

EFFORTLESS FAITH

By Phillip Hayes

And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. [Luke 18:15-17]

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, what manner of man is this! For he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him. [Luke 8:22-25]

Jesus was a man of faith. He healed the sick, raised the dead, rebuked the winds and the seas; and did many wonderful and glorious acts of faith. Every act of faith He demonstrated appeared so easy, so effortless. He spoke and demons fled. He spoke and the dead were raised, the blind saw, the deaf heard and the sick were healed, the winds and

seas became calm. There was no struggle in what He did. He just said it!

He never begged His Father to heal someone. He never screamed and yelled for the sick to be healed or the devils to come out. He never argued or wrestled with a devil. He never had someone bring a bucket for the demonic to throw up in. His ministry . . . His faith . . . *was just so effortless.*

When Jesus and His disciples embarked on the ship, Jesus said, *"Let us go unto the other side!"* Now in His mind, there was no doubt, *"they would go to the other side"*. Jesus spoke it, and He believed it would come to pass. He was the Master of every situation.

Jesus believed in His own Word so much that He immediately went to sleep; without a care as to winds, storms, or turbulent seas. There was no doubt in Him and His faith gave Him perfect peace!

When the storm began and the sea pitched the small ship from side to side, Jesus still slept! When the waters of the sea began to drench the disciples and to fill the ship, Jesus still slept in peace! It seemed all was lost to the disciples and they became afraid, fear gripped their hearts and they began to think they would all perish, but Jesus continued to sleep!

He was demonstrating the realm of *effortless faith!* He knew without a doubt that they would *"Go to the other side!"* He had spoken it! And He had the faith to believe what He said! Isn't it remarkable, even though utter destruction seemingly was all about Him, He continued to sleep! His disciples, out of desperation and fear finally woke Jesus up! Mark also recorded their words in Mark 4:38: *"Master, carest thou not that we perish?"*

Jesus immediately *"rebuked the wind and the sea and said, peace be still, and they ceased, and there was a calm"*. When the Master spoke, things happened, didn't they!

They asked, *"What manner of man is this that even the winds and water obey him?"* They were awe stricken of Him

and this display of His great power. But children of God, they had overlooked one very important lesson that the Master was teaching them, and I am afraid that we may have also overlooked.

What was overlooked, you ask? I will tell you and it is a startling revelation to the body of Christ. There is no doubt this was a great act of faith our Lord performed. However, the question Jesus asked them was astounding! In verse forty, He asked, ". . . *Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?*"

This is powerful! Was Jesus asking, "Why didn't you use your faith, Why didn't you rebuke the storm?"

I don't believe there is any question! Jesus actually rebuked them for being fearful and faithless! Jesus was teaching them a lesson in effortless faith!

Let me explain why I am using the word effortless when describing His faith. Jesus said the Kingdom of God would be made of people that were childlike (Luke 18:15-17). Jesus demonstrated this child like faith when He slept during the storm we read about in Luke chapter eight. A child depends solely of their parents to supply all their needs. They never question the source from which all their needs come from. So faith should be effortless - it should operate like a child.

Whereas adults labor to have faith in many ways. Sometimes they wrestle with unbelief because they have a doubtful mind as to God's will concerning their request. Instead of simply believing God will answer their prayers, adults will scream and beg God to move for them. They think the louder they pray, or if they pray for a long period of time God will finally give in and answer them. Sometimes, they compare their level of faith with personal holiness; thinking God basis His answer on their level of performance. A child exerts no effort in believing they will be taken care of.

Faith is not something that has to be worked up! Romans 12:3 says, ". . . *God hath dealt to every man the*

measure of faith." God has given all of us THE MEASURE of faith, not A MEASURE. We all have the same level of faith. You've already got it! But only a child like mind can operate it!

Matthew 17:17 and Luke 9:41 records the disciples bringing a child to Jesus that was possessed with a devil. Although Jesus had given the disciples power and authority over all devils (Luke 9:1); they told Jesus they could not cast the devil out. Do you remember what Jesus' reply to them was? He said to his own disciples, *"O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I suffer you?"* And when the disciples asked the Lord why they could not cast the devil out, He answered them and said, *"Because of your unbelief"* (Matthew 17:20). Children of God, *whatsoever is not of faith is sin!* It was because of *unbelief* that the children in the wilderness perished, and they were an example to us.

Although many of you would probably disagree with me; I believe the disciples could have also rebuked the winds and seas.

Let me remind you of an instance where a disciple of our Lord defied nature and performed the very same miracle Jesus did. The disciples had left the Lord behind on land to pray and they had boarded their ship and were at sea. Sometime during the night, They saw Jesus was defying gravity walking on the sea. They became afraid, thinking He was a ghost. Here again fear is used to teach us a very important lesson: we should never fear the circumstances we might find ourselves in.

As Jesus approached the ship, walking on the water, Peter said to Jesus, *"Lord if it is you, let me come out to you."* Jesus said one word to Peter, "Come!"

Please take note: At this time, Peter was not converted, not Holy Ghost filled. Peter stepped out of the boat and placed his foot on the water and *began to walk on the water!* Praise God! He was actually defying gravity! Peter was doing exactly what Jesus did! He was walking on water! Read it for yourself

in Matthew 14:29. In the next verse, you will find that it was only when Peter became afraid that he began to sink. Fear! Fear, is one of the greatest enemies of the church!

How could Peter have done such a thing? By faith of course! He simply believed and obeyed our Lord's word to come! Just as surely as Peter walked on the water; I believe they could have actually rebuked the storm and calmed the sea!

You say, well brother, Jesus was with them, that is why they could do those things. That is perfectly right, and I say unto you without a doubt that Jesus is not only with us, He is now in us! ". . . know ye not your own selves that Jesus Christ is in you except ye be reprobate?" (2Corinthians 13:5)

Examine yourself in light of the fact that Peter walked on the water, and there were also seventy disciples of Jesus, that healed the sick and cast out devils, all of which did not have the Holy Ghost! Examine yourself in the light of those after Pentecost that raised the dead, healed the sick, cast out devils and performed many great miracles, signs and wonders in the name of Jesus. Where is your faith?

The medicine chests of Blood Bought, Born Again, Holy Ghost filled Christians are full of both prescription and counter drugs; and many of God's people are addicted to them! I am not condemning anyone! I know people are sick and hurting. I simply do not believe God's people should be bound by any of these things!

What has happened to the old time Christians that placed their trust in God rather than man?! Where are the Christians that use to call for the elders of the church when they became sick?

God is so merciful and good to all of us. When we were faithless and in need of healing God graciously intervened. Many times God has used doctors and has guided the hand of many skilled surgeons for our benefit. I have met many wonderful caring doctors and nurses. I thank God for them!

However, your faith should not be in human skills . Your faith should be in God Who Alone can heal and deliver. I believe God made this old body and there should be no doubt: He can do exceedingly abundantly above all that I might ask of Him! He can still heal my body or yours without the help of carnal man! WHERE IS YOUR FAITH? Can't you see that Satan has been successful in deceiving many Christians into believing that God seemingly is not able to heal or perform miracles any longer without the help of carnal men?!

WHERE IS YOUR FAITH? Is it in God, or man? The example of faith we find in the Bible is simply believing that God will do the work! The Word of God plainly tells us in Isaiah, "BY HIS STRIPES YOU ARE HEALED". In the New Testament the Apostle Peter tells us, "BY HIS STRIPES YE WERE HEALED"! Praise God, one was a prophecy and the other a proclamation of the fact that it has already happened. Can't you see, YOU ARE ALREADY HEALED!

When was I healed, Brother Hayes? You were healed when Jesus took a whipping for your sicknesses and for your sins. They beat Him with many stripes! Every time the whip came across His body, He was taking that beating for you and I. Yes, because of His stripes, WE WERE HEALED! But, just as you must believe for your salvation, (WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH), you must believe for your healing, (WE ARE HEALED BY FAITH)! I have said many times, IT IS THE SAME FAITH! If you can believe for your salvation, you can believe for your healing! It takes little or no effort to believe you are saved. The same effortless faith will heal you.

Some years ago, I was called to the hospital to pray for a young lady that had been diagnosed with a heart attack. The young girl, about the age of 16, was in the emergency room and the family had been told that all their tests had shown she had the heart of an elderly person. They were in the process of sending her to a larger hospital with a special cardiac unit. As I approached the girl in the emergency room,

I immediately felt FEAR! Not fear for myself or fear of anything in myself, but it was the spirit of fear. FEAR dominated that room. I immediately REBUKED THE FEAR and began to speak peace and encouragement to the girl. I asked her this question: "DO YOU BELIEVE GOD WILL HEAL YOU?" Her response to me was the same response I get almost every time I ask that question. She said to me, "I believe God can heal me." I said unto her again, "DO YOU BELIEVE GOD WILL HEAL YOU?" She answered again, "I believe God can heal me." The third time I said to her, "You don't understand the question." "I asked you, "IF YOU BELIEVED GOD WILL HEAL YOU?" "I didn't ask you if you believed God can, but if you believed GOD WILL HEAL YOU?"

Look, it TAKES NO FAITH WHATSOEVER TO SAY, "I BELIEVE GOD CAN HEAL!" Faith is exercised is when we CONFESS, "GOD WILL HEAL ME"! Can you see it? I told her, "We can say we believe God can do anything, but the question is "DO YOU BELIEVE GOD WILL HEAL YOU, RIGHT NOW?"

She said, "Oh, I see what you mean. YES I BELIEVE GOD WILL HEAL ME NOW!" Glory to God, that's all it took, I laid hands on her and commanded her heart to be made whole and the glory of God came down in that little emergency room and Jesus Christ proved once again that He didn't need any doctors, nurses, or medicine to help Him! Praise His Holy Name, all He needed was someone to TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD, just for someone to BELIEVE THAT HE IS STILL THE SAME! Thank God for the victory! Praise God, DOUBT YOUR DOUBTS! Doubt and fear and unbelief are all of the devil! Jesus lives! He is alive, and He is still a miracle working God! That little teenager was healed! Her effortless faith was released when she said, "God will heal me"! As I left the hospital, I told them all, SHE IS HEALED, BELIEVE GOD!

Later that day, the girl's relatives called me and told me that the girl was at home and didn't have to go to the special cardiac hospital! They said when I left they asked the doctor

to re-examine her, as they believed God had answered prayer. When the doctor examined her, he could not believe his eyes. There was nothing wrong with her heart! There was no evidence of a deterioration of any kind. Her heart was in perfect condition! Why did this happen? Was this just a freak happening? It was no freak; this has happened many times, as I have witnessed the power of our God through faith that is absolutely effortless!

What made it happen was the fact that the girl glimpsed for a moment what our Lord was teaching His disciples long ago. And that was that THERE WAS NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVES! She not only believed that God can heal, but she went the next level. The level we must all take if we are to have victory. SHE BELIEVED GOD WILL HEAL! He is not the I Was, He is the I Am. The ever present GOD in the time of trouble!

Most of you have probably said, "PRAYER CHANGES THINGS." Haven't you? Sure you have, but do you really believe it does? Can we really make things change because of prayer? Did Jesus really mean it when He said, *"What things soever you desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."* We'll look at His statement in a moment.

But first, let me ask you if you believe this scripture includes you: *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* [3John 1:2] Two things are obvious: (1) You can't be sick and in health at the same time! (2) Many Christians are sick!

Please look at it this way: It is not God's will for any Christian to be sick, it is His will for you to be in health. If I am sick, it is because I have abused my body or live an unhealthy lifestyle. Or, the sickness has come from the devil.

Many Christians that can't seem to make ends meet? Why? Is it possible that you don't believe that it is God's will for you to prosper? COULD IT BE YOUR UNBELIEF? I say

without question, that it is just that! As unbelievable as it sounds, many have been taught that prosperity is of the devil! Sadly, a lot of Christians have the misguided mentality that rich people got to hell and beggars go to Heaven! But what makes a rich man rich? Is it more money, a bigger house, a new car? How much money do you have to have to be rich? A billion, a million, a few thousand, a hundred? You see, there are billions (Yes Billions) of people in this world that have no car, no house, only the clothes on their back and absolutely no money! They are the poor. You, my friend, are rich!

We have been taught that God can, but that He probably won't! How much time should a person give God to act? A minute, perhaps an hour, how about a day? Oh, can't you see how we limit God? We want our healing or deliverance on our schedule. Having faith is knowing that God will answer! It does not matter when or how long it will be before He answers. What is important is that you break through the realm of unbelief that surrounds the church today and hold on to the promises of God! We must believe that GOD WILL!

We must SPEAK these things in faith! Do you remember the time when Jesus SPOKE to the fig tree and it died?

And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. and Jesus answering saith unto them, have faith in God. for verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass he shall have whatsoever he saith. therefore I say unto you, what things soever you desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. [Matthew 11:21-24]

Did Jesus mean what He said? What is the key to HAVING WHAT YOU DESIRE? It is simply believing that you

have them before they are visible to you! Glory! Do you remember what the book of Hebrews tells us faith is? It says, "FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN"! So faith is also EVIDENCE! When you pray in faith, you pray actually believing you already have what you asked for: BEFORE you receive it! This is what happened to the little girl with heart trouble: I was able to reveal FAITH to her! IT IS BELIEVING GOD WILL! She believed she was healed BEFORE she was actually healed. And my friend those things that are hoped for when asked in FAITH become reality!

Jesus said; *"If we doubt not, whatsoever things we ask for, we will have!"*

Now I am convinced to believe God! I am fed up with a church world that has forgotten God and has absolutely insulted the King of Kings with their unbelief! This new crop of preachers and lay people cannot cure a headache. And what makes it even a greater insult to God is that they refuse to even ask Him! Their confidence is in the flesh and they have rejected the healing, miracle working power of God!

Today so called Christians, laugh and make fun of anyone that takes a stand of faith! When you refuse to go running to the doctor, they call you a fanatic and they act as if there is something wrong with you mentally. It is a reproach today to believe that God still heals. They have a form of Godliness but they deny the power thereof! Preachers today have compromised with the devil Sure they still preach a shadow of faith and believing that GOD CAN, but few preach GOD WILL!

In the revivals we are privileged to minister in, I ask this question: "Is there anything that God cannot do, except lie?" Usually the answer is, "There is nothing impossible for God". Then I ask the question, "Is there anything that man cannot do through faith in God?" Usually there is little or no response to this question! Why? It is because we have been deceived!

We want to lay the blame on God when nothing happens! We want to believe that God CAN do anything but we refuse to go the next level and believe God Will - WHEN MAN ACTS UPON HIS WORD AND BELIEVES HIM!

God can do anything, but will He? What makes God a God that will, rather than a God that can? I want you to get this! "What moves God from I Can, to the place of I will, is your faith in Him!" Jesus was teaching His disciples of old and us also that faith is what moves God! We must believe!

Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. [Mark 9:23]

Children of God, our Lord cannot lie! Preachers today try to make Him a liar when they tell you that God no longer heals! Jesus said, *"All things are possible to him that believes"*. Take Him at His Word! Through faith in Jesus, man can do all things! Paul said in one place, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me!"* I ask you right now to believe God for your miracle! Don't doubt! Remember, Jesus said it! It CANNOT fail. "ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO YOU!" "ONLY BELIEVE!" *"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."* [2Corinthians 1:20]. In God there is yea, not nay! God wants YOU HEALED! NOW!

Are you a believer my friend? Or have you also been duped by lukewarm preachers into believing that God no longer heals or performs miracles. Let's see what the Bible says a believer can do:

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. and these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. [Mark 16:16-18]

Remember now, Jesus wasn't just speaking to preachers! He was talking to you! Believers have power!

Don't you ever forget it! All things are possible to him that believeth! The mark of real Christian believers is, "SIGNS FOLLOW THEM"! The trouble today is most Christians think they are supposed to follow the signs.

Christ in you is the hope of glory! Not just Christ in the preachers, but Christ in you! When you are baptized in the Holy Ghost, you are baptized with power! Jesus said, after the Holy Ghost has come, you will receive power!

We are living in the age of restoration! One thing that must be restored is faith! Without faith, the Bible says it is impossible to please God! Jesus is searching for those that will take him at His word! Who will believe His report?! Who will believe His Word?! Are all things still possible? Has Jesus changed? Is God dead?

Another question that must be asked is: if we believe Jesus has not changed, what is the requirement for man to activate this effortless faith? Is there hope for this end time church? As always the Word of God has the answers: *I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. if ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. herein is my father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. [John 15: 5-8]*

From these verses we learn the secret of true discipleship! Abiding: to abide means to live! To abide in Him would mean to live in Him! This means we must live in His Word!

Most preachers today will preach that you must receive Christ in your heart to be saved, but how many preach you must also live in Him?! You are unfulfilled with just Christ in you! You also must be in Him! Jesus said if you live in me and my Word lives in you, then you can ask what you will, and it

shall be given you! I'm putting His Word in you now! The Word of God must be sown in you in order for you to believe!

Many have received the seed of the serpent which is his perverted gospel! He has sown unbelief and false doctrine in your heart and now I must with the POWER OF THE GOSPEL cast him out of your heart and replace his lies with God's truth! ALL THINGS ARE STILL POSSIBLE! JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME! Satan is a liar! WAKE UP AND BELIEVE GOD!

God wants to answer your prayer! But you must approach Him in positive faith believing that He will perform that which you ask of Him. Here is how James said it: *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing from the Lord. [James 1:5-6]* In verse fifteen James states a great fact, ". . . the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the lord shall raise him up" Notice, Faith shall, not might save the sick!

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. [Hebrews 11:6]

Look closely at that scripture . . . First you must have faith, you must believe. Now you must believe that He is God. Now you must believe that God will reward you. When you come to God in prayer, do you believe He will reward you? Or, like so many, do you come before God in prayer begging God to move for you, hoping that somehow He will hear your feeble prayer and might answer you.

Jesus instructed us how we should approach God in prayer. He said, *"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive". [Matthew 21:22]*

Are there any limits to what God will do for you? Is His great power beyond our human grasp, far away in the infinite reaches of the universe somewhere? No, no my friend!

Here is one of the most powerful scriptures found in all

the Bible . . . *"Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." [Ephesians 4:20]*

The reason Jesus operated in effortless faith is because He knew who He was. Do you know who you are? God is the POWER that's working in us! He is not afar off! Begin now to speak to the devil! The Word of God tells us to submit ourselves to God, resist the devil and he will flee from us! Satan has no power over you! Speak to him! Speak to your sickness and command it to leave you in Jesus Name! Speak to your circumstances and command a miracle for your family or in your finances! Tell Satan he is a liar and that our Lord Jesus Christ still reigns. Be bold in the Lord and exercise your faith in Him. Remind the devil that greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world! Our Lord promised to never leave us nor forsake us! He said He would be with us all the way to the end. And He is, children, He is here; never doubt it! We are His body; His flesh and His bones and we are one spirit with Him! Jesus lives in His church! All power in heaven and in earth is in you my friend! Will you dare to believe and take Jesus at His word? Simply believing is really all it requires.

May God's Peace, Grace and Faith be multiplied unto you.



Phillip & Glenda Hayes

HEALING THE BROKEN HEARTED - SETTING THE CAPTIVE FREE