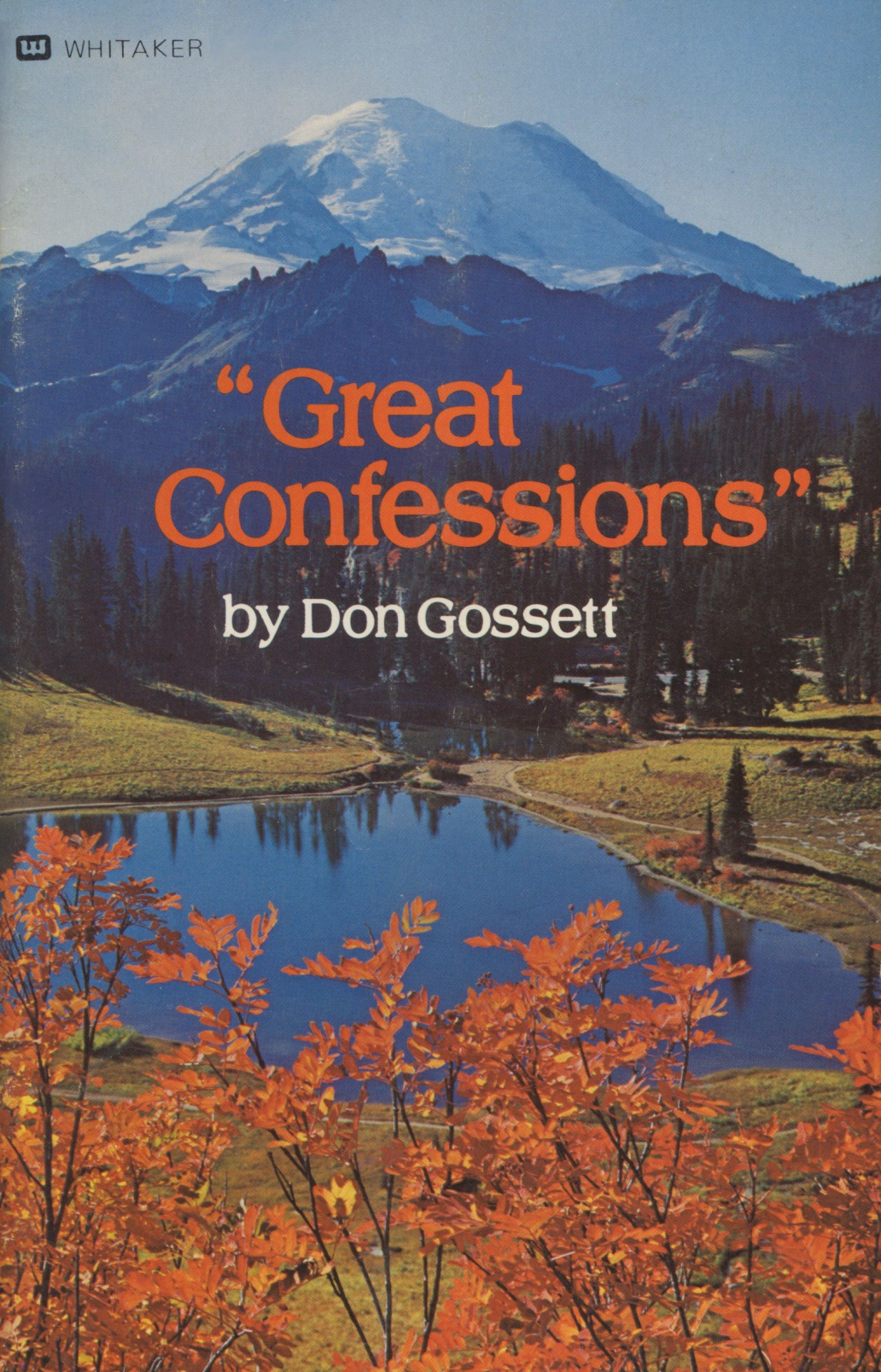


# “Great Confessions”

by Don Gossett



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## *Foreword*

The word "confession" in its positive meaning in the Bible is affirming what God has said in His Word. It is witnessing to the Word's declaration. It is testifying to truths revealed in the Bible.

We have been divinely instructed to "hold fast our confession" (Hebrews 4:14). The writer of the book of Hebrews further stated, "Let us hold fast the confession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)" (Hebrews 10:23). Not only are we to hold fast our confession of the Word, but we are also to affirm constantly those things God has revealed to us (Titus 3:8).

Confession is saying what God has said in His Word about a certain thing. It is agreeing with God. It is saying the same thing the scripture says. To hold fast your confession is to say what God has said over and over until the thing desired in your heart and promised in the Word is fully manifested. There is no such thing as possession without confession.

When we discover our rights in Christ, we are to affirm these things constantly. Testify to them. Witness to these tremendous Bible facts. The apostle Paul said, "That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus" (Philemon 6).

Affirmations of truth should ring from our lips constantly. We are to hold fast to them without wavering.

The penalty for wavering in our confession is that we deny ourselves God's promise and the performance of 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 anything of the Lord" (James 1:6, 7).

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The psalmist said, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so ..." (Psalm 107:2), and again, "... Let such as love thy salvation say *continually*, Let God be magnified" (Psalm 70:4).

What things are we to affirm constantly? Affirm the positive scriptures that reveal the good things within us in Christ. There are hundreds of powerful affirmations to make constantly as we speak the language of the scripture. For example, some things which we are to affirm constantly are:

- God is who He says He is.
- I am who God says I am.
- God can do what He says He can do.
- I can do what God says I can do.
- God has what He says He has.
- I have what God says I have.

## *Introduction*

Christianity is called the Great Confession. All things in Christ—salvation, healing, deliverance—are dependent upon the confession with our lips of Jesus' Lordship. Paul said to Timothy, "Thou hast confessed a good confession before many witnesses" (I Timothy 6:12).

In this book the reader will find the great confessions which God honors. As you read, for maximum results in applying the principles of this book in your own life, read the great confessions aloud.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).





## **1** *Words that Work Wonders*

If only we would realize the power in our words, how different our lives would be. It has been said that "the pen is mightier than the sword." How much mightier the words of our pen and of our mouth when our words are the Word of God. "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to *him that ordereth his conversation aright* will I show the salvation of God" (Psalm 50:23). Some words that can work wonders are:

*Words of Praise.* "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1). Resolve to be a bold "praiser" from now on. As a "praiser," extol the Lord, not so much for His gifts which you receive, but magnify the wonderful Giver Himself.

*Words of Edification and Grace.* Resolve to "order your conversation aright" that "no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

*Words of Bold Authority Overcoming Satan's Power.* "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony ..." (Revelations 12:11).

*Words of Confession of God's Word.* Confession always precedes possession. The word "confession" means "to say the same thing." Dare to say exactly what God says in His Word. Agree with God by speaking His Word in all circumstances.

When we "order our words aright," God manifests the benefits of His great salvation. "... With the mouth confession, is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10). And remember that when we make confession unto salvation, this includes healing, deliverance and every spiritual and physical blessing provided for us in Christ's atonement.

As confession always precedes possession, so a wrong

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confession, a negative confession, precedes the possession of wrong things. Your tongue, used wrongly, can cause you much trouble. "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles" (Proverbs 21:23). "Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth" (Proverbs 6:2). Refuse to have a wrong confession.

Remember that your words can work wonders. Therefore, speak words of praise. Words of singing. Words of faith in God's Word. Words of bold authority expelling Satan's power. Truly, words are the "coin of the kingdom," and you can boldly speak words that will work wonders for you!

## *2 Words That Justify and Words That Condemn*

Jesus said, "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matthew 12:37).

You are justified when you say, as God's Word says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). But you are condemned if you say, "The Lord holds the sins of my youth against me."

You are justified when you say, as God's Word says, "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling" (Psalm 91:10). But you are condemned if you say, "I am afraid. I don't feel safe."

You are justified when you say, as God's Word says, "... Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). But you are condemned if you say, "The power of the devil is just too much for me."

You are justified when you say, as God's Word says, "They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:18). But you are condemned if you say, "I'm getting worse."

You are justified when you say, as God's Word says, "With long life will I satisfy him ..." (Psalm 91:16). But you are condemned if you say, "I'm going to die. I won't live long."

You are justified when you say, as God's Word says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul ... who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:2, 3). But you are condemned if you say, "I just can't receive healing from some of my diseases."

You are justified when you say, as God's Word says, "For I will restore health unto thee ..." (Jeremiah 30:17). But you are condemned if you say, "Keep on praying for me that I'll get my health back."

You are justified when you say, as God's Word says, "... Thine health shall spring forth speedily ..." (Isaiah 58:8). But

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you are condemned if you say, "I just can't enjoy the blessing of divine health."

We can condemn ourselves by our own words. The results of this are not pleasant. But, "Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth" (Romans 14:22). If we are not under condemnation, then we can possess great confidence toward God. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (I John 3:21, 22).

### ***3 Walking with God by Agreeing with God***

We cannot truly walk with God unless we agree with Him. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). To agree with God is to say the same thing God says in His Word about salvation, healing, prayer and living an overcoming life.

First of all, we agree with God by saying that we are who God says we are: His child, a new creature in Christ. We say also that we are more than a conqueror through Christ (Romans 8:37). We disagree with the devil who would try to convince us that we are "no good," a failure or a weakling.

How can we walk with God in power, blessing and usefulness? By agreeing with God that we have what He says we have: His name, His nature, His power, His authority, His love. We agree that we have what God says in His Word that we have.

Just as Enoch walked with God (Genesis 5:22), so can we walk with God by agreeing that we have received the ability to do what He says we can do: witness with power, cast out demons, minister His healing power. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). We agree that we can do what God says in His Word that we can do.

If we speak only what our senses dictate, we will not be agreeing with God. It is through speaking "the Word only" that we agree with God. It is the "confession of faith" that is our victory.

To walk with God, we must disagree with the devil. Jesus did. By boldly declaring, "It is written ..." He resisted the devil. You can too.

You can walk with God daily by agreeing with God and His Word. Because He has said it, so may we boldly say it

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(Hebrews 13:5, 6).

## ***4 You Will Possess What You Confess***

Your confession of faith precedes your possession of that which you are desiring and seeking, if you:

Confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9, 10), you will possess salvation.

Confess "... with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5), and possess healing.

Confess that the Son has made you free (John 8:36), and possess absolute freedom.

Confess "... the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost ..." (Romans 5:5), and possess the ability to love everyone.

Confess that "the righteous are bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1), and possess lion-hearted boldness in spiritual warfare.

Confess that God will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5, 6), and possess the presence of God with each step you take.

Confess that you are the redeemed of the Lord (Psalm 107:2), and possess redemption benefits every day.

Confess that the anointing of the Holy One abideth in you (I John 2:27), and possess yoke-destroying results by this anointing (Isaiah 10:27).

Confess that in the name of Jesus you can cast out devils (Mark 16:17), and possess dynamic deliverances over Satan's power.

Confess that "they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:18), and possess positive healings for the oppressed.

Confess that you are a branch of the living Vine (John 15:5), and possess Vine-life wherever you go.

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Confess that you are "the righteousness of God in him" (II Corinthians 5:21), and possess the ability to stand freely in God's holy presence, and in Satan's presence as a victor.

Confess that you are a temple of the living God (II Corinthians 6:16), and possess God dwelling in you and walking in you.

Confess that "God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19), and possess God's supply for your every need.



## 5 Wrong Confessions

Just as the right confession of faith will produce positive results in your life, so a wrong confession will produce negative results. The Bible says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue ..." (Proverbs 18:21). Defeat or victory, sickness or health, are in the power of the tongue. Jesus said, "... He shall have whatsoever he saith" (Mark 11:23).

Look at these examples of right and wrong confessions :

*Wrong Confession:* "My sinus condition always gets worse this time of year."

*Right Confession:* "I never expect bad experiences any time of year. I am not a fair weather Christian. I live boldly by the Word of God. My joy is full because of what the Lord is doing for me. He said, 'Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full' (John 16:24). My joy is full—winter, spring, summer and fall—for I ask Him and I receive from Him. The Lord's ability to keep me in good health is not limited to certain seasons, for He is '... the same yesterday, and today, and forever' (Hebrews 13 :8). The Lord will do as much for me one day as He will another."

*Wrong Confession:* "I cannot speak in public because I always become very nervous and cannot testify."

*Right Confession:* "I refuse to give place to fear, for that is giving place to the devil who is the author of fear. 'For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind' (II Timothy 1:7). I am absolutely free from all fear, even the fear of speaking in public. God has said, 'Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God ...' (Isaiah 41:10). I am no longer afraid to testify in public because God is with me. It is the enemy who would keep me from speaking for my Lord. 'When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him' (Isaiah 59:19). When the enemy heaps

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his pressure on me, I praise the Lord that my case is His to give me freedom from fear and satanic nervousness.

"Further, God gives me confidence by saying, 'Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say' (Exodus 4:12). God is actually with my mouth to guide me in what I say in public for Him. Therefore, I triumph in His ability."

*Wrong Confession:* "Well, I made it to work today, but that's about all I can say. The way I feel I certainly don't expect to get much done."

*Right Confession:* "I refuse to give place to a gloomy confession. That would thoroughly snare my soul. 'Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth ...' (Proverbs 6:2). I serve God continually, so I am assured of deliverance from such a pessimistic attitude which would crush my spirit and defeat my soul. 'Thy God who thou servest continually, he will deliver thee' (Daniel 6:16). God is my deliverer in every case for I serve Him constantly.

"'Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ ...' (II Corinthians 2:14). On my job, in my home, in my service for the Lord—whatever I do—I am more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me (Romans 8:37). I reject that barely-able-to-keep-my-head-above-water attitude. God is showing me great and mighty things in life, for He has promised, 'Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not' (Jeremiah 33:3). I call unto Him; He is answering me and is showing me great and mighty things."

*Wrong Confession:* "I failed to get that promotion I had hoped for. But it's just as I expected. I never seem to succeed at anything.

*Right Confession:* "I don't believe that adverse forces are overthrowing God's workings in my behalf. The Lord is even working on the answers before I pray. '... Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear' (Isaiah 65:24). I do not expect failure. I expect success. Jesus didn't come to give me a lackluster life. He said, 'I am come

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that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly' (John 10:10). Because I have received Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord, I have that abundant life in me now.

"I know God is prospering my life. 'Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth' (III John 2). I have a right to prosperity and health, because I am prospering in my soul. God has promised to bless me richly because I am a giver. 'Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom' (Luke 6:38). Yes, the Lord is heaping up my blessings, for I am giving unto Him and His work. I am blessed."

*Wrong Confession:* "I don't feel very well. I believe I'm trying to take the flu."

*Right Confession:* "Praise the Lord, I don't live by my feelings, for they change like the weather. I live by faith, which is living by the Word of God. Why should I take the flu when Jesus Himself took my infirmities and bore my sicknesses? (Matthew 8:17). I am not trying to take anything since Jesus took it for me. I will resist taking anything the devil would put upon me. I shall live in the victory of His substitutionary sacrifice. Jesus is my sin substitute and my sickness substitute. I praise His name for what He has wrought for me."

*Wrong Confession:* "I wonder if I will ever feel any better?"

*Right Confession:* "Regardless of my present condition, I know the Lord will restore health unto me, for this is His promise in Jeremiah 30:17: 'For I will restore health unto thee....' I don't worry about it. God watches over His Word to perform it, and He is not a man that He should lie. I know I will feel better, not because of hopes or wishes, but because of His Word to me. 'He sent his word, and healed them ...' (Psalm 107:20). I have received His healing Word and I praise Him that His Word is sure. Jesus said that according to my expectations, or my faith, it shall be unto me. I fully expect to feel better because His Word is prevailing in my life."

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*Wrong Confession:* "I don't know what I will do if the cost of living keeps going up."

*Right Confession:* "I live by the sure Word of God: 'My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4:19). Regardless of inflation, my God shall minister to all my needs. I walk not in the counsel of the ungodly, stand not in the way of sinners, sit not in the seat of the scornful. I delight myself in the Word of God; both day and night I meditate in it. I am like a tree planted by the waters; I am bearing fruit. As a result, *whatsoever I do shall prosper* (Psalm 1:1-3). If the cost of living keeps going up, God's prosperity in my life shall increase. I do not fear inflation. The Lord is my supply."

*Wrong Confession:* "I just knew it would rain today. It always does when we plan anything for outdoors."

*Right Confession:* "I will not be ruled by a pessimistic attitude. I live with expectation of success. Whatever the weather may be, I confess, 'This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it' (Psalm 118:24)."

*Wrong Confession:* "Why does this always have to happen to me?"

*Right Confession:* "I expect nothing evil or bad to happen to me. I live by God's Word that promises, 'There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling' (Psalm 91:10). God commands me to commit my way to Him and trust in Him, and 'He shall bring it to pass' (Psalm 37:5). I expect Him to bring to pass good things, not bad. As a sincere Christian I seek to walk uprightly before Him. He assures me, 'No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly' (Psalm 84:11). Something good always happens to me!"

*Wrong Confession:* "I will try to come if things work out, but the prospect isn't too promising."

*Right Confession:* "I face life and its challenges with a positive confession, a bold confession. I am waiting upon the Lord and He is renewing my strength (Isaiah 40:31). I am

## *Wrong Confessions*

keeping my mind stayed upon the Lord, and He is keeping me in perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3). I fully expect 'things to work out,' for I delight myself in the Lord, and He gives me the desires of my heart (Psalm 37:4). Jesus said, 'Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee' (Matthew 8:13). And I believe that right things work out for me. I will keep my appointments because I believe that way. I reject negative confessions of doubt, fear and uncertainty. The Lord is giving me victory and peace in all situations. 'The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace' (Exodus 14:14)."

*Wrong Confession:* "I wouldn't dare to attempt this particular task as it is beyond my ability."

*Right Confession:* "My ability is measured by God's ability. 'If God be for us, who can be against us?' (Romans 8:31). God is for me, so I can do all things through Him who is my strength and sufficiency (Philippians 4:13). I never minimize my ability, for I know the truth and truth sets me free (John 8:32). I am made strong with His strength. 'Let the weak say, I am strong' (Joel 3:10). I say boldly in the face of supposed weakness, 'I am strong.' I count on the mighty One who quickens my mortal body. '. . . He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you' (Romans 8:11). God quickens my mortal body now by the very same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, because His Spirit dwells in me. Thus I can face any task and succeed because of His unlimited ability within me."

*Wrong Confession:* "I probably will be unable to go as I doubt I will have the money in time."

*Right Confession:* "I never defeat myself by forecasting failure. I don't entertain pessimism about any of my life's plans. Jesus has given me some great assurances about life. He declares, 'For every one that asketh receiveth ...' (Matthew 7:8). That includes me. I know I am receiving those good and necessary things from the Lord because I have asked Him. Therefore, I am receiving, for His promise contains no exceptions. I am carefree about the future for I have joyfully cast all of my cares upon Him who really cares for me (I Peter

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5:7). I am sure that God supplies all of the money I need—in plenty of time to meet my needs."

*Wrong Confession:* "I think I am catching my husband's cold."

*Right Confession:* "Why should I catch anyone's cold? I do not fear a cold because I fear the name of the Lord. 'Unto you that fear my name shall the Son of righteousness arise with healing in his wings ...' (Malachi 4:2). I am not bound by traditional thinking which says sickness must run its course in a family. I am serving Jesus and He has assured me, 'And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee' (Exodus 23:25). Sickness is taken away from me and my family because we serve the Lord."

## 6 *Ten Things You CAN Do*

Many people limit themselves unnecessarily when they say the two little words: "I can't." God's Word tells us we can do all things through Christ (Philippians 4:13).

1. *You can have the desires of your heart.* "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4).
2. *You can witness in power.* "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me ..." (Acts 1:8). You can witness with boldness for you have the Holy Spirit in your life.
3. *You can love others.* Jesus told us, "... Love one another; as I have loved you ..." (John 13:34). Just as Jesus manifested His love for us, so we can show His love to others, for His love is shed abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5). We love with His love.
4. *You can cast out demons.* Jesus said that signs would follow those who believe on Him. "In my name shall they cast out devils ... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17, 18). You have power to cast out demons and minister healing to the sick in the name of Jesus.
5. *You can do all things through Christ.* "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). You can do what God says you can do.
6. *You can have divine wisdom.* "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom ..." (I Corinthians 1:30). "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). You can have divine wisdom in every crisis, for every decision, for Christ Himself is your wisdom.

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7. *You can possess healing and health.* "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh" (Proverbs 4:20-22)... By (His) stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24). Health and healing can be yours as you claim that which Jesus purchased for you.
8. *You can have boldness.* "... The righteous are bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1). You can be as bold as a lion, for you have been made righteous with His righteousness (Romans 10:10; II Corinthians 5:21).
9. *You can do great exploits of faith.* "... The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits" (Daniel 11:32). You can do great exploits through God who makes you strong.
10. *You can enjoy all things that pertain both to life and godliness.* "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness ..." (II Peter 1:3).

## **THE SPIRIT OF FAITH**

What is the spirit of faith? The apostle Paul defines the spirit of faith with a quotation from Psalm 116:10: "I believed, therefore have I spoken ..." and adds, "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (II Corinthians 4:13).

So we see that the spirit of faith is something we have, something we possess. We are faith-men and faith-women. The Bible makes it clear that God has given to everyone "the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3). As Christians we are not a host of doubters, but we have been born into "the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

The spirit of faith is similar to the word of faith as defined in Romans 10:8: "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth,



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and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach." The true Bible-faith-life is a mouth and heart experience. It is believing the Word in your heart and speaking or confessing the Word with your mouth.

We invariably speak what we believe, whether it is right or wrong. Jesus taught, "... Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). When we are exercising the true spirit of faith, we believe the Word and then we speak that Word.

We believe the Word which says in Ephesians 1:7: "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Therefore, we speak, "I am redeemed from the kingdom of darkness through the precious blood of Jesus."

We believe the Word which says in I John 2:25: "This is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." Therefore, we speak, "I have eternal life according to His great promise."

We believe the Word which says in Matthew 28:20: "... Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Therefore, we speak, "The Lord is with me always, even until the very end of life's journey."

We believe the Word which says in Hebrews 11:16: "... God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." Therefore, we speak, "God is my God and He has prepared for me a beautiful city."

We believe the Word which says in Proverbs 11:25: "The liberal (generous) man shall be rich. By watering others, he waters himself" (Living Bible). Therefore, we speak, "The Lord is prospering and watering my life, for by His grace I am a generous and cheerful giver."

We believe the Word which says in Jude 24: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." Therefore, we speak, "The Lord will keep me from falling and will present me faultless before His presence."

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The spirit of faith has the confession: "I have the spirit of faith. I believe the Word; therefore, I speak it. I am a member of the household of faith. God has given to me the measure of faith. I never speak of doubt, for I am a believer. The Word is nigh me, in my heart and in my mouth; that is, the word of faith. I am a victor because faith is the victory!"

## 7 *Financial Security*

Financial security and success is certain when you stand on God's promise to supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19). Let your confession be:

- No matter how many unpaid bills I have, *my God shall supply all my need.*
- Regardless of the condition of the economy, *my God shall supply all my need.*
- Regardless of the size of my bank account, *my God shall supply all my need.*
- When financial embarrassment stares me in the face, *my God shall supply all my need.*
- Regardless of the tight money situation, *my God shall supply all my need.*
- In spite of past financial failures, *my God shall supply all my need.*
- When things appear all wrong, *my God shall supply all my need.*
- When things appear all right, *my God shall supply all my need.*
- Wherever I am, *my God shall supply all my need.*



## **8 *The Anointing—God's Energizing Force Within You***

When Jesus walked on this earth He was the Anointed One. He said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me 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, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18, 19). The healings which Jesus performed were through the power of this anointing. "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).

You as a child of God have this same anointing within you. "The anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you ..." (I John 2:27).

What is the anointing? It is that supernatural, energizing force within that makes the Spirit-filled life effective and productive in Christian service. If you have received the Holy Spirit, this anointing abides within you. It is the quality that makes you dynamic for the Lord. This anointing builds Christ-like qualities in your life. It gives you authority to speak in the name of Jesus against satanic powers. It breaks the yoke of satanic bondage. "The yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing" (Isaiah 10:27).

The psalmist said, "I shall be anointed with fresh oil" (Psalm 92:10). This speaks of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, for in the scriptures oil is a type of the Holy Spirit. Daily let us seek a fresh anointing of God's Spirit.

In Jude 20 we read, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." This fervent, anointed praying in the Holy Spirit will build up your faith.

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Daily commit your heart and life to the Holy Spirit, asking Him to impart fresh oil. Daily confess, "I have the anointing. It abides within me. It is the gift of God. I maintain the anointing by a life of rich fellowship with my Lord."

## 9 *God's Cure For Your Care*

The Bible is a book of cures for all diseases. In fact, the great salvation which Jesus provided offers a cure for everything the devil has ever done to you.

First of all let me say that there are diseases of the spirit as well as of the body. Many of these spiritual diseases can, if not cured early, lead to physical illnesses. Listed below are some of these spiritual "diseases" and the scriptural "prescription" for them.

*Worry.* Multitudes of people go through life needlessly worrying. Worry can't help you. Worry never solved a problem, paid a bill, or healed a sickness. Jesus asked, "Which of you by taking thought (that is anxious thought, care, worry) can add one cubit unto his stature?" (Matthew 6:27). In other words, What will you gain by worrying? Jesus said, "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" (Matthew 6:25). Then He gave the sure cure for worry: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). When your heart is fixed upon the things of the Spirit, you can be confident in the fact that God will supply all your needs.

*Guilt.* Are you burdened down with feelings of guilt? Are you carrying a load of sin? If your life is filled with sin, if your heart is not right with God, there is a cure for that, too. "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin ... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:7, 9). "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is correct" (Psalm 32:1).

Confess your sins today and accept Christ's forgiveness

## *Great Confessions*

for your life. Then you can live a life free from the condemnation and guilt of sin.

*Nervousness.* If you suffer from nervousness, you are greatly hindered from enjoying life to its fullest. You are not walking in the joy that God has for you.

Do you fret over problems? Do certain persons or situations cause you anxiety which produces nervousness? Read over and over again the entire 91st Psalm, which begins, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." You won't be nervous and upset if you learn how to dwell in God's secret place. As you learn to live in the presence of God, you will enjoy His perfect joy. "... In thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).

*Insomnia.* Are you bothered by sleeplessness? It is startling to realize the vast number of people who are robbed of sleep every night. Let me prescribe Psalm 4:8: "I will both lay me down to peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." Isn't that a wonderful verse? Lie down, then, and in the name of Jesus you can go to sleep. Enjoy the rest that God has provided for you.

Another promise in His Word is found in Psalm 127:2: "... He giveth his beloved sleep." No longer do you need to resort to sleeping pills, for you can take the Lord's sure Word for your sleep.

*The "Blues."* Have you ever felt "blue"? This is nothing more than a spirit of depression and despondency that grips you and causes you to be heavy-hearted. The next time you feel this way read Psalm 42:5: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance." A sure cure for a case of the blues is to sing forth the praises of God.

*Fear and Anxiety.* I have been astonished to discover how many of God's people are oppressed by fear. When we consider what an insidious monster fear is, we must seek



## *God's Cure For Your Care*

freedom from its destructiveness by looking to God's Word.

Fear can produce misery, defeat, bondage and destruction. "Fear hath torment" (I John 4:18). Fear produces in kind, for Job said, "The thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me" (Job 3:25).

The Bible doesn't call your fear a mental quirk but rather defines it as a spirit. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7). "The fear of man bringeth a snare ..." (Proverbs 29:25).

Confess these words with David: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1). If you let the Lord be your life, your light, your strength, your salvation, you need have no fear. What can hurt you if the Lord is within? Who can harm you if you follow Christ? What disease or plague can affect your life if Christ has control? Be delivered from the fear of death, the fear of disease, the fear of calamity, the fear of old age. Whatever your fear, realize that God has not given you that fawning spirit of fear. It comes from the devil, and in Jesus' name you can cast out the spirit of fear.

God indeed has the cure for all your care. Nothing can take from you the tranquility of God's blessed care and peace in your soul. Nothing can separate you from God. Nothing can cheat you from His blessings, His healing and His deliverance if you will believe and obey His Word.



## **10** *How You Can Be Healed*

Now that we have discussed God's cure for spiritual "diseases," let us see what His Word has to say about healing physical diseases.

In the first place, is it truly His will that we receive healing for our bodies? His will is expressed in His Word where we read: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (III John 2). Our loving Father expresses His wishes for us in this dynamic verse. He desires that we may prosper and be in health, even as our soul prospers. The most important thing of course is to make sure that we are prospering in our soul. This is a prerequisite to healing. The healing of our body begins with the healing of our soul.

Soul prosperity means confessing and forsaking every known sin. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18). "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

We read in Isaiah 59:1, 2: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Sometimes we may fail to receive healing, not because of the shortness of the Lord's hand nor the heaviness of His ear, but because sin has caused a break in fellowship with Him. If so, obey His Word which says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). Then you will be on the right basis to believe God for healing.

Since healing begins within, let us consider another scripture. "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if you have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven

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may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses" (Mark 11:25, 26). Before your prayers for healing will be effective, you must be sure that you hold no grudge or unforgiving spirit against anyone. Ask yourself, Have I allowed a hurt to cause resentment within my heart? Do I perhaps unknowingly harbor ill will against anyone? If so, your prayers for healing will not be answered. Call upon God and depend upon His unfailing grace to enable you to forgive every offense committed against you.

Healing begins within with a spiritual cleansing. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23, 24).

"Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me ... Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:12-14).

It may be that a wrong confession is causing your downfall spiritually and physically. You can resolve with David, "I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue ..." (Psalm 39:1).

It may be that your words need cleansing because your heart needs cleansing. Jesus said, "... Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). Seek from the Lord a clean heart and then your words will be pure, edifying, ministering grace to the hearers (Ephesians 4:29).

The words that we speak are of extreme importance in determining whether we enjoy healing and health or sickness and disease. Jesus said, "... He shall have whatsoever he saith" (Mark 11:23). If we are always talking about our aches and pains, then aches and pains will be what we have. But if we talk about the goodness of the Lord, praising Him for His healing power, we can enjoy divine health.

Our tongue determines whether we have health or

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sickness. "... The tongue of the wise is health" (Proverbs 12:18). If we discipline our tongue to confess, "By His stripes I am healed," then our tongue is the instrument of health.

"Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones" (Proverbs 16:24). Pleasant words—words pleasing to God—minister health to the believer.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21). The tongue can produce death. How? "Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken (captive) with the words of thy mouth" (Proverbs 6:2). If you speak words about sickness rather than about God's healing power, then your lips are the snare of your soul (Proverbs 18:7).

"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life ..." (Proverbs 15:4). We know that the tree of life shall be for the "healing of the nations" (Revelations 22:2).

"The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright ..." (Proverbs 15:2). We have full knowledge of the scriptures which teach healing. Therefore, with our tongue we affirm them. "Bless the Lord ... who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:2, 3). With our tongue we shall ever speak God's healing words, for "they are health to all their flesh" (Proverbs 4:22).

Healing is based on the finished work of Jesus at Calvary. "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). "... 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).

Jesus purchased our healing at the price of great suffering. Tradition tells us that the whip with which He was beaten was an ugly weapon. Tiny pieces of metal were woven into each of the nine leather thongs. The Roman scourging with this deadly whip surpassed all other methods of cruel punishment. It was far worse than crucifixion itself. It was so frightful that the condemned often died while being beaten with this instrument of torture.

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Our Saviour's hands were tied high above His head while a burly Roman soldier cruelly lashed Him with the whip. Thirty-nine times its jagged thongs gouged His tender flesh. It is said that His ribs and the bones of His back were exposed to view. In those 39 lashes which cut His back to ribbons our Lord bore all of our misery, our pains, our sicknesses. He suffered the agony of every known disease so that we need not suffer. It was through these stripes that healing became ours.

David Bush, a missionary to Japan, was stricken with a disease that was threatening his life. While bedfast in intense pain, he read my booklet, *The Stripes That Heal*. As he read these truths, he claimed his healing. The next morning he was up from his bed, completely well.

Our authority for healing is based on what Christ has done, and we can claim this in the name of Jesus. Know the value of your confession of faith. Declare boldly, "By His stripes I am healed." Then begin to do the things you couldn't do before. Don't waver in your faith or you will receive nothing from the Lord (James 1:6-8). Resist the devil in the name of Jesus.

Continue to praise the Lord with all your heart, thanking Him for healing you.

## ***11 If You Need Healing, Speak These Words Aloud***

No matter what symptoms are present, *by His stripes I am healed.*

Regardless of what others may say about my health, *by His stripes I am healed.*

In spite of past experiences, *by His stripes I am healed.*

When pain strikes my body, *by His stripes I am healed.*

Wherever I am, *by His stripes I am healed.*

Regardless of how I feel, *by His stripes I am healed.*

When symptoms reappear, *by His stripes I am healed.*





## ***12 Don't Be a Sympathy Seeker***

There are some people, unfortunately, who feed on sympathy and pity. They are never happier than when pouring out their tale of woe upon some hapless listener. They delight in telling every detail of their latest operation, seeking attention and sympathy. Don't be among them! Pity never eased anyone's pains. Sympathy never cured anyone's sickness.

When you talk about your sickness you are glorifying the adversary who had the ability to put it on you. When you talk about your troubles, you are testifying to Satan's ability to get you into trouble.

God knows no defeat and neither should you. He has made you "more than a conqueror" through Christ (Romans 8:37). You need not know defeat when you are speaking God's words. They are all powerful. Confess that God is taking you out of the realm of failure and putting you where victory, peace, joy, strength and health prevail.

Your faith is measured by your confession. Refuse to have a negative confession. Refuse to confess weakness or failure, pain or symptoms. For invariably you will go down to the level of your confession. Instead, confess Jesus as your Saviour and Lord. Through Him you are a new creation, an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ.



## ***13 Do Your Words Praise the Lord or the Devil?***

Many times Christians unintentionally give praise to the devil instead of to the Lord. If you say, "The devil has been after me all day long," then you are praising the devil. When you say, "I am discouraged," you are giving the devil a victory. But if you say, "I always triumph in Christ," you are praising the Lord.

The psalmist said, "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1). Let us examine what we say to make sure we are glorifying the Lord.

Do you ever say, "I am overwhelmed by my financial problems—I just can't pay my bills"? If you do, then you are praising the adversary who has caused your financial dilemma. Instead of praising the devil, confess God's Word which declares, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

If you say, "I can't seem to get my prayers answered," you are magnifying the devil. Declare instead: "If our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing to his sight" (I John 3:21, 22). Quote the scripture which says: "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry" (Psalm 34:15). "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles" (Psalm 34:17).

If you say, "I pray for my family to be saved, but it doesn't do any good," you are magnifying the devil. Claim instead your family's salvation according to God's promise in Acts 16:31: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

You are praising the devil when you state, "I have such

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little power with God." Claim the promise which says, "Truly I am full of power by the spirit of the Lord ..." (Micah 3:8), and praise the Lord that His power indwells your life.

If you say, "I have no liberty," you are praising the devil who has brought you into bondage. Instead, quote God's Word which says, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free ..." (Galatians 5:1).

If you say, "I am so defeated; I just can't get out of all my troubles," you are praising the devil who defeats your life. Instead, stand positively on God's Word which says, "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles" (Psalm 34:6).

If you say, "I'm afraid this might be cancer," you are yielding praise to the devil who is the author of sickness. God's Word says in Isaiah 33:24: "And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick...." In Exodus 15:26 we read, "... I am the Lord that healeth thee."

If you say, "I cannot witness with boldness," you are glorifying the devil. You can witness in power through the enabling of the Holy Spirit. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me ..." (Acts 1:8).

If you say, "I just can't conquer my weight problem," you are giving in to the devil. Remember, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me" (Philippians 4:13).

If you say, "I don't have much strength," you are magnifying the devil. Magnify the Lord by saying with the psalmist, "... The Lord is the strength of my life ..." (Psalm 27:1).

If you say, "The longer I live the weaker I become," you are magnifying the devil. Confess the scripture, "... As thy days, so shall thy strength be" (Deuteronomy 33:25).

If you say, "I just don't believe that God has forgiven my sins," you are praising the devil who is the accuser of the brethren, the author of condemnation. I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,

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and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

When you say, "I am so fearful," you are praising the devil. Praise the Lord by declaring, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7). "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4).

If you say, "I don't feel the presence of God with me any more," you are praising the devil who would void the sure Word of God that declares, "... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

If you say, "I have no anointing," you are praising the devil and believing him instead of the Word of God which declares emphatically, "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you ..." (I John 2:27).

If you say, "I don't receive much blessing from the Lord," you are praising the devil. But if you say, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3), you are praising the Lord.

If you tell people your troubles in order to get their sympathy, you are praising the devil. Instead, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7).

If you say, "I cannot seem to love that person," you are praising the author of hate who would rob you of your rightful heritage of the love of God in your heart. God's Word says, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5).

Make sure your words praise the Lord and not the devil!



## ***14 How to Get Rid of an Inferiority Complex***

Many Christians are stifled in their service for the Lord by an inferiority complex. However, you can overcome this through the Word of God. You can be your own faith-builder, for faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

You are a new creature in Christ Jesus, which means that the moment you received Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord you were born into God's royal family. You are a son of God. He has created you anew in Christ Jesus. He has put new life into you. You have been born from above, born of the Spirit.

Everything that God creates is good. Therefore, do not run yourself down because your life is in Christ. He made you and you are what He has made you to be—a new creature. Do not belittle yourself, for you are in Christ and in Him you have been granted new life. The old life is gone. You are a citizen of a new kingdom. Your citizenship is in heaven.

You are created by God and are His own workmanship. He is now working within you to achieve His own purpose. He is building you up and making you strong in faith. How is He doing this? By His own Word.

Not only are you a new creature in Christ, but you are also made righteous in Him. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Corinthians 5:21). What does it mean to be righteous? It means that you possess the divine ability to stand in God's holy presence without any sense of unworthiness. It means that God has made you righteous with His own righteousness. So now that you are complete in Christ, you can be free from any inferiority complex that once may have held you captive.

You are redeemed from the kingdom of darkness and have been translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Once

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Satan was your lord and master. Then Jesus came into your life and gave you His life. You are now in that great kingdom where He reigns as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. He invites you to join Him and reign with Him in life.

Yes, you are now redeemed and sin has no dominion over you. In the old kingdom of darkness you lived under the sway of sickness, fear, poverty and failure. But now through the blood of Jesus you have been set free. You can boldly say, "Goodbye sickness, goodbye fear, goodbye lack, goodbye weakness. I am free! Now I live in a new kingdom, the heavenly kingdom, where there is life, light, liberty, joy, peace, health, assurance, blessing and power. What a redemption is mine. What a Redeemer I have!"

You are an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. You have a rich inheritance and are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. The Father loves you as He loved the Lord Jesus. He loves you with an everlasting love. You are blessed with heaven's best.

Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches ..." (John 15:5). That is how closely you are linked with Him. He is the living vine and you are a branch of that vine. The same life, love, joy, peace, power, wisdom and ability that flows in the vine flows into the branch. Wherever you go, whatever you do, the vine-life flows through you.

The life of God is in your mortal body right now. It is not just for when you get to heaven, it is for right now. Your spirit has been quickened by the power of God, made alive in Him, and now you live and move and have your being in Christ (Acts 17:28). You have what God says you have. You can do what God says you can do. You are what God says you are.



## *15 Overcoming Fear*

I have had many interesting discussions with a prominent psychiatrist from Washington, D.C., whom I met overseas. We share a concern for the vast numbers of people whose lives are shrouded in fear. Because the giant "Fear" is slaying its tens of thousands, it is important that Christians embrace God's truth: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7). As we look to the promises of God's Word, we can possess full assurance that we can live free from fear, for fear has no part in the heart of a redeemed child of God.

There are 365 scriptures in the Bible that challenge you to live free from fear all the days of your life. So there is a verse against fear for every day of the year!

One such scripture says, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10).

Fear need have no part in your heart, for as long as God is with you, you need never fear. He has promised, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

God's Word says, "... Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine" (Isaiah 43:1). Because the Lord has redeemed you, you are delivered from the power of Satan, the author of fear.

"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?" (Psalm 118:6). "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe" (Proverbs 29:25). You need not be snared again by a man-fearing spirit. Because the Lord is with you, man can do nothing to you.

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"That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life" (Luke 1:74, 75).

"... For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Hebrews 13:5, 6). Because the Lord has said it, you may boldly say the same thing. Because God is your unfailing Helper, you can boldly say, "Fear has no part in my heart!" (Deuteronomy 31:6; II Chronicles 32:7; Psalm 3:6, 27:3):

Like Joshua, you can stand fearless in the presence of gigantic foes. Like David, you can come against the giants in your life in the all-conquering name of the Lord.

You can be free from fear as God gives you courage, confidence, fearlessness and the daring to do what His Word declares you can do.

## *16 A Sound Mind*

As you overcome the grip of fear, you are then able to think more creatively, more positively. You are able to use your mind to its fullest potential as you are "transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). As we have seen in the preceding section, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear: but of power; and of love; and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7).

A sound mind thinks right. Often you do injustice to the sound mind God has given you by failing to use it. It is not always necessary to seek some mystical direction in spiritual matters. Your sound mind—the gift of God—is quite capable of making sound decisions.

A sound mind avoids negative thoughts. Negative thoughts impede the function of sound thinking and should be avoided. A sound mind thinks positive thoughts.

A sound mind thinks on the pure, never the impure. This world is contaminated by diseased thinking upon impure and illicit sex. A sound mind never dwells on this unclean thought pattern.

A sound mind never creates lies or deceit. Since your mind is the source of all words and actions, never permit your mind to entertain untruth.

A sound mind meditates upon the Word of God. Much promise is given in the scriptures to the value of meditation upon the Word. When you continually meditate upon the Word you are assured of success and prosperity (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:3).

A sound mind is stayed on God. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee ..." (Isaiah 26:3).

A sound mind dwells on good reports, not bad. A sound mind remembers the lovely things of life, not the unlovely.

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"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

A sound mind is a renewed mind, renewed by the Word through the Holy Spirit. A sound mind refuses to harbor grudges, unforgiveness, ill will, and past injustices. A sound mind is a healthy mind, the gift of God.

Affirm these words: "God has given me a sound mind. Through this gift of a sound mind I can make right decisions and think wholesome thoughts."

## 17 *Who Lives in Your House?*

Never shall I forget the day when the realization fully dawned upon me of what it means to have Christ actually living within. Paul declared, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). When the meaning of these words came to life for me, I walked up and down my office affirming over and over, "Christ lives in me! Christ lives in me! It is by His victorious faith that I really live."

Is your life powerless today because you have forgotten, or perhaps never really known, who it is that lives within you? "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, *according to the power that worketh in us*" (Ephesians 3:20). Christ's power is working within you. And what is that power doing within? It is doing exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think.

You need not shrink in the face of adverse circumstances, for "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). The Greater One is inside you and has control of you. He is far greater than the enemy in this world and will give you the wisdom and power to confront and overcome your problems and anxieties.

Because Christ dwells within, you have perfect liberty. "... Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Corinthians 3:17). Not only can you have personal liberty, but you can also be a liberator, setting others free from the bondage of sin.

"... Because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5), you can love others with the same pure love with which Jesus loved needy humanity. This is how we are known as disciples

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of the Lord: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

Through the power of Christ who lives within you, share His love with those who do not know Him, "That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus" (Philemon 6).

## *18 Try a Little Kindness*

Kindness is a part of God's nature. "... But thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness ..." (Nehemiah 9:17). Since you are now a new creature in Christ and His nature is in you, kindness should be a part of your new nature.

God will enable you to be kind to others, "tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32). He will enable you to be patient with young people and understanding of the impetuosity of youth. He will enable you to show kindness to the elderly, and to be sympathetic with those in the hospital by visiting them and showing your concern.

You can show kindness to those behind prison bars, fulfilling Jesus' command to visit those in prison.

"... Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge ... And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity" (II Peter 1:5,7). Show friendliness and kindness, generosity and courtesy to your brothers and sisters in Christ. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

You can show kindness and longsuffering to those who are victims of alcoholism, seeking to lead them to Jesus and His deliverance. "Love suffereth long, and is kind ..." (I Corinthians 13:4). "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering" (Colossians 3:12).

Many people tend to shun the mentally ill. Yet, statistics show that every other hospital bed is occupied by a person who is mentally ill. They, more than anyone, need our affectionate concern. Jesus' love compels us to have compassion on them and pray for their deliverance.

## *Great Confessions*

Show Christian love and kindness to those who have been overtaken in sin. Do not assume a "holier-than-thou" attitude, but be humble, realizing that such could happen to you but for the grace of God. Jesus showed love and compassion to the woman found guilty of adultery, and we are constrained by His example to show such compassion. "Blessed be the Lord: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness ..." (Psalm 31:21). "For his merciful kindness is great toward us ..." (Psalm 117:2). "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee ... saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee" (Isaiah 54:10).

The love of Christ which dwells within you will enable you to be kind and sympathetic to others, gracious and friendly, benevolent toward the less privileged and congenial in all your relationships.



## 19 A Bold Challenge

Let me challenge you to resolve today never again to have a wrong confession but instead to agree with, to affirm, to confess what God's Word says about anything which may arise in your life in the days to come.

• *Never again confess defeat, for:*

"... God ... always causeth us to triumph in Christ ..." (II Corinthians 2:14).

• *Never again confess bondage, for:*

"... Where the Spirit of the Lord, there is liberty" (II Corinthians 3:17).

• *Never again confess sickness, for:*

"... With his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

"... Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Matthew 8:17).

• *Never again confess fear, for:*

"God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7).

• *Never again confess, "I can't," for:*

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

• *Never again confess doubt and lack of faith, for:*

"... God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3).

• *Never again confess weakness, for:*

"... The Lord is the strength of my life ..." (Psalm 27:1).

## *Great Confessions*

"... The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits" (Daniel 11:32).

- *Never again confess Satan's supremacy over your life, for:*

"... Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

- *Never again confess a lack of wisdom, for:*

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom ..." (I Corinthians 1:30).

- *Never again confess feelings of guilt, for:*

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus ..." (Romans 8:1).

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12).

- *Never again confess worry, for:*

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7).

- *Never again confess discontent, for:*

"... *For* I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11).

- *Never again confess loneliness, for Jesus said:*

"... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

"... Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

- *Never again confess a fear of the future, for:*

"... Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath

## *A Bold Challenge*

revealed them unto us by his Spirit ..." (I Corinthians 2:9, 10).

- Never again confess an inability to conquer sin in your life, for:

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2).

- Never again confess frustration, for:

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee ..." (Isaiah 26:3).

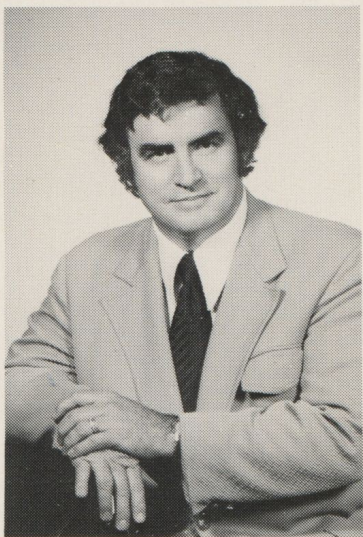
- Never again confess confusion, for:

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God" (I Corinthians 2:12).

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace ..." (I Corinthians 14:33).

- Never again confess failure, for:

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37).



Don Gossett

Did you know that one definition of confession is "agreeing with or saying the same thing as someone else"? Great Confessions are statements which agree with the marvelous promises given in the Word of God. Learn how these promises for love, joy, peace, health and prosperity belong to you. Say them aloud and see how your own words can work wonders!



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