

Jesse Rich Ministries

212.501.7999 December '05 Newsletter www.JesseRichMinistries.com

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

Confessing Jesus as Your Savior

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. *Matthew 10:32*

Dear Friend and Partner,

In this newsletter, I'm enclosing some helpful points, scriptures and teachings to assist you in your witnessing, as well as encourage you to be a spokesman for God. As a bonus, you have a teaching on the Prayer of Faith and the blessings of Partnership in our ministry and what God's called me to do.

Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. Jn .12:42,43

These people were religious, but they wouldn't openly acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. In today's terms, they wouldn't confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior. A lot of people have religion and would even acknowledge Jesus as who He said He was... But they fail to receive the greatest gift that God has provided: Salvation.

We cannot just say we believe in Jesus. According to the scriptures, we also have to confess that Jesus is Lord in order to have eternal life. Jesus said in Matthew 10:32, **Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.**

God said in 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.**

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

We are coming into the holiday season of Christmas

and the New Year. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we must never lose focus of the assignment that God gave us: **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 reason Jesus came was to save us from our sins: **And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.** Matthew 1:21

In the next several days, you're probably going to have an opportunity to be around people you're normally not around every day, and we have a great opportunity during these holidays to be a witness and talk to family and friends about where they stand with God. Sometimes, peoples' hearts are more open this time of year than at any other time, and we have no guarantee that we're going to see them again... So, it's important that we talk to each person – each one of our friends, and each one of our relatives about our Jesus.

Every good thing we have came from God (*James 1:17*), and we definitely want everyone that we know to know our Jesus the way we know Him – as our Savior and our Lord.

If you send out greeting cards, think about putting in a scripture, or a prayer card to get them to pray the Word. If you buy a gift, think about a Bible.

The first Christmas I spent in New England, I ordered \$500 of tapes and books from a ministry. I ordered books and tapes that had been a blessing to me. I wrapped them up in Christmas paper and gave them out to people.

I got all kinds of responses. Some people were so thrilled and blessed by the tape or book I gave them. – it helped them so much! Others kind of looked down their nose at it. That's ok – we don't walk by sight, and we're not moved by their faces (2 Corinthians 5:7 & Jeremiah 1:17).

We plant the Word in peoples' lives and hearts and continually pray for them and believe God for a harvest of salvation, healing, miracles, blessings and revelation knowledge from God's Word.

Think about giving out the Word this Christmas season, and as the new year approaches, make a commitment to God that 2006 will be the year you witness more than you've ever witnessed before and share Jesus with more people than you ever have before, and give the Word out every day!

Confessing Jesus

In **Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words**, the words Confess and Confession are translated as follows:

<A-1,Verb,3670,homologeō>

(c) **"to declare openly by way of speaking out freely**, such confession being the effect of deep conviction of facts," Matthew 7:23; 10:32 (twice) and Luke 12:8 ... John 12:42; ... Romans 10:9,10 ("confession is made");

In Matthew 10:32; Luke 12:8 the construction of this verb ... has a special significance, namely, to "confess" in a person's name, the nature of the "confession" being determined by the context, the suggestion being **to make a public "confession."**

Thus the statement, "every one ... who shall confess Me (lit., "in Me," i.e., in My case) before men, him (lit., "in him," i.e., in his case) will I also confess before My Father ...," conveys the thought of "confessing" **allegiance to Christ as one's Master and Lord, and, on the other hand, of acknowledgment, on His part, of the faithful one as being His worshipper and servant, His loyal follower**; ... See PROFESS, PROMISE, THANK.

<A-2,Verb,1843,exomologeō>

(b) **"to profess or acknowledge openly,"** ...Philippians 2:11

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which He saith shall come to pass; He shall have whatsoever He saith. Mark 11:23

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. Philippians 2:9-11

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. Romans 10:9,10

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, Him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. Matthew 10:32

Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, Him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: Luke 12:8

Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. John 12:42,43

Sin Separates, but Jesus Saves

The Bible is God's Word - *His written Word*. You either believe it's His Word, or you don't. (*You either believe the Holy Spirit inspired men to write every one of these Words, or you just believe man wrote them. – You think the Bible is just man's opinion, and not God's Holy Written Word.*)

In God's Word, He reveals to us what sin is, and what sin has done to mankind. Sin has separated us from God, and this separation is known as the eternal damnation. In His Word, God reveals to us the way out of sin and the way to eternal life.

Man is a spirit being. He is more than flesh and body, and was created in the image of God.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and

over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth Genesis 1:26

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

...There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.
1 Corinthians 15:44

Arguments of Atheists & Skeptical Religious People

If we were just flesh and bone, the atheists would be right when they say that when a person dies, that's all there is. They say there's nothing after the grave, and mankind was not created by God, because God does not exist. **The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.** Psalm 14:1

They think man just evolved. This kind of thinking and believing is derived from an ignorance of God's Word, a lack of Holy Ghost conviction and the denial of sin, Satan and hell.

If there is no God, there is no heaven. If there's no heaven, there is no hell. If there is no hell, there is no Satan. And, if there is no Satan, there is no sin and there's no eternal damnation, or judgment for sin.

Atheists and skeptical people say the Bible was written by man. **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:** 2 Timothy 3:16

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. 2 Timothy 3:16 TLB

And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them. Exodus 24:12

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. Revelation 22:18,19

These people think their intellect is superior to God's Word. **(For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.** Isaiah 55:8,9

They are skeptical of anything that has to do with God and laugh at and make fun of God's Word. But, the scripture says in 1 Corinthians 1:18, **For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**

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

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 2 Thessalonians 2:11

How to Be Saved, or Born-Again

God loves you, and there's no person He doesn't love. **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** John 3:16

He will let you believe what you want to believe. He's not going to force Himself on anyone. **I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:** Deuteronomy 30:19

But, God loves you enough to tell you the truth, and the truth is that Jesus is the only way to eternal life. Jesus is the only way to heaven, and He's the only way to the forgiveness of sins. Jesus said in John 14:1-6, **1Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2In 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. 3And 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. 4And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.**

5Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1 Timothy 2:5

To be born again, one must receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. When you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you 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

When you are born-again, you are treated by God as though you have never sinned. People may not forgive you or forget what you did, but God does. **I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.** Isaiah 43:25

To be born again, there are two things everyone must do, according to the scriptures: Believe and Confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

#1:

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ :

-believe that He was born of a virgin,

-believe that He was the only One that never committed sin – (2 Corinthians 5:21: ***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.***)

-believe that He was crucified, died, was buried and was resurrected from the dead and is alive today.

2:

This is extremely important because without this, you're still not right with God!

According to the Word of God, you must **confess** with your mouth from your heart –not your head– that Jesus is your Lord and Savior. You must **tell people** that Jesus is your Lord. You must confess to other people that you've received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on

Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

John 12:42,43

We read about the chief rulers in this scripture that they believed, but refused to confess Jesus as their Savior.

– *And why wouldn't they?*

One reason was because they were concerned about what others would think of them and how they would be treated. The fear of what other people would think and the fear of how one would be treated and the fear of your religion expelling you and persecuting you and mocking you has been a great deterrent in religious people from receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. When you're religious, and someone begins to share with you from the Word of God that your religion is not enough to get you to heaven, that should alarm you more than anything else in this world!

Preparing for Your Future

Suppose for a moment that you turned 65 years old, and after having worked for a company 40 years, upon the day of your retirement – to your surprise and chagrin, you are informed that you have no retirement benefits!

You are told that what you thought was being invested all along for you to live on in your senior years in comfort is not what you're getting – But in fact, what you are getting won't even be enough to buy groceries!

In our nation, retirement, IRAs, Social Security and investments are a huge deal. When you think of New York City, one of first things you think of is Wall Street, the investment capital of the world.

But there is something far more important than our retirement that we need to prepare for, and it has to do with our future, as well as our present. --And that is our spiritual life.

People live on retirement only so long before they die. Yet, they worked all their life to have a nest-egg for their retirement years.

But what about investing into God's kingdom?

What about your future after you die?

Have you made any preparation for that day?

Have you made your plans for life after death?

Most people don't want to think about that day, other than to have their will made out, and maybe make sure they have a cemetery plot. Some go as far as to have their funeral planned and prepaid, so their children will not be burdened with it.

No One, and No Good Deed Can Save You After You Die

As a pastor, I have been to many funerals and I've noticed that many families like to boast that the deceased had everything all prepared for that day, as far as the burial and funeral costs. I've been grieved in my spirit after hearing no mention of any preparation for life after death. They expected me, as the minister, in the eulogy, to put that person in heaven.

I don't have the power to put you in heaven – no minister on this earth, no priest, no rabbi, no denominational preacher, no pope, no saint, no good deed or good conduct can get anyone in heaven once they have died. No burning candles, no prayers, no sacrifice, no angel, nor can God Himself get a person in heaven who has not accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and not confessed Him as Savior before mankind. *(This refers to the person who had an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ, but didn't. – see John 16:7-9)*

And, to say these people and things could get an individual into heaven is adding to the Bible. That is what religion does. Religion deletes from God's Word what they don't believe, and they add what they want you to believe! All you and I want is the pure Word of God, with no additives or supplements.

God will not change or alter His Word to appease anyone! God and His Written Word are One: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** John 1:1

For I am the LORD, I change not... Malachi 3:6

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Hebrews 13:8

And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. Revelation 19:13

Some religions and denominations have made fortunes that would stagger the mind of Wall Street traders if they knew of all the money donated to buy someone's salvation. Billions and billions of dollars are in religious coffers donated for individuals placed in coffins, intended to guarantee them a place in heaven.

But God only had one Son, as the scripture says: **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** John 3:16

And it is Jesus' blood that cleanses us from the stain that sin has marked us with: **Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:** Romans 3:22-24

We can't buy our way into heaven, nor can we work our way into it. The scripture says in Ephesians 2:8,9 : **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

Once we get saved, we can serve God – and we should support God's work financially and work on building His kingdom by reaching out with the Good News. But never deceive yourself, or allow anyone to deceive you or trick you into thinking that as long as you are a good person it's enough. Jesus, Himself, didn't accept that label, and He was perfect and without sin.

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Mark 10:17,18

And, never be deceived into thinking that as long as you believe in God and believe in the church and believe that Jesus lived, that it is enough. **It is not enough!**

And the reason it is not enough is that we have no record in the Word of God of anyone ever becoming saved/born-again reciting prayers, or doing any other religious traditional act.

You must **say** it with your mouth from your heart that Jesus is your Lord and Savior. You must face the criticism, persecution and ridicule from others.

You can't hide behind the cover of religion -- of Protestantism or Catholicism. You can't hide behind the repetition of prayers that have no meaning or purpose, or of rattled-off repetitious prayers that you recite religiously. It's not going to be enough that you pray the Lord's Prayer or the Apostles' Creed – it's just not enough!

Put Yourself on Trial!

If you were put on trial for being a born-again Christian, would there be enough evidence and witnesses to convict you? Or, would most of the people who would be called on the stand to testify by the prosecuting attorney (*your friends and relatives*) not give enough evidence to convict you?

If the prosecutor asked every one of your friends and relatives the question, “*Did the defendant ever tell you that they were a born-again Christian? Did they ever tell you one time that Jesus Christ was their Lord and Savior?*” – would the person called to testify say, “*Well, I do know the defendant was religious.*”

Then the prosecuting attorney would bark back, “*That’s not the question! Answer the question!*”

Then the witness would say, “*Well I know they went to church - they were a Catholic (or Protestant). They said they believed in God, or at least, they gave that impression.*”

Then the prosecuting attorney would say, “*So in other words, our understanding is that they **never told you about Jesus.***”

Satan wants to take you out. He’s the one that deceives and blinds people to keep them from confessing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Anyone that tells you they do not need to be born again and/or saved in order to get to heaven is a liar. They’re either purposely trying to manipulate you, or they are deceived and ignorant of God’s Word themselves. The scripture says in Galatians 1:3-9,

Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

You can join any religion of the world for any reason you want to

join, or participate in it because you like their theology or you like their social programs, or you like their structure, or you enjoy their services. You can spend your whole life on earth being one of them.

But there is only one thing you’re going to wish you were when you meet God: You are going to wish you were born-again before you met Him. Because once we die, there’s no coming back for another chance. **And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.** Hebrews 9:27, 28

It’s an awkward situation to be in as the minister, when you’re asked to do a funeral for someone who hadn’t received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior when they left this life. And then, the family wants you to assure them that the person is in heaven. I understand the pressure that comes to get you to capitulate and compromise. The faces in the audience are looking at you to tell them that their loved one is with Jesus in heaven.

Someone Who Received Jesus Before He Died

Once, I was called upon to preside over the funeral of a man who seemed to be very prominent in his community. He had money and was very active, socially, up until his death. He was a yacht club member, a church member, a councilman, and the list of his achievements went on and on.

His family asked me to read the obituary and then share my message. As I read the list of achievements to his friends and relatives attending the funeral service, some seemed so proud of his kindness and all the accomplishments he had achieved in life. But before this man died, he had received Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He talked to me about how long he had attended church and still hadn’t known Jesus until he came to Him just before his death.

So, after I concluded his obituary, I said, “*But the most important thing Carl achieved (and just before I made the statement, I thought, ‘Here goes, Lord! This is going to go over real well!’) was that Carl became born-again by receiving Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.*” There was a gasp of disbelief and disappointment that permeated and radiated from that intellectual and sophisticated yacht club member atmosphere.

I proceeded to read scriptures of what one must do to receive salvation before they leave the earth. I went on to say, *"If you want to see Carl again, you need to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior so you will go to heaven when you die."* There were hundreds of people at this funeral, and I'm getting the witness that they would like to stone me like they did Stephen in Acts, chapter 6. I think if stoning had been legal, they would've done it to me!

When the ceremony and burial were over, we were all invited to a place for food and refreshments. One lady worked up enough boldness after she had several drinks. She proceeded to lecture me and scold me, telling me that she didn't think Carl needed to do that (*become born-again*). But I told her, *"All of Carl's achievements and accolades may have impressed you, but they didn't impress God."* She proceeded to inform me that she didn't like me as a minister, and I let her know I took that as a compliment, coming from her.

But other individuals came to me very humbly, and wanted to know more about the faith that their friend Carl had at the end, and about the faith he had to receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Toward the end of his life, Carl had come to the conclusion that his religion wasn't going to be enough to get him to heaven, nor were his fancy friends or high society life.

No matter how important we think we are, we must bow on our knees and confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior: **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.** Philippians 2:9-11

Confess Jesus this Year

Have you told your family that you are born-again? If you are born-again, why not think about telling them this holiday season? Tell somebody today that you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you are born-again, God will help you be a witness. He'll give you the courage to tell those you haven't told what Jesus is to you.

You'll tell them that He's more than a baby in a manger. He's more than a religion and He's more than just a person in your thoughts – He's in your heart. It's not enough to believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, because the Pharisees believed that. You must confess Jesus before men.

Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. John

12:42,43

You cannot be ashamed of the gospel and think you're born-again! At the risk of losing everything - at the risk of losing every friend - at the risk of losing all your relatives - at the risk of losing your social life and status – you must be saved, and you must **confess** Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. You must **tell people** about Jesus.

Don't hide out in religion - step out for God.

If Jesus could go through the shame and humiliation of being crucified publicly on the cross, you can make a stand for Jesus every day of your life. You'll be persecuted and rejected and mocked and gossiped about, but at least, you won't be a coward. You will have done what you had to do: You made Jesus your Lord and Savior.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:5-8

To All Our Skeptical and Agnostic Friends:

Do you find yourself always wanting to change the subject when Jesus is brought up? Would you rather hide yourself in some dead, dark religious church that you probably can't stand to go to – you can't wait until the service is over, and you don't understand why you even go. The answer is you're doing it to appease your conscience. You are avoiding the truth of God's Word.

You don't want to talk about sin, you don't want to talk about hell, and you don't want to talk about Jesus or the Bible. Proverbs 1:24- 33 describes you:

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; ²⁵But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; ²⁷When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

²⁸Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: ²⁹For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: ³⁰They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

³¹Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and

be filled with their own devices. ³²For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. ³³But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Opponents to the new birth usually have one thing in common that they share among themselves: they don't like the born-again Christians because all they talk about is the Bible. If you have ill feelings for the Bible, where do you think that's coming from, God, or the devil?

You are trying to evade and avoid the inevitable. In your pride and arrogance, you are trying to run off the very people who are trying to get you into heaven! You are trying to evade the issue of where you will spend eternity. **Remember, there are only two eternities/ places of eternity: You will either spend eternity with God, or you will spend eternity with Satan.** Which one do you want to spend eternity with?

Read about the two eternities in Luke 16:19-31: ¹⁹ **There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:** ²⁰**And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,** ²¹**And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.**

²²**And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;** ²³**And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.**

²⁴**And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.**

²⁵**But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.**

²⁶**And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.**

²⁷**Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:** ²⁸**For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.**

²⁹**Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.** ³⁰**And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.** ³¹**And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.** Luke 16:19-31

The reason born-again Christians can't stand religious services or structures is because these traditions and institutions make a mockery of the Word of God and the blood of Jesus. **Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition...** Mark 7:13

We born-again Christians are not making up this stuff! The subjects of sin, Satan, hell, and eternal judgment are plainly written in the Word of God. They don't have to be decoded. They are as plain as the nose on your face. You need to thank God that people are praying for you and witnessing to you about Jesus Christ. So, the next time someone talks to you about Jesus, remember, they have your best interest at heart.

The people witnessing to you are already saved – they're just trying to get you saved! I know what I'm talking about, because I can remember when I wasn't born-again, and just religious. Church was boring, and I couldn't wait to be dismissed. The only thing I really liked about church was when the minister gave the doxology. In other words, then the service ended. I thought, *"Thank God I got that over with for another week!"*

When people seem to have uncomfortable feelings with the Bible, or born-again Christians, it's usually because they don't like to be told about sin or going to hell.

Even though sin and hell are subjects that most people would rather not hear about, you have to ask yourself the question: Would you rather hear about heaven and hell now, when you can still **change your eternal outcome**, or would you rather find out about it after you're dead and it's too late to change your ways?

Sin will keep you out of heaven and God is no respecter of persons: **Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:** Acts 10:34

So, cut your losses and chuck the religion you're in, and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior!

A Prayer to Receive Jesus as Your Savior

Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If you haven't, and/or are not too sure about how you stand with God, how about praying this prayer with me? Read the scriptures, and then if possible, bow on your knees and say the prayer that follows them out loud:

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. Romans 10:9, 10

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. Philippians 2:9-11

God, I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior today. I believe in my heart and I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. I thank You for forgiving me of all my sins, known and unknown. And I thank You for saving me today and bringing me into Your family, so when I die, I won't go to hell, but I will go and be with Jesus forever.

Thank You, God, for saving me.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Is Your Faith Walk Pleasing 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

In this month's newsletter, is a prayer that I put together entitled, **The Prayer of Faith**, to help you receive from the Lord. Along with this prayer is a mini-teaching that I did to enlighten you and assist you in getting all of your prayers answered. And as a bonus, I've also listed **7 Essential Faith Rules** that cannot be violated, or you will be hindered from receiving from the Lord---as 1 Peter 3:7 says, **"...that your prayers be not hindered."**

I have also included my **Faith's Checklist**, which are ten important scriptural points to keep your faith *strong* and *active*. I want to encourage you to carry a copy of it in your Bible, and review it frequently, especially in those times when your faith is being tested!

Our faith begins to weaken when we become distracted from the Word of God. In Matthew, chapter 14, this happened to Peter when he allowed his eyes to get off of Jesus and on the problem; and it caused him to begin to sink. In Numbers, chapters 13 &

14, God's people failed to receive what God had provided for them, because they murmured, complained, and failed to act on what God had said. Not only did it keep them from receiving what God had promised them, it consequently cost them their very lives!

In order for us to be able to resist the devil and his attacks, as well as receive our miracles and blessings from the Lord, it is vitally important that we not allow the Word to depart from before our eyes, or from our mouths. We are admonished by the Lord to continually – *day and night* – speak His Word and meditate on His promises, as well as keep our faith in action. (Proverbs 4:20-22 & Joshua 1:8)

One of the best ways to keep our faith strong and in action is to glorify God daily. Hebrews 13:15 says, **By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.**

Praising God and thanking God for what His Word says about us, and for what we believe we've received, will help keep our attention on the Lord and His Word, and not on the negative circumstances and problems. *Remember, we are to walk by faith, and not by sight!* (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Praying in Faith

There was a time in my Christian life that I was unaware of this verse of scripture. I didn't know that I could do things that would hinder my prayers from being answered. It was my belief that when I prayed, if I got what I prayed for, God had said, **"Yes"** to my prayer. If I didn't get what I prayed for, God had said, **"No."** But the scriptural truth about the matter--*whether we get our prayers answered or not*--**is that it depends more on US than on God!**

When we pray the prayer of faith to God in the Name of Jesus, we are required by God to believe that we've received what we have asked for. Then we are to do our best in faith, believing, to act as though we already have what we've prayed for. If we really believe we have received what we prayed for, we would not continually ask God for the same thing. Mark 11:24 says, **Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**

The Amplified version says, **For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe---trust and be confident---that it is granted to you, and you will get it.**

In praying the prayer of faith, we never use the phrase, *"if it be Thy will."* Praying "if it be Thy will," nullifies the prayer of faith. We can use the phrase, "if it be Thy will" in prayer when we're praying the prayer of consecration and dedication to dedicate our lives to serve the Lord, just as Jesus did in Matthew 26:39. It is so important that we learn how to pray effectively. Jesus taught us in the Word of God that God wants to give us what we desire, want and need. But in order for us to receive from God, we must follow the guidelines that the Lord has given us.

The best way to pray **effectively** is to pray **scripturally**. When it's time to pray, it's beneficial to open up our Bibles and read the scriptures God has given us which promise that He hears and answers our prayers. Some of these scriptures include:

Matthew 7:11: If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Matthew 21:22: And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

John 15:7: If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 16:23,24: And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

James 1:5: 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.

1 John 3:22: And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Reading these scriptures before we go to prayer will help ignite our faith into the *launch mode* to receive from God. Then, after we've prayed, we can use those same scriptures and speak them to the thoughts of fear, doubt and unbelief, because the devil will do anything he can to try to get us to waver and wonder.

He'll try to persuade us that we're not going to get what we've prayed for. That's the time to say to those thoughts and feelings, *"I've already got it! Because Jesus said in Mark 11:24, that I can have what I say. I've prayed by faith and I've received!"* Talking this way to the devil and all the unbelieving thoughts that come, will cause the devil to flee and help to calm you down in the midst of storms and trials.

Once, when I was teaching a seminar on this very subject of Mark 11:23 and 24, a pastor shared a testimony of a little boy that was attending a seminar with his mother. He was about 5 or 6 years old, and his mother brought him to the meetings. One night after the meeting, as they were preparing for bed, the mother thought she heard the front door open. She asked the little boy, *"Did somebody come to the door?"*

The boy answered, *"I opened up the door to let my puppy in."*

She said, *"We don't have a puppy."*

The little boy said, *"Yes, we do."*

She said, *"What makes you say that?"*

The boy said, *"Didn't you hear what that minister taught tonight from Mark 11:23 and 24? I prayed and asked the Lord for a puppy. I opened up the door tonight and called him home."*

In a critical and doubting way, the mother asked, *"What does the puppy look like?"*

And the little boy described the very way the puppy looked. The mother didn't understand the principles of faith because she was so steeped in religion and wasn't even aware of it. Her attitude was, *"God doesn't do things like that."* But two to three days later, that little puppy walked up on the porch, just the way the little boy described him. This goes to prove that childlike faith always produces miracles. That little boy is a perfect example of how we receive from God through the prayer of faith!

So, take this prayer and pray it out loud and ask the Lord for what **YOU** desire, and by faith, you will receive.

The Prayer of Faith

Father God, You said in Mark 11:24, **Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**

You said in John 16:23, 24, **And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

You also said in John 15:7, **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.** God, You said out of the mouth of two or three witnesses, let every word be established. According to Your written Word, it is Your will to hear and answer my prayers. I thank You, Father, that You always hear and answer my prayers. I believe that You always hear me when I pray in line with Your Word and in the Name of Jesus. You give me whatever I ask for, desire, want or need.

So, I ask You, Father, for _____, in Jesus' Name! Today, I, _____ believe I've received what I have asked for by faith, in Jesus' Name. My proof that I've received what I have prayed for is my faith in Your promises. Hebrews 11:1 says, **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

The evidence and my proof that I have what I've prayed for by faith believing, is that my faith is based on Your Word that never fails. My faith is the substance of what I have asked for in Jesus' Name.

James 1:5-8 says, **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. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**

Philippians 4:6 says, **Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.** God, I am thanking You and praising You that I have received _____, and I have it now, in Jesus' Name!

Mini-Teaching

Many people miss out in faith when they weaken as time lingers. One of the best ways to keep your faith strong and prevent it from becoming weak is to quote verses of scripture that cover what you've already prayed about. This helps to keep your mind on the answer, not the problem. Also, it helps keep your faith in continued action. James 2:17 and 20 say that faith without action is dead.

Abraham kept calling those things that be not as though they were. He didn't consider his or his wife's body as being dead. He only considered what God had said. He went by what was spoken and he just kept giving glory to God that he had received what God had promised. (Romans 4:17 - 21).

When Jesus was told that Lazarus was dead, Jesus said, **Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always...** (John 11:41 - 42).

Apparently, Jesus had already prayed the prayer of faith for Lazarus' healing. When they told Jesus that Lazarus was already dead, He refused to waver or wonder.

He still believed that God had heard Him the first time He prayed.

In the midst of bad news, Jesus began to thank God. He refused to believe that even though Lazarus was dead, God had not heard His prayer, or that God had failed or let Him down. This is the kind of faith that removes mountains and moves God.

God intends for all believers to have unwavering, unshaken, unchangeable faith. Every believer can develop this kind of faith by exercising it.

Hearing evil reports, bad news, or of conditions getting worse is no indication to quit believing God. That's not the time to lose control.

Just stay in faith and keep praising God and rejoicing that the Lord is God and His Word never fails!

SEVEN ESSENTIAL FAITH RULES:

RULE #1:

Faith believes that it has received what it has asked for: (Mark 11:24)

RULE #2:

Faith never wavers or wonders; it patiently believes it has received: (James 1:5-8)

RULE #3:

Faith speaks of those things that don't exist as though they do exist: (Romans 4:17)

RULE #4:

Faith never loses its confession that *'I believe I have received'*: (Hebrews 10:23)

RULE #5:

Faith gives glory to God that it has what it has prayed for: (Romans 4:20)

RULE #6:

Faith walks in love; never in strife:
(Galatians 5:6; James 3:14 & 16)

RULE #7:

Faith forgives everybody of everything:
(Mark 11:25-26)

Faith's Checklist

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith...

1. BE FULLY PERSUADED

Romans 4:21

And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

2. REFUSE TO DOUBT

Mark 5:36, Mark 11:23

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

3. RUN THE DEVIL OFF

Matthew 4:1-11, James 4:7

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

4. TAKE A STAND

1 Corinthians 16:13

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

5. BOLDLY CONFESS YOUR FAITH

Numbers 13:30

And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

6. CALL THINGS INTO EXISTENCE

Romans 4:17

(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

7. SEE THE ANSWER

Proverbs 4:21, Hebrews 11:3

Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

8. TALK THE ANSWER

2 Kings 4:26, John 11:11

Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well.

These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

9. BE STRONG IN FAITH

Romans 4:20

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

10. GIVE GLORY TO GOD

Romans 4:20, Luke 17:15,16

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

To All My Partners,

As my partner in the ministry, it is imperative to me that you understand the potential power that is available through partnership in the work of God. Some of the greatest miracles that are recorded in the Bible came through this partnership.

Even people that were experiencing famines and financial crises learned through obedience to the man of God that they could receive a harvest of miracles and blessings from God.

God set a spiritual law in motion when He said in 2 Chronicles 20:20, **...Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.**

When people gave out of their need, they received a miracle harvest such as recorded in 1 Kings 17, which tells us of a widow woman and her son who were literally starving to death. When the woman obeyed the words of Elijah the prophet and gave her last meal away to feed him, little did she realize how great a miracle she was going to receive from her gift. God saw to it that she always had food in her house as long as the famine lasted.

Later on, when a greater trial came to her and her son died, because of her faithful obedience and servitude in helping Elijah the prophet, God raised her son from the dead. To a mother, miracles can't get any better than that! As long as she supported Elijah's ministry, God saw to it that things always worked out in her life. He turned her crisis into miracles and blessings. We can all learn from this story the importance of always staying faithful in our financial support in the ministry that God sends our way.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:14-15

Since the beginning of mankind, God has always had a man to proclaim His message, and people to help support that ministry so the message could be proclaimed. In Luke 5:1-9, Jesus needed to be in the position where people could see Him and hear what He had to say.

God anointed Jesus to proclaim the gospel to the poor, but in order for that message to benefit the people, it had to get out. When Peter gave his boat to Jesus as a pulpit to minister the gospel from, little did Peter realize how great a miracle he was going to receive in return. Through the obedience of Peter, God blessed Peter's fishing business with a miracle catch of fish. Giving prepares the way for God to do miracles.

In Philippians 4:10-9, people became partners with the apostle Paul's ministry, and in verses 18-19, he says, **But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

In all three of these incidences recorded in the Bible, people learned that partnership in the work of God proves to be the greatest investment they could make in this life. So it is with us. I want to encourage you as my partner in the ministry to keep on looking to God, believing God, trusting God, standing on the promises of God and not give up on your miracle blessings - because they are abundantly coming your way.

Paul says in Galatians 6:9, **And let us not be weary in all well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**

One thing I have learned in the years of my ministry is that those who never gave up and stayed faithful in their tithing and giving cheerfully unto the Lord always end up enjoying the benefits that are reaped in partnership together with God.

Brother Rich

Global Outreach

To all my friends and partners,

Recently, we added **Pay Pal** to our web site, which enables you to be able to purchase materials from your computer, as well as give tithes and offerings using your Pay Pal account or an ATM/credit/debit card.

Online, you can now get our **daily devotion**, our **daily Bible reading** and our newest site feature: **You can listen to our 15-minute streaming radio program!** All you have to do is visit our website: **www. JesseRichMinistries.com**

You can let your friends and relatives know about our ministry online – The internet is a great way to get the Word out fast! People all **over the world** can log on and receive teachings from God's Word through the daily devotions and radio broadcasts on this site. By telling others about our web page, it's just another way we can get the Word out.

The Miracle in Your Seed

Your financial support is greatly appreciated. It enables me to **travel** and do **seminars**, as well as establish **Word of Faith Churches** in cities that God has called me to reach. It also helps buy **radio** and **television time**, establish our **Bible School**, and helps us with our **India Missions** work. Your support also helps us print the **monthly newsletters** you receive. I'm sure if you've read our newsletters, they've been a blessing to you. You can glean so much information in our monthly newsletters!

The offering form in this newsletter has designated areas that you can check off, indicating which area(s) you'd like to support. Some people give weekly, and some monthly, however God leads them. But whatever you do, it's greatly appreciated!

It might have been a while since you've supported the ministry. – You may have wanted to, but for whatever reason, you put it off. Maybe the Lord brought it to your attention, but you got busy and forgot about it. **You can start today by just giving, and planting a seed in faith, believing for your miracle return.**

When we give, God gives back to us. He said in Luke 6:38, **Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**

Galatians 6:7: **Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**

Mark 10:29,30: **And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.**

When you write out your check, lay your hands on the envelope and pray over your offering. And, when you drop it in the mail, just say, **"Thank God for my hundred-fold return!"** Then, just be expecting God to do something for you that is out of the ordinary.

God will do the Impossible for You!

God will change your present circumstances. **–Where there seems to be no way, He'll make a way. –Where there seems to be a blockage, He'll make a breakthrough. –Where there's lack, there'll be an abundance. -- Where there's insufficiency, there'll be an increase. –Where there seems to be no way, He'll make a way!**

Just keep expecting and this is important: be determined to get your blessing. Refuse to accept lack as a final answer. You're not accepting your problem as the way it's going to be. If you'll plant a seed today, something that really takes a step of faith to do (*and do it because you want to, because you know in your heart you should, because you love God, and because you need a miracle*), God will not fail you. He will come through for you if you'll give today. Don't procrastinate. Fill out the envelope, and do it now.

Hebrews 11:1 says, **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

The sooner you act, the sooner you give, the sooner God's power is released and the miracle starts your way! There's nothing that causes God to move faster than for someone to act upon His Word.

Jeremiah 1:12 says, **Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.**

As soon as I receive your offering, I'm going to write you back. I look forward to hearing from you soon. God bless you!

Brother Rich – *And Remember, our God is a miracle worker!*

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