have to learn to live with this'*

The devil began to take advantage of my situation by screaming into my head over and over again, that time had run out, and that my ministry was over, and my future bleak.

I knew at this point, that if I did not get a fresh hold on working my faith, then my circumstances were going to rule the rest of my life, no matter how short or long it maybe.

At that time, God began talking to me about ascending to the peak of the highest mountain in the north island of New Zealand. My mandate was to proclaim revival.

**God often challenges us to do the impossible, especially when we are at our weakest!**

The very thing that was not humanly possible, especially for a person with the condition that I had, made it seem all the more like a foolish challenge if I was to listen to my own reasoning.

**But it was not!** My God was wanting me to rise up, and to move what at that time, was to me, a seemingly, immovable mountain in my life.

My thinking and speaking needed to align up with God and His word, or otherwise I was defeated.

I had nothing to lose, so I began to speak to my heart and declare with a bold conviction: *"By His stripes I am healed" "None of these diseases will I put on you"*

I started **declaring boldly, my future.** I took ownership of the assignment from my God for my life, and my future, regardless of my collapsed artery.

I keep saying, if God was not going to open that artery up again, then I would have new ones appear around my heart. I believed that I had work to do that required my heart to be effective.

**I just kept declaring a creative miracle.**

I kept declaring that I am going to the top of that mountain.

Well, after waiting many months to get into have another angiogram, an appointment finally came and I went into the theatre. They began the procedure, but just after a few moments, the heart surgeon began to tell all of those assisting in the procedure, to shut it all down, as he had seen enough.

I lay there as nervous as one could get waiting for the outcome.

Finally the surgeon comes up to my face and utters these words; *'you are going to be pleased with the outcome.'*

I am sure that you can imagine how nervous I was, as I lay there hoping that the news was going to be good news.

He said these words to me; *'we found coming from one side of your heart, 3 new smaller veins that are feeding blood past the collapsed artery to where the blood is needed'*

**Wow! God had given me exactly what I had been declaring.**

I immediately started exercising in readiness to fulfill the mandate to go to the top of this mountain.

**The devil, however, did everything within his power to talk me out of, what God had talked me into.**

Day by day I declared to my heart and my lungs, that I would get to the top of this mountain, and I would proclaim revival to this nation.

**My physical mountain of disease began to move.**

Within a few months I climbed the actual mountain to fulfill Gods mandate.

### **My mountain had moved.**

I had done what had seemed hugely impossible, just a few months before.  
I had gone to the top of a big mountain to proclaim revival!

## **NON-RESISTANCE MAKES YOU A SPIRITUAL PACIFIST**

**THE DEVIL IS IN CONTENTION WITH YOU FOR YOUR MIRACLES.**

**He wants you to be a spiritual pacifist. He hopes that you will do nothing, and say nothing. He knows that your bold words not only annoy him, but also destroy his footholds in your life.**

God is trying to talk you into good things with His promises, but on the other side, the devil is trying to talk you out of Gods promises and your right to miracles, through these promises. He does that by seeding doubt and unbelief.

The devil does not mind you talking about your problems, but he does not like you talking about promises from God's word, and watch you standing on them and enforcing God power over his. He does not want you to use Gods word as a sword against him. He does not want you getting aggressive by telling him, and your problems, to move.

## **WHAT YOU STAND ON MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE?**

**THIS IS WHERE YOU TAKE YOUR STAND IN VICTORY**

Jesus has stripped the devil and his demons, on your behalf, by (spoiling and or disarming), all their weapons, all their amour, all their power, and authority.

**Col 2:15** *"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it"*

It says here that Jesus then humiliated all of them, and even took the devils' keys or devices he uses.

**Rev 1:18** *"I am he that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death"*

Jesus has actually given **us** the authority, to use **His Name** as authority over "all things".

He gave us "Power of Attorney", to use his name to do all that he did. **Luke 10:19** *"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you".*

That Name, **the name of JESUS is above ALL other names**, **Eph 1:21** *"Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come"* and **Phil 2:9** *"Wherefore God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name"<sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;<sup>11</sup> And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"*

#### **THE NAME OF CHRIST IS NOT THE LAST NAME OF JESUS:**

*But it is the anointed name, that is above every other name.*

#### **ALL other names must bow and submit to the NAME of JESUS.**

Remember, **everything has a name**. i.e., cancer, certain diseases, the devil, demons etc..)

#### **But His name; "The mighty name of Jesus", has ultimate power! AMEN**

The God given authority that we have in His name, gives our words power.

The devil no longer has any power or authority of his own that is greater than what you have from Christ.

## **THE DEVIL IS THE BLUFF EXPERT**

**The devil is a bluff expert.** He is like a bully on the school yard.

He has to use your own weakened faith or undermined authority against **YOU**.

He is hoping that you will negate your authority, by you using negative words and thoughts that allow him, or give him, a foothold in your life.

If you allow the devil to talk you out of believing God for your healing, he's got you defeated. He does not want you shouting boldly to your mountain, telling it to move. He wants to keep you a victim, and keep you from being healed.

# PUTTING IT ALTOGETHER

## HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO TO GET RESULTS

### 1. Repent of having baby faith

### 2. Stand on the Word, that is where the power of faith is.

God sent His Word to heal you. His word actually works, if you work it! God will keep His word when you remind Him of the word that you are standing on.

**Don't let lingering symptoms discourage you.**

Your healing may be instant, but if not, don't let doubts arise when you do not see immediate results. It may take time for your healing to become complete. What do we do in the mean time? **STAND AGAINST YOUR MOUNTAIN.**

### 3. Be convinced that God's word is the final authority, not anyone else's.

The Word says: that *"by His stripes you were healed!"* **1 Peter 2:24**, (past tense), (quoted from **Isa 53:4-5**. future tense).

**Receive your healing as if it has already taken place.**

### 4. Refuse doubt and unbelief.

When the devil pokes you, and jabs you, to make you think you are still having symptoms, or when he whispers words of doubt and unbelief into your mind, deal with it immediately.

Cast them (*and the devil*) down, rebuking and binding them in Jesus name, **Mat 16:19 Mat 18:18.**

### 5. Don't dwell on, or accept the devils arguments, deception and lies.

Anything that is a stumbling block to your faith, is darkness and of the devil. These things may come through your own body as symptoms. Our own mind can become the devils play ground. Sometimes even family members or friends and doctors can be at odds with the truth of the word of God.

**It does not matter where they come from, do not accept them.**

**6. Refuse to believe what you see and feel, is more powerful or potent, than the word of God.**

If what you see, or what you feel, contradicts the Word, rebuke it.

Only believe the Word. What you see and feel are not always real, but may be manifestations of the devil attempting to cause you to enter into fear, and doubt, and to get you into unbelief.

**7. Meditate on God's Word.**

Concentrate on the Word, not on the illness. Immerse yourself in the Word by reading out loud, particularly the healing scriptures. Even listen to tapes of the word as much as possible.

**8. There is only one source to faith? Rom 10:17** *"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."* Fill yourself through your eyes and ears with the Word of God, until it fills you up, and overflows out of your mouth. This will release faith, and faith releases grace and healing. **Luke 6:45** *..."for, out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks."*

**9. Do Not Fear!**

What did Jesus repeatedly say? *"Fear not!"*, "Do not fear!", **Luke 8:50**.

It is recorded, that even the angels often said when appearing? "Fear not!"

If you ask for Gods' protection, He will place a hedge about you. Fear is a gateway in that hedge, that allows the devil to get to you. This is because 'fear' is the devils counterfeit of faith, and is part of darkness. Light, (faith), cannot coexist with darkness, (fear). Every aspect of fear proceeds from an upside down perception of God.

**10. Watch the devils tricks.** The devil will use every trick, lie, and deception, to cause you to fear, and get you to open a gateway to the negative. He is ever watchful of that gate. Therefore, keep it closed and locked by consistently, renewing and increasing your faith!

**Rom 8:15**, *"you have not received the spirit of bondage, again to fear"*

**1 John 4:18**, perfect love casts out fear...

**11. Praise God for your healing.**

Praising God for your healing, especially before you see a manifestation in your body, is the highest form of faith. *(This IS the shield of faith!)*

And afterwards, thank God **every day** that you are healed. Praise Him that the mountain is moving by His supernatural power.

## 12. Do Not Waiver!

**James 1:6.** James said that the person who waives in his faith, should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **1 Tim 6:12** *"fight the good fight of faith"*

**Eph 6:12-**, *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness."*

**Eph. 6:13,** Therefore put on **the whole armor of God** and stand your ground. **And having done all to stand... STAND!**

In this context: Salvation. Righteousness, Truth and the preparation of the Gospel, will provide you with protection.

The quote, (*"It is written: ..."*), **shows how offensively Jesus was** in His rebuke of the devil. We need to get Gods word, and start using as a sword against all forms of lies, just as Jesus did. **(Luke 4:4)**

Faith in action, requires us to stand on God promises, and then offensively smash down the devil's plans to rob you.

Once the manifestations of the enemies intrusions have been rebuked, and if the symptoms remain, or seek to return, begin to praise God. (*Father, I praise You, and thank You, that I no longer have to believe what I see or feel.*)

**This kind of Praise is your defense.** It is your shield, and this will become even more effective against darkness when combined with using the sword of the word of God.

## 13. Speak only the positive!

Speak only words that are in agreement with God's will for your healing. You have to **BELIEVE** you are healed. This will be difficult if you are constantly talking about **your** sickness.

**If Jesus bore your sickness, then stand with Him and together declare it gone!**

Whatever is manifesting on you... **does not belong to you!**

**Do not lay claim to it!**

Remember, your words have power to do both good and evil!

**The devil uses your negative words against you!**

(That sickness belongs to the devil!.)

Every day let **God be God.**

**The devils knows when you resist him, so keep doing it.**

**Your body** will respond to what you SAY, especially when you are declaring *that you **believe** that you **have received** your healing, **Mark 11:23.***

**What you SAY is important!**

**Mat 12:36,** In the Day of Judgment, men shall give account of EVERY idle word they have spoken!

14. **Don't be double-minded.**

**SO IF YOU HAVE COME TO A PLACE WHERE YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE MISSING SOMETHING:...**

Perhaps you just don't seem to be making any progress over your sickness, or over the mountains that are dominating over you, and still plaguing you!

**Here is what can be missing,** *it is that you not using the 'Shield of Faith,* enough. **Mark 11: 23-24,**

You will just have to up your praise to God for your healing by declaring one, or any of the healing scriptures in God's word. You do this prior to the healing power manifesting in your body.

**You have to start using 'The Sword of the Spirit of the word', by rebuking the devil based on scripture.**

**That is what Jesus' did on the mount of temptation.**

# EXAMPLE FAITH PRAYER

## YOU WILL NEED TO PRAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

Heavenly Father,  
I thank You for Your Word that says, by the stripes of Jesus, I am healed.

I choose to believe that Your healing power went to work in my body, the very instant that I believed Your Word.

Jesus Christ is Lord over my life - spirit, soul and body. I have received the power of God to make me sound, whole, delivered, saved and healed.

I say to sickness, disease and pain, I resist you in the Name of Jesus. You are not the will of God for my life.

I enforce the Word of God on you. I will not tolerate you in my life.

My days of sickness and disease are over!

Jesus bore my sickness, weakness and pain, and I am forever free!

Father, thank You for watching over Your Word to perform it on my behalf. I am not letting your word return to you void without it accomplishing the intended miracle in my life. Your word is greater than my symptom, disease or sickness. I thank You and praise You in Jesus' Name!"

Father God, I have rebuked the darkness of sickness and disease, and I praise You, and thank You for Your word that assures me and says, '*... "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 were, and are, healed"*.

I believe Your word to be more powerful than any manifestation of sickness that the devil can place in me, or on me.

I am making up my mind, that I am not going to be defeated by the devil.

Father, I praise you that you have told me, that if I speak to the mountain that is standing in my way, by commanding it to move, it will.

**I therefore command the mountain to go from my life. I do this believing in the authority of the powerful name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

**NOTE!** You will have to keep praising God, even before the attack stops. You will just have to keep shouts of praise going!

You may have to double that, and double that again, until you become a 'Praise Addict!

**Faith is boldly declaring:** (An example) **Father God, I have rebuked the darkness of sickness, and of disease, and I praise You and thank You for Your word that says, Jesus bore my sickness, weakness and pain, and I am forever free!**

**Father, thank You for watching over Your Word to perform it on my behalf. I thank You and praise You in Jesus' Name!"**

### **Healing Scriptures.**

The following [scriptures](#) are promises you can stand on to receive your healing:

<a href="#">Exodus 15:26</a>	<a href="#">Jeremiah 30:17</a>	<a href="#">Luke 13:16</a>
<a href="#">Exodus 23:25-26</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 8:17</a>	<a href="#">Acts 5:16</a>
<a href="#">Psalm 103:1-5</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 15:30-31</a>	<a href="#">Acts 10:38</a>
<a href="#">Psalms 107:19-20</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 18:18-19</a>	<a href="#">Galatians 3:13-14</a>
<a href="#">Proverbs 4:20-23</a>	<a href="#">Mark 11:23-24</a>	<a href="#">James 4:7</a>
<a href="#">Isaiah 53:4-5</a>	<a href="#">Mark 16:17-18</a>	<a href="#">James 5:14-15</a>
<a href="#">Jeremiah 1:12</a>	<a href="#">Luke 9:2</a>	

## **DONT GET TALKED OUT OF YOUR RIGHTS**

### **WARNING!!**

Finally, I feel that you need to be warned, or forearmed about something that is really important.

## **HERE IT IS, SATAN IS HAPPY JUST TO KEEP US "IN A STATE OF NON-RESISTANCE".**

Let me warn you; when you begin doing something that causes you to bust out of a state of non-resistance, you will get satan's attention.

When you start declaring God's word, and you start acting on your faith, and you start declaring a winning victory over satan's influence in your life, and your circumstances, you will most likely get his attention. He will come against you in some way to attempt to negate that victory.

You will have to keep firm and focused. You will have to celebrate your victory while you are waiting for the miracle to manifest. You do this by keeping your sword and your shield at the ready, and being constantly on guard!

### **Note:**

This is NOT something you use, or do, only when you get sick. Once you start this, you CANNOT quit.

### **It MUST become a 'Way of Life'!**

You must get 'in line' with God's word by making changes in your life, and by developing a close relationship with Him.

Remember, continued 'Divine Health' requires obedience to God's word.

## **THE BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH ARE ALWAYS THE SAME**

1. True faith, is always based on, and is rooted or founded in what God says, regardless of anything else.
2. The person who has genuine faith, always has absolute confidence in God, and His ability.
3. The person who sees miracles, is always dependent upon God fulfilling His promise, regardless of time delays.

AMEN

# HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST

Some years ago I was challenged by four questions that have had such an effect upon my life, and my approach to ministry.

I would like to present these same questions to whoever reads this article. I am trusting that if you have not yet asked Christ into your life, and have not asked Him to save you from the penalty of your sin, or if you have not totally surrendered your life to Him yet, that you may do so today.

**These are the four questions I want to present to you.**

**1. Do you know what you must do to be a candidate for hell?**

Absolutely nothing.

No response to what Christ did on the cross for you, is a response!

You reject Him.

To reject Him, is to choose hell. It is to reject His sacrifice for you personally. You are therefore choosing death rather than life.

You need to know that God has not created hell for you.

He has created heaven for you. But He cannot allow you to go there if you reject His Son, Jesus Christ.

**2. You might say, 'Well I am a good person.'**

This may be true, but Jesus Christ never came to earth to die for good people, or even make bad men good.

**He came to make dead men live.**

**You sins make you dead.**

If you have never totally committed your life to Christ, then you are dead spiritually. The wages of your sin is death, and you will have eternal separation from God and His eternal plan for you, forever.

**3. You might also say, "Well I have got my plans"**

Yes you may have your plans, but do you have the plan of God?

**Remember, He is God not you.**

If you are still seeking your own will, wants and plans, then you are the god

of your own life.

4. **You may also say, 'Well I believe in God, and believe in Jesus, and I will commit my life to Him someday, but not now.'**

**The truth is, you cannot just commit your life to Christ when you like.**

The Bible says this, *"No man can come to me unless the Father who sends me draws him"* **John 6:44**

If God's Spirit is drawing you today, the time to take action and to receive Christ as your Saviour, is right now.

**Don't be a fool and put it off.**

**You may never get another opportunity.**

The Bible also says; *"Behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation"* **2 Corinthians 6:2**

**DON'T WAIT-it maybe- TOO LATE.**

### **THIS IS WHAT YOU MUST DO TO RECEIVE CHRIST**

1. Admit that you are a sinner and that you have been ruling your own life. Come to the realization that you have stolen your life from its rightful owner...from the Creator or the one who created you.

**Remember God loves you and wants you to spend eternity with Him.**

**Rom 3:23** *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"*

**Rom 6:23** *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

2. Ask God to forgive you, and to cleanse you from all sin in your life, and your selfish way of living.

**This is called repentance.**

Repentance means, you confess to God your sorrow, disrespect and rejection of Him up to this point. You will have to have a change of heart and allow God to turn your life around. Repentance also means changing your focus, your attention and devotion. It means to turn with all your heart, to the Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of living selfishly for yourself, you will begin to live for God and for others.

This will produce genuine happiness in your life.

**1 John 1:7-9** *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us”*

**3. Realise that the only way to God is through His Son Jesus Christ, the Lord.**

Ask Him to come into your life like you would ask someone into your home. When you do this, invite him in to take full control of your life in every detail.

Read **John 1:12** *“But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”*

If you read this article, and it blesses you, or you invite Christ into your life, I would love to hear from you.

You can email me at: [andross@fastmail.fm](mailto:andross@fastmail.fm)

Regards  
Ross Monk  
Ministry of  
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