

## Teaching the Word of Faith

The number-one call in a ministry is to teach and preach the Word of God.<sup>1</sup> In Luke 5:1, we read that the people came to Jesus' meeting to hear the Word of God: "**And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret**". Just as people needed to hear God's Word *then*, the same is true today. People need to be taught the Word of faith. As the apostle Paul said in Romans 10:8, "**...the word of faith, which we preach;**" And in writing to Timothy, Paul admonished him to "**Preach the word...**" (2 Timothy 4:2).

I am going to explain what the "Word of faith", or "the faith message" means, and about the Word of faith being taught in its fullness. Just as in the natural, when you go to college and you take a course on any given subject, you, as a student, are required to attend for the whole semester, and not just one class. The Word of faith cannot possibly be taught, in its fullness, in one meeting or one seminar. Why? Because the instructor cannot possibly cover all of the subject material in one class. Just as you don't learn biology or geometry in one lesson, the same is true with the Word of faith, it must be taught over a period of time. (This is one of the reasons why I never liked to do just one meeting in a particular area or church). Being a teacher, and not an evangelist, I need to be with the people for more than just one service to do an adequate job. It's just as it was with the apostle Paul's ministry. In order for the people to get a full understanding of Paul's message, God would send him someplace for a period of time, (not for just one meeting).

Not only are students required to attend class, but in order for them to get full credit, they have to be able to pass the examination. Likewise, spiritually speaking, every Christian is going to be faced with a test. Satan is going to attack them with sin, sickness or disease, and possibly all of these things at the same time. Or, he will come against them in the area of their finances or emotions.<sup>2</sup> The devil came against Jesus<sup>3</sup> and he is going to come against you.

There always seems to be an individual in class who skips as many classes as they can. When they do attend, the first thing they do is ask their classmates what the instructor taught on and what would be on the exam. Usually these students end-up failing the course, because they did not prepare themselves. The same is true with God's Word, and the Word of faith message. Many will try to shortcut the message, and God's Word, and end up only hurting themselves by not being prepared when the enemy comes with and attack. The Lord Himself said, "**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...**"<sup>4</sup>

Once a person is taught the Word of faith, they have a Bible knowledge of :

- ~ *how to rule and reign in Christ Jesus;*
- ~ *how to receive the inheritance that has been purchased for them by Christ Jesus;*
- ~ *how to claim what belongs to them as a child of God;*
- ~ *how to walk by faith and not by sight;*
- ~ *how to rule and reign over the devil and circumstances in Jesus' Name by speaking the written Word of God;*
- ~ *how to live in divine health, divine protection and divine prosperity;*
- ~ *how to be led by the Holy Ghost to where you know God's voice and when He's speaking to you;*
- ~ *how to be strong in the Lord;*

*~ how to find scriptures on your own to defend yourself against the attacks of the enemy;  
and, probably most of all, the Word of faith teaches you how to walk in love.*

If a believer has been taught the Word of faith, and practices it daily by being a doer of the Word of God, and not a hearer only, then they will *always* walk and live in victory, and *never* be defeated. They are always ruling and reigning over the devil and circumstances; they're quick to forgive others and to judge themselves; they have a boldness and confidence that makes religious people uncomfortable; they always talk the Word, and not the curse; they know they've been redeemed, and they refuse to accept anything that is not a blessing from God; they always pass every test that Satan tries to bring their way.

God is always displeased when His children fail, or are overthrown when tests and trials come to them. Sadly, today Christians are not passing the tests, and a lot of this has to do with what they've been taught, or have not been taught. Jesus passed the test when the devil came against Him because He was full of God's Word and knew how to resist the attacks and temptations of the devil. God intends for every believer to pass the tests in the same way. Jesus passed the test and you can too, by staying built up on God's Word.

*The Word of faith being taught in its fullness is going to teach and train you to be able to pass every test and trial that Satan brings your way.*

In almost every college class, there are more students attending class at the beginning of the semester, than there are at the end. For whatever the reason may be, some students drop out. Academically, they don't hurt the instructor, nor the class when they drop out; they hurt themselves. When it comes to God's Word, many have dropped out, not standing the test of time or spending the time necessary to stay built up in God's Word.

This is like the believer who is saved, maybe even baptized in the Holy Spirit, but who has not been taught the Word of faith. Or, they had an encounter with the Word of faith, and didn't like it. They say, *'The message is too hard'*. The same thing happened when Jesus was teaching. Not only did many people leave because they thought His message was too hard but many of His disciples left as well, as we read in John 6:60 & 66:

<sup>60</sup> **Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?**

<sup>66</sup> **From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.**

*A sign that you have not been taught the Word of faith is that you are spiritually weak:*

*~ you have not been taught that you've been redeemed from the curse of the law;*

*~ you believe that it's God's will for you to be sick;*

*~ you cannot hear God's voice when He speaks, therefore you're confused about what direction to take in life;*

*~ you can't find any healing scriptures in your own Bible;*

*~ you don't spend any quality time praying in tongues;*

*~ you only love the people whom you like;*

*~ you cannot defend yourself when the devil attacks;*

*~ you value other peoples' prayers for you over what the written Word of God says about you;*

*~ you have not been growing and developing spiritually (which means you don't know how to bind the devil and take authority over him);*

- ~ you have not found out what God's perfect will is for your life through fasting, praying and seeking God;
- ~ you are attending your church mainly for social fellowship;
- ~ you have little or no spiritual discernment;
- ~ you still gossip and talk your problems;
- ~ you believe God can do anything if it is His will, and whatever happens is God's will;

Whether you realize it or not, a huge test is coming your way, or already has, and you are not going to pass it, because Satan is not playing games. He goes around about, as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.<sup>5</sup> Satan, your adversary, comes to you only to steal, kill, or destroy.<sup>6</sup> And when someone attempts to teach you the Word of faith, you say, '*That's just your opinion*', or '*I don't believe that way*'. If you haven't prepared, by staying built up in prayer and in the knowledge of God's word, you will be devoured. After it happens you will want to blame the Lord for this happening to you.

You will say that the faith message doesn't work. You will be in total denial of the truth. Usually, this is because you've allowed some uncalled, un-anointed minister to console you with religious propaganda: *that God has allowed this to happen to you for some unknown reason*. Possibly the saddest thing is that you haven't gotten to know the Lord personally.

Jesus should be closer to you than anyone else. This can only happen through time spent in prayer and daily fellowship with the Lord. You need to go somewhere, away from others, and get alone with God each day

### **Living above the curse**

Some people are scripturally ignorant of their authority, or have no knowledge of God's Word, so they don't know how to resist the devil. Some people have a knowledge of God's Word, but are too lazy to fight the good fight of faith, and in both instances, the devil wreaks havoc in their lives. People have got to be taught how to live above the curse of the broken law.

In the body of Christ, we have many believers, as well as ministers, who don't know that they have been redeemed from the curse of the law. Many don't even know what the curse of the law is. But, according to Galatians 3:13 & 14, every child of God, through Jesus Christ, has been redeemed from the curse of the law:

<sup>13</sup> **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:**

<sup>14</sup> **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

The curse of the broken law is recorded in Deuteronomy 28:16-58. These verses inform us that sickness, disease, poverty, and destruction are curses, and they don't belong to us as believers. For a believer to enjoy, and live in divine health and prosperity, they **first** need to be informed that they have been redeemed--*that the curse does not belong to them*. Then, they need to begin claiming their inheritance and blessings that belong to them, and they need to *stop talking the curse*.

If you are going to walk in divine health, talking sickness and disease is a **big NO**. Instead of talking your problems, and vocalizing every ache and pain, why not say this instead? **"Jesus Himself took my infirmities, bare my sicknesses and by His stripes I was healed. God wishes above all things that I prosper and be in health."** Talking this way, you are speaking God's Word, you are claiming your inheritance, and above all, you are pleasing God (Hebrews 11:6).

Sadly, today in the body of Christ, we have believers who still talk the curse and their problems, magnifying the devil. They don't even realize that the biggest problem is their mouth! So, many

believers are suffering things that God never intended for them to suffer, simply because they have never been taught the authority of the believer. God wants His children to have good health, walk in victory, and be prosperous. But, in order for this to happen, **someone has got to teach them what belongs to them in their new covenant.**

The bottom line is: *If you're not ruling and reigning in Christ Jesus; you are being ruled and reigned over.*

## **Exercise Your Authority**

If you stop and think about it, Adam and Eve both died because they did not use their spiritual authority over the devil.<sup>7</sup> It was not God's fault that it happened; He didn't create mankind *to die, or to be sick, or to sin, or to rebel, or to be controlled by the devil.* The Holy spirit, speaking through the apostle Paul said, "**The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**"<sup>8</sup> Death *is not* a friend to mankind, it is *an enemy.*

Religion seems to go into total denial as to whether the individual has any power or authority in this life: they feel that everything that happens is God's will, and is ordained, commissioned, or sent by God. Let's examine this belief in line with the Word of God, and let the Word of God speak for itself:

Genesis 1: 26 - 28

**(26) 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.**

**(27) So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (28) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.**

Matthew 18:18 **Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

As you can see by these verses, it is clear that God gave man dominion (authority) over all the earth. Adam and Eve didn't use their authority when Satan came to them and it cost them their lives.

Jesus, on the other hand used His authority, performed miracles, and taught his followers how to do the same thing in His Name. He ruled and reigned over all the power of the enemy, cast out demons and ran the devil off by using the authority given to Him by the Lord.

Matthew 9:35 - 10:1

**(35) And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.**

**(36) But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.**

**(37) Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;**

**(38) Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.**

**10:1 And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.**

As we see in the above scripture, Jesus gave the disciples power (authority), against unclean spirits. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34), which means we have the same authority today. If we

didn't have the same authority and power as Jesus, He would have never rebuked the disciples for not using their authority, as we read in the following verses.

Matthew 17:14 - 21

<sup>14</sup> **And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a *certain* man, kneeling down to him, and saying,**

<sup>15</sup> **Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.**

<sup>16</sup> **And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.**

<sup>17</sup> **Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.**

<sup>18</sup> **And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.**

<sup>19</sup> **Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?**

<sup>20</sup> **And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.**

<sup>21</sup> **Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**

Mark 4:35 - 41

**(35) And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.**

**(36) And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.**

**(37) And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.**

**(38) And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?**

**(39) And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.**

**(40) And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?**

**(41) And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**

We, as born-again believers, have been given the same authority. Read what Jesus said in the following verses:

Mark 16:17, 18

**(17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

**(18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

There always seems to have been a division among God's people: among the Jewish people, as well as in the body of Christ, as to who has the authority in this world: mankind, or God, Himself? <sup>9</sup> Some religious people asked Jesus, '*Who gave you authority to do this thing?*' (Mark 11:28). Scripturally, God owns the earth, but He delegated the authority of running this earth over to mankind. According to the

above referenced scriptures, as well as many others, God has delegated His authority of this earth over to mankind in and through the Name of Jesus, the written Word of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

If how long you live, whether you have good health, or ill-health, poverty or wealth, victory or defeat, were up to God and God alone, there would be no scriptures in the Bible whereby you could gain access to, and use for yourself to prolong your life and to receive divine healing, divine prosperity, and divine protection. Jesus said if we would believe on Him, we could do the works He had done, and even *greater works*, and that if we would ask anything in His Name, He would do it.

John 14:8 - 14

**(8) Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.**

**(9) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?**

**(10) Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.**

**(11) Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.**

**(12) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**

**(13) And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

**(14) If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.**

Jesus used His authority and the anointing of God to cast out sickness and disease. We can see the same anointing of God in manifestation through the apostle Paul.

**Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.**

Acts 19:11, 12

**(11) And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:**

**(12) So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.**

Just as Jesus took authority over the devil and evil spirits by speaking the written Word of God we are expected to do the same thing in His Name. It is our responsibility, as born-again children of God, to exercise our authority in Jesus' Name. Just as it is up to the individual to receive salvation, it is up to the individual to use his authority to receive any promises of God, whether it is divine healing, divine prosperity or divine protection. God gave us authority, and He expects us to use it.

It is as in the natural, when you lease, or rent a car, building, apartment or hotel room, you don't own it, but technically, through your lease agreement, you're responsible for returning it in it's original condition. Spiritually speaking, that is just the way God's kingdom is set up on this earth. As long as we're on this earth, we're to rule and reign in Christ Jesus.

Jesus said, "*No man takes my life until I lay it down*" (John 10:17). No one, including the devil, could do anything to Jesus by way of bodily harm, unless He permitted it. We, as the body of Christ today, through the new covenant that was purchased for us when Jesus died and was resurrected from the dead and seated at the right hand of God, have no business being sick, physically hurt or harmed, or suffering any defeat from the devil. We have been told not to give any place to the devil,<sup>10</sup> to resist the devil,<sup>11</sup> to take authority over the devil, and to resist the devil steadfastly in the faith.<sup>12</sup>

*Tests and trials come to all of us, but the one who has been taught the Word of faith, and uses what they have been taught, will always outlast the one who is not doing the Word of faith.*

### **SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES:**

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 9:35; Luke 4:18

<sup>2</sup> Job 2;7

Luke 13:10; Luke 22:31;

John 10:10; John 14:30

1 Corinthians 5:5

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 4:1 - 11;

Luke 4: 1 - 13

<sup>4</sup> Hosea 4:6; Isaiah 5:13

<sup>5</sup> 1 Peter 5:8,9

<sup>6</sup> John 10:10

<sup>7</sup> Genesis, chapters 1 - 3

<sup>8</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:26

<sup>9</sup> Mark 16:17;

John 14:12

<sup>10</sup> Ephesians 4:27

<sup>11</sup> James 4:7

<sup>12</sup> 1 Peter 5:8,9

Your partner in faith,

1. **Brother Rich**

**Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).**