

Jesse Rich Ministries

212.501.7999 January '06 Newsletter www.JesseRichMinistries.com

“Called to reach the World with the Word of Faith”

Presenting Jesus to the Sinner

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Mark 16:15,16

Dear Friend and Partner,

In this month's newsletter, I have two parts. The first part is on soul winning, and the second part is on faith in God's Word for finances. In the soul winning section, I'm teaching on the importance of witnessing to sinners.

The scripture says in 1 Timothy 1:15, **This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**

Witnessing the Word of God to Believers

We need to realize that there are different kinds of people to witness to. When you're around people who are born-again, you can talk to them about the Word of God. For instance, they may not know about divine healing, prosperity, or taking authority over the devil, all because they haven't been taught the Word. *So you can teach them!* I call that witnessing to Christians about the Word of God.

Witnessing to Religious People

Then, there is witnessing to religious people. Religious people can be very difficult. They're usually not born-again, and they're sort of like the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus day: Read Matthew 23:13-33.

Religious people are usually not interested in anything you have to say about God's Word. They usually have no scripture to back up what they believe, and when you tell them the Word doesn't support what they believe, and what they believe is contrary to the scriptures, they can get very upset.

Witnessing Jesus to Sinners

And then, there are the sinners. That's what I want to talk to you about in this part of the newsletter. I call it, ***“Approaching the sinner with the solution.”***

There's no sense for you to bring up someone's problem to them if you don't provide them with a solution to the problem. For instance, if you get on a sinner for not going to church, you're usually just being critical.

You don't approach the sinner with church. You approach the sinner with Jesus, because the cure to his problem is not church, but Jesus. So, instead of always ding-donging them about going to church, witness to them about the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is Your Responsibility, not the Church's

There's nothing wrong with inviting a sinner to church, providing your church preaches the gospel. But don't put the responsibility of getting the sinner saved on the church. **You** take the responsibility of witnessing to them. If you'll witness every day to a sinner about Jesus Christ, you'll never get spiritually cold or lukewarm. You'll get persecuted, but you won't backslide.

Jesus said in Acts 1:8, **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Remember, the Holy Spirit is with you to anoint you to witness. There's no greater joy than praying with someone to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Amen?

Brother Rich

One of the Greatest Ministries

Soul winning is one of the most important ministries God has given us to do. **And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.** Mark 16:15,16

The Bible says the one who wins souls is wise (Proverbs 11:30). Winning souls has to do with reaching out to the people around you: at work, in your community, as well as to friends and relatives.

Jesus said in Matthew 25:31-46, **³¹When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:**

³²And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: ³³And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

³⁴Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: ³⁶Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

³⁷Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? ³⁸When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

³⁹Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? ⁴⁰And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

⁴¹Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

⁴²For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: ⁴³I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

⁴⁴Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or

sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

⁴⁵Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. ⁴⁶And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

To reach other people, we have to visit them. God didn't tell the sinner to go to church. He told the church to go to the sinner (Mark 16:15,16). Jesus is our example of reaching out to sinners, as we read in Luke 19:1-10:

¹And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. ²And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

³And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

⁴And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

⁶And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. ⁷And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

⁸And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

⁹And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. Luke 15:1,2

We have to reach out to sinners in love, compassion, and patience. We have to show them we really care about them. The only way we're going to reach sinners with the gospel is by going where the sinners are, like Jesus did.

That's one of the reasons we have to go visit people. Sinners normally do not go church, unlike religious people. Religious people go to church and think they're religious because they go to church. They think they'll make heaven because they go to church, or because they believe in God. They think they're OK with God because of their religious beliefs. They're not saved or born-again – they're just religious.

Sinners are different from religious people. They're not religious, and they don't go to church. They may or may not believe in God, and the only thing they have in common with religious people is they're not born-again. Other than that, they have nothing in common.

Normally, sinners are not phony like religious people are. They don't act self-righteous. Most of them have never been witnessed to their whole life. If they have been witnessed to, they often didn't understand what they were told. They don't understand why believers go church, why we read the Bible or pray, or anything else we do. They're not supposed to. They don't know anything about the Word of God.

So, when you witness to a sinner, you talk to them about Jesus, why He came, how He died and that He was resurrected from the dead, all to take our sin. You try to keep the subject on Jesus and the importance of receiving Him as Lord and Savior.

Seven Points for Witnessing:

Tell the sinner what they get when they receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior: Show them these promises from the Word of God. Memorize all seven points and bring them up when witnessing.

#1: *They become a child of God.*

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26

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

#2: *They're in the family of God and have New Covenant benefits.*

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance... Eph. 1:11

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ... Romans 8:17

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:29

#3: *They can fellowship with God, and they can call him "Father."*

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: Romans 8:15,16

#4: *They receive forgiveness of all the sins that they've ever committed, known and unknown.*

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Ephesians 1:7

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

#5: *They have a written guarantee from God Almighty, the possessor of heaven and earth, that when they die, they go be with Him.*

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. John 14:2,3

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8

#6: *They become a new creature in Christ Jesus.*

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

#7: *Another benefit is they'll have peace in their heart, and no longer guilt for sin.*

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

THEREFORE, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit. Romans 8:1AMP

Witnessing with the Holy Spirit, not Your Head

You've got to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and when you sense in your heart not to say any more than what you've said, shut up. There's a fine line between witnessing and babbling out a bunch of words and scriptures that are coming from your head and not your heart.

There is nothing more annoying than hearing someone talk about God in the flesh. Some people just like hearing themselves talk. They become extremely annoying to sinners, because they have no conviction accompanying their words. We depend on the Holy Spirit to produce the conviction. But if you talk from your head, there will be no power in what you say. You'll come across like somebody whacked-out on religion. To be an effective witness, *(and this is important)* you cannot come across as though you've been brainwashed.

Instead, you want your words to have power that pierces their heart with Holy Ghost conviction (**Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart...** Acts 2:37). You want them thinking about these words when they leave your presence. You want the words that you say to them to follow them around, echoing in their conscience.

When you talk about Jesus, say what the Word of God says about Him. This is important because when you do, the Holy Spirit will work on them. He'll keep bringing the Word that you said back to them. The Holy Spirit cannot do what you can do, and you can't do what He can do.

Remember, no one gets saved without someone witnessing to them. God is going to use your mouth filled with His Word, anointed by the Holy Ghost to reach the lost. God needs each born-again child of God to do their part to reach others. Most people are not going to get saved in church.

Statistically, the world is gaining on the body of Christ. In other words, there are more people being born in this world every day than are being born-again into God's kingdom.

Don't Leave the Job for Someone Else

God works through the body of Christ and He works in individuals. It's very dangerous and also irresponsible for a believer to leave reaching the lost up to their church or their pastor. A few people may get saved in church, but far too few are being saved in church.

One reason is because churches don't preach salvation enough. Another reason is that most sinners will never go to church. The third reason is that it's not the way it was done in the New Testament anyway. Jesus went out to where the sinners were, as He did when He went to Zacchaeus' house, as we read previously, in Luke 19:1-10.

And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. Luke 14:23

In the book of Acts, they went house-to-house. Thank God for Christian television, thank God for Christian radio, thank God for Christian churches, but the majority of sinners don't listen to Christian radio, they don't watch Christian television, and they don't go to church.

- Have you ever invited a sinner to go visit your church, or somewhere where they are preaching the gospel?
- When is the last time you witnessed to a sinner about Jesus Christ?

There are people who go to church three and four times a week, and it's been years since they witnessed to a sinner about Jesus Christ! One of the bad things about church buildings is that too many times, Christians get stuck in them, and won't get out of them to reach the lost. They seem to think that by attending church, they've done their spiritual duty for the week.

Mass evangelism has its purpose, but it can never do what personal, *one-on-one* evangelism can do. Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons may be getting more people converted to their religion than believers are getting people born-again! The body of Christ has forgotten the sinner. We've left reaching the sinner up to someone else.

Don't be embarrassed or intimidated by talking to somebody about Jesus. Let them know how to get saved. Show them Romans 10:9, 10: **That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

Your goal is to get the sinner to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We must not lose our vision of reaching the lost! You always want to be thinking of how you can bring Jesus up to some individual.

When you are witnessing, never come across as arrogant or act super-spiritual. You don't want to have some kind of superior attitude or self-righteous pride. You want to be humble, caring and kind to the sinner. Just always act like you have a sign hanging on you that says: **Hi, I'm born-again. How may I help you?**

You Are Equipped for the Job –
You Have the Word and the Holy Ghost

As a born-again child of God, no religion can compete with you in reaching the lost. Remember, you have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you: **Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.** 1 John 4:4

You have the love of God in you: **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

The anointing of God is abiding in you: **But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.** 1 John 2:27

You have the Name of Jesus, which has all the power that God has in it: **Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** Philipians 2:9-11

And you've got God on your side: **...If God be for us, who can be against us?** Romans 8:31

Remember, when you're witnessing, you're about your Father's business. **And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?** Luke 2:49

Remember, you're not doing this by yourself -God's with you. **...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper...** Hebrews 13:5,6

In witnessing, you want to be a good listener. Your outward ears are listening intently to the person, and your inner man is listening to the Holy Spirit. The more you witness, the better you get at it. One of the reasons God baptized you in the Holy Ghost was for you to be a witness: **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.** Acts 1:8
Remember - God can't reach the lost unless you talk to them. The more you witness, the more people will hear the salvation message. Satan doesn't want any believer to witness to anyone. He will persecute you for doing it. He will bring discouragement, rejection, fear, and everything else to get you to shut up and back off. You just have to bind the devil, stay in the Word, pray in the Holy Ghost and keep witnessing. We all need to be soul winners.

Remember, not everyone is going to drop to their knees when

you talk to them about Jesus. The important point is that you plant the seed. You can't afford to be afraid that you are going to offend people by talking to them about Jesus. Your purpose isn't to be politically correct - it's to be an instrument of God - a vessel fit for the master's use - (2 Timothy 2:21).

There's a very strong evil spirit in our nation today. It's the spirit of the antichrist that's trying to silence the church. It sits on the throne of humanity and it's trying to control America, but most of all, it's trying to control the church, the body of Christ.

That's why we rarely ever hear any preaching about sin, Satan, hell and damnation. We live in a touchy-feely, emotional and sensitive world today. We've been told not to bring up those words, because they make people feel uncomfortable. People are afraid they will offend others and run them off. But that's just one of Satan's lies that has tried to infiltrate the church today.

Remember Who You Are in Christ

We are, through Jesus Christ, born-again children of God. We are not afraid of anyone or anything. We do not run from a fight or confrontation. We are not cowards. We stand up for God's Word, and we tell it like it is.

Though none of us is word-perfect, **we strive for perfection daily** (Philippians 3:12-15). Though all of us have sinned, **we preach the consequences of sinning** (Romans 6:23). Though all of us have failed, **we preach that God has never failed** (Romans 3:23). Though all of us have been scared, **we preach that God has not given us the Spirit of fear** (2 Timothy 1:7). Though none of us has been perfect at walking in love, **we tell the sinner that God loves them** (John 3:16).

So you see, **we don't back off from the Word** just because we have not obtained every promise that's in the Word. **We preach the Word in season and out of season anyway**, because we're not the Savior, we're not the One Who never sinned, we're not the One Who never disobeyed God, We're not the One Who never failed God. **We are His ambassadors in this world.** (2 Corinthians 5:20). **We let the sinner know that we're still working out our own salvation** (Philippians 2:12). **We let the sinner know God loves them just the way they are** (Romans 5:8). We're not the Savior, we just work for the Savior. We're not God, we just serve God.

We are what we are in Christ Jesus and when the devil tries to keep you from witnessing, for whatever the reason he may give you, (*You're not good enough, You don't know the scriptures well enough, You don't pray enough, You don't have your own life in order, Who you think you are? That's not your ministry, Let someone else do that*) -- these are all just ploys and lies from the devil. Everything the devil tells you to do, you just resist it: **Submit yourselves therefore to God.**

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7

Just keep it simple. Remember: Satan doesn't want you to witness, but God wants you to. And, if in your whole lifetime, you just reach one person, when you see them in glory, you will realize everything you did was worth it.

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Luke 15:7



Part 2: Financial Blessings and Benefits

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. 2 Cor. 8:9

**Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.
3 John 2**

Divine prosperity belongs to each and every born-again child of God; it's part of the believer's inheritance in the New Covenant. It is a blessing and not a curse. And, it's a benefit that carries an awesome responsibility along with it.

Paul, inspired by Holy Spirit, said in 1 Timothy 6:17 - 19,

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to

come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

It's very important, in your walk of faith and spiritual growth and development, that you take the time to renew your mind to God's Word to the point that you can believe in your heart that your Father God wants you to prosper and be successful in every area of your life.

You need to be able to cast down all feelings of being undeserving and unworthy that cause you to think, **'why have the best when the other will do?'**

In any area that you allow doubt, fear, worry, unbelief, double-

mindfulness, or feelings of unworthiness to creep in, it will hinder and affect you in other areas of your Christian life.

God's Requirement: Acting on His Word in Faith

What God has required of us is that we **believe His Word** and **act** as though it's true. We need to obey Him and always put Him first, and always remember to be thankful for everything He's done for us. Remember that all of our blessings and every good thing we have come from Him: **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.** James 1:17

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day. Deuteronomy 8:18

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6

It's easy to be influenced by the world's news of the economy, as it is to be affected by the cultish false doctrine that poverty is godly. The usual reasons that a believer does not prosper financially are that they're too lazy to work, use and develop the talents that God gave them.

Or, they think that they're pleasing God by going without. They refuse to fight the good fight of faith and stand against poverty, (one of the curses of the broken law), or they're just scripturally ignorant of what belongs to them in their New Covenant through Christ Jesus.

So study the Word of God to find out what God's Word says on the subject of divine prosperity, so you can believe the Word and act according to the Word. This is how you can please God.

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

Lack and Poverty are not for God's Children

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. 2 Cor. 8:9

Poverty and lack are two of the things God never intended for us to experience. They came about through Satan, sin and the fall of mankind. So did many other curses that are in this world today, such as death (*spiritual and physical*), sickness, disease, pain, grief, sorrow, fear, doubt, and unbelief.

All these things, when permitted and tolerated, bring people into bondage and keep them there. We all need to believe God to be financially debt-free and not be held in bondage to the creditors, like the widow in the following testimony:

¹Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

²And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. ³Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.

⁴And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. ⁵So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.

⁶And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. ⁷Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest. 2 Kings 4:1-7

²⁴And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute *money* came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?

²⁵He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?

²⁶Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. ²⁷Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee. Matt.17:24-27

What Does the Word Say about Your Problem?

The first thing we need to do as believers, when faced with a financial problem, is to consider what the Word of God says about the problem. This is one reason we have God's Word.

Financial problems come to every believer, when we are faced with a situation of not having enough in the natural to meet our needs. Even Jesus was confronted with not having enough in the natural to meet the need, as we read in John 6:5-13:

⁵When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? ⁶And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, ⁹There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

¹⁰And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. ¹¹And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

¹²When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

¹³Therefore they gathered *them* together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

What Does Faith Do?

Financial difficulties and problems are like any other kind of problem: we must consider what God's Word says about the problem.

Find scriptures in your own Bible, **highlight those scriptures, write them out, carry them with you,** and several times during the day - *and even at night* - **read them**

out loud.

Doing this will help you stay focused on God's Word and help keep you strong in faith. Quoting verses of scripture to yourself over and over, night and day, is the only cure you have for doubt and unbelief, hardness of heart, and double-mindedness. According to Romans 10:17, faith comes by hearing the Word: **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** Your ears need to hear your mouth speak God's Word. This will help you be single-minded on the Word, because if we are double-minded, we're not going to receive anything of the Lord.

¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. ²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. ⁵ 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.

⁶But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1:1-8

The Cold, Hard Truth about God and Your Problems

This is going to sound hard, but nevertheless, it is the truth: ***Our needs and problems don't move God.*** The only thing that moves God is **faith**, and **obedience** to God.

Faith in God is **having faith in what He said.** Faith in God is **doing** what He said to do. **Faith in God is what pleases God:**

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

Pleasing God

The Bible didn't say it's hard to please God without faith.

The Bible didn't say it's difficult to please God without faith.

The Bible says it's impossible to please God without faith!

It took **faith** for the woman in 2 Kings 4 to send her sons out to borrow the pots.

It took **faith in action** to do that, and to produce that miracle and to cause God to move and cancel out the debt.

It took **faith** for Peter to **go fishing** when Jesus told him what to do. Peter **obeyed** Jesus.

It took **faith** to **pass out the loaves and fishes** among those five thousand people.

In the natural, going by one's intellect and doing all these things would be foolish. It would be foolish to pour out the oil into other pots, foolish to go fishing and take the money out of the first fish's mouth . . . (*– Like, up until this point who had ever gotten money out of a fish's mouth?*) And, in the natural, it would be foolish to take five loaves and two fishes and start handing them out to five thousand people.

You know, to your natural mind, **doing the Word** and **following the prompting of the Holy Spirit** is foolishness.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14

Putting God First

But in order to get God's power to manifest in our lives, we must be obedient to His Word. We must put God first. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

The Holy Spirit said in 1 Corinthians 16:2, **Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.**

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. Proverbs 3:9, 10

The firstfruits of our income are to be given to God first. This is known as tithing. **And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.** Hebrews 7:8

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:10-12

God promised He'd open the windows of heaven and pour us out a blessing. We're always expecting the blessings of God to manifest in our lives as we look to God as our financial Source. We just usually never know *where* the blessing is coming from, or *when* it's going to happen, or *how* it's going to arrive.

1Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. 2Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.

3If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

4He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. 5As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

6In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

26And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; 27And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

28For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. 29But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come. Mark 4:26-29

Keep Doing the Word and Never Quit or Give Up

We don't have to understand how God's going to do it, or how He's going to meet the need. All we have to do is stay in His

Word and do His Word and constantly thank Him that He is our Provider.

We must stay in faith, and stay focused on the fact that God is our Source. If we look at our circumstances, we can become hesitant to give. We can begin to consider the conditions around us, as we read in Ecclesiastes 11:4: **He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.**

When I was a child, I always wanted to have some kind of business to earn money. So when I was about 12 years old, I came up with the idea of something I could do. – It wasn't anything *new*. I would mow people's lawns and start a lawn-care business.

I would take my parents' lawnmower and go door-to-door and inquire if they needed someone to mow their grass. School was out, so this was a way I could earn some summer money. Then, I decided to expand my business and take on a partner. I took on more accounts, and it seemed like everyone wanted their lawn mowed by the weekend! Now, the pressure was on to get all these lawns done!

So one day, I went over to get my friend to do the lawns we had for that day, because he hadn't shown up yet. He was still in bed. I asked him what he was doing in bed. He said it was too cloudy to cut grass. I told him these people were depending on us to get their lawns done, but he still wanted to stay in bed.

A few days after that, I went to get him, and he said it was too windy to cut grass that day. This was the beginning of the end of our partnership. I could never get him to do his part. He was fulfilling Ecclesiastes 11:4: **He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.**

When I was 19 years old, I started a floor covering/installation business. I felt sorry for my old partner, because it seemed as though his financial life was going nowhere. I thought maybe he'd outgrown his laziness, *but you know, he hadn't*. He was still undependable. When my back would be against the wall to get jobs done, he wouldn't come through for me. Although he wanted the money, he didn't want to do anything to get it. He wanted a free ride.

There's a Price

We all want the blessings of God in manifestation in our lives,

but there's a price we have to pay. God purchased the blessings for us: all of our New Covenant benefits, like divine financial prosperity. He redeemed us from financial poverty and lack. We just have to keep working the Word and stay committed to do what God told us to do. And when the circumstances (*in other words, what we see and feel*) are trying to tell us to quit and give up, we must realize that quitting is not a realistic option. **Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.** Galatians 6:6-9,

Quitting and giving up believing God lands us in severe trouble and difficulty. You may think that tithing and giving adds to your financial difficulty, but by **not** tithing and giving to God, it puts us in the position that we don't have God working on our behalf.

Building Your Life on God's Word

24Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

28And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

29For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Matthew 7: 24 - 29

When we give God our first 10%, we position ourselves to be in God's grace, mercy and favor.

Going to Work Spiritually

Spiritual work is a lot like natural work. You just have to keep showing up every day. Get out of bed, read your scriptures,

worship God, spend time in prayer, meditate on the Word, and listen to faith-building tapes. Just keep doing what you've been taught to do from God's Word, and **know** that while you're doing this, **as long as you're doing it by faith, you're pleasing God.**

**Whether or not it seems like it,
looks like it, or feels like it,
it's working!**

You just keep working the Word, doing the Word, obeying the Word, and sooner or later, eventually your blessing will materialize. Staying with the Word of God in seemingly good times and bad times always produces the greatest blessings. God takes notice, and we get His attention when we step out on His Word and stay with it.

People who don't tithe and give to God what they should may look like they are getting by. But when I was a child, it looked like my lawn mowing partner's decision to stay at home was better than my decision to be out in the hot sun cutting grass. Sometimes, God's children don't realize the blessings He's got in store for us if we will just be faithful to Him.

No matter what your mind and feelings are telling you, make yourself keep doing what the Word of God tells you to do. Payday always comes to the one who won't give up. God said in Joshua 1:8, **This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

If we're going to have good success and prosper, we must not let the Word of God depart from our mouths. Amen?

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