

Fear Not the Wilderness



David Eells



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We have departed from the *ASV* only in the name Jehovah and Lord Jehovah which we replaced with Lord and Lord God, respectively. Neither represents the original YHWH but Lord is less confusing to many and we did not want this to distract from the teaching.

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Books of the Bible - Abbreviation List

Old Testament

Gen.	Genesis
Exo.	Exodus
Lev.	Leviticus
Num.	Numbers
Deu.	Deuteronomy
Jos.	Joshua
Jdg.	Judges
Rth.	Ruth
1Sa.	1 Samuel
2Sa.	2 Samuel
1Ki.	1 Kings
2Ki.	2 Kings
1Ch.	1 Chronicles
2Ch.	2 Chronicles
Ezr.	Ezra
Neh.	Nehemiah
Est.	Esther
Job.	Job
Psa.	Psalms
Pro.	Proverbs
Ecc.	Ecclesiastes
Son.	The Song of Solomon
Isa.	Isaiah
Jer.	Jeremiah
Lam.	Lamentations
Eze.	Ezekiel
Dan.	Daniel
Hos.	Hosea
Joe.	Joel
Amo.	Amos
Oba.	Obadiah
Jon.	Jonah
Mic.	Micah
Nah.	Nahum
Hab.	Habakkuk

Zep.	Zephaniah
Hag.	Haggai
Zec.	Zechariah
Mal.	Malachi

New Testament

Mat.	Matthew
Mar.	Mark
Luk.	Luke
Joh.	John
Act.	Acts
Rom.	Romans
1Co.	1 Corinthians
2Co.	2 Corinthians
Gal.	Galatians
Eph.	Ephesians
Php.	Philippians
Col.	Colossians
1Th.	1 Thessalonians
2Th.	2 Thessalonians
1Ti.	1 Timothy
2Ti.	2 Timothy
Tit.	Titus
Phm.	Philemon
Heb.	Hebrews
Jas.	James
1Pe.	1 Peter
2Pe.	2 Peter
1Jn.	1 John
2Jn.	2 John
3Jn.	3 John
Jud.	Jude
Rev.	Revelation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. How Can You Be in the First-fruits?	6
2. Walk Above This World	36
3. Live by Faith, Not by Works	62
4. Let God Be Your Surety	88
5. Can God Prepare a Table in the Wilderness?	112
6. Trusting in the Voice of the Lord.....	138
7. How Can You Prepare Yourself?	166

CHAPTER ONE

How Can You Be in the First-fruits?

Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask You, Lord, to let Your anointing be in our midst and to bless the brethren who are studying with us to have eyes to see and ears to hear. Help them to be merciful toward me Lord, as I share things that may be new to them. Give them patience, Lord, to examine them in the light of the Word and to have discernment from Your Spirit, Lord. And, God, we thank You that everything that You have done for us through Jesus Christ has all been accomplished, and we praise You for it, Father. We even thank You, Lord, for using this unworthy vessel to share with the brethren a little bit more of the Word of God. Amen.

One major question that people have concerns the difference between those who will be in the First-fruits and those who will be in the in-gathering. In Exodus 23, the Bible speaks of two harvests. ***(Exo.23:14) Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. (15) The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep: seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, at the time appointed in the month Abib (for in it thou camest out from Egypt); and none shall appear before me empty: (16) and the feast of harvest, the first-fruits of thy labors, which thou sowest in the field: and the feast of ingathering, at the end of the year, when thou gatherest in thy labors out of the field.*** We've learned that the First-fruits harvest is the Man-child ministry and the in-gathering harvest is the Two Witnesses company and so on and so forth (See

Hidden Manna for the End Times, Chapter 7, “Maturity and Harvests,” which is available without charge at ubm1.org), but what people want to know is, “How can I be in the First-fruits?” We’ll find our answer if we examine the different types and shadows of the First-fruits. Two of the major types, of course, are Moses and Jesus. And one thing we can see right away from Moses and Jesus is that they went through a common experience, which was what prepared them to bring the people of God into the wilderness and teach them how to be overcomers. Moses went into the wilderness for 40 years (Acts 7:30) and he overcame to lead the Israelites in the wilderness. Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days (Matthew 4:1; Luke 4:2) and He overcame to teach the disciples. The number 40 represents “trial” or “tribulation,” so both Moses and Jesus overcame in their own trials. ***(Rev.2:26) And he that overcometh, and he that keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give authority over the nations. (Rev.3:21) He that overcometh, I will give to him to sit down with me in my throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with my Father in his throne.*** In other words, dominion is given to the people of God who overcome in their wilderness experience.

So where is this “wilderness” and what does it entail? Well, the wilderness is everywhere there is a Christian. We’re not looking for a literal, physical desert somewhere to go into, folks. Just forget about that kind of thinking! ***(2Co.3:6) Who also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*** The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. Anywhere God’s people are, there is a wilderness available to them.

Why do I say “available”? That’s because God’s people are like Israel when they were in Egypt and they don’t necessarily want to go into that wilderness. In some cases, God even has to force them into that wilderness. Israel had to be forced into that wilderness by Pharaoh’s army behind them and by God parting the Red Sea before them. But both Moses and Jesus each went out into their wilderness first; first they overcame their own temptations and trials before God used them to bring others there. The wilderness is a place where you are tempted and tried, and if you want to be used to bring others there, you have to pass the test.

Let me share with you some things the Lord has taught me about this wilderness. Not long after I became a Christian, by the Lord’s grace and mercy, I started going out into the wilderness because I began getting the revelation of what it entailed and what it meant. To put it very simply, in the New Testament, a “wilderness” is any place and any trial in which you are believing and acting upon the Word of God. For instance, there is a mark of the Beast coming and most Christians know that they won’t be able to buy or sell with the world anymore, unless they take that mark. They will be put into a wilderness experience where they can’t go back to Egypt, just like the Israelites out in the wilderness. The Israelites were tried to see if they were really going to believe in the promises of God, which was the only thing that would sustain them in their wilderness. Folks, we’re coming to the same situation in our day. If you want to be like Moses, or if you want to be like Jesus, or if you want to be like Joseph, or if you want to be like the Shulammite, if you want to be like these different types and shadows of the First-fruits, you have to go out into your wilderness now. I want to tell you quite frankly that if you are not living in

the wilderness, you are not living as a believer. You are rebelling against the Word of God. If you are satisfied to go along with whatever the other religious people around you are doing, that won't put you in the First-fruits. You have to act upon what you see in the Word.

Let me explain this wilderness to you a little bit more before I share a few testimonies. The Word of God says that our salvation has been accomplished. It's done. The Lord has already healed us. He's already delivered us. He's already perfected us. ***(Joh.19:28) After this Jesus, knowing that all things are now finished, that the scripture might be accomplished, saith, I thirst. (29) There was set there a vessel full of vinegar: so they put a sponge full of the vinegar upon hyssop, and brought it to his mouth. (30) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.*** Jesus said, "It is finished." ***(Joh.16:33) These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye may have peace. In the world ye have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*** You see, the Lord has already overcome the world for us and He did it by His sacrifice. He gave His Life for us. ***(1Pe.2:24) Who his own self bare our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed.*** Notice, these are past tense. ***(Heb.10:14) For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*** This was all accomplished at the cross, folks! ***(Joh.1:29) On the morrow he seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world!*** He was

the Lamb of God Who took away the sins of the world and there is a reason for that. The Bible says that God chose the things that are not to bring to nothing the things that are. **(1Co.1:27) But God chose the foolish things of the world, that he might put to shame them that are wise; and God chose the weak things of the world, that he might put to shame the things that are strong; (28) and the base things of the world, and the things that are despised, did God choose, [yea] and the things that are not, that he might bring to nought the things that are.** What are the “things that are not”? The “things that are not” are these promises that we don’t see manifested in this physical realm. God says you are healed, you are delivered, you are perfected and your sins are all taken away, but you say, “Well, David, I don’t see that in this physical realm.” That’s exactly right, but the Word of God is still true! And should you hold fast to these past-tense promises, you will definitely see them come to pass because that’s what faith is. Faith is believing and acting on these promises.

God gave awesome promises to the Israelites when they went into their wilderness and He was very much offended that they did not believe those promises. In fact, let’s look at what He said to them, since it was basically His whole problem with Israel in the wilderness. **(Num.14:11) And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people despise me? and how long will they not believe in me, for all the signs which I have wrought among them? (12) I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a nation greater and mightier than they. (23) Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fa-**

thers, neither shall any of them that despised me (This is, of course, those who did not believe Him.) ***see it.*** So, the Lord swore He would bring them into that land but He changed His mind because all the promises of God are functional and based on our part of the Covenant, which is faith. You have to believe! ***(Mar.9:23) And Jesus said unto him, If thou canst! All things are possible to him that believeth. (24) Straightway the father of the child cried out, and said, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*** Jesus taught we are supposed to believe that we have received everything that we pray for. For instance, ***(Mar.11:24) Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever*** (What does that leave out? Nothing!) ***ye pray and ask for, believe that ye received*** (This is past tense in all the ancient manuscripts, folks. It's just that the translators didn't understand why you should believe you have received something when you don't see it.) ***them, and ye shall have them.*** God expects us to believe before we see; He expects us to believe we've received everything the Bible promises us. ***(Heb.11:1) Now faith is assurance of [things] hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.***

If you believe you received something when you prayed for it, what are you going to do to try to bring it to pass? If you say, for instance, that you believe by the stripes of Jesus you were healed, yet you continue trying to get healed by some worldly means, what you are proving is that you don't believe the good news that Jesus already healed you at the cross. For many years, I've never missed receiving a healing. I've raised five children and they have all received healing from the Lord. They were born at home (except for my oldest) and received healing for anything they ever

needed. It didn't matter if it was broken bones, diseases or whatever. They were always healed because I act on what I see that the Word of God says concerning healing. His Word says that you don't have to accomplish healing; you have to receive it as a free gift, just as you receive every other form of salvation as a free gift.

Since "God chose ... the things that are not" to bring to nothing "the things that are," how does He do that? **(Rom.4:17) ... God ... calleth the things that are not, as though they were.** Well, then how do we do that? We just speak it as done. Every miracle that Jesus ever did, He spoke it first. Nothing was there. He spoke it first and it came to pass. And what the Lord wants us to do is speak in agreement with the Word. **(Amo.3:3) *Shall two walk together, except they have agreed?*** We need to speak in agreement with the Word of God. If the Bible says we're healed, we need to agree with that. If we have to call for the elders to anoint us with oil so we can put our faith together to agree with that, then that's what we should do, but we need to agree with that. **(Rom.6:11) *Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus.*** You are delivered from sin. Consider it done. Why are so many people anxious and troubled about their sins? It's because they don't believe the Gospel! Why are so many people anxious and troubled about getting a healing? It's because they don't believe the Gospel! Why are so many people trying to deliver themselves? It's because they are not believing and acting upon the Gospel. Salvation in any form is a free gift. You accept it by faith. You speak it by faith. It is yours. **(Col.1:12) *Giving thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance***

of the saints in light; (13) who delivered (past tense) us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love. If you are attempting to save yourself and not accepting that you were delivered at the cross, then what you are proving is that you don't believe the Gospel. You believe in salvation by works. All of your self-efforts are hindering God from giving you what He wants to give you because He chose the things that are not to bring to nothing the things that are. The "things that are not" are these promises. The "things that are" is the curse. Look around you, folks. God says He healed you and sometimes you don't look healed. He says He delivered you from sin and sometimes you don't think you are delivered from sin. He says He delivered you out of the power of darkness and sometimes you think you might have demons. Apostle Paul said, ***(Php.4:19) And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*** Every need! Wow! That's awesome! "My God shall supply every need of yours." Think about that. You need to know that God's promise is God's promise and it's true anywhere you are. When you get into that wilderness, God is going to be there. What did God tell Paul? ***(2Co.12:9) And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*** His power is true power when we are weak, when we give up our own efforts to save ourselves. In the wilderness, there was no visible means of support for the Israelites. There was no lush land or a wondrous place to raise sheep and goats and crops. It was a desert. God brought them there to prove to them that He

was Jehovah-jireh. (**Gen.22:14**) ***And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh. As it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.*** He brought them there to prove that He was their provider in all things, but they moaned and they complained, and they wouldn't believe God, and so they fell in the wilderness because they walked by sight and not by faith. Folks, God is about to send us into a wilderness. We are coming to a place where the world will no longer cooperate with us, but will turn against us, persecute us and separate us from their benefits. The judgments that are falling upon the world are going to destroy the economy and governments are going to look for whomever they can cut off because their resources will be gone. Remember that Egypt was completely ruined by the time the Israelites went into the wilderness (Exodus 10:7).

But before the Israelites went into the wilderness, they had already eaten the Passover lamb. Then they came out of Egypt and passed through the Red Sea, which Paul called a "baptism." (**1Co.10:1**) ***For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; (2) and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; (3) and did all eat the same spiritual food; (4) and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of a spiritual rock that followed them: and the rock was Christ.*** So they were saved, they were baptized, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and went right into the wilderness. If you believe the Word of God, that's exactly what you do! You go immediately into the wilderness, even if you are a baby Christian. You walk into that wilderness, you walk into that place where you receive

your sustenance out of Heaven from God and you no longer receive your sustenance from man by his methods, by the works of the flesh. When the Israelites went into their wilderness, they carried all of their provisions out there with them, but in only three days they started running out (Exodus 15:22). In spite of their own efforts, they found themselves still dependent on the hand of God. Many Christians today think that we're going to store up all these things and get prepared for the coming wilderness, but God said that "My power is made perfect in weakness." God is bringing us into a wilderness to multiply the food (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15), to bring the manna out of Heaven (Exodus 16:31,35; Numbers 11:7,9; Deuteronomy 8:3; Psalm 78:24; etc.), to bring the water out of the rock (Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:8; Psalm 105:41; Isaiah 48:21; etc.) He's going to do all these miraculous things and more in order to provide for His people, yet His people are still of a mind of salvation by works. They think, "We don't have to walk by faith! We are going to save ourselves!" Well, folks, I can tell you that exactly what happened to the Israelites is going to happen to the Church. In the wilderness, you are going to run out of everything and you are going to be back depending upon God because that's His plan! We have to learn to use those promises, we have to learn to use the things that are not to bring to nothing the things that are. Even though we see that the promises are not now fulfilled in this physical realm, we have to use them to provide ourselves with the things that we need. Jesus already provided us with everything right there at the cross and only through our weakness is God's power going to be made perfect (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Many years ago, I was driving down the interstate and I

passed over the River Jordan, except it was spelled “Jordan” instead of “Jordan.” And when I passed over it, the thought came into my mind, “Oh, boy! Thank You, Lord! I’m going to the Promised Land!” But God immediately corrected me. He said, “No, you’re not. I’m sending you through a wilderness so that you can tell My people that I still supply there.” That’s what happened and, you know, at the time, I was in a wilderness. I had been in it for many years, but the Lord helped me to explain it better. My wilderness was simply that I believed the Word of God when I was a baby Christian. I didn’t have any religious background; I was raised a Catholic but I didn’t know anything about the Bible, so at home I started reading the Bible. I was just consumed with a love for the Bible! I knew that this was the truth and so I began to act upon those awesome, precious promises that God has given us and I began to see some wondrous miracles before I ever became mixed up with any religion. I just knew that those promises didn’t pass away with the apostles. The Lord taught me in this wilderness how to receive provision from Him and He taught me that so that I can teach it to you. It’s exactly as He told me: “I’m sending you through a wilderness so that you can tell My people that I still supply there,” because, obviously, we are going into a wilderness. The Tribulation period, folks, is the wilderness (Revelation 12:6, 17:6). And we have to prepare for this wilderness, but not in the way that carnally-minded Christians have been teaching. I can tell you right now that’s not a preparation that’s going to last. To get prepared to walk through this wilderness, you need to walk by faith in the promises of God. You need to act on what you read in the Word and, if you will do that, first of all, you will be weak. You will be weak because you

can do nothing to bring to pass a promise that God says He's already given you. If He says that He has healed you and you go running to man for healing, then you prove you haven't believed that verse yet! And you are not in the wilderness because, when you are in the wilderness, you are in a place of weakness to the flesh. The flesh cannot save itself in the wilderness; it has to turn to God. God started teaching me these principles of just acting upon the Word and before I knew what a wilderness was, I was going there. So you see, you don't have to wait to go into the wilderness. In fact, if you go there and you overcome now, you will be one of those whom God will use to bring others there and teach them the ways of the Lord.

(Isa.55:8) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. (9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. The ways of the Lord are not our ways. He has methods that are not our methods. You don't have to read the Gospel very far before you realize that. Jesus didn't use the methods of the world to bring about the deliverance of God's people. When did Jesus send anybody to a psychiatrist or a doctor? He spoke the Word of God! He called the things that are not as though they were. We're going to do the same thing, folks! If you make it through that wilderness, you are going to do the same thing. Some of what God began to teach me about living in the wilderness had to do with my finances. For instance, I have been ministering for over 40 years now and I've never taken an offering. "Taking" an offering is an oxymoron! You can't "take" an offering; it's supposed to be given! Well, I've never taken an offering. Now, I have

preached in other assemblies where people have taken-up offerings for me and some of them, I'm sorry to say, came from their preacher's "beatings" to make their assemblies give. But the Lord taught me at the beginning, **(Mat.10:8) ... freely ye received, freely give** (Deuteronomy 15:10; Psalm 112:9; Proverbs 11:24; etc.). God wanted me to give everything that He gave to me, to just give it freely, knowing that He is Almighty God and that He will take care of me. And when I ministered, I never asked for an offering, nor do I talk about money in our local assembly. I know that in most churches they talk about money 15 minutes out of every hour, but I don't talk about money. I don't have to do that because God puts it in people's hearts to meet the needs of the brethren. So I freely give and for the past 40-plus years, God has freely given to me.

Folks, if you prove God's Word, you will be very impressed with God. I'm very impressed with God! I know He watches over me, I know that He knows my needs, I know that He provides for my needs and I know that I don't have to stand around and beg Him. I've never taken an offering and I just freely give of my ministry to people. We freely give away our materials and our books on our website, but God puts it in people's hearts to give back. **(Luk.6:38) Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again.** Wow! That's awesome! And I've never had to condemn people into giving to me, either. I don't even have to mention it. I have taught on giving, of course, but I've never taught on giving to me and I've never taught on putting people under the Law to give to me. For instance, you can't find tithing in

the New Testament. Jesus said that tithing was of the Law. **(Mat.23:23) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye tithe mint and anise and cumin, and have left undone the weightier matters of the law, justice, and mercy, and faith: but these ye ought to have done, and not to have left the other undone.** There's no place in the New Testament where God commanded Christians to be tithers. That was a law that was given in the Old Testament to the Old Covenant people. If a preacher drags it over into the New Covenant, it's because he's not obeying Jesus. He's not freely giving and freely receiving. What he's doing is condemning people into supporting him because he has no faith. When Jesus sent out the disciples, they were men of faith or He would not have ordained them and He would not have sent them out. And when He sent them out, He told them, "Freely ye received, freely give," and that's what they did. They didn't take up any offerings. They didn't throw any pity parties. They didn't cry about all of their needs. They trusted in Almighty God! He can take care of us and, by the way, He is not poverty-stricken!

I learned very quickly that tithing was something that churches used because they didn't trust God, so they were putting God's people under the Law, which was pronounced to be a curse. **(Deu.28:15) But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day, that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee. (Jas.2:10) For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one [point,] he is become guilty of all.** I learned

that Jesus said, **(Luk.14:33) So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.** We are not stewards of 10% and owners of 90% anymore, folks! Read the New Testament! We are called “stewards” of 100%! We’ve been bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 7:23). We are not our own and neither is anything that we have. We are bondservants and everything that we have belongs to our Master. He’s the One Who tells us what to do with it, how much to give, where to give and to whom. Yes, we do, in type and shadow, bring our tithes into the storehouse (Malachi 3:10), which in the Old Testament was in the middle of the temple, but in the New Testament, God’s people are the temple. When Jesus returns to judge the nations, He’s not going to say anything about the tithe. **(Mat.25:34) Then 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: (35) for I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; (36) naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. (37) Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? or athirst, and gave thee drink? (38) And when saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? (39) And when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? (40) And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.** You see, you

bring your “tithes” into the storehouse by how you treat the temple. You know, God has even called on me to give away my car and my house, but anything that I gave away, He always gave back to me and, in most cases, even better. He has never failed me!

When I’ve been to minister as an invited speaker at other assemblies, I always appreciated it if they chose to give me an offering, but I never asked for one. I learned, too, that it pleased God if I didn’t tell everyone my needs. I just told Him my needs. There’s not one instance in the Bible where an apostle took up offerings or told anyone their own needs. The only time they took up an offering was for someone else, not for themselves. They took up an offering for the saints in Jerusalem who were in desperate need because when they came to Christianity, the Jews around them were plundering them. **(Heb.10:34) *For ye both had compassion on them that were in bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your possessions, knowing that ye have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one.*** And so Paul had the churches take up offerings for the saints (1 Corinthians 16:3; 2 Corinthians 9:5; 12:16-18; Philippians 4:18), but he never took up an offering for himself and nobody else did, either. They were men of faith and they walked by faith. They knew they were working for the Father and that the Father would pay them.

You get to see the glory of God, if you don’t do things in the flesh. I’ll give you one little instance. When my children were young, I was impressed that I needed to go to Louisiana to visit some relatives over there. Well, this was at a time when I didn’t have any money whatsoever. Even my children asked, “How are we going to Louisiana?” It

was a pretty good drive, four-and-a-half hours from where we lived to Baton Rouge, and I told them, “We are going to go by faith.” I never let on to anybody, “Well, I’m going to Louisiana and I don’t have any money.” No, I never did that. The next day, we all piled in our car, which was out of gas, and we headed out to Louisiana. Now, before I went out the door, I saw where a sister had left her Bible on the table, so I picked it up and I said, “We’ll drop this by on our way.” You know, folks, I was convinced that God was just going to put gas in my car because He had done it many times before. And when we stopped by this sister’s house, I knocked on her door and handed her the Bible when she answered. I said, “Oh, you left this at the house. I didn’t want you to go through the weekend without having the Word.” I turned around to leave but she said, “David, the Lord is telling me to give this to you,” and she handed me a \$20 bill. Now, in those days, a \$20 bill would fill up even a big station wagon, which is what I had with five kids in it. So I turned around and went back to town, and I took that money and filled the tank up with gas. Folks, you never saw a tank of gas in a big gas hog car like mine go as far as that tank of gas went! And when we took off for Louisiana, we still didn’t have any money because we had put it all in the gas tank. After we got to Louisiana and were visiting, an assembly over there somehow found out I was in town. They decided to invite me over to preach and, sure enough, they took up an offering and blessed me. I came back with a whole lot more money than when I left. Praise be to God!

I remember taking my kids to the beach when we didn’t have any gas in the car and God put gas in the car. And I remember one time a friend called me to come and pick him up because he had run his car off the road and he was

stuck. That was when my car was empty. It had been empty for days and I had been driving it for days, and he was on the other side of town. I said, “Lord, Your Word says, ‘Give to him that asketh of thee’ (Matthew 5:42; Luke 6:30), and he’s asking, so I’m going!” I got in my car that I’d been driving for several days without any gas in it and I went over there and I picked him up where he was stuck alongside of the road. I dragged him out and came on back. You know, I drove that car for a week and it never did run out of gas. There was another time I actually did have plenty of money, but the gas stations were closed. When I lived over in Baton Rouge, I once had to go to work very, very early in the morning and I didn’t realize that all those stations weren’t open that early. I went to a couple of them and they were shut down, but I decided, “Well, Lord, there is nothing stopping You from putting gas in my tank. I’m going.” So I jumped up on the interstate and before I had gone anywhere, I saw that gas tank needle start climbing; I think it climbed up about a third of a tank while I was driving down the interstate and then it stopped. I asked, “Well, Lord, why didn’t You just go ahead and fill it up?” And I heard Him answer, “Well, I always give you what you need.” I said, “That’s right!” It didn’t matter to me if I ran out because I’ve seen my car run without any gas in it. It makes no difference to God. The natural has to bow to the spiritual, folks; it’s not the natural that runs this world. Presidents think they run this world, but the truth is God runs this world. This world bows to Him. And nothing can stop a person who believes in the living God! Nothing can stop a person who believes in His promises! We have an Almighty God Who loves us. He’s made these promises and He’s not a liar (Numbers 23:19). He will take care of us. He

will provide for our needs.

I know right now there is a big emphasis on getting prepared because a lot of people realize that we are headed for trouble and lack, including some of the churches out there. Those churches are preparing their people, but they're doing it mostly in the natural, in the flesh. And, of course, those churches who teach and believe that they're going to fly away are not getting prepared for anything, but they're going to have a sudden shock. The Church is going through the wilderness, folks! It's going through the wilderness, just like the Israelites did in type and a shadow. ***(Ecc.1:9) That which hath been is that which shall be; and that which hath been done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*** There is nothing in the Bible about the Church escaping that wilderness. The best thing you can do is to be like Moses and like Jesus, and go through it first. Then, when you get out there with the Israelites, it won't be a problem. You've already been there and you'll be calm and peaceful, since you know that God is faithful. Most of the church leaders are men who have never been through the wilderness and they are teaching a lot of fear because they are fearful themselves. Those men whom God chose to bring His people through the wilderness had already been there themselves. Like Jesus, like Moses, they weren't afraid of anything. The church leaders in our day are like the Pharisees and the Sadducees who have never been in the wilderness and don't know how to go there. They are teaching people to store up their treasures on the earth. Why do we need to store up our treasures on earth? What did Jesus say about that? ***(Mat.6:19) Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and***

rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal: (20) but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (21) for where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also. Jesus said, “Don’t do it!” So who are you going to obey? What happens if you don’t store up provision for yourself and you go into a wilderness? I’ll tell you what happens: you are suddenly being thrust into a place of weakness because of your obedience to the Word! Now you are not going to be able to save yourself but, folks, God will never ever fail you. If you put your faith in Him, your weakness is a place of power to God. **(2Co.12:9) ... For my power is made perfect in weakness....**

You see, “Man’s extremity is God’s opportunity” (English Clergyman John Flavel, 1627-1691). God waits until you give up trying to save yourself before His power is made manifest. Israel always seemed to be in the minority when they won a war and, if they weren’t, God would make sure they were in the minority, as with Gideon’s army. **(Jdg.7:2) And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. (3) Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and trembling, let him return and depart from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. (4) And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there:**

and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. (5) So he brought down the people unto the water: and the Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. (6) And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. (7) And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thy hand ... (16) And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put into the hands of all of them trumpets, and empty pitchers, with torches within the pitchers ... (19) So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outermost part of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch, when they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake in pieces the pitchers that were in their hands. (20) And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the torches in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands wherewith to blow; and they cried, The sword of the Lord and of Gideon. (21) And they stood every man in his place round about the camp; and all the host ran; and they shouted, and put them to flight. (22) And they blew the three hundred trum-

pets, and the Lord set every man's sword against his fellow, and against all the host; and the host fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath. God said, "You have too many men. You'll brag on what you've done." He whittled them down to 300 and sent them out with trumpets, not swords. Trumpets! The Hebrew word for "breath" is *ruwach* and it is also translated "spirit," so a trumpet represents making the Spirit's Word audible. Well, they blew those trumpets and the enemy stumbled all over each other and killed one another. Gideon probably didn't even need 300 men. God's awesome! He wants to prove to us His mighty power in our weakness and that's why He says, "Don't store up your treasures on earth. You just go out there and I'll take care of you."

When the Israelites went into the wilderness, they took everything they could with them, including the gold and silver and precious jewels that they plundered from the Egyptians (Exodus 12:31-39), but then they made a golden calf out of it, an idol (Exodus 32:1-5). They thought it would save them. That's what a lot of apostates out there are teaching today. Do you think your gold and silver will save you in the days to come? No, the Israelites started running out of their own supply in only three days (Exodus 15:22). Their golden calf was just an idol, which God proved wasn't going to save them. ***(Exo.32:19) And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. (20) And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it with fire, and ground it to powder, and strewed***

it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it. You ask me, “David, if we don’t store up our treasures on earth, how do we store them up in Heaven?” Well, the Bible is very plain about that: ***(Luk.12:15) And he said unto them, Take heed, and keep yourselves from all covetousness*** (or “desiring more”): ***for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. (16) And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: (17) and he reasoned within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have not where to bestow my fruits?*** He meant upon himself, of course. ***(18) And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my grain and my goods. (19) And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, be merry.*** In other words, if you have all of this supply, you are trusting in it, you are resting in it. You have peace because of what you’ve stored up, instead of trusting in God. God doesn’t want that. He doesn’t want idols. ***(20) But God said unto him, Thou foolish one, this night is thy soul required of thee; and the things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be? (21) So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*** Now I’ve had some people say, “Well, David, storing up food is not treasure.” I beg your pardon? In verse 18, it reads, “and there will I bestow all my grain and my goods.” God called food “treasure.” What God wants of us is our weakness and faith. He’s going to bring us to a place where there will be no visible, worldly means of support, but He’s

Almighty God and believers will have no difficulty in the place where He is bringing them. Believers will have no difficulty whatsoever. He's doing this to prove to them how great He is and how great His provision is. **(22) And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Be not anxious for [your] life, what ye shall eat; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on.** We are to be anxious for nothing. Paul said, **(Php.4:6) In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.** Don't worry about what you are going to need in the wilderness, folks, because God is going to be there when you get there. **(Luk.12:23) For the life is more than the food, and the body than the raiment. (24) Consider the ravens, that they sow not, neither reap** (In a wilderness, you don't sow and you don't reap.); **which have no store-chamber nor barn; and God feedeth them: of how much more value are ye than the birds!** Folks, if God feeds the birds and they don't store up, won't He do it for you? Yes, He will. **(25) And which of you by being anxious can add a cubit unto the measure of his life? (26) If then ye are not able to do even that which is least, why are ye anxious concerning the rest?** Isn't that awesome? We really can't save ourselves and He's trying to convince us of that. He's trying to convince us to put our trust in God Almighty. **(27) Consider the lilies, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin; yet I say unto you, Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.** The Israelites were well-dressed in their wilderness (Deuteronomy 8:4; 29:5; Nehemiah 9:21). **(28) But if God doth so clothe**

the grass in the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven; how much more [shall he clothe] you, O ye of little faith? Yes, He will. He will take care of you. He will feed you. He will clothe you. ***(29) And seek not ye what ye shall eat, and what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.*** An unbeliever, a doubter, is somebody who's worried about these things. ***(30) For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: but your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.*** That's all you need. God knows about it and He will take care of you. ***(31) Yet seek ye his kingdom, and these things shall be added unto you.*** He's telling us to seek first His Kingdom. ***(Mat.6:33) But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*** If you do that, then everything you need will be given to you.

That is the truth, folks! I have proven it! Over 30 years ago, I had a ministry and I worked. I told the Lord, "Lord, I don't have time to work anymore. I'm asking You to make a way." He did and He's provided ever since. ***(Luk.12:32) Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (33) Sell that which ye have, and give alms....*** He didn't say to store it up for a rainy day. I'll tell you what I learned: I learned that if you store up something for a rainy day, the rainy day always comes. But if you don't have it stored up, that rainy day never comes or, if it does, God has to do a miracle because He is contracted with you to be your supplier in all things. ***(Php.4:19) And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*** He's your Jehovah-jireh, your provider. So

it really doesn't make any difference whether a rainy day comes or if it doesn't. **(Luk.12:33) Sell that which ye have, and give alms; make for yourselves purses which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not....** If you have anything extra, do what they did on the day of Pentecost and shortly thereafter: **(Act.4:34) For neither was there among them any that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, (35) and laid them at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto each, according as any one had need. (2Co.8:13) For I say not this that others may be eased and ye distressed; (14) but by equality: your abundance being a supply at this present time for their want, that their abundance also may become a supply for your want; that there may be equality.** Anything extra was used to meet the needs of the rest of the body so that there would be equality. That's what He preached in the New Testament, but people would rather ignore it. He said it was like the Israelites who gathered the manna. **(15) As it is written, He that gathered much had nothing over; and he that gathered little had no lack.** Some gathered more than they needed, some gathered less and whoever had extra met the needs of those who didn't. It was equality. God loves that!

(Luk.12:33) Sell that which ye have, and give alms; make for yourselves purses which wax not old (That means you're not storing it up or keeping it for a long time.), **a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief draweth near, neither moth destroyeth.** Give alms. Meet the needs of people around

you. That's what He calls "a treasure in the heavens that faileth not." Any treasure you store up on earth is going to fail. The world is going to plunder you, folks, and, if not the world, the devil is going to plunder you by the curse, but you're going to be plundered. Let me tell you how not to get plundered: Give! Meet the needs of the brethren around you. Give and then it will be coming the other way because, ***(Luk.6:38) Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again.*** That's how it works. You can make a living by giving. It works. ***(Luk.12:34) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*** Some people tell me, "It's okay to have it. Just don't set your heart on it." That's not what Jesus said. He said, if you have it, your heart will be on it. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If you're thinking, "Well, David, doesn't it say that Joseph stored up for the years of plenty so that he could give it back in the years of famine?" Yes, but let me point out to you who Joseph very clearly represents in type and shadow. Joseph was among the elders of Israel, but his own brethren sold him into bondage to the Gentiles for silver, just like Jesus. Joseph was lied about by the harlot, Potiphar's wife, just like Jesus. Joseph was persecuted by them and he was cast into prison, just like Jesus. Jesus went and preached to the souls in prison after He was crucified and what did Jesus do to the souls in prison? He decided who went to Abraham's Bosom and who went to Hades; in other words, He judged between the good souls and bad souls. The same thing happened to Joseph when he was cast into prison. He decided between the butler, who came

out of prison and went up to serve Pharaoh, and the baker, who lost his head. When Joseph came out of prison, he was ruler over all of the earth, second only to Pharaoh, who was worshipped as a god. And when Jesus came out of prison, He was ruler over all of creation, second only to God. The types and shadows are all there to show that Joseph was representative of Jesus.

If you store up on this earth, you are disobeying Jesus. It's only good for spending, folks, and then you learn to walk by faith. ***(Jas.2:5) Hearken, my beloved brethren; did not God choose them that are poor as to the world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he promised to them that love him?*** God chose those who are poor of the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom. A person who is rich in faith will never go without. God always provides for them. So how do you store up under the hand of "Joseph"? How do you store up your treasures in Heaven? You do that by giving alms, by making yourselves purses that wax not old, by meeting the needs of the brethren. You give and it will be given unto you. When you get out in that wilderness, don't you want to have something stored up in the Bank of Heaven? He said, "A treasure in the heavens that faileth not." If you pack food out there into that wilderness, it will fail you. If you pack gold out into that wilderness, the world will plunder you. But if you store it up by giving, God said He will give unto you. Now I'm not asking for anything; I'm just telling you how to get prepared for what's coming because a lot of you have been hearing a bunch of baloney from apostate preachers. That is not how you get prepared for the wilderness. If you want to be prepared, you store up your treasures under the hand of Jesus in the Kingdom

of Heaven and then you can get it back when you need it. “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom.” The way to make money in the world is not to store up, it’s not to bring people under the Law, it’s not to tell everybody your needs. Those are the methods of Egypt, but God wants you to stay in the wilderness. The Israelites cried out to go back to Egypt. They didn’t like the trials of their faith and they wanted to go back to the ways of the world. The way of God is to give what you have and then God will multiply it back. It’s happened to me many, many times that when I did not have enough money to take care of my needs, I would just go and give it. And you know what? God has never failed me, not once. I walked by faith and raised five children and God always met our needs. Now, one time we were forced into a fast as a trial of our faith and that’s the only time we were ever put in that position, but we got in a position many times where God literally multiplied food, multiplied money and even multiplied gas in our tank. We got to see wondrous miracles from God and we’re still seeing them, folks!

And we give: nobody charges anybody for anything from our ministry. The volunteers who supply the materials on our site, those people are people of faith. They supply those materials as their ministry and other people bless those volunteers because the volunteers are giving. God sees to it that His Word is fulfilled. ***(Jer.1:12) Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I watch over my word to perform it.*** He stands behind His Word, folks, and He will never fail you. He cannot fail. One thing I’ve learned about God is that He can do everything but fail. He will supply your every need according to His

riches in glory. Fear not the wilderness. God designed this wilderness. He's ordained this wilderness. He's even ordained the Beast that's going to cause this wilderness. He's ordained Pharaoh's army to get behind God's people and force them out there into that wilderness. God is not going to fail you. Learn to walk by faith because the wilderness will be nothing for the people who walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). But for those who are fearful and murmur and complain and walk by sight (Numbers 11:1; 1 Corinthians 10:10; Jude 16; Revelation 21:8; etc.), they are not going to make it through. Why is God doing this? He's doing this because He's raising up believers. ***(Heb.10:38) But my righteous one shall live by faith: And if he shrink back, my soul hath no pleasure in him.***

CHAPTER TWO

Walk Above This World

Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask You, Lord, to grant us the grace that we need to perceive Your Kingdom and Your ways, Lord. God, our “soul cleaveth unto the dust,” as the Scripture says (Psalm 119:25). It’s so natural for us to live according to the ways of the world, but Your ways and Your principles are so much higher than our ways. And yet, You’ve given us this grace, Lord, that we can walk out of the kingdom of this world and walk into the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We ask You, Lord, to help us to understand the principles of the Kingdom, so that we might walk in the Kingdom. We ask You to help us to understand the supernatural principles that help us to walk above this world and to be preserved in this world. Father, we ask You to have mercy upon all who are studying with us and bless them to perceive that they were created for something more in this world, something more than being in bondage to the principles of this world. We thank You for it, Father, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Folks, we are children of the last Adam, Jesus Christ. We are a new-creation man, meant to live above this world, meant to walk in His ways and His steps, and that includes going into the “wilderness.” ***(Mat.4:1) Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (2) And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he afterward hungered. (3) And the tempter came and said unto him, If thou art the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. (4) 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. (5) Then the devil taketh him into the holy city; and he set him on the pinnacle of the temple, (6) and saith unto him, If thou art the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and, On their hands they shall bear thee up, Lest haply thou dash thy foot against a stone. (7) Jesus said unto him, Again it is written, Thou shalt not make trial of the Lord thy God. (8) Again, the devil taketh him unto an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; (9) and he said unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. (10) 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. (11) Then the devil leaveth him; and behold, angels came and ministered unto him. Jesus went through a 40-day wilderness trial before He overcame and then He brought God's people in His day through their wilderness. In our day, those who are in the First-fruits corporate body each go through their individual wilderness first; that's where they learn to walk in the principles of the Kingdom, which is the purpose of the wilderness. Moses was a First-fruits. He went through a 40-year wilderness before he overcame (Acts 7:23,30) and then he went on to bring God's people through their own wilderness (Numbers 14:34). Many people don't understand that the wilderness is available to every Christian worldwide because the wilderness is not some physical location to which we go; it's a

place in the Spirit. It's a place where we no longer depend upon the world and the principles of the world. It's a place where we are, instead, ruled by the principles of the Kingdom. We no longer trust in the world for our sustenance, our salvation, our healings, our deliverances, and so on. Scripture tells us that most of the Israelites who left Egypt never learned that lesson: **(Psa.78:19) *Yea, they spake against God; They said, Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?*** When they could no longer depend upon the flesh-pots of Egypt, they murmured continually. They found it hard to trust in the living God.

The Israelites, however, are just a type and a shadow for us. They went into a literal wilderness, but our wilderness is spiritual. Everybody who walks by faith goes into the wilderness. Everybody who walks by faith in the commands and principles and promises of God automatically gives up salvation by works. The promises of God are for the whole man. They are meant to save us completely in spirit, soul, body and circumstance, and they are meant to do that totally outside the principles of this world. As a matter of fact, He even gave us promises that are all-inclusive: **(Mar.11:24) *Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye received them*** (The original Greek word there is past tense.), ***and ye shall have them.*** Why does Jesus tell us to believe we have already received them? It's because everything that has to do with the salvation that the Lord gave us has already been accomplished. **(1Pe.2:24) *Who his own self bare our sins*** (that's past tense because it happened behind us) ***in his body upon the tree, that we, having died*** (that's past tense) ***unto sins, might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were***

healed. Again, the word there is past tense. All of the promises that have to do with the sacrifice of Christ on the cross are past tense. **(Eph.2:8) For by grace have ye been saved** (That's what it says in the original; it's past tense.) **through faith; and that not of yourselves, [it is] the gift of God; (9) not of works, that no man should glory.** You have been saved! **(Col.1:13) Who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the son of his love.** You have been delivered out of the power of darkness. **(Rom.6:18) And being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness. (11) Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus.** You were made free from sin!

You see, folks, when you realize that the Lord has already done this, there is nothing you can do of yourself to bring it to pass. You have to walk by faith in the fact that it is already accomplished. You are already healed, you are already delivered, you are already blessed, you are already provided for and so on because all these things were accomplished at the cross. We enter into the New Testament "rest," which many Christians erroneously think is a Saturday or a Sunday, but let's take a close look at what Scripture says about this "rest." **(Heb.4:1) Let us fear therefore, lest haply, a promise being left of entering into his rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.** You see, the promises cause us to enter the rest because the promises are past tense and when you believe them you have to stop your own works to try to bring them to pass. **(3) For we who have believed do enter into that rest; even as he hath said....** When you believe these

promises, you enter into the rest. For instance, you cannot do anything to get healed, if you believe you were healed. The reason men run to man to get healing is because they don't believe Jesus has already healed them, but I'm telling you something that I know. For the past 40-plus years, I've been receiving healing because I realize that I don't have to do anything to bring it to pass. All I have to do is thank God for it. **(Heb.13:8) *Jesus Christ [is] the same yesterday and to-day, [yea] and for ever.*** He still heals everyone who comes to Him by faith (Matthew 4:24; 6:19; 12:15; 14:36; Mark 3:10; Luke 4:40; etc.) If you accept that you were healed at the cross and you are not harboring unforgiveness or in any willful sin, then there's nothing that can keep you from receiving your healing.

(Heb.4:9) *There remaineth therefore a sabbath rest for the people of God.* The word "sabbath" there is the Greek word *sabbatismos* and it doesn't mean "a day of rest." It means "a continual keeping of rest." This is the true Sabbath that remains for the people of God. We have to cease from our own works everyday. **(10) *For he that is entered into his rest hath himself also rested from his works, as God did from his.*** Folks, God doesn't want our works; He doesn't believe in salvation by works. Whether you are talking about your spirit, your soul, your body or your circumstances, salvation is not by self-effort. As the apostle Paul taught us, **(2Co.12:9) *And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for [my] power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*** You see, when we get out of the business of trying to save ourselves, God's very powerful to do it for us, just as He

did for Paul, who went through a lot of trials because of the “thorn in the flesh” that was given to him. **(7) *And by reason of the exceeding greatness of the revelations, that I should not be exalted overmuch, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, that I should not be exalted overmuch.*** People like to say that the “thorn in the flesh” was a disease of the eyes or some other disability, but the Scripture plainly tells us that it was “a messenger of Satan to buffet” him and Paul lists for us these “buffetings”: **(2Co.11:23) *Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as one beside himself) I more; in labors more abundantly, in prisons more abundantly, in stripes above measure, in deaths oft. (24) *Of the Jews five times received I forty [stripes] save one. (25) Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day have I been in the deep; (26) [in] journeyings often, [in] perils of rivers, [in] perils of robbers, [in] perils from [my] countrymen, [in] perils from the Gentiles, [in] perils in the city, [in] perils in the wilderness, [in] perils in the sea, [in] perils among false brethren; (27) [in] labor and travail, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. (28) *Besides those things that are without, there is that which presseth upon me daily, anxiety for all the churches.***** He was brought into all those situations through weakness and in Paul’s weakness God was made powerful. **(29) *Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is caused to stumble, and I burn not? (30) If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things that concern my weakness.***

Well, folks, we need to do the same thing; we need to be weak to save ourselves. Many Christians today don't receive the deliverance they need because they keep trying to save themselves by their own efforts. Yet, what did Paul say? **(2Ti.3:10) *But thou didst follow my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, (11) persecutions, sufferings. What things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.*** Why is that? It's because Paul was being weak in that he wasn't trying to save himself. He gave himself into the hands of God because he believed the promises of God; he believed the Lord would always deliver him. **(2Ti.4:17) *But the Lord stood by me, and strengthened me; that through me the message might be fully proclaimed, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. (18) The Lord will deliver me from every evil work, and will save me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom [be] the glory forever and ever. Amen.*** And when Paul said the Lord would "save" him, he meant he would be saved like the Bible uses the word for "saved," which is the Greek *sozo*. The word *sozo* is used for every manner of salvation of spirit, soul, body and circumstance. *Sozo* is used for deliverance from demons, for healing the body, for salvation of the soul and so on. It's the same word the disciples used when they cried out to Jesus as their boat was sinking: **(Mat.8:23) *And when he was entered into a boat, his disciples followed him. (24) And behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the boat was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. (25)***

And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Save (that's the word *sozo*), Lord; we perish. (26) And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. (27) And the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him? They said, "Save, Lord," and He saved them.

"The Lord will deliver me from every evil work." Do you believe that? We're supposed to be going into a wilderness now, folks. You can choose to enter into it by faith, by trusting in the promises of God, because God cannot fail you, if you believe in His promises. Or you can be forced into it, along with the Church, in the coming Tribulation. If you walk by faith now, then you are walking into that spiritual wilderness and I want to tell you that the wilderness is not as bad as you've heard. The Lord told me many years ago, "I'm sending you through a wilderness, so that you can tell My people that I still supply there," and He has proven that to me over and over by putting me in a position of weakness. For instance, the disciples never took up offerings for themselves; they only took up offerings for other people, so the Lord wouldn't let me take up offerings. He wouldn't let me tell anybody my personal needs. He wouldn't let me store up my treasures on earth. He wouldn't let me borrow money. He wouldn't let me sell things. He wouldn't let me take any government benefits. And through all of that, I haven't worked for man and I haven't taken any worldly benefits. God has faithfully sustained me; He's paid for everything all along the way. He put me in a wilderness, but it has nothing to do with a physical wilderness and He's never failed to meet our needs. I shared with you in

the previous chapter how I raised five children: they didn't know doctors, they didn't know medicine, they didn't know anything but the power of God. And God always fed them, except for one time when the Lord put the trial of a fast on them. For all of these years, God has faithfully fed us, paid our bills, made sure our lights stayed on, made sure our gas stayed on and so on. He's been totally, 100% faithful. Yes, we are all going into a wilderness, but it's one that God made and He made it for our good. He is separating us from the world. He is behind the Beast kingdom and He is bringing the mark of the Beast (Revelation 3:17) to force us into this coming wilderness. The whole world is going to hate us. We won't have the help of "Egypt," just as Israel didn't have the help of Egypt. We are going to be thrust upon the mercy and grace of God, and the only thing we really need to be sustained is to repent of our sins and believe His Word. And when we do that, we also should expect that we will be tried. Even Apostle Paul talked about hungering and thirsting, but notice, he didn't starve to death. He overcame in the trial. God did the same thing with the Israelites. He brought them to one place of lack after another, to see if they were going to walk by faith or if they were going to complain. Sadly, they failed God, as the natural man always does, but folks, we have something new in the New Testament. We have a born-again experience; we have the power of the Holy Spirit. Some people are going to go through the wilderness just like Joshua and Caleb. They are going to be walking in the steps of Jesus Christ and they are going to be victorious.

When you are tried over and over, and you see each time that God is faithful, you enter into the rest. You just hold fast to your confession and hold fast to the Word. You

don't even worry about your trial anymore. You just rest in Him because you become hardened to your flesh, you become hardened to the world, you become hardened to temptation. **(Rom.5:3) And not only so, but we also rejoice in our tribulations: knowing that tribulation worketh stedfastness** ("patience"). As a matter of fact, I've enjoyed the tribulation. The tribulation is trial on the flesh, but it's so neat to see God being a personal God and loving you enough to look after everything. That's what He really wants to do. He doesn't want to share His glory with man, which He's been having to do because His people always run to the world. They always run to Egypt and its methods and its ways. Well, the Lord put me and my family in the wilderness and I'd like to share some testimonies of how the Lord has been faithful to sustain us.

One time in particular, the Lord actually multiplied food for us. We had run out of everything in the house, except for some spaghetti, so my wife cooked up a pot of spaghetti and we prayed over that pot because we didn't have anything else. But I want you to know that we weren't even considering that God wasn't going to bring any more for us to eat because He had been doing this for us for quite some time. Anyway, my wife cooked up this fairly big pot of spaghetti and it was about three-quarters full when we blessed it and we started eating. We probably ate that pot down to lower than halfway and when we were done, we didn't think about it, we just shoved that pot into the refrigerator. The next day, when we took it back out and my wife lifted the lid, we saw that God had refilled the pot! She said, "David, do you remember that the spaghetti was down to here?" And she made a mark on the side. I said, "Yes, I remember." Folks, the Lord had replaced everything we had

eaten. God is awesome! You can't get anywhere where He can't supply. Think about those Israelites. He brought those Israelites water out of a rock. God can bring you water in the middle of a wilderness (Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:2-13), He can pay your taxes out of a fish's mouth (Matthew 17:24-27), He can bring you flesh out of the sky (Exodus 16:1-13; Numbers 11:18-20; 31-34) and bread out of the sky (Exodus 16:14-36; Numbers 11:7-9). Now, if our God can bring several million Israelites through a wilderness like that and feed them, just think what He can do with us, who are actually filled with His Spirit!

Another experience we had, that I thought was even more awesome, made me realize that you really cannot get anywhere God can't feed you. (***Php.4:19***) ***And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*** If our God will supply our every need according to His riches in glory, then it has nothing to do with the economy and nothing to do with our surroundings. Even if you're in a desert, it has nothing to do with any of that. God made the promise; He's the One Who stands behind it and He will take care of you. On this occasion, we came to another situation where we had run out of everything in the house and my wife asked, "What are we going to do?" I said, "Well, the Lord sent us here," and she agreed. She said, "Yes." So I told her, "You set the table and we'll go sit down at the table, and we'll eat." So she did that and then she and I and our five children sat down around the table with these empty plates in front of us, and I prayed a simple prayer, really the only kind I know. I prayed, "Father, You sent us here and we're asking You to please fill these plates or fill our tummies." That's just the way it came out of my mind and I'm sure the

Lord put it in there because He wanted to show me something. **(Php.2:13) For it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure.** And so the prayer had no sooner come out of my mouth when my oldest son said, “Dad, I’m full. I don’t need to eat.” It wasn’t long before another one said it, then another another one, then another one and then I realized I was full, too. I thought, “Isn’t that something!” You know, the Lord didn’t have to multiply anything. If He multiplied anything, He multiplied it in our stomachs. He filled up all of us while we were just sitting there at the table.

Then there was one time I decided I wanted to grow tomatoes. It wasn’t the Lord; I made that decision on my own. God didn’t call me to grow tomatoes; He called me to study the Word of God and go out and share it with His people. But I just decided, “Well, I’ll take on this hobby. I’ll plant some tomatoes.” Now, the house we lived in at that time was under big oak trees and we didn’t have any sunshine in my yard, except for one place, so I planted the tomatoes in five-gallon buckets. That way, I could move them to keep them in the sun as the season went on. Soon, lots of little tomatoes popped out, but they didn’t hardly get to be any size at all before the birds came and just took them all away. And I asked, “Lord, why did You let that happen?” The Lord answered, “I didn’t call you to plant tomatoes; that was your idea. I have other things for you to do. Now get about what I told you to do.” So, of course, I told Him, “Yes, Sir!” and I never said anything to anybody about trying to grow my own tomatoes. Well, the very next day, a lady who was acquainted with us was going to a local tomato farm to get tomatoes for her family and while she was out there picking these monster tomatoes, the Lord spoke to her and

said, “I want you to pick a bag of these for David Eells.” She said, “Okay.” And she brought me a big bag of the largest, most luscious-looking tomatoes I’d seen in a long long time. You know, the Lord was kind of rubbing my nose in it when the lady brought me those tomatoes the next day and I thought to myself, “I really couldn’t have grown anything like those, Lord.” I had to come to that place of weakness before He would do this miracle.

We’ve also often prayed for very specific things and the Lord has always done miracles for us. One morning, we prayed for Him to send us poultry, send us mayonnaise and send us cheese. We asked Him for those three things and we didn’t tell anybody, not a soul. This is the way God gets the glory. I remember a brother many years ago, who was an elder in the Church with me. He used to be a part of the prosperity movement, where the people would brag out in public about what God was going to do. They would tell everybody, “I’m believing God for this,” or, “I’m believing God for that,” so eventually someone else in the congregation would feel like they had to have compassion on their brother in “need” and they would bring it to them. God doesn’t get any glory from that. When you ask God for something, just believe Him. Then, when it comes, He gets the credit. So we didn’t tell anybody about our needs, but that day and the next day, all three of those things came. We had a friend who was going out of town and she had this large jar of mayonnaise that she didn’t want to leave in her refrigerator until she came back, so she brought it over to us. And then another person brought us a turkey and the cheese. It was exactly what we asked from God. You may wonder, “Would God do that for me, David?” I guarantee you He would. God is no respecter of persons. **(Act.10:34)**

And Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: (35) but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him. God is a respecter of faith, but He's no respecter of persons. He won't do anything for me that He won't do for you. I'm just trying to teach you how to be weak and to exercise faith at the same time, so that you are in this ideal position in the wilderness to see miracles from God. We've received so many over the years, I've forgotten most of them, but I can tell you that He consistently met our needs and we saw many, many miracles.

I like to share this next story because it tickles me. My children all wanted to go camping one day, but when I was a kid, I did so much camping, I've had enough of it. I like my bed and I was making up excuses. Well, I'd been back there before, walking through the woods where they wanted to go, and finally I told them, "There's nothing there to start a fire with and, really, we don't have any permission to cut down any of those trees back there," but they were begging me, "Awww, Daddy, please." So I gave in and we packed up our tents and other gear, and we took off into the woods. Now, there was a downed tree in the little opening in the woods that we picked for our campsite and I want you to know that downed trees were hard to find in those woods. We set up our tents and I sent out the kids to go gather firewood, but everything they dragged back was either rotten, or little twigs and branches, or pieces of tree bark. I told them, "That stuff just makes smoke; it doesn't really make fire." And I sent them out again, and while I was waiting, I walked a little bit away from the camp. I was kind of praying, asking the Lord to provide for us and I had told

them earlier that there was nothing to use for a fire and we couldn't cut down other people's trees. Well, I had walked maybe 20 or 30 feet away from the tent when I came across this little lump on the ground. The floor of those woods was completely covered with leaves and this was just a lump in the leaves, but when I kicked it as I walked through it, I hit something solid. So I backed up and raked all the leaves off, and there was a pillowcase on the ground. I pulled the pillowcase back and there was a Poulan chainsaw on the ground. I thought, "Wow! Wouldn't it be something if this would crank?" because we had a downed tree right there by the campsite. Sure enough, it cranked. I cut up enough wood to have a really good fire the whole time we were there. I tell you, when that chainsaw cranked and I cut up that wood, I was thinking, "I'm sorry, Lord! Forgive me! I repent, because I said You couldn't supply us with wood back here."

God had somebody plant a chainsaw out in the middle of the woods so it would be there waiting for us because God sees the end from the beginning. He doesn't dwell in time; He has no problem meeting your needs. He will have it there when you get there. ***(Isa.65:24) And it shall come to pass that, before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*** See, He answers before we call and He can have our provision already there or He can manufacture it. It makes no difference to Him. When Jesus brought the disciples into the wilderness, He multiplied the food there. ***(Mat.14:15) And when even was come, the disciples came to him, saying, The place is desert*** (The Greek word there is *eremia* and it can be translated as "desert," "wilderness" or "uninhabited place."), ***and the time is already past;***

send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves food. (16) But Jesus said unto them, They have no need to go away; give ye them to eat. (17) And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. (18) And he said, Bring them hither to me. (19) And he commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass; and he took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples to the multitudes. (20) And they all ate, and were filled: and they took up that which remained over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. (21) And they that did eat were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Jesus was raising up disciples. He was the teacher and He was showing them, “This is how you do it.” Then they went off into their tribulation, the Book of Acts, and they repeated what they saw. The Man-child, Who was Jesus, was God’s provision in the wilderness and, folks, nothing has changed. God’s going to do it again; He’s just going to repeat it with a larger group of people. Since we didn’t have a big worldly income, we prayed for everything and God brought it. Back before I started full-time in ministry, we decided we were going to stop using money for the things that we needed. Instead, we started praying for what we needed and we saw God just do miracles. Things we would normally buy with money, we prayed for and God would bring them. Any money we had, we would use for His Kingdom. Folks, there are different ways you can enter into the wilderness, but all of them give you confidence. You’ll find that God’s going to be there and He’s going to supply your needs. If you need

something, pray for it. Put faith in God. It honors Him and it builds your faith.

My youngest daughter came to me one day with a Sears catalog and she said, "Daddy, I need a swimming pool." Her small wading pool would not hold water anymore because the vinyl was cracked from the sun. She started looking in the catalog, and I said, "Well, baby, you know where we get everything like that, don't you?" She answered, "Yep! Will you pray for me for one like this?" So we looked at the one from the catalog and we prayed and agreed in faith that God was going to bring that swimming pool. Well, folks, you know God can give you something better than what you pray for, can't He? I think it was only about a week or so later that we were all in the house when there came a knock on the door and when my wife went and answered the door, I heard a lady's voice. She said, "I'm looking for two little boys who came down and cut my grass. I live about five blocks from here, on the other end of the golf course, and I'm looking for those boys who cut my grass." Then she happened to look past my wife. She saw one of my boys and she said, "Oh, I see I've found the right place." It's actually amazing she found us because the boys didn't give her a good description of where we lived, but the Lord led her right to our door. She went on, "I'd like to make a proposition with you boys. I have this 3-1/2 foot, above-ground swimming pool that's still in the box. It has a filter, ladder and pump. Everything that goes with it is still there. I was going to set it up in my garage and exercise in it, but I've decided I'm not going to do that. So if you'll cut my grass a couple of times, I'll give that pool to you." And they were just so happy to cut the grass for her. Then they set up the pool and had a good time in that thing for several years.

Of course, Jennifer, my daughter, was just overjoyed to see God answer her prayer that quickly. Children remember that; even if they go out into the world, they remember that God is real. They remember that He keeps His Word and one day God will use that to bring them back. Folks, we had a tremendous life like this. We didn't have a lot of money, but the very fact that we didn't have a lot of money made us depend upon God. And in depending upon God, we got to see these awesome miracles.

Another thing God did to put us into a position of weakness was we never borrowed money because the Bible promises, ***(Deu.28:12) The Lord will open unto thee his good treasure the heavens, to give the rain of thy land in its season, and to bless all the work of thy hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.*** And Paul said, ***(Rom.13:8) Owe no man anything, save to love one another: for he that loveth his neighbor hath fulfilled the law.*** So we took God at His Word. We figured if we didn't borrow, we would be weak, but God would be strong on our behalf and I have some tremendous miracles to share with you later concerning not borrowing and seeing God answer. The Bible teaches against "suretyship." ***(Pro.11:15) He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it; But he that hateth suretyship is secure.*** The Hebrew word there actually means "to be a guarantor of an agreement; to give or to be security"; in other words, "to mortgage." It's guaranteeing to pay back what has been borrowed, but we can't even guarantee that we're going to be here tomorrow. And the Bible warns us against making promises, pledges or guarantees of any sort. ***(Mat.5:33) Again, ye have heard that it was said to them of***

old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: (34) but I say unto you, swear not at all; neither by the heaven, for it is the throne of God; (35) nor by the earth, for it is the footstool of his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. (36) Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, for thou canst not make one hair white or black. (37) But let your speech be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: and whatsoever is more than these is of the evil [one]. (Jas.5:12) But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by the heaven, nor by the earth, nor by any other oath: but let your yea be yea, and your nay, nay; that ye fall not under judgment. Who do we think we are to promise or pledge anything? (**Pro.17:18**) ***A man void of understanding striketh hands*** (That's the way an agreement was legally sealed.), ***And becometh surety in the presence of his neighbor***. "A man void of understanding" is someone who does this; in other words, it's not a wise thing to do. I know it's a principle of the world, but the economies of the world are all going to crumble because they are not obeying God's principles. How much faith God's people would have if they were put into the position where they couldn't run to the world to borrow money. They would see miracles, but most people don't want to wait on God to see a miracle; they're too quick to run back to Egypt. I know you're wondering, "How could it be that we would not mortgage and God will answer? How would we receive homes?" Well, the home I have right now, God gave to me because I believed Him and I refused to borrow money. That's why I have it and it didn't cost me a thing. God is sovereign! Amen.

(Pro.22:7) The rich ruleth over the poor; And the borrower is servant to the lender. When you borrow money, you're no longer a steward of what you have because what you have actually belongs to someone else. Jesus said, **(Luk.14:33) So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.** We renounce ownership; we are only stewards. But a steward who belongs to a bank is not a steward for the Lord. The borrower is a servant to the lender and the rich rule over the poor. The rich are running this world, folks, because they have everybody's money. **(Pro.22:26) Be thou not one of them that strike hands, Or of them that are sureties for debts. (27) If thou hast not wherewith to pay, Why should he take away thy bed from under thee?** A poor person's bed or outer clothing was commonly used as their collateral of last resort (Exodus 22:27; Deuteronomy 24:13). Proverbs has a lot to say against suretyship and it's ignored by a lot of people, but I never would have seen the miracles that I have seen if I had borrowed the money, instead of learning to just ask God. **(Mar.11:24) Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye received them, and ye shall have them.** When God gives us such awesome promises, why would we borrow money and have to pay it back with interest for years and years in bondage? The Israelites were forbidden by God to participate in usury (interest), or in suretyship (mortgaging), or in any such things, but when they went into bondage in Babylon, they were caught up back into it. Folks, we need to just ask God and wait on God. He said, "Believe you have received." If you think, "Well, God might not answer," that's not faith!

The Bible doesn't teach borrowing to get money; it teaches giving to get money. **(Luk.6:38) Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again.** I've proven that many, many times. When you give, God will give it back to you multiplied, just as the Scripture teaches, but notice it doesn't teach going under the Law. **(2Co.9:6) But this [I say], He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.** People want to reap but they don't want to sow. The Bible teaches that first you have to sow! You "give and it will be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom." **(7) [Let] each man [do] according as he hath purposed in his heart: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (8) And God is able to make all grace abound unto you (That's awesome!); that ye, having always all sufficiency in everything, may abound unto every good work (Isn't that something? Just for giving bountifully, God will make sure that you will always have all sufficiency in everything and will abound in every good work.): (9) as it is written, He hath scattered abroad, he hath given to the poor; His righteousness abideth for ever. (10) And he that supplieth seed to the sower and bread for food, shall supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness.** People who don't really believe this are stingy and they hoard, but that's not the way for God to multiply. You have to sow.

Think about sowing one little seed and how it brings forth. It brings forth multiplied and even if you are poor in the eyes of the world, you will have all of your needs met. In the eyes of the world, Jesus was poor, but according to the Kingdom, Jesus was rich because He had His needs met everywhere He went. It was the same for His disciples, too. Their needs were met wherever they went. The riches of the world were just distractions to them, but their needs were met wherever they went because they were givers, not because they were borrowers. Borrowing just puts you deeper in debt; giving gets you out of debt.

From my own experience, there have been many times when I saw that what I had would not meet my need, many times when the money that I had would not cover my bills. And I would just take the money that I did have and I would go give it, and in giving it, it would come back multiplied. People worry, “Well, if I give it, maybe it won’t come back in time!” Folks, God doesn’t dwell in time; He answers before we call. ***(Isa.65:24) And it shall come to pass that, before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*** When you ask Him to do something, He’s going to do it, so don’t worry about it. For instance, many times I have put what money I did have into the mailbox to send to somebody in need and then gone to the same mailbox only to find that what I sent out had been multiplied back to me. You may be one of those who say, “But, David, we don’t give in order to receive.” That’s a moot point. That has nothing to do with what I’m talking about. If you do give, you will receive because that’s God’s promise. God will see to our needs, if we meet the needs of the brethren to the best of our ability, even if we don’t have a lot of money. I shared with you previously how

the Egyptians stored up under Joseph in the seven years of plenty for the seven years of famine (Genesis 41). In type, Joseph was Jesus. Jesus said we should store up our riches in Heaven and He told us how to do that. **(Luk.12:33) *Sell that which ye have, and give alms; make for yourselves purses which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief draweth near, neither moth destroyeth. (34) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*** He said, “Give alms, meet the needs of the brethren,” and you will have “a treasure in the heavens that faileth not.” So, give and God will give to you. I’ll share with you later on how the Lord put it in my heart to give my house away and, when I did that, He gave me the house I have now. You can’t out-give God, folks. You just cannot do it.

Buying and selling is not the way of the Kingdom. I know most ministries today do that, but we have a different economy in the Kingdom. Why did God rebuke them in the days of Noah and the days of Lot for buying and selling? **(Luk.17:26) *And as it came to pass in the days of Noah, even so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. (27) They ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. (28) Likewise even as it came to pass in the days of Lot; they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; (29) but in the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all: (30) after the same manner shall it be in the day that the Son of man is revealed.*** They bought, they sold, they married, they gave

in marriage; what was wrong with buying and selling? Buying and selling is not the Kingdom. The Kingdom is giving and receiving. You get a reward for giving; you get none for selling and you get none for borrowing. The Bible specifically says you get a reward for giving, and the interest is much better. The interest is “good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.” I’ve tried God on this and it works. He is faithful — consistently faithful. He is our surety. I learned you just give, you just meet the needs of the brethren around you and don’t worry about what you have left because God is never going to fail you. Never. From the time the Lord showed me about faith and how He forbid debt to His people, I haven’t stored up or borrowed any money, and the Lord has never failed to make sure we had a good car, a good house and all our needs met. The world says that you have to store up the money until you have enough, but you don’t, because God can bring it in a lump sum. He did it for us many times. When we moved to Pensacola, He gave us our house and He bought us a brand new car. They didn’t cost us anything.

Life in the wilderness is exciting. There’s nothing for us to fear. It’s only fearful to somebody who’s not a believer, but don’t worry about that, folks. The non-believers aren’t going out in that wilderness or, at least, they are not going to go very far out into it. They’re going to take the mark of the Beast because they don’t believe they can live out there. But it’s not a fearful place; it’s a very joyous place where you feel the closeness of your Father. You know that He is taking care of you; you know that He is watching over everything. When you pray for poultry, cheese and mayonnaise, and it all comes within one day, you know God is very specifically watching over you. I remember one time

that was just amazing. It was really something. My youngest daughter was angry because her two brothers went camping and they took all the chips with them. She was chewing on my wife's ear back there in the washroom and my wife just finally told her, "Well, you go pray to God and get your own." And as my daughter was walking out of the washroom into the den, there came a knock on the door and she shouted, "It's here! It's here! It's here already!" That's childlike faith. She had taken only four or five steps away from the washroom into the den and when she heard the knock on the door, she immediately claimed, "It's here already!" And my wife grabbed her and told her, "Shush!" Well, when we answered the door, it was our neighbor who lived behind us, and who would come to our Bible study. He and his family always liked my wife's cornbread, so she had made a pan of cornbread for him to take home to his family. Here he was coming back the next day with the pan and it was all wrapped in foil. He handed it to my wife and when she peeled back the foil, the pan was filled with a bag of chips! I want you to know he started walking from two blocks behind us, yet he got to our door moments after my daughter had prayed her prayer, and it wasn't a big miracle to my little girl with her childlike faith, who was just tickled. You see, God really does answer before we call. He doesn't dwell in time; He's not limited to time. You can ask God for something tomorrow, that if you only knew about it today, you would think it's impossible, but He does it. He hears it all and from the beginning of time, He's seen it all. God wants to do these things for us. He designed the wilderness so He can meet our needs and build our faith. ***(2Co.12:9) And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for [my] power is made perfect***

in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. He says, “My power is made perfect in weakness.” Glory to God!

CHAPTER THREE

Live by Faith, Not by Works

We've been seeing in our study that the purpose of going into the wilderness is to learn to live by faith and we discovered that those who are the First-fruits of God in our day will go out into their wilderness first, ahead of the greater body of Christ. We've also learned that the wilderness is a place of faith and weakness, which is available to everyone. It's a place where we live by faith and living by faith makes us weak to be our own saviors. In other words, it's a salvation not by works, but by faith in the Lord. **(Heb.10:31) *But my righteous one shall live by faith: And if he shrink back, my soul hath no pleasure in him.*** When we learn to walk by faith, we are walking in the wilderness because our methods change from that of the world to those of God and Jesus Christ. Years ago, when the Lord started leading me in the wilderness, for months He caused my Bible to open supernaturally to Isaiah 43. He was emphasizing His point about not walking in the ways of the world and that's where I'd like to begin.

(Isa.43:14) *Thus saith the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and I will bring down all of them as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, in the ships of their rejoicing.* This was a time when God was promising deliverance to His people, who were in bondage in Babylon, and folks, that's where God's people are today. They are in bondage in Babylon. They have allegiances with the world because the world is one form of Babylon. All nations came from Babel and their Babylonish religion

of the counterfeit virgin birth, Semiramis, Nimrod, so on and so forth, was spread all over the earth. And so God's people are very much in bondage to both secular Babylon and religious Babylon, but God is calling us out of their ways, their methods, their unbelief. What is acceptable to the world is not acceptable to God. **(15) I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. (16) Thus saith the Lord, who maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters.** God seems to be confusing the Egyptian deliverance with the Babylonian deliverance here but, actually, they are the same in type. God's going to make a way in the sea. When the Israelites passed through the Red Sea, Paul said it was a baptism. **(1Co.10:1) For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; (2) and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.** A baptism is for the death of the old man and the life of the new man. **(Rom.6:3) Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have become united with [him] in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of his resurrection; (6) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with [him,] that the body of sin might be done away, that so we should no longer be in bondage to sin; (7) for he that hath died is justified from sin.** God made a path through the waters for the spiritual man, the Israel-

ite; He didn't make a path for the carnal man, the Egyptian. **(Isa.43:16) Thus saith the Lord, who maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters; (17) who bringeth forth the chariot and horse, the army and the mighty man (they lie down together, they shall not rise; they are extinct, they are quenched as a wick).** The Egyptian represented the old man, who was not to follow Israel into their wilderness, because Israel was not to live in bondage to the old man in the wilderness. In other words, in the wilderness, they weren't to do things according to the methods of Egypt. This is a type and shadow for us in our wilderness. We are not to be ruled by the old man; we are not to walk according to his principles and we are not to use his methods.

What does God mean when He says that He brought down the chariot and the horse? **(Psa.147:10) He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: He taketh no pleasure in the legs of a man. (11) The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, In those that hope in his lovingkindness.** We see here that He likens the "strength of the horse" to the "legs of a man," meaning, of course, God doesn't want us to trust in the strength of the old man, who belongs to the Beast. A chariot is a vessel that's powered by a beast. The old man, living the old beastly life that was led by the Beast, had to die in the Red Sea so that the Israelite could go into the wilderness. And the wilderness is where the Israelite learns not to lean on the arm of the flesh, but to trust in God alone. **(Isa.43:18) Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.** In other words, when you come into Christ, you give up thinking of things the way you did when you were in the world because God is going to do ev-

everything differently from the way you did things when you were in the world. The Church doesn't do that. The Church is living in the world and is of the world. It's very Babylonish because they haven't escaped Babylon yet, but the wilderness is coming. **(Rev.12:1) And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman arrayed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars; (2) and she was with child; and she crieth out, travailing in birth, and in pain to be delivered. (3) And there was seen another sign in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems. (4) And his tail draweth the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon standeth before the woman that is about to be delivered, that when she is delivered he may devour her child. (5) And she was delivered of a son, a man child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and unto his throne. (6) And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that there they may nourish her a thousand two hundred and threescore days.** The wilderness is the place that God has prepared for the Church. The very worldly Church has been living in Egypt and is in bondage to the old man, the Egyptian. **(Isa.43:19) Behold, I will do a new thing** (It's new because now that you are a Christian, you are expected to live according to God's principles and to walk by faith.); **now shall it spring forth; shall ye not know it?** (I'm afraid to say that's true. An awful lot of Christians don't know it.) **I will even make a way**

in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. Wow! That's awesome! God even brought rivers out of rocks in the desert (Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:11; Deuteronomy 8:15; Nehemiah 9:15; Psalm 78:20; etc.). You see, His provision for us is not limited by our circumstances. We can put our faith in Him. ***(Psa.37:19) They shall not be put to shame in the time of evil; And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. (Rom.10:11) For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame.***

(Isa.43:20) The beasts of the field shall honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen. The "beasts" represent those lost people around us. It was Solomon who said every man is as a beast. ***(Ecc.3:18) I said in my heart, [It is] because of the sons of men, that God may prove them, and that they may see that they themselves are [but as] beasts.*** And remember the beasts that came down on the sheet in Peter's vision? ***(Act.10:9) Now on the morrow, as they were on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour: (10) and he became hungry, and desired to eat: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance; (11) and he beholdeth the heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending, as it were a great sheet, let down by four corners upon the earth: (12) wherein were all manner of four-footed beasts and creeping things of the earth and birds of the heaven. (13) And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill and eat. (14) But Peter said,***

Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common and unclean. (15) And a voice came unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, make not thou common. (16) And this was done thrice: and straightway the vessel was received up into heaven. When Peter finally understood the revelation that these unclean beasts were the Gentiles, he went and preached the Gospel to them. **(28) And he said unto them, Ye yourselves know how it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to join himself or come unto one of another nation; and [yet] unto me hath God showed that I should not call any man common or unclean.... (35) but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him.** So the “beasts of the field” there in Isaiah is talking about lost people and the “field,” according to Jesus, is the world. **(Mat.13:36) Then he left the multitudes, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Explain unto us the parable of the tares of the field. (37) And he answered and said, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; (38) and the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one.** You know, the world trembled at God’s people when they came out of Egypt. Remember what Rahab said about how they heard the stories of God’s miraculous deliverance of Israel out of Egypt and the Red Sea destruction of their enemies? **(Jos.2:10) For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were**

beyond the Jordan, unto Sihon and to Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. (11) And as soon as we had heard it, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more spirit in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and on earth beneath. They trembled before them and when God's people become those people who live by faith in the wilderness, the world is going to tremble at them, too. They are going to understand that these people have the favor of God. They are His chosen. ***(Isa.43:20) The beasts of the field shall honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen, (21) the people which I formed for myself, that they might set forth my praise.***

When the Israelites went into the wilderness, God didn't want them to continue living as if they were still Egyptians, so He had to put to death the Egyptians and their beasts. ***(Jer.17:5) Thus saith the Lord: Cursed is the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.*** This is just another way of describing those people who believe in salvation by man's works, by man's methods, instead of waiting on the salvation of the Lord, which is freely given. "Cursed is the man that trusteth in man." Folks, that's where a lot of Egyptian Israelites are. A lot of God's people, who call themselves "Christians," actually have more affinity with Egypt in the world than they do with God in the wilderness, but God's going to put a stop to that. He's going to give "drink" to His chosen, not just His called, but His chosen. Many are going to die in the wilderness to come, but some are going to be Joshuas and Calebs. ***(Jer.17:5)***

Thus saith the Lord: Cursed is the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. (6) For he shall be like the heath (“tumbleweed”) in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, a salt land and not inhabited. Many people don’t get to see the wonderful provision of God in a place where man cannot provide it because they trust in the arm of the flesh. They are like “a tumbleweed in the desert.” ***(7) Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose trust the Lord is. (8) For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, that spreadeth out its roots by the river, and shall not fear when heat cometh, but its leaf shall be green*** (This is somebody who continues to take in the sun, somebody who continues to walk by faith.); ***and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*** Those who walk by faith can go through a wilderness and have streams of water in the desert; they will have God’s provision in the desert because they don’t trust the arm of the flesh. ***(Jer.17:21) Thus saith the Lord, Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; (22) neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work: but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.*** The Sabbath day is, of course, the seventh day and, folks, we’ve just entered into God’s Sabbath. We’ve just entered into the seventh day of the seven thousand years. It’s the day in which we have to cease from our works; it’s the day in which we are to do God’s works. And since Jesus Christ is

God's Sabbath, whenever you've entered into Jesus Christ, you're supposed to cease from your works. We just saw that the Lord spoke a curse upon the people who continued to do their works on His Sabbath, whether it be the works of the Law, works of the flesh, or works of self-justification. God wants to be our only Savior.

Remember from the previous chapter, that God told me He was bringing me through the wilderness so I could tell His people that He still supplies there. We've learned that the wilderness is a place where there is no provision from man, no provision from the world. The wilderness is a place where God provides and, no matter where you are on Planet Earth, you're very close to this wilderness. All you have to do is walk by faith in His promises and your provision will come supernaturally from God. Most of what is called the "Church" today walks according to the way of the world, not by faith, and so they don't receive the provisions, the miracles, the signs and the wonders they would receive, if they went into the wilderness. We have to give up trying to save ourselves, folks; we have to be weak. We cannot be in bondage to the Egyptian in the wilderness. Well, about 40 years ago, and almost six or seven years before it actually came to pass, God started giving me, my wife, my children and even the people around me, dreams, visions and prophecies concerning a ministry that we were to have in Pensacola. Let me just share a few of them with you. A friend named "R" dreamed he had gone away from us for a few years. In the dream, he came back into our neighborhood and ran into our neighbor next door, who pointed R over toward our house. R looked over there and saw we were loading up a U-Haul to move to Florida. Then R came over and helped us load up the van. Now, in real

life, we hadn't seen R in a couple of years, but suddenly he showed up at our neighbor's house. And our neighbor said to him, "R, look over there!" And R looked over at our house and, sure enough, we had a U-Haul truck backed up to the door and we were loading it up. R was overjoyed that he'd had a very literal dream that came precisely true and he very happily came over and helped us. Another thing he saw in the dream was that I had some papers and on those papers was a word that he couldn't remember, but he said it started with a "P." I said to him, "Pension," and he said, "Yes! That's the word!" Actually, I had been telling people for years that Exxon, where I worked, was going to offer me an early retirement and a pension. Everybody told me I was crazy, up until the time it happened, which was when R showed up. Although the pension wasn't much and I didn't start drawing it until I reached 65, I received a year's severance pay at that time and it was handy to help me move.

Another time, my wife had a dream that we were moving to Florida and that there was just one solid road going to Florida. This was really strange because at the time she had this dream, the interstate was still broken in many places between Pensacola and where we lived in Baton Rouge, but we knew from the dream that when we moved the interstate would be finished. Everybody along the Gulf Coast had been waiting for years for that interstate to be finished. People were wondering, "What are they doing? Why are they dragging their feet? Why don't they go ahead and finish that thing?" Well, the interstate was finished just before we moved to Pensacola. In another dream, my wife saw us walking through a house in Pensacola and she was holding a baby girl on her hip. But before that dream, as my wife was waking up one day, she had a dream in which she saw

a big boy and a little girl. And the Lord said to her, “Justin Joseph and Jennifer Joy”; all the names started with “J.” We thought we were going to have twins, until Justin Joseph was born. I told my wife, “No, it was a big boy because the boy came first, then the little girl because the little girl comes last.” So when Jennifer Joy was born, we knew it was getting close to the time that we were to be moving to Pensacola. Somehow or another, we knew it was going to happen. And my wife came to me and she said, “Well, David it’s almost time. Do you think we ought to be saving our money?” I said, “No, I don’t. I think we are going to continue to do what the Bible tells us to do and not store up on earth but, instead, keep giving.”

Folks, there are awesome promises in the Bible for giving! ***(Luk.6:38) Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again.*** We didn’t have any money and we definitely needed that kind of a blessing to move over to Pensacola and buy a house and not be in debt because we didn’t believe in being in debt. I haven’t been in debt since I came to the Lord and the Lord showed me that it wasn’t right to be in debt. So I never got in debt and I got to see miracles. Not going into debt for the last 40-something years has taught me that God will do miracles for people who put their trust in Him and obey their conscience. ***(Rom.13:8) Owe no man anything, save to love one another: for he that loveth his neighbor hath fulfilled the law. (Pro.22:7) The rich ruleth over the poor; And the borrower is servant to the lender. (Deu.15:6) For the Lord thy God will bless thee, as he prom-***

ised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over thee. I stayed away from debt because God had made me those promises, but later on, the thought came to me to ask, “Well, Lord, do You want me to sell my house?” The Lord answered, “No, I want you to give the house away.” I tell you, folks, this is how we get miraculous provision from God! Give! It’s not by storing up that you get miraculous provision; it’s by giving that you get miraculous provision because God will multiply it to you many times over. There’s no multiplication in just storing up, but if you give to the needs that God points out around you, God will give to you. He will give to you freely, as you give freely to others. Anyway, God told me we were going to give the house to a couple whom we knew from years back. Since we hadn’t had any fellowship with them in a while and didn’t even know where they were, we did a little research and found out that they lived in Houston. At the time, there was a big oil bust over there and, when I called this couple, I found out they’d had a company house and a company car, but had lost them both when the oil business went flat. They just had their little car they owned and basically no place to go and no job, so you see, God had prepared a place for them to live.

When I contacted them, they told me their situation. I said, “Hey, you come live with us and we’ll see how the Lord works this out,” because the Lord had already told me that I was to give our house to them. So that’s what they did; they came and moved in with us. And one day, when we were taking them out to eat, the Lord reminded me of a dream this sister had years before. In the dream,

she said she'd been away from this area for a long time and when she came back, there was somebody else living in our house. At the time, I had thought it was just some people they didn't know living in our house, but suddenly it came into my mind that she did know who those people were. So as we were driving along down the road, I asked, "Remember that dream you had years ago about coming back to town and somebody else was living in our house?" She said, "Yes." I said, "That was you, wasn't it?" And she looked at me and said, "Yes." She didn't want to make a self-fulfilled prophecy, which is why she didn't tell me up front and I understood that. I understand that's the way of faith. I said, "Well, okay, then the house is yours." Of course, they both looked at me in surprise, but I told them, "I mean it: the house is yours. The Lord told me to give it to you." Here this couple was out of everything, wondering where in the world they were going to live, and God had prepared a place for them. They were a couple of faith, too; they had real faith in the Lord. It's just awesome how God provided for them and for us. I was still working for Exxon at the time and we actually had a fantastic church out there, with people from all different religions, who were coming together at the lunch break to share the Word and to pray for the sick. We had all kinds of miracles and wondrous things happen, too. Praise the Lord!

Well, as it was getting time for us to move to Pensacola, Exxon did offer early retirement to company people, exactly as I'd been telling all my friends there for six or seven years. And I already knew I was going to take it because God had prepared me. People came to me and said, "Wow, you told us this was going to happen," and I said, "Yes, because the Lord told me!" Also, there was R's dream about

the pension, so it was a good witness, especially to the pagans around me, because I told them it was coming and it did come. Exxon wanted to switch over to contract labor instead of company employees, which were more expensive to them because of benefits and administrative costs. Anyway, I took their early retirement, but it was still some years until I would become eligible for the pension. What they did was send me a year's severance in a lump-sum payment and, at the same time, I agreed with our assembly there that God was going to give me a house and give me a car, since I hadn't saved any money. You see, my car was getting to the place where we were needing another one in Florida. I agreed in faith that God would do this, according to ***(Mat.18:19) Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father who is in heaven.*** Folks, I knew these people weren't in any position to provide that for me and I wouldn't have accepted it from them anyway; that's why I agreed with them. You don't agree with people as a matter of graft. You don't agree with people to force them to have pity on you and give to you. I didn't accept any money from anybody there.

One week after we agreed on that, my wife was driving down Florida Boulevard in Baton Rouge and the vehicle in front of her was a big Cadillac. And my wife and my daughter were in our Toyota. So the Cadillac was coming to a stop behind some other cars and my wife was coming to a stop, but this was at Christmas time and the man behind her in a big Lincoln evidently was window shopping. He didn't see them and he slammed into my wife and slammed her into the Cadillac in front. Well, if you put a Toyota be-

tween a Cadillac and a Lincoln, you know you're not going to have much of a Toyota left. My wife and daughter were slightly injured, nothing that the Lord couldn't take care of, but they actually had to use the jaws-of-life to pry the car open and get them out because the Toyota was just totally crumpled. The man who was driving behind her in the Lincoln ran up alongside my wife and he told her through the window, "Listen, don't worry about a thing. I'm going to take care of everything." It turned out that this man was the president of a big warehouse corporation there in Baton Rouge and his corporation was self-insured; they made that much money and the insurance he was carrying on his vehicle was way above the norm. The man was very repentant and I don't even think he was a Christian, but he was very, very sorry for what he had done. He contacted us and said, "Look, we're self-insured; there's nothing to worry about. I'll talk to the people. You will be taken care of." Can you even imagine having somebody like that running into you only a week after you have agreed for enough money to buy a house and car? They very quickly replaced our Toyota with a better, newer one and they put the wheels in motion to give us a lump sum to take care of my wife and daughter for any pain and suffering they went through. It was just astounding! Now, we didn't sue anybody and we weren't planning on suing anybody; we don't believe in doing such things. We believe in turning the other cheek and resisting not the evil, as Jesus tells us to do. **(Mat.5:38) *Ye have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: (39) but I say unto you, resist not him that is evil: but whosoever smiteth thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. (40) And if any man would go to law with thee,***

and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. (41) And whosoever shall compel thee to go one mile, go with him two. (42) Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. (43) Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: (44) but I say unto you, love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; (45) that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust. Anyway, the first installment, which was pretty big, came in from the accident at the exact same time that the year's severance pay came in from Exxon. It was as if God had planned the whole thing which, of course, He had. He had planned the whole thing!

Well, you know, folks, sometimes the Lord will wait before He answers because He wants to see if you are going to get out there in the flesh and that's what we did. We came over a little early and started looking around Pensacola, but we didn't see anything and we went back home. We started crying out to the Lord, "Okay, Lord, we know this is the time; we know it's coming," and so on and so forth. And so we waited until the Lord sent us the next time. We even had a Christian realtor in Pensacola looking around for us and we described the house to him because we had already seen it in dreams and visions. He was looking all over Pensacola, trying to find the house, until, finally, one day, in a little frustration after having sought the Lord, I stopped the man. I said, "Look, let's get your map." So he got his map and we stretched it out on the hood of his car, and I said, "Listen, this is where the house is, right here!" I wasn't even

looking where I was pointing, but I stuck my finger down on the map and he said, “Okay, we’ll go there and look.” As we were looking, I told the man just exactly how much we were going to pay for the house. I could tell he wasn’t used to that, but he said, “Okay.” He drove us through the area where my finger came down and we passed by the house we had seen in our dreams and visions. It was just after the lady who owned it had stuck a *For Sale By Owner* sign in the ground. And since this was a realtor and it was a *For Sale By Owner* sign, he was just driving right on by, but I had my pad and pencil out. I wrote down the phone number and called her later. So after we looked at the house, I felt led to offer her \$1000 less than I knew I was going to pay because some people like to haggle. She said, “Well, I don’t know.” And I said, “Well, I tell you what, leave the curtains,” which I knew she was planning on doing anyway, “and I’ll give you this much,” which was the amount the Lord told me. And she said, “Okay.” Praise the Lord! I do want to tell you that the realtor was a good Christian man, who had done a good job looking for the house, and we actually gave him his commission. He had worked for his due and we figured we’d give it to him anyway. He told us, “Man, I could never have found you a deal like this!”

Now this lady was a Baptist, but one of her relatives was the pastor of a large, full-Gospel church in Pensacola. He and other people had been witnessing to her. And at the time when we came to Pensacola, she was having a problem with her eyes, so we asked her, “Would you let us pray for you? Will you let us lay hands on you for those eyes, so God will heal them?” I pointed out some verses to her and so on. She said, “Well, I don’t know so much of that laying on of hands stuff, but I would like you to pray for me.” I

answered, “Okay, we will pray for you without the laying on of hands.” That’s what we did; we prayed for her and God healed her. She was just so very jubilant to come to find out that God would do this for her because her doctrine didn’t permit that kind of a miraculous healing. She didn’t really believe in those kinds of miraculous healings, but she received a miraculous healing and her eyes were suddenly opened to the true Gospel. Then, when the time came when we had to move in, she still wasn’t ready to move out for another week, so she lived with us for a week and we were able to witness to her even more. We had our stuff all piled-up on one end of the house and we were kind of living together like that until, finally, we had the house to ourselves.

You see, God did a miracle. And it was through our weakness that we got this miracle. God paid for it; we didn’t pay for anything. The money He gave us was enough to buy the house and a new car because our small car was a Toyota and it was good for doing small jobs, but we had five kids. So we bought a large, brand new station wagon and God also did many miracles on that station wagon for us over the years. But the miracle was that God paid for both of these. We didn’t have any money, we didn’t save any money and we just continued to give to any need that came our way. Whenever we saw a need, we gave to it. We didn’t believe in storing up our treasures on earth, so we put no money in the bank. We did what Jesus says. ***(Luk.12:33) Sell that which ye have, and give alms; make for yourselves purses which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief draweth near, neither moth destroyeth.*** “Faileth not.” Folks, when you store up your treasures in Heaven by meeting the needs of the brethren, you can always get it back because

it “faileth not.” For many years, I made a very good living and I met the needs of the brethren around me. Whenever I saw a need, it wasn’t a burden to me to take care of it by the grace of God, Who put it in my heart to do that. When you read the Word of God and you love the Word of God, and you love to act and live on the Word of God, the Word gets into your heart. The Word in you is Jesus in you. So we just gave to everything we saw; we didn’t save up any money and we didn’t borrow any money. Borrowing was out of the question for us because we were walking by faith and, even up to today, I haven’t for over 40 years borrowed any money. But because I give, the money is always there when I need it.

As I’ve shared with you, the Lord taught me never to borrow, never to tell my needs, never to take any government help, never to go into the business of buying and selling. One of the things R said happened in his dream was that when he walked up to me, I told him, “I’m never going to work for man again,” and it was true. I worked for Exxon, but when I retired from there, I never worked for man again. Of course, everybody has to work, as the Bible says: **(2Th.3:10) For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, If any will not work, neither let him eat.** So I’ve worked diligently for the Lord and still do, but I’ve never been a burden on people. I made sure of that and I never made my needs known. God put it in people’s hearts to meet our needs. I don’t believe in being a freeloader or “mooching.” It’s wrong and it’s evil. If you’re truly walking by faith, God’s going to support you. **(Luk.10:7) And in that same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the laborer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to**

house. (Mat.10:10) Get you no gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses; (10) no wallet for your journey, neither two coats, nor shoes, nor staff: for the laborer is worthy of his food. God supports those who work for Him. Apostle Paul is our example. At the beginning of his ministry, he worked for a living. **(1Co.9:11) If we sowed unto you spiritual things, is it a great matter if we shall reap your carnal things? (12) If others partake of [this] right over you, do not we yet more? Nevertheless we did not use this right; but we bear all things, that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.** But later on (2 Corinthians 9; Philippians 2), it seems very clear that Paul was receiving freewill offerings from brethren so that he could continue on with his ministering and not be distracted by any work. It was that way for the first part of my ministry, too. I worked for many years while I ministered.

I learned to walk by faith and, in that weakness, God was miraculous. Most people don't get to see the miracles of God because they are not willing to be weak. They're always strong to go and do for themselves; it's salvation by works. Remember that the Greek word for "salvation," which is the noun *soteria* or the verb *sozo*, is translated in many different ways to cover every kind of salvation. For instance, when Jesus healed someone, **(Mat.9:22) But Jesus turning and seeing her said, Daughter, be of good cheer; thy faith hath made thee whole (sozo). And the woman was made whole (sozo) from that hour.** When He delivered people from demons, **(Luk.8:36) And they that saw it told them how he that was possessed with demons was made whole (sozo).** When the disciples were in the sinking boat, **(Mat.8:25) And**

they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Save (sozo), Lord; we perish. Salvation is very, very big, folks! Jesus saved us from sin and its curse. **(2Co.5:21) Him who knew no sin he made [to be] sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him.** Did you know, in the Scriptures, poverty is a curse? **(Deu.28:47) Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, by reason of the abundance of all things; (48) therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies that Jehovah shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.** Unless it is a sacrificial self-imposed poverty for the sake of others, it's a curse. How many of you know that Jesus wasn't poverty-stricken? He had His needs met everywhere He went. Of course, He didn't have riches, according to the way the world likes riches. The world likes the material kind of riches in which they can trust. Jesus didn't have that, but He had His needs met wherever He went and so did His disciples. They weren't poor, but they were poor to the world. **(Jas.2:5) Hearken, my beloved brethren; did not God choose them that are poor as to the world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he promised to them that love him?** People who are poor to the world are in a position of weakness, where they have to trust in God. You have to come out from under the principles of the world and the teachings of the worldly, Babylonish Church. You have to obey the principles that Jesus gave us in the New Testament. Make sure your brother's needs are met sacrificially out of what you

have and God will make sure you don't ever have a need that isn't met. Paul said, **(*Php.4:19*) And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.** He said that because his needs were being met by the brethren and He made that promise to the Philippians. Well, we lost a car, had been injured and didn't have any money, but in our weakness, God was made strong. We didn't have to sell or borrow or beg or do anything of the sort; all we did was give. I want you to walk in the same blessings and God will do that for you, if you start living according to His principles.

By the way, because the second part of the money that came in from the wreck was delayed and delayed, God made an opportunity for me to give my first station wagon away, the one that I had when I was in Baton Rouge. I gave it away to a mission in town where I had preached quite a few times because they needed some transportation to use for the people in the mission. God blessed me with that car and I never had any problems with it. When we prayed for a car, my youngest daughter had a vision of that car being in New Orleans. She even saw the color of the car. Sure enough, I couldn't find anything in Baton Rouge that I liked, so I went to New Orleans and I saw the car and bought it. That was the car I gave to the mission. And I'd never put any spares in that car because I was trusting God to keep my tires, but the day I put the keys in the preacher's hand in my living room and we walked outside, it was setting on a flat. I never had a flat as long as I had that car because I never had a spare, but as soon as it got out of my hand and into his, it had a flat.

And since I mentioned New Orleans, think about what happened there, folks. God brought a Category 5 hurri-

cane (Hurricane Katrina: August 29, 2005) to that big sin city and, just as it was about to hit land, He sent in a wave of dry air from the northwest that suddenly knocked that hurricane down to a Category 3. That same gust of dry air pushed the hurricane to the east. A Category 5 where that hurricane was about to hit would have driven the waters of Lake Pontchartrain over into the city and drowned 40,000 to 50,000 people because the water would have come in there so fast. Think about man's efforts to save himself with the levees and those great big monster pumps that they have in that city. They thought they could keep that city dry. Had a Category 5 hit that city head-on, or even a Category 3, it would have pushed the water in there faster than the pumps could handle. Most of New Orleans is 20 feet below sea level and some of it is more than 20 feet below sea level. What chance did man have to save himself from just one of God's judgments? As it was, He didn't let the city escape, even after moving the hurricane over a little bit. The levees gave out when they became saturated and the city started filling up with water, but it was slow enough to give people a little time to move out of the way. It was astounding how the mercy of God saved those people. The meteorologists pointed out on radar how this gust of dry air came in and moved the hurricane; they were totally amazed by it. They had never seen anything like it. That was purely an act of God that spared them, when they couldn't have saved themselves, even with all of their efforts. They knew if a major hurricane hit them, the city was going to be drowned. Folks, God didn't completely spare the city, but He spared an untold number of people, including many brethren. I don't doubt there were some people with faith there in New Orleans who were pray-

ing until God, at the last moment, suddenly dropped the strength of that hurricane and moved it over. Hurricane Dennis did exactly the same thing as it was coming toward Pensacola. I was praying the whole time and I was asking, “Lord, do you want me to command that hurricane to back off and go the other way?” The Lord said, “No. Just wait,” so I didn’t do anything. All of a sudden, when it hit the land, I felt in my heart that the Lord wanted me to command it to be broken up and that’s exactly when it did start breaking up. The strength dropped down and it veered a little bit to the right of Pensacola. I know that there were some people over there in New Orleans doing the exact same thing and God answered the exact same way.

You see, God has it all planned out. He just uses our faith to bring it to pass. We can put our trust in the living God. Nothing that man can do will save you out of the judgments that are coming, folks. The wilderness is where you learn to walk by faith in the Lord. You learn to put your faith in Him and you give up your efforts and your power; you give up your ability to do anything. The promises of God are past tense, friends. He became a curse for you, He bore your curse, He healed your body. He already did all of this and, since all of these promises are past tense, what can you do to bring it to pass? Jesus taught us, **(Mar.11:24) Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye received them, and ye shall have them.** If you believe you have received, what can you do to bring something to pass? Nothing. The promises, if we really do believe them, bring us into a position of weakness where we can’t save ourselves. You’ve probably heard the old saying, “God helps those who help themselves.” Well, that’s a lie. The Bible says just the opposite:

(Jer.17:5) Thus saith the Lord: Cursed is the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. The power of God is made perfect in weakness; that's what He told Paul: ***(2Co.12:9) And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*** Paul couldn't save himself in those situations that he got into, but he said, ***(2Ti.4:18) The Lord will deliver me from every evil work, and will save me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*** In his weakness, God's power was made perfect.

Keep the Sabbath, folks. Don't bring a burden into God's Holy City on this Sabbath. Cease from your own works or, in other words, cease from the works of man. As God told Moses and the children of Israel, ***(Exo.14:13) And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you to-day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. (14) The Lord will fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.*** He said, "Stand still." They were trying to figure out what to do. Here was Pharaoh's army coming up behind them and they would have never thought about parting the Red Sea. ***(Exo.14:15) And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward. (16) And lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thy hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go into the midst of the***

sea on dry ground. You see, God has ways far beyond our ways. **(Isa.55:8) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. (9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.** That's why He had to tell them, "stand still." It's the same for us, folks. Sometimes we're just so busy running around, trying to figure out a way out of this or a way out of that. We've been trained from our youth to solve our problems for ourselves, when God just wants us to be believers in His promises. Get your Bible and diligently read it. Underline those promises and start acting on them. **(Jas.2:17) Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself.** Faith without works is dead. Remember that Jesus told us, **(Mar.11:24) ... All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye received them, and ye shall have them.** How would you act if you believed you had received what you prayed for? You would stop trying to bring it to pass for yourself. You would cease from your own labors and, if you cease from your own labors on His Sabbath, you will find God's power is made perfect. Glory be to God!

CHAPTER FOUR

Let God Be Your Surety

Folks, I want to remind you that the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart over and over before the Israelites were set free from Egypt to go into their wilderness. ***(Exo.7:1) And the Lord said unto Moses, See, I have made thee as God to Pharaoh; and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet. (2) Thou shalt speak all that I command thee; and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he let the children of Israel go out of his land. (3) And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. (4) But Pharaoh will not hearken unto you, and I will lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. (5) And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch forth my hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.*** Why did He do that? Why did the Lord harden Pharaoh's heart? ***(Exo.10:1) And the Lord said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I may show these my signs in the midst of them, (2) and that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought upon Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may know that I am the Lord.*** The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart because He wanted to judge Egypt and He wanted to prove His great

power to deliver the Israelites. By the time the Israelites left Egypt, the land had been devastated and the economy was in ruins. **(Exo.10:7) And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?**

Is He going to do that again in our day? Yes! **(Ecc.1:9) That which hath been is that which shall be; and that which hath been done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.** History is going to repeat. Judgments are coming upon the United States, folks, but God is merciful and He sends warnings to us so His people will pray. I'm totally convinced that the prayers of the saints have delayed a time of judgment. We have been receiving many revelations of judgments, some of them with actual dates that have since come and gone, and the Lord showed me that these were true revelations, yet they didn't come to pass. You see, the Lord gives you a warning of things to come for the purpose of having you seek Him for grace. **(Jas.4:2) ... ye have not, because ye ask not.** God's people don't pray! They don't seek God for His grace and mercy. It takes a threat for His people to seek Him for grace and mercy. When God wants to give us grace and mercy, He almost has to tell us what's going to happen if we don't seek Him. I know what the Lord did with those revelations that never came to pass: He put those warnings out there so His people would seek Him for grace and He gave it. By the way, if you don't believe God dates prophecies, you haven't read very much of the Bible because there are many of them in there (Daniel 7; 9; Jonah 3; Revelation 12; etc.)

The brethren who share these warnings sometimes wonder if God just forgot about them or if He left them, or if they were deceived. The same thing happened with Jonah. **(Jon.4:1) But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry.** Jonah had prophesied Nineveh would be overthrown in 40 days and, yet, God had mercy when the people cried out to Him. God had mercy and Jonah was angry because now he was going to look like a false prophet. **(2) And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray thee, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I hastened to flee unto Tarshish; for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness, and repentest thee of the evil. (3) Therefore now, O Lord, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.** Jonah didn't want to face the world. He felt as if the Lord had let him down. He had prophesied their destruction, but he also knew that God was merciful and would repent of the prophesied evil. However, God reminded Jonah there was something a lot more important than his pride. **(Jon.4:11) And should not I have regard for Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than six score thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?** Can you imagine, He was even having mercy on the cattle! God was showing it wasn't important that Jonah might look like a false prophet, but it was important that God was going to have mercy on these people. That's the thing we have to keep in mind, folks. You know, we've been put here to be of no reputation anyway, according to the Scriptures. **(Php.2:5) Have this mind in you,**

which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; (8) and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross. We're supposed to have the same mind as Christ. We're here to lose our reputation in the eyes of the world.

The wilderness is a place of hopelessness for the flesh because the flesh really can't help God. Just like the wilderness was a place of weakness for Israel, a place where the world couldn't supply the needs of God's people, so it is, and will be, for us in our day. What the Church has been teaching for so long is, "God helps those who help themselves." That's their doctrine. Well, God doesn't like that and it's a stench in His nostrils. We're saved by grace and not by our works, not by our efforts, not by our wisdom. **(Eph.2:8) For by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.** We are saved by His works, His efforts and His wisdom. The Lord actually already accomplished everything for us at the cross. **(Php.4:19) And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.** He supplied our needs at the cross, so God doesn't appreciate that the Church is preaching salvation by works. He said, **(2Co.12:9) ... My grace is sufficient for thee: for my power is made perfect in weakness....** I'd like to share with you about the difference between assurance and insurance because this is part of my wilderness. Frankly, folks, a lot of people have their trust in the "idol" of insurance. They think they've insulated them-

selves from anything bad that could come from this world, but it's going to fail. Every idol that you stand up to the Lord will fall over and be crushed like Dagon. **(1Sa.5:3)** *And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the Lord. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. (4)* *And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the Lord; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands lay cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.* God is going to judge all the idols of Egypt; they will all fail. Even insurance companies are not going to be able to save America. As a matter of fact, insurance companies have been leaving a number of states, including Florida, where judgments such as hurricanes are becoming more and more frequent. They've been leaving those states to avoid going bankrupt. But God's going to continue hitting big sin cities all around the United States with one form of judgment or another and there aren't enough insurance companies in the world to save America.

If you're interested in my wilderness experiences and teachings from the Bible, I ask that you get our free e-book, *Sovereign God For Us And Through Us*, at ubm1.org. He is sovereign for us and He wants to be sovereign through us. He wants to administer His authority in this earth through His people. I want to share some excerpts with you here from Chapter 18. It's titled, "Assurance Versus Insurance," and I hope it will give you a desire to read the rest of the book. We receive testimonies every day of people who are being empowered by God and helped and delivered by this

book. (The excerpts are italicized and my commentary is in parentheses.)

(Psa.91:9) For thou, O Lord, art my refuge!.... *This confession of faith and the deliverance that comes of it is merely acting on what the Word says. I received a revelation years ago in Louisiana before it was a law to have any form of auto insurance. The Lord began spiritually to reason with me. It occurred to me that God is sovereign over what we call “accidents.” (We’re always insulating ourselves with insurance, but there is really no such thing as an accident, is there?)* **(Joh.3:27) A man can receive nothing, except it have been given him from heaven.** *That doesn’t sound like there are accidents (It sounds like there is a sovereign God!); therefore, an accident could not come without God sending it. Since He said that if we prayed believing we would receive, then I could ask Him to keep my vehicles, and He would. Why would I need insurance if I believed the assurance just given in His promises?* **(Psa.91:9) For thou, O Lord, art my refuge!** *(Notice the good confession and its resulting benefit.* **(Jas.2:26) For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.** *Faith without works is dead. The good confession brings a benefit.)* **Thou hast made the Most High thy habitation; (10) There shall no evil befall thee, Neither shall any plague come nigh thy tent.** *(I know a lot of folks don’t believe or teach this nowadays, but it’s the Word of the Lord. Who are we to say otherwise!)* **(11) For he will give his angels charge over thee, To keep thee in all thy ways. (12) They shall bear thee up in their hands, Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.** *(Or, in other words, “lest you have an accident.”)*

*Notice that when we abide in Christ by faith (and hold fast this good confession; that's the promise of God), angels keep us from what men call "accidents." An exception to this can be an experience like Job's to show hidden faults (Job.32:1-2). As in his case, God strictly controls the chastening and later restores what is taken. God restored to Job twice as much as he had and without insurance. God desires to be our security. We don't need security in the world; we need our God to be our security. (Psa.119:122) **Be surety** (Hebrew: "to give or be security") **for thy servant for good.... (Heb.7:22) By so much also hath Jesus become the surety of a better covenant.** God and His promises are the believers' assurance of provision and protection.*

After seeing what the Lord was saying to me, I dropped my auto insurance. Then I called my life insurance man and he came over. I told him that I would not need insurance anymore because God would be my assurance. He was a good Lutheran man who sincerely tried to reason with this fanatic, but to no avail. The week after I did this, I drove to a Stop-N-Go mart and went in. While I was walking down an aisle, I heard a crash that shook the store windows. I looked up to see that my car had been in a wreck without me! I went out and found a heavy old Buick's front end wrapped around the back corner of my Datsun station wagon. The driver backed the car up a foot or so and we both stood there speechless. We just couldn't really understand how this could happen. The hood, grill and bumper of his car were notched back about six inches, as if it had hit a big oak tree. Here is the good part. Datsun station wagons were tin boxes and could be dented with an elbow. This tank hit my car on the left rear

wrap-around, plastic tail lens! I reached out and with my thumbnail scraped a piece of paint from his hood off the plastic tail lens and we stood there for a moment looking at this miracle. There was not a scratch, dent or crack on my car anywhere. Awesome God! He made my wimpy car, which should have been totaled, invincible to this old tank of a car. The assurance of God saved me from any need of insurance.

The man said, "I think my brakes went out," and then he mumbled, "They sure make 'em better than they used to." As I was thinking about how ludicrous that statement was (and I knew he didn't believe it anyway), he got in his car and left. Suddenly it hit me that I missed the best chance in the entire world to witness to someone. I jumped into my car and caught him at the next red light (where his brakes, obviously, had stopped him). I grabbed some tracts out of the glove box and hurried to his door. I said, "Sir, that was a miracle." He said, "It had to be." I said, "I didn't have any insurance on my car and I was trusting God to keep it and He did." The light turned green and we parted company. Since then I have never had any insurance that covers our family, vehicles or home, other than what the law demands. We now, by law, have to have P.I.P., which covers our injuries, and P.D., which covers the other guy's vehicle.

That first wreck, or lack thereof, was an awesome testimony, but we did not plunder Egypt, as we did with later wrecks. Since then, God has not always protected our vehicles or bodies, but in every case, it was to our advantage, for He healed our bodies and blessed us financially. (When you trust in the Lord, He's working all things for your good, as Romans 8:28 says. Sometimes you don't un-

derstand how it's for your good, but He will make it work for your good.) *During this time, though we sued no one, the other guy's insurance blessed us with money for the following: to repair a motorcycle with money leftover in my pocket for a new one; to repair a Toyota pickup that needed painting anyway, and I ended up, after fixing the pickup, painting it with a beautiful paint job with \$1,500 left in my pocket; to buy two cars, one new; to buy our home; to enable us to buy and give cars to others; to enable us to give our home away; and to buy a travel trailer for a homeless woman and her son. Besides all that and more, we have not spent God's money on many years' worth of insurance. (If you obey God, you can't lose, folks! If you obey God and walk by faith in Him, and let His assurance be your insurance and not the world, then you'll see the miracles of God.) Besides all that and more, we have not spent God's money on many years' worth of insurance. I can hear someone say, "But Dave, what if ... ?" What if what? God Almighty fell off His throne? (God made these promises; we're just depending upon Him.) (Rom.10:11) **For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame.** (The devil tells you that you will be put to shame, but that's a lie.) (Jer.17:7) **Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose trust the Lord is.** By the grace of God, it has been almost 18 years since we have had a wreck. Praise God! (In my book, I write 18 years, but actually, it's been over 30 years since we've had a wreck. So God can keep you from wrecks, but when you do get into them, He can make them bless you.)*

One day, in that same Datsun station wagon, I was driving along rather frustrated because I had had three

flats on relatively new tires. Most people would be complaining to the manufacturer, but I believed that God was in control, so I was complaining to the Lord. A little frustrated, I said, "Lord, can't You keep my tires?" He said to me very clearly, "Don't you believe that I can keep your tires?" I replied in my ignorance, "Yes, I believe You can keep them." He replied, "Then why do you keep putting that spare back there?" To be honest, I put the spare in the trunk because it was traditional and I had not questioned it, but also, the underlying reason was in case God didn't keep my tires. (I'm not trying to make a new doctrine on spares, just share a lesson God gave to me.) Fear and unbelief causes us to try to insulate ourselves from any possibility of lack, loss or threat.

*Since we are trusting in insurances besides the Lord, we usually end up needing them. (That's what people don't understand. If you trust in something besides the Lord, you end up having to use it. Of course, some people say, "Aha! You see, I needed it!" But they have it all backwards. When you trust in any idol and not in the Lord, you're going to need it.) Jesus sent out His disciples in a way that would make them dependent on living by faith. He sent them without their own provision so that in their weakness His power would be proven. **(Mat.10:9) Get you no gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses; (10) no wallet for [your] journey, neither two coats, nor shoes, nor staff: for the laborer is worthy of his food.** Later, Jesus wanted to see what they learned from this experience of depending upon God's supply. **(Luk.22:35) And he said unto them, When I sent you forth without purse, and wallet, and shoes, lacked ye anything? And they said, Nothing.** (For*

those of you who believe that only applies to the disciples, remember Jesus commanded His disciples to make disciples and teach them to observe everything that He commanded the first disciples to observe (Matthew 28:20). In other words, what He spoke to them, He spoke to us, but man came in there with religion and thwarted the whole mission that God sent us on.) *In the wilderness of man's supply, God's provision was evident.* (When Jesus sent out the disciples without their own supply, He basically made a wilderness wherever these men went because they didn't bring enough with them out of "Egypt" to supply their needs.) *God starts His works when we finish ours. His power is made perfect in our weakness. That was my experience with those tires. I threw out my spare and I never had another flat on that car, and the neighbors who used to borrow it quit!* (I would tell them, "Look, if you're going to drive this car, you have to drive it by faith because I don't have a spare back there." Well, they quit borrowing my car, which I guess was another benefit.) *The moral of that story is, if you prepare for a rainy day, it will come. With the next car, I had the same experience: no flats. When I decided after many years to give it to a mission, I put the keys and title into the hand of the pastor in my living room. We walked outside and the car was on a flat.* (I was the one walking by faith and now that it was his car, now that the key was in his hand, it was setting on a flat! Well, inside I just chuckled. I understood exactly what He was saying to me.) *God made His point. As long as I owned the car, putting my trust in Him, there was never a flat. In other words, trusting in God takes away the need for insurances.* (And, again, I'm not making any laws about this; I'm not condemning anybody for having spares. God was

teaching me and He'll teach you. He may use other methods, but He wants to teach you to walk in this wilderness, to walk in a lack of man's provision, but in your weakness, God will be made strong.)

*Men serve insurance companies, H.M.O.s, banks and store up their treasures on earth for the security they think it gives them. (Mat.6:19) Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal. Y2K revealed the paranoia and lack of trust in those who stored up their treasures on earth, contrary to the Lord's command. (It's fear that causes people to do such things, folks, but God's power is made perfect in our weakness.) Quite a few I showed these principles to went home to give their store away and found it full of bugs, just as Jesus said, "thieves break through and steal." Jesus told of a man who found peace in the insurance of storing up his goods in greater barns (Luke 12:18). He said to himself, (Luk.12:19)...Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, be merry. (That's the thinking of man: "I have all I need; this will keep me for a long time.") His misplaced trust brought judgment. (20) **But God said unto him, Thou foolish one, this night is thy soul required** (Greek: "they require thy soul") **of thee; and the things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be? (21) So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.** (Now, what is "rich toward God"? "Rich toward God" is to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom. (Jas.2:5) **Hearken, my beloved brethren; did not God choose them that are poor as to the world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he***

promised to them that love him? Why did He choose the “poor as to the world”? He chose them because they have to trust in God, they have to put their faith in God. That’s what God did with the Israelites when He brought them into the wilderness. He made them poor to the world and He expected them to put their faith in Him.) Notice that it was his stored-up treasures that required his soul. Jesus promised the unfailing Kingdom provisions to those who would store up their treasures in Heaven by giving. **(32) Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (33) Sell that which ye have, and give alms; make for yourselves purses which wax not old (not storing up), a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief draweth near, neither moth destroyeth.** As long as we are on this earth, we can draw on our Heavenly bank account, if we have deposited by giving to the needs of others. “Give, and it shall be given unto you.” If we have stored up on earth instead, the promise is that it will be stolen by thieves of one kind or another. Our heart will be on our treasures, falsely thinking them to be our security. **(Luk.12:34) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.** (And God cannot lie!)

(I’m told that Psalm 118:8 is the center verse in the Bible and I’m sure that it is at least central to God’s heart.) **(Psa.118:8) It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in man.** Our trust in man is what brings the curse to pass. **(Jer.17:5) Thus saith the Lord: Cursed is the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.** (Folks, people are trusting in their insurances of many different kinds; they’re trusting

in their insurance companies, but they are all going to fail. Everything but God is going to fail in the days ahead!) As we can see, the insurances themselves bring the curse that they are thought to relieve. (The man who stored up “much goods” found that they brought the curse upon him. God is offended! He’s not offended with the world doing it; He’s offended with His people doing these things.) *God is offended with those who call themselves believers, yet trust in man’s strength and insurances. This is a heart that departs from the Lord. In 2 Chronicles 16:1-6, Asa, king of Judah, put his trust in the worldly king of Syria for insurance against his enemies. This offended God, Who sent judgment. (2Ch.16:7) And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and hast not relied on the Lord thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thy hand. (8) Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim a huge host, with chariots and horsemen exceeding many? yet, because thou didst rely on the Lord, he delivered them into thy hand. (9) For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly; for from henceforth thou shalt have wars. God is eager to show signs and wonders to those who trust in Him with a perfect heart. (Obviously, a “perfect heart” is not one that trusts in the world.) You would think that Asa would have learned this lesson, but his trust in man cost him his life, as it does for so many. (12) And in the thirty and ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet; his disease*

was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians (13) And Asa slept with his fathers....

Christians justify their misplaced trust in man's insurances, not realizing that this brings the judgment in the first place. M.J. and I were about to go to work on a large crude oil pump for Exxon. Process department had blocked it out of line and drained it, or so we thought. What we did not know was that the pressure gauge read "0" because it was broken and the drain valve, though open, was stopped up, so there was a little pressure still in the pump. We took the bolts out of the head plate to remove it, but it was stuck. I stood up and took about four steps away to get something to break it loose when I heard a "pop" sound and turned around to see M.J. drenched with black crude from head to foot. As he opened his eyes, he sarcastically looked at me and said, "David, you did this to me." Well, I could not contain myself and busted out laughing. The thought of me stepping away in the nick of time so that M.J. could get plastered was too much for me. Attempting to sound serious, he said, "Dave, you're never going to do this to me again." I said, "M.J., you had better watch those self-confident statements. You know God is listening." Then, he repeated his statement and said, "Bring me up to the shower house. I have a spare set of clothes up there." I said, "Oh, now I know why you got it instead of me." He asked, "Why?" I said, "Because I don't have a spare set of clothes and God knew it." He looked at me kind of inquisitively. I explained that planning for a catastrophe is the same as having faith for it. It also proves that you do not believe that God will protect or provide. Later that day, we were working on another pump. M.J.

was next to me as we used an impact gun to take off some bolts. Suddenly, slurry squirted down one of the open bolt holes and hit M.J. in the middle of his chest, leaving me untouched. (Slurry is a crude that will stain anything; you cannot get it out. If it gets on your clothes, you can just forget it because that's the color they are. In fact, it's that way on skin; it's just terribly staining. So this slurry squirted down the bolt hole, down the side of the thread and hit him right in the chest.) He looked at me in disbelief. I playfully said, "M.J., I told you God doesn't like those self-confident statements," but we both knew that God was speaking in this. We could not remember when this had happened to us before, much less twice in one day. (Folks, in the wilderness that's coming, we can put our trust only in the living God; nothing else is going to save us.)

I want you to know the Lord used that old Datsun station wagon to teach me many other lessons, too. When I was about to buy a new car, I really kind of favored the Toyota because I felt it was the better car, but I always left things up to the Lord. I asked, "Lord, which one do you want me to buy, the Toyota or the Datsun?" And I was surprised when the Lord said, "I want you to get the Datsun station wagon." Now, a person would think that when the Lord tells you to do something, everything would be just fine since, obviously, the Lord is looking out for your good. Well, He was looking out for my good, but not in the way you would think sometimes. I told you the tire story, but there were other things that went wrong with that car. You see, sometimes God wants you to have trials. It wasn't all that long after I bought the car that the carburetor started acting erratically. And since I was a pretty good machinist and a pretty good mechanic, I knew the carburetor was

plugged. I also knew that I didn't feel like tearing down the carburetor because the most precious thing in my life is my time. I used every spare moment I had to read the Bible, to study the Word. I was literally drawn, hungering and thirsting for the Word. Anyway, I just commanded that thing to be healed and kept on driving the Datsun. It went on like that, acting kind of erratically for a couple of weeks, but I just kept on holding fast to my confession. ***(Heb.10:23) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not; for he is faithful that promised.*** So I just held on like this for a couple of weeks. The Lord will try you; just because you don't get the answer right away doesn't mean He hasn't heard you. After I held on like this for a couple of weeks, suddenly it started getting better and better until the problem was gone.

In a few more weeks, I was faced with a different problem. The transmission started slipping and I thought it was just crazy for a relatively new car to be doing things like this, but I did all the normal things that a mechanic would do, like checking the fluid, for example, to make sure it was at the right level. And, again, I knew that I didn't want to mess with that transmission by working on it myself and I didn't want to lose my car by taking it to a shop. My time was valuable to me. In the wilderness, it will be a different story. You may not be able to find somebody to work on it, or you may not have the money to work on it, or the parts may not be available, etc. You know, even though in those days I had plenty of money, I just wouldn't spend it. I considered that what I made belonged to the Kingdom and I wanted to use it to meet the Kingdom's needs, not spend it on vehicles and things like that. So instead I just commanded that transmission to "Be healed in the name of

Jesus,” but it still went on slipping for a while. Of course, your mind is telling you, “Hey, if you keep letting it slip like that, you’re going to have to replace the clutch,” and all the other things that normally go bad when it starts slipping. I just ignored it and kept on going, and as I held fast my confession, my transmission gradually got better and better, until I never had any more problems with it.

Some of the times when the Lord was teaching me these lessons, I got in the flesh to do things myself and nothing worked out right. For instance, I told you how, when the insurance money came in, I bought a new Chevrolet station wagon. Well, I’d watched a lot of advertisements for a product called “Slick 50” that showed how you could put it in an engine, run it in there a while and afterward actually dump out the oil and the engine would still run. I was impressed with that. I thought, “Wow! That will keep my engine. It will make it last a long, long time.” But, folks, I already had a God Who would keep my engine and make it last a long, long time. He’s a jealous God. He really wanted me to put my trust in Him. Do you know what I did? I put that Slick 50 in there, even though they said not to use it unless you have 40,000 or 50,000 miles on the car. Well, I stuck it in there a little early and they warn you that you can break some rings doing that. At the time, I still lived in Florida and I had to go on a teaching tour over in Texas. So all of my family and I got in the car and we took off, and before I got very far down the road, the car started pouring smoke out of the tail pipe. I looked in the rear view mirror and it was just solid smoke back there. I said, “What in the world has happened to my new car?” I checked the PCV and things like that, but couldn’t find anything wrong. The only thing I determined was I must have broken rings, as

they said I might do if I put Slick 50 in an engine that didn't have extra clearance in it. I would go a few miles down the road and pour a quart of oil in it, go a few miles and pour another quart in it, so I decided I was going to pray over the engine. I said, "Lord, forgive me for getting in the flesh and I'm going to trust You to keep this engine." So I prayed over the engine and I commanded it to be healed in the name of Jesus. I don't know where I got into the terminology of calling it "healed." I've prayed over vehicles, refrigerators, washing machines and things like that, and I would always just call it "healing." Anyway, I prayed over that engine and commanded it to "be healed in the name of Jesus," because it's not the terminology that you use, folks. Your theology might be a little bit wrong, but the Lord knows what you're doing. He's not a real stickler for terms. Well, I got back into the car and we went on our way. We got a lot farther down the road and I think I had to put one more quart in that car and after that, God sealed those rings up or repaired the broken rings or something.

I didn't have much trouble with that car for many, many years, but I had the water pump stop working on it once when my wife and I were out driving. She cranked the car and water started just pouring out on the ground. I asked her to get out of the car and come lay hands on the hood with me, which we did. We laid hands on the hood and commanded that water pump to "stop leaking in the name of Jesus." And that water pump seal immediately sealed back up and we drove off. I've had many miracles like that, but most people never think about doing that. The first thing that comes to their mind is, "Well, I have a warranty on this car; or, "I have enough money to hire a mechanic to fix it." I wanted to stay in the wilderness because I wanted

to learn those lessons that, one day, everybody is going to have to learn, so I took every opportunity to stay in the wilderness. The Israelites wanted to run back to Egypt whenever they came into a place where God would try them, but God put it in my heart to want to stay out there. I wanted to learn; I wanted to see God do these miracles. Besides that, God told me, “I’m bringing you through a wilderness, so you can tell My people that I still supply there.” I treasured these experiences. Some people would call them terrible tribulation, but I treasured them and I enjoyed seeing God do these things.

Let me tell you about my washing machine. One time, after we had moved to Florida, the washing machine started leaking. Mary came and told me, “The seal in the washer has gone out; the pump is leaking onto the ground.” I thought, “I’m going to go pray for it.” So I went and prayed for it and commanded it to be healed, then I sopped up the water and told her to go ahead and use it. Well, she did the rest of the laundry and the machine didn’t leak any more water. Then, just a few weeks later, she said, “That machine is leaking again,” so I went back in there and did the same thing. It went for a few more weeks and for a third time she said to me, “David, that washer is leaking again.” I said, “No, it’s not. It’s not leaking; that thing is healed. It’s okay, it’s fine, just wash and don’t worry about it.” You see, I didn’t want to go back on what I had spoken. I wanted to keep my trust in the Lord and, sure enough, it sealed up. I told my wife, “If you see it leak, don’t confess it, just thank God that it’s not leaking and it’s fixed.” And, you know, I kept that washing machine until somebody gave me another one that was a lot newer. I remember another time, back when we were in Louisiana, when my two young sons were playing in the

living room and I was sitting there studying. My wife came in and she said, “That washing machine won’t run. It won’t even come on.” I said, “Well, Corban and Nathan, you two go back there and lay hands on that washing machine and just command it to run in the name of Jesus and it will run.” So they did that; they went back there and they laid hands on that thing and they commanded it to run and it took off.

I taught all my children to lay hands on this and that, and they got to see the power of God in their simple, childlike faith. Children will always have awesome faith, if you teach them about God and you show them the truths in the Bible. There was this lawn mower that we had and we pulled it out after the winter so we could cut the grass in the early spring. I pulled and pulled and pulled on this lawn mower, but it wouldn’t start. My boys were real young at the time and they were just standing around, looking at me. Well, I pulled the spark plug wire off, put it alongside the block and pulled it. There was no spark. Now, by this time, I was sweating, tired and I wanted to get it over with. I called my boys to me and said to them, “Let’s pray for this thing. Let’s command it to run in the name of Jesus. I don’t care if it has a spark or not; I just want it to run.” So my boys came over and we all laid hands on the lawn mower, and I commanded it to run in the name of Jesus. Then I cranked it up and mowed the lawn. I don’t know if it ever had a spark or not. That didn’t make any difference; it just had to run. ***(Mat.21:21) And Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do what is done to the fig tree, but even if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou taken up and cast into the sea,***

it shall be done. (22) And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

The Lord told us, if you speak to a mountain and don't doubt, that what we say will come to pass, and I tell you, teach your children. They have more faith than you. When you tell a child something, a child just believes you, and that's the way we ought to be with God. ***(Mat.18:2) And he called to him a little child, and set him in the midst of them, (3) and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven.*** We need to become like a child and, with childlike faith, just believe in our God, just believe that He will do it.

I told you about the time I got into the flesh and put the Slick 50 in the station wagon. There was another time when my daughter started working at her first job and somebody poured sugar in her gas tank. Since I'm a mechanic, I can take off carburetors and fix them. I don't like to do it, but I can do it. I took the carburetor off her car and tore it all down. I put a kit in it, cleaned it up, put it back together and put it on the car, but the car did the same thing. I thought, "I know I did that thing right." So I took the carburetor off the car again, tore it back down, re-used the same parts and cleaned it all up. I was very particular. I blew through all the little ports and everything before I put it back on the car. I knew everything was done correctly, but when my wife needed to drive the car, it did the same thing. She cranked it up, but it wouldn't run. I finally perceived that this was not natural; this was supernatural. Sometimes there's nothing naturally wrong with something because the devil can do anything he wants with physical things. And finally I figured out, "You know, this is just the devil."

So I told the devil, “You get off that carburetor, in the name of Jesus! You leave this car, in Jesus’ name! This car is going to run, in Jesus’ name!” Then I told my wife, “Get in the car and drive it. Go. Just go where you have to go.” Well, she cranked it up and it was doing the same thing. I said again, “Just go! Just go!” And before she reached the end of the main highway, it had straightened out and was running perfectly. Sometimes you just have to act by faith, folks. I’ve learned over the years that sometimes the devil is permitted to hinder you. And I’ve prayed over carburetors before, but this one I decided I was going to fix. I’m not saying anything is wrong with you fixing carburetors, but I was going to fix it! I think the Lord just wanted me to speak to that carburetor, but I was going to fix it, just like with the Slick 50. But when I did speak the word of faith, God fixed that carburetor. **(Heb.10:23) ... for he is faithful that promised.** Praise the Lord!

I remember once when I and a good friend, who had actually followed me into the full Gospel, were going to go skiing. We had cranked up the car so we could hook it up to the boat and the car started making all kinds of terrible noises. We opened the hood and found out that the alternator was jumping up and down, and the bearings were gone. He asked me, “What are we going to do?” I said, “I want to go skiing, so I tell you what we’re going to do: we’re going to lay hands on this alternator and we’re going to command it to be healed, in the name of Jesus.” And so we did. We put our fingers on that alternator, commanded it to be healed in Jesus’ name and closed the hood, and before we got to where we were going, God had fixed that alternator. He even put new bearings in it because I never had to change them. We’re coming to a time, folks, when you

may not have spare parts to put in something. You may not have the protection of insurance of any form, or any other provision that the world can give. But I'm telling you, God is bringing us there for the express purpose of proving to us that He's our Savior in all things. Oh, glory to God!

CHAPTER FIVE

Can God Prepare a Table in the Wilderness?

God has really good plans for us, brethren, and we don't need to fear a thing about living in the wilderness. ***(Isa.35:1) The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. (2) It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing; the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon: they shall see the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our God. (3) Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. (4) Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; he will come and save you.*** God cannot fail us; He's made these promises and He can do anything but fail. He is going to be creating sons through this tribulation we're coming to and our concern ought to be that we don't hinder Him with our own works. That's a big problem, folks. Remember that Jesus said, ***(Mat.9:29) ... According to your faith be it done unto you***, so obviously faith or a lack thereof will hinder what He really desires to do. When Jesus came to His own hometown, He couldn't do many miracles for them because of their unbelief. ***(Mat.13:54) And coming into his own country he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? (55) Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his***

brethren, James, and Joseph, and Simon, and Judas? (56) And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? (57) And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house. (58) And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. Unbelief can certainly block God from giving us the benefits that we should have. The reason I mention works is because your works prove whether you have faith or not.

Many people are blocking God by attempting to save themselves through their own works and so they never get to see God's works, but what did Jesus tell His disciples? ***(Mat.16:6) ... Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.*** They eventually understood that Jesus was talking about the teaching of the Pharisees and the Sadducees, which was so dangerous to the real salvation of God because their teaching was self-works. ***(Mat.16:5) And the disciples came to the other side and forgot to take bread. (6) And Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (7) And they reasoned among themselves, saying, We took no bread. (8) And Jesus perceiving it said, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have no bread? (9) Do ye not yet perceive, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?*** That was 12 baskets of uneaten fragments they took up. ***(10) Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?*** That time they

took up seven baskets of uneaten fragments. **(11) How is it that ye do not perceive that I spake not to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (12) Then understood they that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.** Their teaching had replaced God's works in their lives and God's works through them with self-works. However, notice that the more loaves the people provided of their own supply, the fewer the number of people who were fed and the fewer baskets of leftovers there were. Jesus was obviously making a point here about the leaven of the Pharisees and His point was that the more you put in of your own works to save yourself, the less God will put in to save you. Salvation in any form is by grace; it's unmerited and it's unearned. Yet many of God's people are attempting to save themselves by their money, to save themselves by their own methods that they say are now God's methods. It's doomed to failure, folks. Where we're going, the methods of the works of man will not be able to sustain. The methods of man are permitted to work in "Egypt," but in the wilderness they are not permitted to work. We're going to a place where all the worldly methods to which we've had access are not going to work anymore. So, in other words, Jesus was saying that to the extent you trust in God and let Him do the work, He'll do it, but to the extent you're trying to do it yourself, it's doomed to failure. **(Eph.2:8) For by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; (9) not of works, that no man should glory.** God will not share His glory with anybody else (Exodus 20:3; Isaiah 42:8; 43:11; 48:11; etc.) Men get the credit when men do

the work and when man's ingenuity is involved, but God has designed a way where man can get no credit.

I'd like for us to take a closer look at some examples of how this word for "saved" is used throughout the New Testament. **(Eph.2:8) For by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; (9) not of works** (This is referring to your works.), **that no man should glory.** The word "saved" here is translated from the Greek word *sozo* and it's used for the saving of the soul. **(Luk.7:50) And he said unto the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.** It's used for the healing of the body, where it's translated "made thee whole." **(Luk.8:48) And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.** It's used for deliverance from demons. **(Luk.8:36) And they that saw it told them how he that was possessed with demons was made whole.** It's even used for protection from danger. **(Mat.8:23) And when he was entered into a boat, his disciples followed him. (24) And behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the boat was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. (25) And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Save** (that's the word *sozo*), **Lord; we perish. (26) And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.** *Sozo* covers a very broad territory and, as a matter of fact, I'm going to show you it covers everything. Salvation includes receiving every benefit that the Lord gave to you at the cross and salvation includes being delivered from every curse, but it's not by our works. **(Gal.3:13) Christ redeemed us from the**

curse of the law, having become a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: (14) that upon the Gentiles might come the blessing of Abraham in Christ Jesus; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Jesus became a curse for us so that we might have the blessing of Abraham. The all-inclusive curse (Deuteronomy 28) which is everything detrimental that ever happened to man because man went his own way and did his own thing, was put upon Jesus. Jesus bore that curse upon Himself. I'll remind you again, **(Eph.2:8) For by grace have ye been saved....** And since we have been saved, there's not much we can do to add to what God has already accomplished, except to walk by faith so that it is accomplished. Folks, the wilderness is a completely safe and secure place for believers; it really is! Everything has already been provided there, just like God provided for the Israelites. The only thing He really desired of them in the wilderness was faith in His promises. Our faith in His promises is the very substance from which the desired need is made. **(Heb.11:1) Now faith is assurance** (or the "substance") **of [things] hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.** Jesus said, **(Mar.11:24) ... All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe ye received them and you shall have them.** Your translation may have "receive" but the word there is past tense in the original Greek. And all throughout the Bible, God uses the past tense concerning His provision for our needs and His deliverance of our curses. Why does He do that? He uses the past tense because it was all accomplished at the cross.

This past tense, sacrificial provision has already been accomplished. **(Eph.2:8) For by grace have ye been**

saved (past tense) ***through faith.... (1Pe.2:24)*** ***Who his own self bare*** (past tense) ***our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died unto sins*** (past tense), ***might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed*** (past tense). It's already been accomplished, folks. Your healings have already been accomplished! Your sins have already been taken away! It's not by your works, not by self-effort, but by faith. God lets your faith stand in temporarily as the substance of the thing hoped for, until He brings it to pass. ***(Col.1:13) Who delivered us*** (past tense) ***out of the power of darkness....*** Many people are anxious and troubled about being delivered from their past curses or the family curses that have been passed down to them, or demonic oppression and possession in their life. But, as you see, we've already been delivered. ***(Col.1:13) Who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.*** We don't have to strive through self-effort to enter into His Kingdom; we have to strive through faith to enter into His Kingdom. Faith will give us the obedience that we need to enter into His Kingdom. ***(2Co.5:18) But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave unto us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*** The word translated "reconciled" is the Greek *katallasso* and it means "exchanged." God made an exchange through Jesus Christ. He took our life and gave us His life. ***(Gal.2:20) I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ***

living in me: and that [life] which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, [the faith] which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.

We were crucified with Christ and we don't live anymore. He now lives in us by faith, so a reconciliation has been made and God is constantly bringing this reconciliation to pass through our faith in Him. He's giving us the blessings of Christ; He's giving us the spotless purity of Christ. And as we walk by faith, He's taking away our old sinful life and the curses under which we've been living. Salvation is not by self-efforts; it's by faith in Jesus and what He already accomplished for us.

Apostle Paul said, ***(Gal.2:20) I have been crucified with Christ....*** There are preachers out there who like to emphasize, "We have to die; we have to die." Well, here's the way to die: "I have been crucified with Christ." You accept this free gift of crucifixion with Christ and God brings it to pass. ***(Gal.2:20) I have been crucified*** (past tense) ***with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me....*** That's a confession of faith, a confession that the promise has already been accomplished. ***(Gal.3:13) Christ redeemed us*** (past tense) ***from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us....*** ***(1Pe.1:3) Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy begat us again*** (past tense) ***unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*** The Father begat us again by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ***(Heb.10:10) By which will we have been sanctified*** (past tense) ***through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (14) For by one offering he hath perfected*** (past tense) ***for ever them that are***

sanctified. All the promises are past tense. **(Eph.1:3) Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us (past tense) with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ. (2Pe.1:3) Seeing that his divine power hath granted (past tense) unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue.** And Jesus told us in His day, which is, of course, in our past, that **(Joh.12:31) Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. (Joh.16:33) These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye may have peace. In the world ye have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome (past tense) the world. (Joh.19:30) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished (past tense): and he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.** “It is finished.” This is the reason we are to believe that we received, past tense: because everything was accomplished at the cross. That really prevents our works from being of any benefit, doesn’t it? The Lord has already given everything to us; that’s why we are to believe we have received “all things whatsoever” we pray and ask for. “All things whatsoever” were given to us at the cross as a free gift. It’s not as if you have to talk God into giving you a healing, or deliverance, or provision, or protection, or sanctification. You don’t have to talk God into it; you have to believe you have received whatever you asked because God already took care of it. That’s why Paul said, **(Php.4:19) And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.** It’s already been accomplished, it’s already been paid

for. Redemption from the curse and provision for life was truly accomplished at the cross. In fact, God's works were finished from the foundation of the world; that's when He spoke the plan into existence. **(Heb.4:3) For we who have believed do enter into that rest; even as he hath said, As I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.** The only thing left is for the true sons of God to enter into those works by faith, believing they have received.

Since the works were finished, we should believe and rest from our own works. We can't save or heal or deliver ourselves but we can exercise faith in those promises so that they do come to pass. This resting in faith on the grounds of God's promises is the "rest" in the wilderness that God expected of the Israelites. **(Heb.4:3) For we who have believed do enter into that rest....** When you believe these past tense promises, what do you do? When you believe that you have been saved, were healed, were translated, have been crucified, have been redeemed, have been perfected, have been sanctified, have been blessed in all things; when you believe that it's all been done, what can you do to bring it to pass? If you do something to bring it to pass, what you are saying is, "I don't believe it has been accomplished." Folks, I have tested this out for many, many years and I know it works, and I know it works consistently. I also know that, to the extent I've added to the works of God in seeking to bring something to pass, it turned out to be kind of like what Jesus said: **(Mat.16:9) Do ye not yet perceive, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? (10) Neither the seven loaves of the four thou-**

sand, and how many baskets ye took up? Whenever I've put in, God hasn't. God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). And so, **(Heb.4:3) ... we who have believed do enter into that rest...** This is speaking of a spiritual Sabbath rest. **(Heb.4:9) There remaineth therefore a sabbath rest for the people of God.** The Greek word there is *sabbatismos* and it means a "keeping of rest." It's not a one day rest like it was in the Old Covenant, folks. In the New Testament, the Sabbath is never said to be one day of the week; that's just a type and shadow of the continual keeping of rest, which is commanded here. "There remaineth therefore a sabbath rest for the people of God." This constant keeping of rest everyday through these past tense promises is our New Testament spiritual Sabbath. **(10) For he that is entered into his rest hath himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.** The rest is to believe in these promises, to accept them, to hold fast to them. **(Heb.4:1) Let us fear therefore, lest haply, a promise being left of entering into his rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.** In other words, don't leave out even one promise that would cause you to enter in to this rest. And this rest is what? It's ceasing from your own works. Many of God's people are dead today because they wouldn't cease from their own self-efforts to save themselves. **(Heb.4:2) For indeed we have had good tidings preached unto us, even as also they: but the word of hearing did not profit them, because it was not united by faith with them that heard.** God has designed salvation to be by grace, the unmerited, unearned favor of God toward those who believe.

You see, folks, we're going to a very dry place, a place

where man will not provide our needs, but God will. Through these promises, God will consistently provide our needs. He was very, very consistent the whole time I was raising my children. Of course, when they got out in the world, some of them decided to go their own way and they'll have to learn their own lessons. But while they were under my authority and headship, God consistently healed, delivered, provided all these things, and so on. I learned early on in my Christian walk that when I exercised faith in these promises, God fulfilled them. **(*Php.2:13*) For it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure.** He not only works in me to will and to do of His good pleasure, but He brings forth that which is promised. Let me share another testimony with you. Years ago, when I lived in Louisiana, a lady preacher contacted me one day. She had traveled all over the country to try and get help but she was still in desperate need. She said, "David, I've travelled all over the country and I've gone here and I've gone there. I have two very large inoperable tumors and the doctors say if they operated on me, they would kill me." She went to so and so, and so and so, and so and so, all these faith preachers who are known for laying hands on the sick, and if I gave you their names, you would probably recognize them. And she went on, "David, I just don't understand it; I just don't understand why I haven't been healed!" And I answered her, "You just told me why you haven't been healed. You're expecting something to come, but you know, tomorrow never comes. You don't believe the true Gospel because the true Gospel is that God's already done it."

A lot of people understand the Gospel as, "One day, God will heal me." No. God already healed you. God already

delivered you. God already provided for you. It's already done; it's a sure thing. That's why we can have such faith in the Lord. It's not a matter of us talking Him into it; it's a matter of our accepting this free gift He's already given us. And so I told that lady preacher, "You've been looking in the wrong direction. You're looking forward and you need to turn around and look back. That's where God healed you. 'By the stripes of Jesus, ye were healed'; that's the Gospel you must believe! Romans 1:16 says the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes it. The Good News is not that Jesus will heal you; the Good News tells you that He already did heal you; that's the real Gospel." Folks, the reason people are not receiving from God is they are trying to talk God into it and, of course, as long as you are trying to talk Him into it, you never know whether the answer is "yes" or "no." But what does the Scripture say? **(2Co.1:20) For how many soever be the promises of God, in him is the yea: wherefore also through him is the Amen, unto the glory of God through us.** All the promises of God are "Yes." That means God is not going to go back on anything that He's said to us. **(Num.23:19) God is not a man, that he should lie, Neither the son of man, that he should repent: Hath he said, and will he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and will he not make it good?** He's going to bring it to pass, as long as you believe the Gospel. The Gospel is that you already received these things as a free gift; long before you ever came into existence, they were given to you as a free gift. Be convinced by what the Bible says, not by what it doesn't say. And when I explained this to the lady preacher, I could almost see a light bulb go on; it was like her eyes just started glowing. She understood and

I could see she understood. And I said to her, “Okay, we’re going to pray one more time, and this time, you receive this free gift from God. You accept it because it’s yours,” and she agreed. So we prayed and, as we were still praying, as a matter of fact, she said, “They’re gone! I felt them go!” She actually felt those tumors leave her and I pointed out to her, “This is the first time you believed the Gospel. All that other was hope; it wasn’t faith. Faith believes you have received; hope looks forward to the future.” If you look up the Biblical word for “hope,” it basically means “a firm expectation,” but a “firm expectation” is not believing you have received; salvation is by faith. Everybody who has faith has hope, but not everybody who has hope has faith.

“Believing you have received” is something only true believers can do. There are many people in the Church, folks, who are not believers. We need to identify believers the way Jesus identified believers. He said, ***(Mar.16:17) And these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; (18) they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*** And also, ***(Joh.14:12) 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 the Father.*** Believers have the works of God manifested through them, not their own works. They have the works of God manifested through them because they believe. I remember another time when I was a very young Christian. My wife and I had just come to the Lord and we’d spent a month or two in a dead church that didn’t

believe the full Gospel. But I'd been reading the Bible for some time and really believing what I was seeing there. I was living it out and God was proving to me that all of it was still true; none of it had passed away, as these people were saying. So I just left this church and went to a full Gospel church. Well, at the time, my wife had been in a motorcycle accident in which she was injured. Her kidneys had been badly bruised and the doctors put her on some antibiotics in order to clear up an infection so that they could operate on her kidneys but, in the meantime, we called for the elders of the church and had them pray for her, as the Bible tells us to do. ***(Jas.5:14) Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: (15) and the prayer of faith shall save him that is sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, it shall be forgiven him.*** So the elders prayed for her and I think it was something like a week later that my wife was walking through the house and she was complaining to the Lord. She said, "Lord, I just don't understand. We did what You said: we called for the elders, we prayed the prayer of faith. I just don't understand why it's not happening." And the Lord spoke to her. She said it was the first time the Lord ever spoke to her and it was almost audible. He said to her, "If you believe that I have healed you, why are you taking all that medicine?" Well, you know, it was such a shocking thing that she ran immediately into the bathroom and started pouring the medicine down the commode, and she was healed instantly right there. The question the Lord spoke was to make her believe the Gospel: "If you believe that I have healed you, why are you taking all that medi-

cine?” In other words, “Why are you trying to heal yourself when I’ve already told you in the Bible that I healed you?” This is the kind of self-effort that hinders God from doing what He wants to do because self-effort proves you do not believe that this is a free gift. Self-effort proves you do not believe that it’s already been given to you.

Now a lot of people are going to ask, “David, are you saying that God doesn’t use doctors and medicine?” Well, I’m going to answer that question. First of all, if God already healed you, if He already delivered you and you believe it, what are your actions going to be like? Just stop and think. ***(Jas.2:17) Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself.*** Faith without works is dead, it’s incomplete. ***(18) Yea, a man will say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith apart from thy works, and I by my works will show thee my faith.*** How do you prove that you believe you already received this at the cross? It’s going to be by your works that agree with what you say you believe; anything else is hypocrisy. You say you believe it, so your actions should agree with what you say. I learned this was the main reason people don’t receive from God. They say they believe what the Bible says but all their actions prove that they believe they have to help out God because He’s not a very powerful God and He hasn’t already taken care of their need. They’re still trying to talk Him into it but since we’re not talking about something in the future or something in the past, we have to just accept it as done. Our oldest child, Deborah, was about four when we first came to the Lord, but our next child, Corban, came along after my wife and I came to the Lord. By that time, we were convinced that God had already given us these gifts and that salvation covered all of this, as the

Bible clearly says: **(1Pe.2:24) Who his own self bare our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed.** Notice, too, that the Bible always connects salvation with deliverance from sin and deliverance from the curse of sin: **(Psa.103:3) Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases.** God connects salvation for the soul with salvation for the body and we knew this was a part of salvation. We knew, **(Eph.2:8) For by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.** And we knew that salvation includes receiving every benefit and being delivered from every curse. So we felt like the Lord was convicting us that He wanted us to put our trust in Him and to have our children at home, which we did from that day forth.

The first child who came along was Corban. We were trusting God to do the delivery and it was just an awesome miracle when he was born. I didn't know anything about delivering babies, though; of course, nobody delivers babies unless you use forceps. That's not God's way, folks. I knew that God was going to deliver this baby, just like He's done for thousands of years and that I was just there to catch. The only thing I really studied was how to tie the cord. Somebody gave me a book after they found out we were going to do a home birth but when the thought came into my mind, "Are you going to do this or am I going to do this?" I knew the Lord was talking to me. The only thing I actually looked for in the book was how to tie the cord, so I saw how they did that and gave the book back to the person who gave it to me. When it came time, Mary went into labor and the first thing that actually appeared was a little

purple toe. I thought, “Uh, oh! I know it’s not supposed to work like this!” We knew we had a breach here and so we prayed and we committed it to the Lord. Literally, I stood there and I pointed at that baby and I said, “In the name of Jesus Christ, come out of there!” People laugh at me when I say that and I laugh at myself when I say that but that’s what I did. I want you to know, we didn’t realize at the time that this boy not only was breach, he was a footling breach, which is one foot up and one foot down and upside down. I’ve talked to several medical people since then and they said, “That’s impossible!” Doctors always do a c-section when they have a situation like that but I was trusting in God and God’s power is made perfect in our weakness. Well, that baby did come out of there. He came out of there as a footling breach and he didn’t turn. God just had to show us that He could do it and He did do it. And I’ll tell you something else: after Corban was born, he was a very deep, deep yellow because my wife and I had incompatible blood types. I think the doctors call it a RhoGAM problem. In the hospital, they would give you a RhoGAM shot because the condition actually causes blood poisoning in the child. So here he was very yellow and since he was born at home, we decided we would call the Public Health Unit to see how we could get a birth certificate for him. And the nurse who answered said, “Well, did you just not make it to the hospital in time?” We said, “No, that wasn’t the situation at all.” Then she asked me, “Was it just too fast?” I told her, “No, that wasn’t the situation either; we planned it.” She said, “Oh. We’ll send a nurse out to do the certificate.” So they sent a nurse out but as soon as the nurse got a look at Corban, she said, “Mr. Eells, you have to rush this baby to the hospital! This baby has blood poisoning and he’s go-

ing to die without a transfusion!” Now, before I go on, I want you to know I’m not talking about peer pressure here, folks. I’ve heard the horror stories out there of people who had home births because that’s what their church expected of them and they did it because of peer pressure to be accepted in their religion or whatever. That’s not the way of faith. God’s not in it and it’s doomed to failure. You don’t want to get the cart before the horse. It’s not works before faith; it’s faith before works.

This nurse was a Catholic lady and, after we had talked to her for a few minutes, I told her, “Ma’am, Corban is healed. He’ll be just fine, so don’t you worry.” I quoted a few verses to her and she went away but I could tell she wasn’t convinced. And she came back after a little while and knocked on the door again and I thought, “Uh, oh. I wonder what’s going on here.” I was thinking she might take some kind of legal action but by the time she came back, Corban’s skin was the same color as my skin. All the yellow had gone and this little Catholic lady was astounded. She said, “That just doesn’t happen without a transfusion,” and I said, “Well, you’re looking at it!” I didn’t say, “I told you so,” but she knew it. The year after that, we had Nathan, and Nathan was two months premature. Folks, when you trust God, it’s not as if you always get out of a trial and everything goes smoothly. We had trials just about every time but God showed us that there was no problem from which He couldn’t save us. Nathan was very premature and very, very small. We prayed over him and I tell you, he never looked back. He just grew and grew. The boy never slowed down; he outgrew children who were born full-weight at the same time he was born. And when we called the Public Health Unit to get a birth certificate for Nathan, it happened that they sent out the

same nurse and she brought company with her: another nurse. As soon as they came in the door, she said, “Oh, Mr. Eells, can I show her the baby who was born last year?” I said, “Sure.” So they went in to see Corban and I could hear her talking to this other nurse. She said, “Now, this is the baby I was telling you about. This is the baby, this is the miracle!” Then they went and looked at Nathan but this lady had gotten some faith in her because she wasn’t worried, even though Nathan was very, very small. He was about four pounds, just a little bitty thing, but she wasn’t a bit worried about it. I don’t know what all happened to her but I know Corban’s miracle did something to this little Catholic lady. The reason I wasn’t worried was because I knew it was already done. I didn’t have to convince God. If you think you have to convince God, then you are walking by sight to see if God’s answered. But when you walk by faith, you know He has already answered and that’s a moot point. Many people spend all of their energy trying to convince God to do something that He says He’s already done.

Now let’s go back to that question about God using doctors and medicine. I want to point out something to you from the Scriptures. Jesus is called “The Great Physician,” when nothing could be further from the truth because a physician is a Doctor of Medicine. He’s legally qualified to practice medicine and Jesus never touched medicine. Calling Him “The Great Physician” is just a sorry translation of the Greek *iatros*, which simply means “healer,” or *iaomai*, which means “to heal” or “make whole.” Now, Jesus was “The Great Healer” but He never practiced medicine because He didn’t use the methods and the things of the world. He just used the spoken word. He commanded it done and it was done. Some people ask, “What about Luke?

Luke was called “The Beloved Physician.” Again, the word there has nothing to do with physician; it’s the same word *iatros*, meaning “healer.” Luke was a healer but he was a healer in the same way that Jesus was a healer. The Book of Acts tells us that Luke traveled with Paul and wherever they went there were healings, but there is absolutely no place in the Bible that says Luke used any physician skills. The word is simply “healer.” However, there is another term that’s used in the Scriptures and it’s translated “sorcerer.” The word is *pharmakeus* or *pharmakeia*, and it does involve the use of medicine. It’s where we get our word for “pharmacy.” A pharmacist doesn’t generally practice *pharmakeus*; he just sells the drugs but the physician is legally qualified to practice *pharmakeia*, which is healing through drugs. The Bible has nothing good to say about *pharmakeus* or *pharmakeia*. It calls *pharmakeia* a work of the flesh. **(Gal.5:19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these:] fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (20) idolatry, sorcery** (the word there is *pharmakeia*), **enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties, (21) envyings, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of which I forewarn you, even as I did forewarn you, that they who practise such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.** And over in Revelation, God demands that the people repent of their *pharmakeia*. **(Rev.9:20) And the rest of mankind, who were not killed with these plagues, repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and the idols of gold, and of silver, and of brass, and of stone, and of wood; which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk: (21) and**

they repented not of their murders, nor of their sorceries (that's the word *pharmakeia* again), **nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.** In Jesus' day, the disciples all repented of *pharmakeia*; they walked by faith. **(Heb.10:38) But my righteous one shall live by faith: And if he shrink back, my soul hath no pleasure in him.** The disciples spoke the word of faith and God healed, and God delivered, and God did miracles! Today we're coming to our own Book of Acts. God is once again going to demand that those people who have knowledge of the Word begin to walk in that knowledge by faith. **(Jas.4:17) To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.**

Also, Revelation says that the Harlot deceived the earth with her *pharmakeia*. **(Rev.18:23) And the light of a lamp shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the princes of the earth; for with thy sorcery were all the nations deceived.** Folks, people are deceived into thinking that, "Now God has changed. Now He needs help. He doesn't have the power He once had to heal the sick. He doesn't do it by faith." **(1Pe.2:24) ... by whose stripes ye were healed.** If you were healed, why are you trying to heal yourself? Why are you running to the doctors and their medicine? This is not something I haven't proven, folks. We've had almost every kind of healing miracle you can think of, from broken bones made whole overnight to heart and cardiovascular problems taken away, and I can tell you that God consistently heals today like He did back then, if you believe what you read in the Book. **(Heb.13:8) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and**

to-day, yea and for ever. He doesn't need your help. Your help gets in His way. Your help proves you don't believe the Gospel, you don't believe the Good News that God has already done all of this for you. **(Rom.1:16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.** There are a lot of people who call themselves "Christian," but they aren't believers, according to what the Scriptures say a believer is.

Let me point something out to you. **(1Co.1:28) And the base things of the world, and the things that are despised, did God choose, [yea] and the things that are not, that he might bring to nought the things that are: (29) that no flesh should glory before God.** Have you heard that before? Yes! **(Eph.2:8) For by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, [it is] the gift of God; (9) not of works, that no man should glory.** God is very careful; He doesn't want us to be able to take credit. When you speak a word of faith, or you pray and believe you have received, only God is going to get credit for that. The fulfillment comes supernaturally. This is how God is going to provide for His people in the wilderness, folks. They're going to enter into the rest, they're going to trust God. God chose "the things that are not, that he might bring to nought the things that are." The "things that are not" are all of those awesome promises we read earlier: you have been saved; you were healed; He bare your sins; He reconciled you; you have been crucified; you have been redeemed; you have been perfected; He delivered you out of the power of darkness; and so on and so forth. Those things are not seen in the physical realm but God chose to use those things that

are not, that He might bring to nothing the things that are. And the “things that are” is the curse we see all around us: the sickness; the demonic possession; the lack; and so on. The “things that are” are all the curses of Deuteronomy 28 upon mankind. The Lord already took care of this, folks, because He says so in His Word. We need to believe exactly what He says without adding to it and without taking away from it, which brings a curse. ***(Rev.22:18) I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book: (19) and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book.*** So God chose the things that are not, He chose these promises, to bring to nothing the things that are. Folks, a doctor is not a thing that is not and medicine is not a thing that is not, and psychiatry is not a thing that is not. The things that men generally run to for salvation are “things that are” but God chose the “things that are not” for a very good reason: He chose them so “that no flesh should glory before God.”

(Col.3:1) If then ye were raised (past tense) ***together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is....*** Jesus taught us to pray, ***(Mat.6:10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.*** Is there any sickness in Heaven? How about demonic possession? How about sin ruling your life? He said, ***(Col.3:1) If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God.***
(2) Set your mind on the things that are above,

not on the things that are upon the earth. (3) For ye died (There it is again, past tense.), **and your life is hid with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, [who is] our life, shall be manifested** (That is, in the physical realm.), **then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory.** The glory of God is manifested in us while we look not at the things that are but at the things that are not. **(2Co.4:16) Wherefore we faint not; but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day. (17) For our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; (18) while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal** (They exist in time, which means they are only temporary.); **but the things which are not seen are eternal.** What God has given to us is eternal. So how do we use the “things that are not” to bring to nothing the “things that are”? We do it the same way God does it. **(Rom.4:7) ... God ... calleth the things that are not, as though they were.** We just speak them as done; we just command them as done; we claim them as done. And we don’t put our trust in the arm of the flesh because, **(Jer.17:5) Thus saith the Lord: Cursed is the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.** When you trust in the arm of the flesh, you’re trusting in what man can do, the strength of man; you’re trusting in man’s power, but that’s a heart that departs from the Lord. Here’s a good example of what happens when you do that: **(2Ch.16:7) And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said**

unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria (That's the "arm of the flesh."), **and hast not relied on the Lord thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thy hand.** God was going to give them a great victory but they trusted in the arm of the flesh. They became cursed because they chose to trust in man. **(8) Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim a huge host, with chariots and horsemen exceeding many? yet, because thou didst rely on the Lord, he delivered them into thy hand. (9) For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly; for from henceforth thou shalt have wars.** In other words, "Since you trusted in the arm of the flesh, not only are you not going to conquer your enemies, you are going to continue to have wars." Then it goes on to talk about King Asa. **(12) And in the thirty and ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet; his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to Jehovah, but to the physicians. (13) And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign. (14) And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had hewn out for himself.** So he dug his own grave because he put his trust in the physicians to heal him, and not in the Lord.

Do you know physicians and medicine are the third leading cause of death? According to estimates by the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, approximately 225,000 people a year die of what they call "iatrogenic" causes. That's the equivalent of one jumbo jet crashing and

killing 280 people every day. “Iatrogenic” just happens to be derived from *iatros*, the same word we’re looking at in the Bible, and it means “resulting from the activity of physicians; said of any adverse condition resulting from the activity of a physician.” “Iatrogenic” is used when speaking of “inadvertent death at the hands of the physician,” or “inadvertent death from drugs used during medical care by the physician.” Both my mother and father died because of drugs that had bad side-effects, and were killing them somewhere else that they didn’t know about. My father was taking a drug to put oxygen into his bloodstream because he lost part of a lung, and he had a massive heart attack because of that drug. My mother had been taking a drug that was supposed to be helping her with a psychiatric problem and she discovered in a *Reader’s Digest* article that the side-effects were breast cancer and glaucoma; she had them both. Folks, multitudes of people are dying because they don’t trust in the Lord and receive His gifts. If God uses doctors, why is He making so many mistakes? No, God is a consistent healer, deliverer and Savior!

CHAPTER SIX

Trusting in the Voice of the Lord

We're studying how to walk above the principles of this world. And we're preparing folks to hear the voice of their God in the wilderness, so they can be preserved and provided for as they come out from under the bondage in Egypt. God led His people out of Egypt to learn to walk by faith in Him. ***(Heb.10:38) But my righteous one shall live by faith: And if he shrink back, my soul hath no pleasure in him.*** Another thing we've learned is that God is about to raise up the first-fruits. They are a people who have been walking in the wilderness, walking by faith in the Lord. They are trusting in the Lord to be their Savior in all things. They are not ruled by the dictates of the world or religion. And, like Moses and Jesus, who were the first-fruits in their day, God is preparing the first-fruits of our day to bring the larger group of Israel into their wilderness. That's where we're headed, folks, and you have an opportunity right now to be one of those who hears the voice of the Lord in the wilderness, one of those who learns to trust in Him. It's very exciting! So to help encourage others to walk by faith in the Lord, I'm going to continue sharing a few testimonies of my own wilderness experiences that gave me courage. And I want to tell you that these testimonies, even though they are very miraculous to me, are going to be commonplace in the days to come, but nothing like the even greater works God is about to do. Jesus told us, ***(Joh.14:10) Truly, truly, I say to you, He that believes on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do;***

because I go to my Father. I've seen some wonderful things and they are very exciting to me, and they put faith in my heart to know that God is faithful to His Word, but we have things much, much greater coming.

Let me emphasize again that salvation in the wilderness doesn't come through any works of man. The "rest" from our own works is just that: it's the rest from man's works to save himself and to provide for himself. The Lord God has already done it through Jesus Christ. For example, by the stripes of Jesus (1 Peter 2:24) "ye were healed." He didn't say "will be," He said, "were"! And that, of course, negates any of your own works to save yourself because He's already done it and so all we have to do is rest. ***(Heb.4:1) Let us fear therefore, lest haply, a promise being left of entering into his rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.*** We want to enter into the rest of God; we want to be at peace in all circumstances because we know our sovereign Lord is in control. We know He's taken care of us already at the cross. ***(Joh.10:30) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.*** We know He has healed us, we know He has delivered us, we know He has provided for us and so on and so on. We know all these things are already done and it's just a matter of our entering into them through faith. The Good Tidings were also preached to the Jews, but they didn't believe them. ***(Heb.4:2) For indeed we have had good tidings*** (That's the Gospel, the Good News.) ***preached unto us, even as also they: but the word of hearing did not profit them, because it was not united by faith with them that heard. (3) For we who have believed do enter into that rest; even as***

he hath said, As I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. When we believe, we're not just hearing the promise, we're mixing faith with the promise by acting on that promise. When you do that, the miracle comes.

A lot of people question, "Yeah, David, we know God can handle these little things, but what about the big things?" Well, I've already shared a few testimonies that I thought would be considered "big things" to most folks but now let me share another one. Let me share with you how the Lord miraculously healed my youngest son, Justin, without the help of man. Years ago, when my youngest son, Justin, was little more than a toddler, we lived in a Christian community outside of Baton Rouge and all of us had our own assembly there. Well, the territory over there around Denham Springs was a lot of hard clay and you just about couldn't get grass to grow in it, but we had plowed it all up around several of the houses there and planted some grass. So when the rain came, of course the water stayed on top of the ground and it was nothing but mud. And what we did was we put planks across the mud so that we could go back and forth to the neighbors and fellowship with them and so on. I had walked over to the neighbors' with Justin and when we were coming back, he was walking ahead of me on one of the planks and I was kind of guiding him in front of me. Suddenly, he started to trip and lunge forward down into the mud. I reached out and grabbed his hand just as he was falling, and I actually felt his bone snap in my hand, and I could have sworn I heard it, too. You know, that's a strange thing: I didn't know you could hear something like that, but I heard the pop and I felt the snap in my hand and

I knew that his arm had broken. It was because I grabbed him at kind of a right angle and it was my fault.

When I picked him up, he was crying and I just cradled him in my arms. Now, I'd already been walking in my wilderness for quite a few years and I was constantly seeing miracles, so I was praying to the Lord and thanking the Lord for healing him because it was common to me to be healed by the Lord. And as I was going toward the house on the planks, the thought came into my mind, "I'm not going to say anything to Mary about this because I don't want to put any trial on her. I'm just going to see what the Lord does here." So when we came in, she asked, "What happened?" I said, "Oh, he was falling and I caught him and he hurt his arm," which was all true but I knew a little bit more than what I was saying. So my wife picked him up and took him over to the rocking chair, and she rocked him back and forth until he basically cried himself to sleep. Then she started feeling around on his arm while I was in the room and I was watching her. She said, "David, his arm's not hurt, it's broken!" I said, "Yeah, I know that but you know the Lord and you know what He's always done for us. You know He's always healed us and He's not going to fail us now, either." She said, "Yeah, that's right." She agreed with me. But when she was feeling around on his arm, he woke up and started crying again and she rocked him back to sleep. By that time it was getting late, so when he went to sleep that time, she put him in his bed.

The prayer I prayed, folks, was the prayer of faith. You know what faith is: it's calling those things that be not as though they were. (**Rom.4:17**) ... ***Even God, who giveth life to the dead, and calleth the things that are not, as though they were.*** It's believing you have

received, as Jesus taught us. **(Mar.11:24) Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye received them, and ye shall have them.** I prayed the prayer of faith, which was the common way that I prayed. I rarely prayed the prayer that the Bible calls the “prayer of importunity,” which is to ask, seek, knock. **(Luk.11:5) And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say to him, Friend, lend me three loaves; (6) for a friend of mine is come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him; (7) and he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee? (8) I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will arise and give him as many as he needeth. (9) And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. (10) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.** And there’s nothing wrong with that; it’s one way in which we can receive from God but I had trained myself to walk in the prayer of faith and it suited me. It saved a lot of time because you can either pray the prayer of importunity and end up at faith or you can pray the prayer of faith and start out with faith. And it seems to me like the prayer of faith is the more spiritual because it’s the one Jesus prayed. When He ministered to people, He spoke the words of faith and He just let it go, right there. He stood upon what He spoke and I felt that’s what the Lord was

training me to do. I didn't feel like I had the time to pray about all the things I had to pray for importunately, day and night, day after day. Frankly, a lot of what people call the "prayer of importunity" is not; it's just thinking they're going to be heard for their much-speaking. Understand that everything has to end up in faith. **(Heb.11:6) And without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing [unto him;] for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him.** The Bible says that without faith it's impossible to be well-pleasing unto God and a man who is double-minded shouldn't think he's going to receive anything from God. **(Jas.1:6) But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubteth is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed. (7) For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord; (8) a doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways.** So I had pretty well trained myself to be stubborn with the devil and to believe I have received. You know, my wife said afterward, "I just knew you weren't going to take him to a doctor."

After Justin went to sleep, we both went to bed and, frankly, I went to sleep, but my wife prayed diligently because she knew I wanted to stay in the wilderness. She knew I wanted to trust in God and to see the works of God. So she prayed diligently, she prayed the prayer of importunity, and I prayed the prayer of faith. And Jesus told us, **(Mat.18:19) Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father who is in heaven.** So we did finally end up agreeing but it wasn't until about 4:00 in the morning because she

prayed until 4:00 in the morning, and then she felt a rest and a peace come over her. The prayer of importunity always has to end up in faith, folks. It's not just pray and pray and pray and God's going to hear you because you talk a lot. Jesus said, **(Mat.6:7) But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.** Some people think they have to wear down God because they're trying to convince Him to do something He doesn't want to do. But the truth is, He wants to do it and He's already done it, and it's not a matter of convincing Him; it's a matter of accepting what His Word says. You're the one who has to be convinced, not God. Well, my wife became convinced around 4:00 in the morning; she became convinced about the same thing I was convinced of the previous evening, so around 4:00 she dozed off until we got up.

Earlier, Justin had awakened in the middle of the night and my wife had gone to get him and put him in bed with us, and he went back to sleep. So when we woke up the next morning, we very carefully got out of bed and left the room with him sleeping. We went into the kitchen and we were drinking some coffee and we heard a noise from the bedroom. We peeked in the door and saw Justin was awake. When he saw us, he just started grinning a big grin, so I stepped in and as I was walking toward the bed, he started running toward me across the bed on all fours! I knew the healing had manifested. He reached his hands up and I grabbed him by his hands and picked him up. I shook him in the air a little and he just giggled. Then I threw him up in the air and caught him. The Lord had totally healed him! My wife and I came to an agreement around 4:00 in the morning through the prayer of faith and the prayer of

importunity. That's when we entered into the rest and the miracle came.

Everything that God has provided is in the rest. **(Heb.4:3) ... We who have believed do enter into that rest....** When you truly believe, you act upon it and you stand upon it, and what you feel is peace. You rest because you know that God has done this. **(Heb.4:9) There remaineth therefore a sabbath** (The Greek word there is *sabbatismos*.) **rest for the people of God.** *Sabbatismos* is not like the word used for "sabbath" anywhere else and it means a "continual" or a "perpetual" rest. You see, God wants us to be in peace all the time because of His promises. **(Heb.4:1) Let us fear therefore, lest haply, a promise being left of entering into his rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.** We don't want to leave out even one promise of entering into His rest. Now He has promised that He has already healed us and we should be resting in that promise because He said it's done. **(1Pe.2:24) ... By whose stripes you were healed.** Therefore we should be resting, we should be at peace, because God said it's already done. We shouldn't be anxious or troubled or seeking healing. We should be accepting healing as a free gift, just like we accepted salvation as a free gift. How long do you have to seek salvation? Don't you just have to accept salvation, since God has promised it? Yes, of course! And what is healing? Healing is salvation for the body; that's all it is. Many other provisions are just salvation for the circumstances that you're in. All you have to do is believe God's Word and you automatically enter into the rest, which is where the provision is. The provision is in the rest. **(Exo.31:5) Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a sabbath of sol-**

emn rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work on the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Man works for six days but rests on the seventh and we've entered into that seventh day, folks. Jesus Christ said, ***(Mar.2:27) ... The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: (28) so that the Son of man is lord even of the sabbath.*** That means, if you abide in Him, you abide in His rest. If you are obeying Him, you are keeping that New Testament Sabbath. If you're believing His Word, you are in that New Testament Sabbath because you are resting. Well, my wife and I joined together in rest around 4:00 in the morning and God was faithful to His Word. We resisted the devil's warnings, threats and fears, and God was faithful!

I'm going to tell you about another miracle that is just so wonderful, that for years I literally would start crying when I recounted the story. And it's only been recently that I've been able to recount this story without breaking up. What happened was that when we first moved to Pensacola, there was a lady who came to our house to witness and we talked with her for a while. She told us where she fellowshiped and, of course, invited us over there. Well, it was very unusual for me but I felt led to go and something strange happened when I walked in the back door of that church. There was a prophetess who stood up in the very front of the church as I was walking in. It was a long, old building and she never saw me coming in but she whirled around and she pointed her finger at me and she started prophesying. I didn't know it then but it was the first time this woman had visited the church, too. She started prophesying just a glorious prophecy of how she saw the Word of God living in me stronger than she'd seen in any man,

and so on and so forth, just some glorious things. I didn't know what the Lord was doing at the time but I found out later that He was opening a door for me because the pastor was very impressed, so he invited me to teach. And I ended up doing most of the teaching there because the Lord just dried up the pastor. He wasn't really a man of the Word anyway, but he was impressed with the Word.

One day when I was sharing, this couple came in and the girl received salvation during that meeting. She was a quiet girl and after the meeting was over, she asked that the pastor and I would give her some counsel. And, of course, we made sure the church secretary and my wife and several other women were there. Then she told us that she was pregnant and that three days earlier she had gone to the Public Health Unit there in Pensacola, where they had done some tests on her and discovered that her baby had died. Now she was in a church; she'd never been in a church before but this brought her to church, so to speak. Understand I'm using the word "church" the way the world uses the word "church." So this had brought her to church and she got saved, I guess because of the turmoil she was going through. Well, she began to tell us what the real problem was. She said she had purposely aborted this pregnancy because she had been raped by a man of another race and she didn't want her husband to know about it. This man was a friend of her husband and she was afraid of what was going to happen, either to her, or to her husband, or to this man. After she got through telling us this situation, she asked us for advice. Remember, it was three days since they had put the heartbeat monitor on her, run the sonogram on her, and taken a sample of the amniotic fluid. At any rate, they told her they were certain that her baby was dead and that

she was going to have to come back and have a D&C. That's what they had told her at the Public Health Unit, but she never went back. The Lord brought her to that church and she heard the Word that I shared and she came to the Lord. So now she was sitting before us, asking us what to do.

The first thing that came to my mind was to ask, "R., is there somebody that you haven't forgiven in your life." She thought for a minute and she said, "Yeah, there's just one person I've never really been able to forgive." I said, "Well, who is that? Tell us." She answered, "It's a doctor I think purposely aborted one of my children when I was on welfare." When she said that, I pointed out to her, "R., do you understand that you've just done the same thing? Don't you think you'd better forgive him?" And she said, "Yeah, you're right!" I said, "Why don't you pray for him?" and so she did. She started praying for him, she asked the Lord to forgive him and she asked the Lord to save him. And when she was finished with her prayer, I asked her, "R., would you like to receive the Holy Spirit?" She told me, "Yes, I want everything God has for me." So we laid hands on her and prayed for her to receive the Holy Spirit. Now, I want you to know that R. was a very quiet, very reserved and introverted person, not at all an extroverted person, but when we prayed for her, she became jubilant and started actually dancing and speaking in tongues! And after she had calmed down a little bit, I said to her, "R., you're a new creation and I don't see any reason why the Lord can't resurrect your baby!" This is the thought that had come into my head. I can't say it was a loud voice; I wasn't greatly impressed but I actually believe that this is part of our Commission. God is going to commonly raise the dead in the days to come.

(Mat.10:1) And he called unto him his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of disease and all manner of sickness. (5) These twelve Jesus sent forth, and charged them, saying, Go not into any way of the Gentiles, and enter not into any city of the Samaritans: (6) but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (7) And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. (8) Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons: freely ye received, freely give. When Jesus sent out His disciples, He sent them out to heal the sick and cast out devils and raise the dead! However, that was only part of it because, when He was leaving, He ordained them to go and make disciples, and to teach them to observe everything that He told those first disciples. **(Mat.28:18) And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: (20) teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.** That's what He said, which means, of course, that this was passed on to us, too, folks. I believe that raising the dead is something we're going to see commonly in the days to come. In the days of the ministry of the Man-child and the Two Witnesses company and in the time of the latter rain, we are going to see this commonly. In fact, it's a lot more common in other countries than it is here in the United States because people are so worldly-

wise here; they don't come to the Lord as a child. Jesus told the disciples, **(Mar.10:15) Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no wise enter therein.**

Well, when I got through saying that the Lord could resurrect her baby, the room mostly emptied. The pastor and church secretary and several other people who were there just walked out, they just left. So I invited my wife to come over and lay her hands on R.'s tummy while I prayed, and all the time this was happening, these people were leaving the room. And I commanded the Spirit of life to come back into that baby, in the name of Jesus; it was just a simple prayer, very quick. Then I pointed out a few verses to R., who was a brand new Christian and knew nothing about the Scriptures. One of them was **(Mar.11:24) ... All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive** (The Greek word there is past tense, "received.") **them, and ye shall have them.** I told her, "Now R., you have to walk by faith. You have to accept this as a gift from God. We've prayed and so we believe we've received. Now we just thank God for it and don't let anybody talk you out of it. You see what it says here: "believe you received." And she said, "Okay!" She was a very childlike person and, really, that's why she received this because she was childlike with the Lord. She knew that she had received something wonderful, she knew she'd been filled with the Holy Spirit and I think she was full of faith. So I noticed during this time that everybody was just leaving the room.

Well, when I was finished ministering to R., my wife and I walked out and started down the hall, when a door opened and the pastor reached out, grabbed my arm and pulled me into the room. All those people who had left my wife and

me alone with R. were in there. And the pastor said, “David, God’s not going to do that for her!” I replied, “Why do you say that?” He said, “Because she killed that baby!” Well, I told him, “I don’t think you understand grace very well. That’s a new creation in there; that person is not guilty. Not guilty! She is not guilty for what that other person did a few days ago.” And I said, “Besides, if I want to believe it, just let me believe it.” So I walked out of the room and left him standing there.

Another thing I haven’t mentioned yet is that R. and her husband were actually living there because this was a church that operated a mission and they were staying in the mission at that time. The next day, R. called me and she said, “David, I want to go down to the Public Health Unit but nobody over here wants to take me.” I said, “Well, I’ll take you,” and I went down and picked her up. You see, she had decided she wanted to go be checked out again, so I reminded her, “Remember, R., what we talked about.” And I began to go over again how faith worked, how believing you have received is how the miracle is manifested, and so on, to make sure she understood that. I told her, “Now, remember, no matter what anybody says, you’ve already heard what God says. Don’t let anybody change your mind.” And she nodded her head and said, “Yeah.” Now, when we got down there to the Public Health Unit, she told the doctor that she wanted to be checked out again. I don’t discourage that necessarily but I knew where her faith was; I knew it was young faith. I don’t recommend that people go and ask man anything about what God says He’s already done. That’s because some people can’t stand the trial of their faith when man tells them, “No, it’s not done.” But it was her decision and I didn’t get in her way.

So she told them she wanted to be checked out again and the first thing they told her was, “You should have come back before now. You can get blood poisoning like this; it’s dangerous! You should have had your D&C.” They sent her into a room with a technician who put the heart-beat monitor on her again, and the technician told her again, “Ma’am, this baby is dead and you need to have a D&C now.” So when the technician said that, R. replied, “Well, I don’t accept that,” and when she said that, the baby came to life, right there! The baby suddenly started moving around, the heartbeat monitor recorded the heartbeat and God did a miracle. This little childlike person did not accept what men said, did not accept the diagnosis from Egypt, but accepted the diagnosis from the Lord, even though she couldn’t see it. Here’s a baby Christian, just a day old in the Lord. Some people think, “Well, I need to grow up in the Lord before I can see miracles.” No. As a matter of fact, a baby Christian might see miracles more than people who have been in the Lord for 40, 50 or even 60 years. That’s because of the childlike faith that you especially have when you first come to the Lord. A lot of Christians sit in churches and become progressively more discouraged the whole time they’re there because they hear so much carnal reasoning about why God can’t do these kinds of things anymore today. They sit and listen to that carnal reasoning until they die. The second church I went into, after having stayed maybe only a month and a half at the first church, believed God’s Word more, but I noticed that the new Christians were the ones who were receiving the signs and wonders and miracles from God. The older Christians, they couldn’t even seem to get a healing from God. They’d go to the altar, that’s the way they did it at

this particular church, to be prayed for and it was just time after time. But the young Christians were getting miracles and healings. The young Christians who weren't following only the teaching they were getting in that church but who were studying faith, they were receiving miracles.

Well, this little girl had no knowledge of the Word, other than just a few verses I'd shared with her; this is what amazed me. Just how much of the Word do you need to get a miracle? Not very much but you have to hold to what you know. It's kind of like a mustard seed. You have to hold fast to what you know God said and deny what man says. If you want a miracle, that's what you have to do. Folks, we don't know what God did, but when this baby was born, it was a beautiful baby of the same race as R. and her husband, and the problem she would have had with her husband was solved. God solved it. I don't know what she might have told him later but God solved the problem. And I don't know what He did in the womb because you know we can't put anything beyond God, can we? God is awesome! ***(Eph.3:20) Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, (21) unto him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever. Amen.*** He can do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think but we need that childlike faith. We need to put our trust in Him and not be moved by what we see, feel or hear.

Let me give you another example of how the Lord taught me not to listen to anything but what He spoke in His Covenant. This happened to me almost 30 years ago. I started feeling pain and passing a lot of blood. Now, I was walking by faith in the Lord and He'd never failed me, and, truth-

fully, I had entered into the rest because I had absolutely no fear. I never even questioned what I was going to do. So this had been happening for two or three days and I had to make a trip to Louisiana to see some relatives. And there was a friend, a spiritual brother of mine over there. We were both full of faith and we wanted to live the life of faith, and I asked him to pray for me. That's the only person I had pray for me for that particular trial and when he prayed for me, I came in agreement with his prayer. I received it by faith, right there. Actually, I'd prayed earlier and the word that came to me was "cancer." Now, you can't always trust that because the devil will always threaten you with just about anything, just to make you fearful or give up. Well, when I came back to Pensacola, I felt led the next day to go to a Christian bookstore. It wasn't the one I usually went to; it was twice as far away, but I felt to go to that one and I'd only been there a few times. So I went over there and when I walked in the door, the lady who owned the store and another woman whom I recognized as her prayer partner saw me come in and walked over to me. They said, "David, we've been praying for different ministers that we know and when we were praying for you, the Lord spoke to us and said that you were having a battle with a spirit of cancer, but that you would win." Well, that was a confirmation to me and I told them what had been happening. Then I thanked them for their prayers and came in agreement with them but on the way home, I decided that when I got home, I was going to ask the Lord to give me a Word concerning this situation.

Folks, you really don't need but one Word and it's already been spoken. **(1Pe.2:24) ... By whose stripes ye were healed.** God's not going to change His mind.

(Num.23:19) God is not a man, that he should lie, Neither the son of man, that he should repent: Hath he said, and will he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and will he not make it good? Let me point something out to you. You remember that Balaam was asked by Balak to curse the children of Israel. **(Num.22:6) Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land; for I know that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.** And Balaam went to God first. **(12) And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people; for they are blessed. (13) And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land; for the Lord refuseth to give me leave to go with you. (15) And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honorable than they. (16) And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me: (17) for I will promote thee unto very great honor, and whatsoever thou sayest unto me I will do: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.** Now even though Balaam already had his answer, he told Balak's men to wait while he went to God again, hoping for a different answer because he was bribed by the possibility of rewards. **(20) And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men are come to call thee, rise up, go with them; but only the word which I speak unto thee, that shalt thou do. (21)**

And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. So God gave him the answer he wanted to hear; He told Balaam, “Yeah, go ahead,” but when Balaam went, the angel of the Lord was waiting there to kill him. ***(23) And the ass saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, with his sword drawn in his hand; and the ass turned aside out of the way.... (31) Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, with his sword drawn in his hand; and he bowed his head, and fell on his face. (32) And the angel of the Lord said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I am come forth for an adversary, because thy way is perverse before me.*** God was saying, “If you didn’t hear the first Word I told you, if you don’t want that Word, I’ll give you one that you’ll like.” So be careful of that, folks. If you don’t like the first Word He gives you, don’t go asking Him for another one because He might tell you to go ahead, as He did with Balaam, and only Balaam’s ass saved him.

Anyway, as I said, I was going to ask the Lord for a Word concerning this situation, so when I got home, I just prayed and then I flipped my Bible open and I stuck my finger down by random on Isaiah 38:1, not just on the verse but on this phrase, “Thou thou shalt die, and not live.” ***(Isa.38:1) In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thy house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.*** That was the phrase on which my finger came down. I said, “Wow!” I thought on that for a minute and I told the Lord, “Lord,

this is not according to Your Covenant with me; this is not according to Your promise to me. You told me in 1 Peter 2:24 that by the stripes of Jesus I was healed. You told me in Galatians 3:13 that Jesus became a curse for me, that You put my curse on Him. You told me in Colossians 1:22 that reconciliation has been made, there was an exchange, that He has taken my curse and given me His blessing.” I said, “You’ve taught me never to depart from the New Covenant, Lord, so I don’t accept this Word.” You’re probably thinking, “Well, that’s pretty arrogant.” No, it was really what God wanted from me because He was trying me. He wanted to see if I would depart from what the New Covenant clearly says. I hear people getting answers like this all the time and they accept them, but they don’t realize those answers are contrary to the Word. God’s trying them to see if they will depart from the Word and they do because they believe in the voice of the Lord more than they believe in the Word. Folks, the voice of the Lord is what you become familiar with when you read the Word. He’s not going to depart from the Word. ***(Heb.13:20) Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, (21) make you perfect in every good thing to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.*** It’s called an “eternal covenant,” which means that He’s not going to change it. He warns you, ***(Rev.22:18) I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book: (19) and***

if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book. If you add to or take away from the Covenant, the curses of this book are upon you and He'll take away your part in the tree of life and from the holy city. That's pretty dangerous. So God tells us not to depart from this Word, no matter what.

Well, here I was asking the Lord for a sign and He gave me, "Thou shalt die, and not live." But I said, "Lord, I just don't accept this. I don't accept it because it's not according to what You've taught me and I don't believe that's what You want me to do; I don't believe You want me to accept this. So I'm asking You for another Word that's in agreement with what You've taught me." I don't know why I would have to get that because, frankly, God was just being merciful with me. Obviously, we don't need anything more than what God's already told us concerning the New Covenant and I've studied it enough, I've stood on it enough and been healed every time. I've received enough miracles, signs and wonders; why would I need a Word from the Lord? It was very immature of me. But God was merciful with me the second time because I overcame in that trial; I didn't give in to the temptation and I didn't accept that Word that was contrary to everything He taught me. So I said, "I'm asking You for another Word, Lord. This time I'm going to believe something that's in agreement with what You've taught me." And I flipped my Bible open again, not looking at it, and just stuck my finger down right on the phrase, "I shall not die, but live." (***Psa.118:17***) ***I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the Lord.*** It's amazing how close those two phrases are but exactly opposite

to one another, and they're each in only one place in the Bible. Isn't that amazing? And I told the Lord, "Thank You, Lord. I agree with that! I thank You for that and I receive it, in Jesus' name." Well, after that, I went on for a week or so and the pain got less and less, and the blood got less and less, until I was manifestly healed.

I'd like to exhort you, no matter what you hear, whether you might think it's from God, or whether it's just from people, don't accept it, if it's not according to the Word of God. Don't accept anything. Don't accept anything you see with your eyes, don't accept anything you hear with your ears and especially don't accept your emotions, if any of these things are contrary to what you read in the Word of God, according to the promises of the rest. Enter into the rest. However, that wasn't the end of the story. 15 years later, God tried me again. 15 years later, I started having severe heart pains and, on top of that, I was very cold on the left side of my body. I couldn't get warmed up at all and I knew I had a circulation or a cardiovascular problem, naturally speaking, but I don't accept those things. At the same time this was going on, although I didn't tell these people about my problem, there were two people in our assembly who amazingly had dreams that I died of a heart attack, and both of them had been pretty accurate in their dreams, too. Now, that would seem like a pretty good confirmation but I had learned you need to walk by faith; it's not just hear faith, you need to walk by faith. When this started happening, I would go for a walk every once in a while, only a mile or so because I stay busy all the time and I just really didn't have time to do much more than that. So I would get out and start walking, and my heart would start acting up, and the devil would tell me, "You're going to be

laying out on the side of the road here somewhere, if you don't stop this, with your heart," and so on and so forth. You know how the devil likes to tell you things and I knew it was the devil but I just called his bluff. I started jogging and really working up a sweat. I did that for a little while. Now, my wife had pointed out to me that, "David, it's been 15 years since that last time you had the threat of death," and immediately it clicked in my mind that Hezekiah was given 15 more years. ***(Isa.38:4) Then came the word of the Lord to Isaiah, saying, (5) Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.*** Hezekiah was given those 15 years after the Lord first had told him, ***(Isa.38:1) ... Thus saith the Lord, Set thy house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.***

I said to the Lord, "Lord, are You saying to me that You only added 15 years to my life and that I'm Hezekiah, and that this is the time for me to go on to be with You?" And you know what I heard? The Lord said, "Yes, that's right." So I thought on that and I said, "Well, Lord, I still don't believe that You would have me depart from the promise of the Covenant, so I don't accept that, either." You ask me, "Does God do such a thing?" What did God do with Abraham? ***(Gen.22:1) And it came to pass after these things, that God did prove Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham. And he said, Here am I. (2) And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son, whom thou lovest, even Isaac, and get thee into the land of Moriah. And offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains which I***

will tell thee of. God was trying Abraham. He wanted to see what Abraham would do and Abraham overcame. He knew that even if he did sacrifice his son, that he was coming back with his son. As a matter of fact, **(Gen.22:5) And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass, and I and the lad will go yonder; and we will worship, and come again to you.** He knew that God would have to resurrect Isaac from the dead to keep His promise because he knew that God was faithful to keep His promise and I know that, too. God is faithful to keep His promise. So when the Lord told me that, I meditated on it and I said, "Lord, I can't see any difference in this situation from the last one 15 years ago. It still doesn't please You for me to depart from Your Word, so I just don't accept this." Of course, I kept on calling the devil's bluff, I kept on jogging, but it had nothing to do with jogging, of course; it had to do with walking by faith. If you're careful because you think that you're having a heart attack or a heart problem, obviously, you're acting in agreement with the curse; you're not acting in agreement with the promise! **(Jas.2:17) Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself.** If you really believe the Word of God, you can walk it out. **(Mat.14:28) And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto the upon the waters. (29) And he said, Come. And Peter went down from the boat, and walked upon the waters to come to Jesus.** Peter believed the Word of God. He stepped out on the water. Miracles come when you act on the Word of God.

(Jas.2:18) Yea, a man will say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith apart from thy works, and I by my works will show thee my

faith. You can't prove faith unless you can act in agreement with it because people are sometimes very schizophrenic. They say they believe but then all their actions and all their words prove just the opposite. If we want to have completed faith, what we have to do is to act in agreement with what we believe. **(Rom.10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** So, friends, if you've come to believe and trust in the Word of God, start walking it out and you'll see it manifested. The Israelites are a wilderness lesson for us. They had to walk through that wilderness without murmuring, without complaining and without speaking against the promise. The majority failed the test but Joshua and Caleb spoke in agreement with the promise. They received the Promised Land, they entered into the land of rest because they agreed with the promise. We're being tried the same way, folks. Every day we're being tried to see whether we're going to agree with what the Bible says. Do you know that you don't have a problem with demons? Do you know that you don't have a problem with sin? Do you know that you don't have a problem with sickness? Do you know that you don't have a problem with provision? The Lord Jesus solved all of those problems already when He made reconciliation for us at the cross. What we do have a problem with is walking in agreement with what He said.

We're like the children of Israel when they were dying of the fiery serpents in the wilderness. **(Num.21:8) And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. (7) And the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, because we have spoken against**

the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. (8) And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a standard: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he seeth it, shall live. (9) And Moses made a serpent of brass, and set it upon the standard: and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked unto the serpent of brass, he lived. They cried unto Moses and Moses cried unto the Lord, and the Lord told Moses to raise them up a serpent on a pole. Of course, the medical profession uses that today to represent them but, actually, the serpent on the pole (the caduceus) was a symbol of God's healing power, totally outside that of man. In order to be healed, all the Israelites had to do was to get their eyes off the snake bite and on the serpent on the pole. They had to accept what the Bible says about Jesus: **(2Co.5:21)** *Him who knew no sin he made [to be] sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him. (1Pe.2:24) Who his own self bare our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed. (Col.2:13) And you, being dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, you, [I say,] did he make alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses; (14) having blotted out the bond written in ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us: and he hath taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.* Jesus became accursed for us; He became sin. God put on Him our sin and our curse

and we don't have it anymore. Accept the truth! It's very simple: you are healed, you are delivered from sin, you are blessed. That's the Gospel, that's the very, very Good News of what the Lord has accomplished for us. You don't have to live under the curse anymore. When the Israelites got their eyes off the snake bite and on Jesus, they were miraculously cured. Today, men go to the medical profession because of the very opposite: they don't believe that they were cured at the cross. They believe they have to get cured and so they run back to Egypt because they don't understand the Gospel, the Good News that Jesus has already solved this problem for them. It is already accomplished. If you believe that God has already done this for you and all you have to do is accept it, then you can rest from your own works. ***(Heb.4:1) Let us fear therefore, lest haply, a promise being left of entering into his rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it. (2) For indeed we have had good tidings preached unto us, even as also they: but the word of hearing did not profit them, because it was not united by faith with them that heard. (3) For we who have believed do enter into that rest; even as he hath said, As I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. (4) For he hath said somewhere of the seventh [day] on this wise, And God rested on the seventh day from all his works; (5) and in this [place] again, They shall not enter into my rest. (6) Seeing therefore it remaineth that some should enter thereinto, and they to whom the good tidings were before preached failed to enter in because of disobedi-***

ence, (7) he again defineth a certain day, To-day, saying in David so long a time afterward (even as hath been said before), To-day if ye shall hear his voice, Harden not your hearts. (8) For if Joshua had given them rest, he would not have spoken afterward of another day. (9) There remaineth therefore a sabbath rest for the people of God. (10) For he that is entered into his rest hath himself also rested from his works, as God did from his. (11) Let us therefore give diligence to enter into that rest, that no man fall after the same example of disobedience. (12) For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. (13) And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do. (14) Having then a great high priest, who hath passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (15) For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like [as we are,] yet without sin. (16) Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need. When we enter into the rest, we're no longer fearful; we don't dwell on the need, we dwell on the provision. And when we enter into the rest, we're at peace with God.

CHAPTER SEVEN

How Can You Prepare Yourself?

Father, we ask You in Jesus' name, that Your power, Your anointing, Your wisdom will be in this study, and not only that, Lord, we ask that You would bless the people who are reading this with eyes to see and ears to hear. We ask that You would bless them and that Your anointing will go into their heart, that the Word and the truth will go into their heart to put the courage of the Lord in there. We thank You, Father, we thank You for this opportunity to share with the brethren and we thank You so much for blessing all who are studying with us, in Jesus' name.

(Heb.12:22) But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable hosts of angels, (23) to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect. The text here is about going to Zion, going to the City of God, and becoming a member of the “just men made perfect.” ***(25) See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not when they refused him that warned [them] on earth, much more [shall not] we [escape] who turn away from him that [warneth] from heaven.*** There are some people who think they're going in a great escape. They think they're going in the rapture but, obviously, the escape here is not talking about their kind of escape. You see, they're refusing the warning of God and they are not getting prepared. I learned a long time ago, folks, that whether you

go or whether you stay, you have to do the same thing: you have to prepare. Even if your theology is wrong, if you're walking in the steps of Jesus Christ, then you'll be ready for what is coming because God has prepared tribulation for His people. Tribulation is coming upon this world, folks. We have to be careful to accept His warning from Heaven. He is going to shake this world. Right now, as a matter of fact, we are in a pre-tribulation shaking that God is going to use to bring in the New World Order. Some people insist that God doesn't have anything to do with that but He does. He is the One Who is uniting the whole world against apostate Christianity, just as He has always done all throughout the Scriptures.

Every time God raised up a new world order, it was to persecute His people who had fallen into apostasy. (**Ecc.1:9**) ***That which hath been is that which shall be; and that which hath been done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*** God just repeats history and He always takes the credit for it. (**Ecc.3:15**) ***That which is hath been long ago; and that which is to be hath long ago been: and God seeketh again that which is passed away.*** In Isaiah, the Lord takes credit for raising up the Assyrian Empire against His people. (**Isa.10:5**) ***Ho Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, the staff in whose hand is mine indignation! (6) I will send him against a profane nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. (7) Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few.*** The Lord put

it in their hearts to come against His people and plunder them. Today, since His people are worldwide and not just little, natural Israel, God is raising up a worldwide Beast to come against His people. It's God, folks! God's behind it! ***(Eph.1:11) In whom also we were made a heritage, having been foreordained according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his will.*** God works all things after the counsel of His Own will and "all things" doesn't leave out much, does it? Just because He uses vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor, some people like to give credit to the vessels of dishonor but, no, it's the Lord; it's all the Lord. He's working all things together for our good. ***(Rom.8:28) And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, [even] to them that are called according to [his] purpose.*** And what does He say here in the rest of this text? ***(Heb.12:26) Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more will I make to tremble not the earth only, but also the heaven. (27) And this [word,] Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that have been made, that those things which are not shaken may remain.*** Folks, God is going to shake everything so that only His Kingdom remains. The reason for the shaking is to break all of the strength of man, to break all of the power of man's ability to save himself. Do you know why so many people are going to run to the Lord in these days? It's because they've always depended upon their own power in the past but God is going to take away the ability of people to save themselves.

I've mentioned some of the judgments that have already

come to the Gulf Coast of America. Hurricane Katrina in 2005, for example, flooded New Orleans and killed over 1,800 people but it also knocked out about 80% of the oil production, which really hurt the trucking industry and the farmers. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 and their use of Corexit oil dispersant was a great catastrophe that poisoned the Gulf and destroyed the fishing industry, but we're just seeing the beginning of these things. It's going to get a lot worse. Places in this country that never see hurricanes have seen hurricanes, but some of those that don't see hurricanes are going to see earthquakes. There are going to be nuclear attacks, there are going to be biological attacks. It will come to the point where there won't be jobs, there won't be gasoline. It will come to the point where the water is poisoned, the air is poisoned. It will come to the point where there's nothing that man can do to save you, and you won't be able to do anything in the flesh to save yourself. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken so that men will turn to the only Savior because it is in our weakness that God's power will be made manifest. **(2Co.12:9) *And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. His power is made perfect in our weakness. (Heb.12:28) Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to God with reverence and awe: (29) for our God is a consuming fire.*** So, not only is He shaking the earth, He's burning the earth. He's a consuming fire.

Back when I was a very young Christian, my wife had

a dream in which she saw me standing on a rock in the middle of a vast ocean and it seemed that this was the only thing that was above the water. I was standing on this rock with leg braces on, like those a polio victim would have. At that time, I didn't know much about the ways and the work of the Lord, but the Lord really spoke to me through that dream. He showed me that the waters represented the curse of the Word on this world, just like the flood waters in the time of Noah represented the curse of the Word upon the world. The flood waters were the curse of the Word upon the wicked who had disobeyed God's Word but, at the same time, the waters were salvation to Noah and those who were in the ark floating above. God said through Moses, ***(Deu.11:26) Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse: (27) the blessing, if ye shall hearken unto the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day; (28) and the curse, if ye shall not hearken unto the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.*** The Word of God is a blessing to those who are humble and submitted to it; it's a blessing to those who are walking in it but it's a curse to those who rebel against it. And the curse is coming to take away everything that God's people have depended upon other than Him. He's a jealous God (Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 6:15; Joshua 24:19; etc.) He wants to be our only Savior, which is why He's bringing us to a place of great weakness. Being weak to save ourselves is a part of God's salvation; it's not just faith. ***(Php.4:13) I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me.*** We can do all things through Christ; He's the One Who strengthens

us. The problem is that we're used to working things out ourselves, rather than trusting in the Lord. We're used to working things out ourselves, rather than putting our faith in Him and resting in Him to bring it to pass. We, ourselves, are the biggest hindrance to receiving the benefits of God.

This shaking that's coming is for the purpose of judging all the "gods of Egypt," as God said about His people who were in bondage in Egypt, in bondage to the old man. ***(Exo.12:12) For I will go through the land of Egypt in that night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord.*** That represents Christians today, who are coming to their wilderness experience, because Christians today have been in bondage in Egypt. They've been in bondage to the old man, the Egyptian. The old man was the one who died in the baptism of the Red Sea (Exodus 15:4; Acts 7:36; Psalm 106:9; etc.) and the new man, the Israelite, is the one who came up (Hebrews 11:29; Nehemiah 9:9-10; etc.). Well, the Lord brought those judgments upon Egypt to set the Israelites free from bondage. Folks, that's us. That's the people of God. We've been in bondage in Egypt but now we're coming to our wilderness and the wilderness, of course, is the Tribulation (Revelation 12; 17). We're coming to the same point in time as Israel when they were about to start their wilderness and I was given a revelation about those braces I was wearing in my wife's dream. I learned they represented an external strength that was going to come to me, a strength from God that would enable me to stand on the rock of Jesus Christ when the curse is everywhere around us. You know this is what God's going to do. ***(Zec.4:6) Then he answered***

and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. This is what God's going to do for a people who cannot save themselves, who cannot provide for themselves, in a wilderness experience. God Almighty is going to do it. He is going to be our strength. When our strength is worn out, He's going to be there. And He is a consuming fire. He's going to burn up all the wood, hay and stubble through the Tribulation that we're going through, until only the gold, silver and precious stones will be left of those who are truly His elect. ***(1Co.3:10) According to the grace of God which was given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder I laid a foundation; and another buildeth thereon. But let each man take heed how he buildeth thereon. (11) For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (12) But if any man buildeth on the foundation gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, stubble; (13) each man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself shall prove each man's work of what sort it is. (14) If any man's work shall abide which he built thereon, he shall receive a reward. (15) If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as through fire.***

Many years ago, I used to work for the Exxon Refinery in Baton Rouge and, one day, I got a little revelation. When I was a machinist, I worked on a lot of pumps, drivers, turbines, jet engines and things like that. It was interesting to me because I was a very mechanically-minded person.

Now, a pump is basically a shaft that goes through a housing and inside the housing there are impellers to pump the fluid, but the fluid needs to be sealed somehow to keep it from coming down the shaft and out of the pump. Well, usually it's a seal but sometimes it's what we called "packing." Packing is something that's kind of like rope with different substances mixed in with it and we would pack that rope around the hole. Then we would use a gland with bolts to pull the packing up in there to seal between the shaft and the housing of the pump. So, anyway, the shaft might be turning at 3,600 rpms or 3,700 rpms, or even more, in some cases. The shaft is running very, very fast and, depending upon the size of the shaft, there's a lot of friction there, but no matter what kind of packing we would use, if we tightened-up the gland too tight to try to seal-off the space, the friction would cause that packing to get very, very hot. In some cases, it would smoke and, in some cases, it would even catch on fire. You had to loose the packing just enough to have the right amount of fluid come through there that it wouldn't leak out, but at the same time would lubricate the packing. It was a ticklish situation because, if the packing got a little old, sometimes you couldn't tighten up on it at all. It would smoke and leak. We continually had the problem of coming up on a pump that had been running for a while and trying to tighten the packing up, and it would start smoking, but if you didn't tighten it up it would leak, so it was kind of a catch-22 situation.

Finally, we had a salesman come by who brought some packing that they called *Graphoil* and I tried it one day in a pump that was very ticklish. It didn't matter what kind of packing you put in there, if you tightened it up very much, the packing we had would just start smoking because it was

a hydrocarbon. And if it got hot enough, it would catch it on fire; the fire would literally be coming out of the hole of the shaft of the packing. So we bought this new product, this Graphoil, and I was going to test it for them. I shoved that stuff up in there and I tightened down on it, and I found I didn't have to tighten down on it very much until it sealed-off the leak. The salesman said, "Well, tighten down on it some more." I said, "I don't want it to catch on fire and burn up." But he insisted, "No, don't worry about that and just tighten down on it some more," so I did. I tightened down on it some more and I told him, "Man, this is pretty good stuff. It doesn't catch on fire." And he said to me, "Tighten down on it some more." So, again, I tightened down on it and nothing was leaking out, but it still wasn't smoking or catching on fire. I asked, "What's the deal here? How come it doesn't burn?" And do you know what he answered me? He said, "It doesn't burn because it's already burned; it's totally burned. It's all graphite; there's no rope in there. It's all totally burned graphite, so it can't burn because it's already totally burned when you put it in there." Folks, if you remember, they burned up all the diseased cattle over there in England during the Mad Cow Disease outbreak because that was the only way to destroy the prions that caused the disease. A fire purifies any contaminant and what's left can't really be destroyed; it's already burned, it can't be burned anymore. It was as if that salesman was comparing our God to being a consuming fire. Ashes are pure and that's the revelation! We're going in the fire, folks, to be purified, so that this world can't touch us and so that we won't ultimately go in the big fire. By His grace and by His power, God is going to make us able to go through this consuming fire until there's nothing that the world can do

to us, until there's nothing but His fruit and His life in us.

Paul called it a “baptism” when the Israelites went through the Red Sea and into the wilderness. **(1Co.10:1)** *For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; (2) and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.* Do you know what we're doing in our baptism? We're celebrating the victory of the death of the old man because he died at the cross, just like the Israelites celebrated the victory when the old man was put to death at the Red Sea. **(Exo.15:1)** *Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.* The “horse and his rider” represented the old man who was coming after them to bring them back into bondage. The horse was the beast, the flesh that had been harnessed to serve the old man, and this is what went down in the Red Sea. I'm not talking about the body; I'm talking about the appetites of the natural man to serve the mind of the flesh. The rider and the strength of the flesh that was harnessed to serve that rider, who was the old man, died in the Red Sea, died in the baptism, and they were celebrating the victory. It's the same thing we do at baptism: **(Rom.6:11)** *Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus.* We reckon ourselves to be dead unto sin but alive unto God or, in other words, we reckon that the old man can no longer do us harm and we continue to walk by faith in that. Many people believe the devil, or they believe the old man, or they believe the world, and by doing that, they give authority to the old man to

bring them back into bondage. You need to believe what the Bible says: ***(Rom.6:1) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein? (3) Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have become united with [him] in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of his resurrection; (6) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with [him,] that the body of sin might be done away, that so we should no longer be in bondage to sin; (7) for he that hath died is justified from sin.*** We consider the old man to be dead and the new man to be alive. If you walk in that faith, you'll find you have power when you get in the trials and tribulations of life, and the old flesh wants to take over. You'll have power when the devil tells you that you don't have authority. You'll have power when the devil tells you that you don't have more power than him. You'll have power when the devil tells you that he's the giant in the land and you can't overcome him. By faith, if you will celebrate the victory that you were given when you became united with Christ in the likeness of His death, you'll find that you have power over the old man. The Israelites always kept forgetting this fact and they kept giving authority back to the old man.

(Exo.15:2) The Lord is my strength and song, And he is become my salvation.... What does it sym-

bolize when the horse is put to death? It means you're no longer counting on the flesh of the beast any longer; you're no longer trusting in his power. The Lord then becomes your strength and your salvation. The people who live in Egypt trust in the Egyptians for their salvation. They trust in the strength of the flesh to save them in any situation, which is the reason God wanted to bring these Israelites into the wilderness. He wanted them where they could no longer trust in the power of man, no longer trust in their old man, their flesh, to save them. **(Exo.15:2) *The Lord is my strength and song, And He is become my salvation: This is my God, and I will praise him; My father's God, and I will exalt him.*** Yes, we're going back to our "father's God"! Paul said, **(1Co.4:15) *For though ye have ten thousand tutors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I begat you through the gospel.*** I'm talking about the apostolic fathers. We're going back to our fathers' God, not the god of apostate Christianity to which so many Christians are in bondage. We're going back to our fathers' God and we're going to trust in His salvation. Folks, even after you've been baptized and you believe the Good News, the Gospel, that the old man is not a problem anymore because the Lord has already dealt with him, and you believe that sin's not a problem anymore because the Lord has already dealt with that, and you believe that sickness is not a problem because the Lord has already dealt with that, the enemy still comes after you. And sometimes you become convinced by him that he still has power over you. **(Exo.15:9) *The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; My desire shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall***

destroy them. But God had another plan, didn't He? The Egyptians followed the righteous into the Red Sea and were destroyed. You see, the waters of God's Word are meant to fulfill what baptism gave us by faith as a type and shadow. The waters of God's Word will put to death your old man and take away his power.

Whenever you remember what the Lord did for you and you celebrate the victory, you take away the power of the old man. Don't ever believe what your flesh is telling you. Don't believe it when the devil tells you through your flesh that he still has power. No! That old man's dead and he has no power anymore. Now the Lord is your Savior; continue to trust in Him. ***(2Co.5:17) Wherefore if any man is in Christ, [he is] a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new.*** Old things have passed away and all things have become new; you're a new creature in Christ. Remember the Good News because, if you get talked out of the Good News, you'll make the same mistakes that the Israelites made in the wilderness. They wanted to go back to the power of Egypt because God brought them to places and positions where they knew they had no strength to save themselves. Do you know what happens when you get into a position like that? Your flesh cries out to go back to Egypt, go back to the flesh pots, go back to a place where man had power over the enemy, go back to where man had power to save. But the Lord is not going to let that happen, folks. He's not going to let us go back to Egypt. In these coming days, He's going to keep us in the wilderness until the old man's dead. Of course, at baptism, we know the old man's dead, but when you go past your baptism, you're going into the place where what you received by faith at baptism must now be manifested. And

the way it's manifested is you let the water of the Word put to death the old man. You hold fast the confession of your hope that it waver not. **(Heb.10:23) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not; for he is faithful that promised.** You reckon the old man to be dead. The Bible says, "He made you free from sin." Don't forget it. It says that twice in Romans 6: **(Rom.6:11) Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus. (17) But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; (18) and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness.** This is the way we overcome sin, folks; it's by faith. It's not by works, not by efforts, not by our power. If you're trusting in your ability, you're going back to the old man, back to the horse and rider. Legalism does that; it causes you to go back to the self-righteousness of religion in Egypt but God wouldn't let His people sacrifice in Egypt. **(Exo.8:25) And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land. (26) And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us?** When they sacrificed in Egypt, they sacrificed the abomination of the Egyptians. So God is going to keep His people in the wilderness until everything that needs to be burned up is burned up. This is a joyful thing, folks, because the people of God are once again going to walk in the steps of Jesus Christ. They're going to take up their cross and follow Him.

Now, Miriam, the sister of Aaron and Moses, said, ***(Exo.15:21) Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously*** (This is a revelation of our victory that was given to us through Jesus Christ. He conquered the old man.); ***The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. (22) And Moses led Israel onward from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.*** Here's one of the first trials that God was going to use to put to death the old man and to cause them to learn to trust in the power of God. He was going to manifestly put to death what died symbolically at the Red Sea. You may have heard the saying, "Well, He got them out of Egypt but He had to get Egypt out of them," and that's so true, isn't it? We come out of the world through faith in Jesus Christ but then God has to get the world out of us. You see, He wants us to walk totally in the Kingdom. ***(23) And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah*** ("Bitterness"). ***(24) And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? (25) And he cried unto the Lord; And the Lord showed him a tree, and he cast it into the waters, and the waters were made sweet.*** I believe that this "tree" represents the cross, where God gave us new life. The old man died there and Jesus Christ, the new man, was given to us. 2 Corinthians tells us the same parable but in a slightly different way. ***(2Co.3:18) But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as***

from the Lord the Spirit. What happened at the cross, what happened at the Red Sea, what happened at our baptism, was that the old man died and the new man came to life, and that new man is Jesus Christ. He is “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” ***(Col.1:26) [Even] the mystery which hath been hid for ages and generations: but now hath it been manifested to his saints, (27) to whom God was pleased to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: (28) whom we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ.*** We are to believe that, ***(Gal.2:20) I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that [life] which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, [the faith] which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.*** That’s the Gospel. If you begin to confess that, you will see the power of Jesus Christ in you to overcome these things. We sometimes have a failure attitude, an attitude of unbelief, when it comes to trials and the ability of the Lord in us to overcome in our trials. It is “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Well, when the Israelites came to their trial where they didn’t have any water, God showed Moses a particular tree to cast into the waters and the waters were made sweet. In the wilderness, “water” represents life and we know from James that the sweet and the bitter “waters” is talking about the tongue. Folks, part of the Gospel is “confession”; it’s confessing what the Gospel says. ***(Rom.10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and***

with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Murmuring in the wilderness is the opposite of the sweet waters. ***(Jas.3:8) But the tongue can no man tame; [it is] a restless evil, [it is] full of deadly poison. (9) Therewith bless we the Lord and Father; and therewith curse we men, who are made after the likeness of God***. This is not talking about speaking what the world calls “curses”; this is talking about speaking what the Bible calls “curses.” The Bible calls it a “curse” when you don’t speak in agreement with what the Word says. The Lord told us in the last four verses of the Bible, ***(Rev.22:18) I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book: (19) and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book***. If you add to His Words or take away from His Words, the curses of this Book are upon you, and He’ll take away your part from the tree of life! We bring ourselves under a curse with our own mouth, folks, when we disagree with God’s Word. We bring ourselves under a curse when we agree with the world and with the devil, and with what the old man says, but he’s dead. He doesn’t have a right to talk anymore. So we bring ourselves under a curse because we have disagreed with the Gospel. The Gospel is the Good News. ***(Rom.1:16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek***. The Gospel is the power of God to save the one who believes it, but

we prove whether we believe it by our actions. When they went into the wilderness, the Israelites proved they didn't believe it by their actions, their complaining and murmuring. You know, David said, **(Psa.141:3) Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; Keep the door of my lips.** He wanted to be careful about what came out of his mouth. We're also told, **(Pro.18:21) Death and life are in the power of the tongue; And they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.** We need to agree with God, we need to be proven to be believers. We need to have the sweet waters that the cross has given to us, not the bitter waters that bring the curse. As he goes on to say here, the tongue is a restless evil, a deadly poison. **(Jas.3:10) Out of the same mouth cometh forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. (11) Doth the fountain send forth from the same opening sweet [water] and bitter? (12) Can a fig tree, my brethren, yield olives, or a vine figs? Neither [can] salt water yield sweet.**

If we back up a little bit, in this same text, James talks about the great power of salvation that comes from the tongue. **(Jas.3:2) For in many things we all stumble. If any stumbleth not in word, the same is a perfect man....** Mature people don't stumble in their words and that's how you get to maturity. You don't agree with the world; you don't agree with the devil; you don't agree with the curse because Jesus bore the curse. You agree with what God said and you agree with His promises. You "hold fast the confession of" your "hope that it waver not; for He is faithful that promised." Anybody who doesn't do that will die in the wilderness. **(Jas.3:2) For in many things we all stumble. If any stumbleth not in**

word, the same is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also. The sweet water of the tongue has the power to bridle the body, to bring it under control, to make it serve the Lord. The horse represents the very opposite. The horse represents bridling the flesh to serve the old man, bridling the beast to serve the old man. **(3) Now if we put bridles into their mouths that they may obey us, we turn about their whole body also, (4) Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by rough winds, are yet turned about by a very small rudder, whither the impulse of the steersman willeth. (5) So the tongue also is a little member, and boasteth great things....** In other words, the tongue can turn about your body, the tongue can bring repentance. People think repentance is crying to the Lord about their sins, but “repentance” just means “turning around and going the other way.” The Greek word for “repentance” is *metanoeo* and it means “to change your mind or purpose ... involving a change for the better.” The tongue is able to turn us around. When you change your mind and you speak in agreement with the Word, power is given to you. You already know we are justified through faith; we are counted righteous through faith. **(Jas.2:18) Yea, a man will say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith apart from [thy] works, and I by my works will show thee [my] faith.** So when you speak in agreement with the Word by faith, you are justified. Also, **(Rom.3:4) God forbid: yea, let God be found true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy words, And mightest prevail when thou comest into judgment.** If you want to be justified in your words when you

come into judgment, let God be true and every man a liar. Now, why do we have to be justified? It's because without justification you don't get grace, which means "favor." If you want to be justified before God, if you want God's favor upon you, then say what God says. Don't say what the world says. If you will do that, you will find God's favor upon you. When the Israelites murmured in the wilderness, it was because they disagreed with God. Instead, they sided with the devil and they sided with his son, which is the old man, the flesh. They didn't receive grace from God and they died in the wilderness. He goes on to say here, **(Jas.3:5) So the tongue also is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how much wood is kindled by how small a fire!** Your tongue can destroy you. Every time you open your mouth, you are speaking faith. Every time you open your mouth, you're showing that you believe in the devil and the curse by agreeing with them, or you're showing that you believe in God and the blessing He gave you at the cross by agreeing with Him. You're always speaking faith and showing what you believe; therefore, you're giving authority to someone every time you open your mouth.

(Mat.18:18) Verily I say unto you, what things soever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and what things soever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. You're "binding" and "loosing" every time you open your mouth, without ever saying "I bind" or "I loose," as some people like to do. When you agree with the devil, you're giving faith to him and he has power. When you agree with God, you give faith to Him and you give Him power. You ask, "How do I give God power?" Well, if you remember, Jesus went to His own hometown, **(Mat.13:58) And he did not many mighty**

works there because of their unbelief. He was powerless and it was because of what they believed. Jesus said, ***(Mat.9:29) ... According to your faith be it done unto you.*** And He told the centurion, ***(8:13) ... Go thy way; as thou hast believed, [so] be it done unto thee....*** You give power to God because God has given you authority to give Him power. He said, “What you bind on earth is bound in heaven, and what you loose on earth is loosed in heaven.” Now, of course, God always has power, but He’s not going to use it for you, if you’re not justified, and you’re not justified, if you disagree with Him. You have to agree with Him; otherwise, you are destroying yourself. The lost people out there destroy themselves; they have all the faith in the world, in the devil and in the curse, which Jesus bore.

(Jas.3:6) And the tongue is a fire: the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defileth the whole body.... The tongue defiles the body; did you know that? Jesus said, ***(Mar.7:14) ... Hear me all of you, and understand: (15) there is nothing from without the man, that going into him can defile him; but the things which proceed out of the man are those that defile the man. (16) If any man hath ears to hear, let him hear. (17) And when he was entered into the house from the multitude, his disciples asked of him the parable. (18) And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Perceive ye not, that whatsoever from without goeth into the man, it cannot defile him; (19) because it goeth not into his heart, but into his belly, and goeth out into the draught? [This he said,] making all meats clean. (20) And he said,***

That which proceedeth out of the man, that defileth the man. (21) For from within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, (22) covetings, wickednesses, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, railing, pride, foolishness: (23) all these evil things proceed from within, and defile the man. There are a lot of people with religious spirits who are pretty legalistic about what they can eat and what they can't eat, but "This He said, making all meats clean." That's the Word of the Lord, folks. He rebuked Peter about that: ***(Act.10:11) And he beholdeth the heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending, as it were a great sheet, let down by four corners upon the earth: (12) wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts and creeping things of the earth and birds of the heaven. (13) And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill and eat. (14) But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common and unclean. (15) And a voice [came] unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, make not thou common. (16) And this was done thrice: and straightway the vessel was received up into heaven.*** The Lord told Peter, "What I've made clean, don't you make unclean," and, of course, that was also being used as a parable of the Gentiles that He'd made clean. ***(Act.10:28) ... [Yet] unto me hath God showed that I should not call any man common or unclean: ... (35) but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him.***

(Jas.3:6) And the tongue is a fire; the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which

defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the wheel of nature (or, in other words, “cycle of life”).... How can your tongue set on fire the cycle of life? Well, the cycle of life is like sowing and reaping. What you sow, you later reap, then you take out of what you’ve reaped to sow again; it’s a cycle. For instance, if you plant corn, after it’s grown and you’ve harvested the corn, you save out some of the corn so you can go and plant the corn again. You sow, you reap. It’s the exact same way with our nature. When you’re filled with holiness, it comes out of your mouth; and what do you do? You reap what you’ve sown and then you sow it again. ***(Mat.12:35) The good man out of his good treasure bringeth forth good things: and the evil man out of his evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. (36) And I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. (37) For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*** It’s the same with the wicked tongue: you agree with the curse and you get the curse, so then you’re living a cursed life and what comes out of your mouth is more curse. And so what you receive back again is curse, which is what you’re sowing and reaping. ***(Jas.3:6) And the tongue is a fire; the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the wheel of nature, and is set on fire by hell.***

We have to learn to agree with God. When the Israelites went into the wilderness, their big mistake was that they agreed with the curse. They walked by what they saw and what they felt and what they heard. They didn’t walk by “thus saith the Lord” and, folks, this is a revelation for

us. What we need to do from the time when we first enter into our wilderness is to walk by “thus saith the Lord.” We are going to have to learn to live supernaturally and there’s only one way you can do that: you have to walk by “thus saith the Lord.” You have to accept and speak the Word. I’m reminded of Peter, when he stepped out of the boat: he lived supernaturally and he stepped out on only one word. ***(Mat.14:28) And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee upon the waters. (29) And he said, Come. And Peter went down from the boat, and walked upon the waters to come to Jesus. (30) But when he saw the wind, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, Lord, save me. (31) And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and took hold of him, and saith unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*** Well, the Lord said “Come” and Peter stepped out of the boat, but when he got his eyes off of the Lord, when he got his eyes off the Word and onto the waves, he started sinking. When Peter started walking by sight in the desolation of the wilderness, so to speak, he started sinking. We have been given the power to walk supernaturally through faith in the Gospel and the Gospel needs to be coming out of our mouth in the situations where we don’t have any strength to save ourselves. As God told Paul, “My power is made perfect in weakness.” When you have no way to save yourself, you will turn to the Lord. Everybody who is called of God, everybody who is the elect of God, turns to the Lord. That’s why the wilderness is there; it’s bringing us to the place where the horse and the rider no longer have power, and we need to remember that. We can live supernaturally. We can live above this world,

even in a wilderness where there is no provision; we can live there by faith in the Word of God. The cross made sure of that, folks, which is what Exodus 15:25 is saying. Moses cast the tree into the waters and the waters that were bitter became sweet. Do you know what happened at the cross? That old man died. The one who spoke the bitter waters died. The one who gave faith to the devil died. The one who brought the curse upon that life died. The cross crucified him and that old man is dead. **(Rom.6:11) *Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus.*** If you will do this, you will be united with Christ in the likeness of His death and, if you will do this, you will be justified before God. He will give you His grace, His favor, and so you will be able to walk out that life in the wilderness.

Returning to our text: **(Exo.15:25) *And he cried unto the Lord; And the Lord showed him a tree, and he cast it into the waters, and the waters were made sweet. There he made for them a statute (“law”) and an ordinance (“penalty for breaking the law”), and there he proved them; (26) and he said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice....*** We don’t need to hear any other voice in this coming wilderness; we need to “hearken,” which means “hear and obey,” the voice of the Lord. If we will do that and not walk according to the ears of this world nor the sight of this world, if we’ll let that voice be our voice, then we’ll have this benefit. **(26) *And he said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his eyes, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases upon thee, which I have put***

upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee. Why did He make this promise to them at the very beginning of their wilderness? ***(1Co.10:11) Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.*** He made this promise at the very beginning of their wilderness because they are a type and shadow for us. This promise is for us because we are about to go into a wilderness and one of the judgments that is falling upon the world is that all of the old diseases are coming back, folks. They are coming back because man's power to save himself is coming to an end; God's going to see to it. I had a vision like that one time. In the vision, my wife and I were sitting in lawn chairs in front of our house and we were looking at this power line going across the front of the house. This power line was sagging in the middle until it almost touched the ground and we were studying this sagging power line, when suddenly a tornado came over top of that power line and just picked us up and carried us away. And the Lord explained this little vision to me. He said, "That power line represents the power of man and the reason it was sagging and almost touching the ground is because it's coming to an end." The power of man is coming to an end. And when the tornado came and picked us up, that represented the power of God, like that which carried away Elijah (2 Kings 2:11). Do you know what happened to us shortly after that? We were moved to Pensacola, Florida from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and God paid the whole bill. Many miraculous things happened, including that He found us the very house He'd shown us in visions. He gave us the house, He gave us the car; everything we'd asked for in faith He did. The power

of man came to an end, too, because anything I did to try to bring it to pass didn't work; it was God who brought it to pass. God doesn't want to share His glory with the old man, with the flesh. While you're working, He's not. When you stop, He will. God is not going to share His glory with the horse and rider; they have to die at the edge of the wilderness. Where we're going, folks, the works of the horse and rider won't save you. The Israelites lost faith in God and they wanted to go back to Egypt. They wanted to go back to the salvation of the flesh pots, to trusting in the arm of the flesh, to trusting in man. That's not going to work for us anymore. It's not even going to work for the world, but it definitely won't work for us because God has called us to something different.

Folks, this whole world is going to be polluted; this whole world is going to be poisoned. There are going to be both natural and weaponized diseases loosed on this world from God and man that are just beyond imagination, and yet we have a promise, right here at the beginning of the wilderness, that God won't put this upon us. "For I am the Lord that healeth thee." He said He would put it upon the Egyptians and not upon us. The wicked will feel His wrath but we're supposed to walk by faith in this Good News; this Good News is the Gospel and it's God's salvation to everyone who believes it. We've received revelations at UBM about the water being poisoned all throughout this land and, ultimately, even the air being poisoned. Multitudes of people will die of manmade diseases. A brother over on the East Coast was given a vision in which he saw biological weapons being smuggled into this country by terrorists who loosed them and killed 80 million people; he was a prophet and he saw a vision of that happening. Folks, only

faith in the Gospel is going to save you from the judgments that will be going across this land. The only thing that is going to save you is faith in the Gospel; no strength of man will do it. Nothing will keep us alive through this wilderness, like Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 14:30, 26:65), except holding fast to the confession of the Gospel, holding fast to the power of God. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken and everything that can be burned will burn. Something that's stuck with me for a long time is Dumitru Duduman's vision of seeing the earth catch on fire and God speaking to him, "Dumitru, quick! Get on the mountain or you will burn!" That mountain is Mount Zion, folks. It's "the spirits of just men made perfect." It's the only place that won't be shaken. Everything in this world will be shaken, but those who abide in God's Kingdom, through faith and through their confession, these people will be saved and they will endure this wilderness. In fact, multitudes of them will endure until the end. They will live through everything that's coming upon this world because of their faith that Jesus has already borne this curse. God is going to deliver them.

We need to get prepared and the way to do that is to put the "manna," which is the Word of God, in our heart. That's the very next parable we see in Exodus. (**Exo.16:4**) ***Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or not. (31) And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.*** Jesus is the bread that came

down from Heaven. (**Joh.6:51**) *I am the living bread which came down out of heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: yea and the bread which I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world.* But those Israelites said that they hated the manna and they called it “vile.” (**Num.21:5**) *And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, and there is no water; and our soul loatheth this light* (or “vile,” as the footnote says) *bread.* They didn’t like the manna, they were tired of the manna and many Christians today are just tired of the manna. They’re tired of the Word. They’d rather go please themselves with the world, instead of preparing for the things that are coming upon the world, but life to God’s people in the wilderness is the manna. Life to God’s people in the wilderness is Jesus, Who was that manna and Who is the Word (John 1:14). God commanded those Israelites to partake of the manna for the whole time they were in the wilderness. (**Exo.16:35**) *And the children of Israel did eat the manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat the manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.* The manna supernaturally preserved them all the way through the wilderness until they came to the Promised Land.

So when they became tired of the manna, they cried out for flesh and what did God do about it? He said, “Alright, I’ll give you flesh. I’ll give you flesh until it comes out of your nose.” What does “flesh” represent? It represents living after the lusts of the flesh. (**Num.11:18**) *And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves*

against to-morrow, and ye shall eat flesh; for ye have wept in the ears of the Lord, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the Lord will give you flesh, and ye shall eat. (19) Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days, (20) but a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you; because that ye have rejected the Lord who is among you.... That was the manna. They rejected the manna because they wanted to live after the flesh. God wanted to give them the Word but they wanted the flesh and God brought judgment upon them. ***(33) While the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the anger of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord smote the people with a very great plague. (34) And the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah (“the graves of lust”), because there they buried the people that lusted.*** It pleased them to live after the lusts of their flesh, instead of partaking of the Word, which was life (John 6:63), and God gave them over to the lusts of their flesh. Multitudes of so-called “Christians” are going to go berserk in the coming times because they are crying out for something besides the Word of God, which God provided for them to preserve them through this wilderness. And while they are calling out for it, just as He did with the Israelites who lusted, God’s going to be giving it to them. The whole world is going to be demon-possessed in the coming wilderness, folks. The only people who are going to be preserved are those who have eaten the bread of life, Jesus Christ. Do you know what it is to “eat” something? You chew it, you swallow it,

you digest it and it becomes who you are. Some people study the Word and they talk about the Word in Church, but they don't walk according to the Word. They don't live it out. In the days to come, the lusts of the flesh are going to kill people. The only thing that's going to preserve us is to digest the Word of God. ***(Exo.15:26) And he said, If thou wilt diligently hearken (meaning "to hear and obey") to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his eyes, and wilt give ear to his commandments (meaning "keep these commandments"), and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases upon thee, which I have put upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.*** Our God will give supernatural provision to His people to live through the wilderness, but remember that He told them, ***(Exo.16:4) ... I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or not.*** He was going to try them with a day's portion every day to prove them, to see whether they would keep His law or not.



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