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SESSION \_\_\_\_\_

**SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
**BIBLE SCHOOL THIRD EDITION**  
**SESSION 53 FAITH PART 19**  
**ACTIONS THAT CORRESPOND WITH FAITH**

In this session we will study faith and its corresponding actions. Faith acts. When you are in faith, there will always be some action you can take to demonstrate your faith. That may be simply confessing with your mouth, “thank You Father. I believe I have received my petition now when I pray” (Mark 11:24). But faith always has corresponding actions.

**James 2:14-22**

***“14 what profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? 17 Even so, FAITH IF IT HATH NOT WORKS, IS DEAD, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I WILL SHEW MY FAITH BY MY WORKS. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, 0 vain man that FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?”***

Weymouth's translation reads, ***"What good is it, my brethren, if a man professes to have faith, and yet his actions do not correspond?"*** (James 2:14). Verse 22 says, ***"You notice that his faith was cooperating with his actions, and by his actions his faith was perfected . . . ."***

That is a little clearer to us. Some read this passage of Scripture and think it is talking about having faith for salvation. But these scriptures were written to people who were already saved. James was writing to people who were believers. He says,

***“What doth it profit, my BRETHREN ....”*** (James 2:14).

James was writing to Christian brethren, and he pointed out that faith without corresponding actions won't work for you, even though you are a believer.

## **Confession Plus Wrong Actions Equals Faith Failures**

One of the greatest mistakes many believers make is to confess their faith in the word of God and at the same time contradict their confession by wrong actions.

For example, we may say that we are trusting God to provide finances, but at the same time we are worrying and fretting about how we are going to pay our bills. There is no corresponding action there. One minute we confess that the Word of God is true, and the very next moment we repudiate everything we say by wrong actions.

Your actions must correspond with your believing if you are going to receive from God.

James 1:22 says, ***"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."*** Or as the margin reads, ***"... deluding your own selves."*** We have many self-deluded people. They blame their faith failures on the devil or on someone else when in reality they have deluded themselves. They are not acting on the Word or being a doer of the Word. The actions of a doer of the Word coincide with his confession.

### **MATTHEW 7:24-27**

***24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."***

## **Doers of the Word Withstand Life's Storms**

Most people miss what Jesus is saying here. He is talking about how different people react to the storms of life. When the storms of life come to many, they fall or buckle spiritually under the pressure of the storms. Their problem is that they are not doers of the Word. They are not practicing the instruction of the Word; the Word has not been built into their spirits.

In **Matthew 7:24-27**, the same storm and wind came upon both of these houses; the one built on rock, and the other one built on sand. The reason the house built on sand was destroyed is that it wasn't built on the foundation of God's Word.

One was destroyed and one wasn't because the wise builder was a doer of the Word and the foolish one wasn't. It isn't the storms of life that defeat us. If the storms of life defeated us, we would all be defeated because the storms of life come to all of us. Some people face the same storms that others face and yet they are not defeated, while others who face the storms are destroyed. Those who are not defeated act on God's Word. The defeated ones may be thoroughly saved, yet they do not have corresponding actions to go along with their faith. And they have not taken time to build their faith on the solid foundation of God's Word.

For example, when the test of sickness comes, some are laid low while other folks stand their ground; they refuse to give in and accept sickness or disease. The storms of life come to us all. It may be sickness, financial difficulty, or some other test or trial. The winds of adversity blow and the floods come, but he who is a doer of the Word can hold fast to his confession of faith, for he knows that God cannot fail!

### **Talkers vs. Doers of the Word**

So many who profess Christ and who declare that they believe the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation are not doers of the Word. They are *talkers about* the Word, but they are not *doers* of the Word. There is an enormous difference.

Talkers of the Word mentally assent that the Word of God is true. But the Word doesn't do them any good or profit them because they are not making the blessings and the benefits of God's Word their own by faith. *Faith receives the promised blessing!* Faith appropriates what God has already promised in His Word.

The way you make God's Word *your own* is to act upon it. You do what it says. The Bible says, "**Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding**" (Prov. 3:5). The only way to trust in the Lord is to trust in His Word. You cannot trust in the Lord without trusting His Word.

God and His Word are one, just as you and your word are one. If your word is no good, then you are no good. If God's Word isn't any good, then He isn't any good. But thank God, *His Word is good*, and He watches over His Word to perform it!

### **Jeremiah 1:12**

***"12 Then said the Lord unto me, 'Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.'"***

The margin reads in one bible, *"I watch over my word to perform it."* If you don't accept the Word and believe and confess it, God doesn't have anything to make good in your life. But He wants to make His Word good in your life. God wants you to have what His Word promises. When I trust in the Word with all my heart and stop leaning upon human reasoning and stop looking to people for deliverance, then I have actions that correspond with my faith. My actions are then in perfect fellowship with my confession of faith.

It has taken some of us a long time to learn this. And it will take others even longer because they have been walking the wrong pathway and are in the sense realm causing their minds to be so cluttered up with human reasoning. It takes those people awhile to renew their minds with the Word of God so they will have actions that correspond with their confession of faith.

### **Talking Doubt and Failure Brings Defeat**

Until there are corresponding actions, there will be continual failure in your life. You can confess and say that God is the strength of your life because the Bible says He is, and you believe the Bible. But if at the same time you confess that God is your strength, you go on talking about your weaknesses and your inabilities and lack of faith, you will be defeated because there is no corresponding action there. You are resorting to human methods instead of trusting the Lord. Trusting in the Lord is trusting in His Word.

Talking doubt, failure, and weakness brings confusion to your spirit. It brings weakness and failure into your life. There is just one thing for you to do and that is to turn to God's Word. You need to act upon His Word.

### **Learning To Approach God on His Terms - According to His Word**

Many years ago, a young man on a bed of sickness didn't know he could be healed. For a while he went through a mental state where he really blamed God.

He said to the Lord, "Lord, you know that you have been better to others than you have been to me. For instance, there's Owen with whom I started first grade (he lived within a block of his house). I'm saved now but when I was a sinner I was never as mean as he is. And he has never been sick while I've been sick all of my life afflicted with a heart condition." Then he said to the Lord, "And I never have been able to run and play and do things that other boys do. Here at fifteen years of age, I became totally bedfast. Owen is not any older than I am. I know exactly where he is. He's probably standing downtown in front of the drugstore and his pockets are probably full of money. He has good clothes and good health.

The boy continued, "Lord, I have no money and don't have good health. Owen probably got his money gambling or fleecing people. Here I am going to die, and I have nothing, while he's going to live and has everything. I was never as mean as he is! It just doesn't seem right!" Oh, he felt so sorry for himself.

His grandmother tried to pacify him by sympathizing with him. That wasn't the right thing to do, because it just made it worse. He only felt that much sadder for himself. He cried all the harder and got more peeved at God. Then he would say, "Lord, there's another boy who lives behind us. He is big and muscular and stout. He is the kind of fellow who takes the other guy's girlfriends away from them (this boy looked so masculine). Here I am, incapacitated and my heart doesn't beat right. This boy even has an automobile! It has the latest of everything in it. He got that because he is a burglar - he doesn't work. The authorities just haven't caught up with him yet. I was never as mean as he is, either Lord. It looks like You have been better to him than You have been to me. And I have to die."

He felt so sorry for himself. And he cried all the more. His Grandmother and Mother would take turns sympathizing with him. He laid there half dead, and he wouldn't even talk to God. He wouldn't even speak to Him!

Finally, at about 6:00 one evening, his mother came in again, and he asked her if it would help any if he just wanted to get well. She told him wanting to get well was about half the battle. He told her that he had half of the battle won then because he surely wanted to get well.

Then he decided to do something about the other half of the battle, and he knew that it was between him and God. He decided he had better get on speaking terms with Him. He began to pray, but God wouldn't hear him. In other words, He didn't make that connection, because he wasn't approaching God on His terms - according to His Word. First, he had to repent.

Then he began to see what else was wrong. He had promised the Lord some months after being saved that he wouldn't doubt anything he read in His Word. He picked up his bible and started reading the New Testament. He had told God that he would put what he read into practice and would be a doer of the Word.

He began with Matthew and read up to **Matthew chapter 6**. He got to the end of chapter 6 and stumbled because he had promised God that he would never doubt anything he read in His Word. But when he came to **Matthew 6:25-34**, he saw that he would have to stop worrying.

#### **MATTHEW 6:25-34**

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***“25 Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31 therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”***

Another translation of **Matthew 6:34** reads, ***"Be not anxious about tomorrow."*** A little footnote in one Bible he read said, *"Don't worry or fret about tomorrow."* The footnote referred him to **Philippians 4:6**, which says, ***"Be careful [worried] for nothing ..."*** The *Amplified* translation reads, ***"Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything ..."***

As he read these verses, he realized God was telling him not to be anxious or to fret. He had promised to practice what he read, but there he was dying and complaining and worrying himself practically to death!

His grandmother and mother were world-champion worriers, and they had unconsciously taught him to worry also. He didn't think there had ever been a person who worried more than he did, even when he was a child.

### **Giving Up the Worry Habit**

Did you know that it is a sin to worry, and that worry will also hinder your faith? God does not want us to worry. He wants us to be free from worry and does not want us bound by any kind of bad habit.

Worry was the *hardest sin* the young man ever gave up. Did you know that it is a sin to disobey God's Word? To worry is to disobey the Word. Worrying is a much worse habit than the tobacco habit. Tobacco will just *half kill* you, but worry *will completely kill* you!

A fellow who uses tobacco is just half alive while he lives. He can't taste anything because he has that terrible taste of tobacco in his mouth and his sense of taste is dull. And he can't smell anything because he stinks so bad himself! If he *could* smell it, he would quit using that nasty tobacco! A tobacco user really doesn't enjoy life to its fullest because he goes through life about half dead. Doctors themselves admit that. *But doctors will also tell you that worry will kill you too.*

A doctor came out to the sick young man's house one time when he was bedfast and talked with him for about forty-five minutes to him. He asked him if any of the other doctors that were handling his case had ever told him just what was wrong with him, and he told him no, they hadn't. The doctor said that he believed in telling people exactly what was wrong with them and that he was going to tell him.

He took out a prescription pad and on it he wrote seven medical terms. He said that at that time there were seven serious organic heart troubles known to medical science and that out of these seven, the boy had two of them.

This doctor went on to tell him that he was born that way. He said he had a deformed heart and that he was also deformed throughout his entire chest area. He said his blood was pale and watery. He said his white corpuscles were destroying the red ones faster than the red ones could be rebuilt. His body had been almost completely paralyzed. He could only use his arms a little bit. This doctor said there was nothing more that could be done for him and that he should stay ready to go. He told him not to worry about anything and not to get angry or excited in any way. He said, if for example, anything exciting happened out on the street, he was not to look out his window to see what was happening, because he might get too excited and die. This doctor went on to say that worry could kill a person. The boy supposed he could detect that his mother and grandmother were worriers, and that he was worrying because he did not know exactly what was wrong with him.

When he left, after telling him not to worry, God started dealing with him about his sin of worrying. He began to get under conviction about it.

He finally told the Lord that he would not worry anymore. He told him that he would practice what he read in His Word.



All the scriptures he had been reading in the New Testament up to **Matthew chapter 6** had been light to him. After he had the revelation about worrying in **Matthew 6**, but because he didn't obey it, God's Word had become dark again. God's Word must be acted upon!

God's Word is dark to many people because they are not walking in the light of what they already have. But if you go back and start walking in the light, God's Word will become light to you.

The very minute the young man went back to **Matthew 6** and repented of worrying and started walking in the light of the word, the rest of the Word became light to him once again. It had taken him three months or more to get out of **Matthew chapter 6**. He had tried to continue reading but couldn't get anything out of it until he repented and began doing what he promised God he would do and that was to read His word and obey everything he read in it.

God expects obedience from His children. Obedience is the principle by which God works on behalf of His children. So, he promised the Lord that he would never worry anymore. He said that he would never be discouraged anymore, nor would he have the blues. Every bit of that comes from the devil. Many years have come and gone, and he never worried anymore. Worry is the greatest temptation you'll ever face.

Also, he never was discouraged, and he never felt sorry for himself. He shared later in life that he had been disappointed in a few people, but never allowed them to discourage him one moment. God said not to fret or have any anxiety about anything. God said be doers of the Word. We need corresponding actions to our faith.

Later in life it took a long time to get his wife out of the worrying habit. When they were first married, she didn't know worry was a sin. For example, one time when their two children were small, she got angry with him over something. The children were just babies, and they were going into the parsonage. She was holding one child, and he was holding the other one. Suddenly, she said, "I don't think you'd worry if the children and I just fell dead instantly."

He said, "Certainly, I wouldn't. I'd be a fool to start worrying then. What good would it do to start worrying after you were already dead?"

You see, worrying then wouldn't bring his family back! Worrying is foolish; worrying never accomplishes anything productive. Jesus said that in **Matthew 6:27**. After he told his wife this, he thought it made her madder than ever, but she finally saw the light of God's Word on this subject. When we are not doers of the Word, then we are deluding ourselves.



James said, *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving [or deluding] your own selves"* (James 1:22).

1 PETER 5:7

*"7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."*

1PETER 5:7 (Amplified)

*"7 Casting the whole of your care - ALL your anxieties ALL your worries, ALL your concerns, ONCE AND FOR ALL - on Him; for He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully."*

God's Word enlightens our spirits and our minds!

### **Casting Our Cares Upon God**

A preacher accepted the pastorate of a church which no one else would take. It was a church with a reputation for having trouble. He was the first pastor the congregation ever supported. During the time he was the pastor there, he would go to fellowship meetings from time to time with other pastors. These other pastors would ask him how everything was going at his church, which was known to be a troublesome church, and he would always say that things couldn't be better. He would tell them that he didn't have a care in the world.

They would just scratch their heads and wonder about it, because they knew the church had always had a lot of problems. They knew that he had the hardest church in the district to pastor. Some people said that he didn't have enough sense to worry! But thank God, he had *too much* sense to worry.

It's those who don't have very much sense that worry. We're talking about Bible sense. And if *you* have Bible sense, you won't worry either. You will do what the Word says to do. It seems to me that people would be glad to get out from underneath the burdensome load of worry. It seems that they would be thrilled to know they don't have to carry that load. The bible says, *"Casting ALL your care upon him . . . "* (1 Peter 5:7).

You may be praying about your problems, but you will be defeated if you continue to carry your burdens. Then God cannot do anything for you because you are in a place where you cannot reach Him since you are not obeying His Word; you are not coming to Him *on His terms* according to His Word.

When you worry, you are kind of out there in “No Man’s Land.” You are halfway between God and the devil. God can’t reach you, but the devil can enter into your innermost counsel, into your thought life, and keep you confused. God is not the author of confusion, but of peace (1 Cor. 14:33).

Anyway, back to the preacher. He knew as well as anyone that the church had troubles, but he refused to worry about it. He also knew something had to be said to the people in his church, but he didn’t know what to say. So, he decided that he was going to preach the Word and treat everyone right and just turn the problems over to the Lord. This was his only care and his responsibility - to preach the Word and to walk in love and practice what he preached.

So, this is what he endeavored to do. As a result, for eighteen months, they had a constant revival in that church! Every Sunday in their regular services people were saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. It just makes a difference when you put God to work by obeying Him and quit trying to carry the load yourself.

He knew that there were problems in the church. The church was twenty-three years old, and he was only twenty-one! The church had been there long enough so that different families had intermarried in the church and many of the people were related, so there were kinfolk problems. Family problems in a church are problems you just cannot become involved in and still be successful.

There were times when he would get up to preach, and in the natural, he would just feel like blasting the whole bunch of them and telling them what he thought. But when he felt that way, he would always turn over to Revelation and preach about heaven, or else he would preach on love.

Later after he left that church, he was at a camp meeting where he saw a minister who was pastoring that same church. That minister told him that as far as he was able to ascertain, he (the preacher) was the only one who had been able to make a success in pastoring that church. He said he was at a place where he was almost ready to leave the church himself. Sunday school was down, and finances were down. He said everyone was fussing, and he asked the preacher for his secret of success.

He told him for the next six weeks to preach on love one Sunday morning and on heaven the next. He told him if he could get the people heavenly minded and full of love it would solve their problems. Later this pastor stopped by to see the preacher and told him that within six weeks’ time the church had come out of the problems it was having! The Sunday school attendance was higher than it had ever been. The same people who had had problems were straightened out and were doing splendidly.

He said that things couldn't be better. He stayed there as pastor for some time and when he left, they begged him to come back.

It became such a good church in time that there were forty preachers applying for the pastorate of that church. What really made the difference was the Lord. The success of that church was really attributed to the fact that the pastor cast his cares upon the Lord and was faithful to preach God's Word.

### **Acting as Though We've Received Our Answer**

A young full gospel preacher's wife had been a Methodist girl, and she didn't understand about divine healing. When they were first married, sometimes if she happened to be sick on a Wednesday, she would stay home from prayer meeting and the preacher would go by himself. When he returned home, she would ask him if he had asked them to pray for her, and he would always say no. She just couldn't understand that. But he told her that they had prayed before he went to church, and if they prayed again that would be undoing what they had already prayed for. Praying the second time wouldn't be putting corresponding actions to our faith.

Many believe that if you solicit enough people to pray, prayer will work. But that is *not* scriptural. He told her that they had already claimed her healing, and he was just acting as though they had already received the answer.

The Spirit of God said through him once in prophecy: *"Now give heed unto that which is spoken. The natural man and the natural mind would say, 'I don't understand it.' You don't have to understand it, says the Lord. But you do have to act upon My Word, and whether you understand it or not, if you'll just believe it and act upon it, then the Word will become real to you, and you shall walk with Me."*

God is a faith God. If you walk in Him, then you must walk by faith. Regardless of the circumstances and the evil influences of the world around us, let us turn every problem over to His care. Learn to put God to work for you. He wants to go to work for you. He wants to work on your behalf. If you hold on to your problems and cares and try to solve them yourself, He can't help you. It's wonderful to be able to turn our troubles over to Him.

### **The Language of the Senses vs. The Language of Faith**

Your worst enemy is the flesh. The flesh and natural human reasoning will try to limit you to your own ability.

You look at the circumstances, the influences, the problems, the cares; the tests, the storms, and the winds of adversities, and you say that you can't be an overcomer. The language of doubt, the flesh, the senses, and the devil is, *"I can't. I haven't the ability or the opportunity or the strength. I have been limited and deprived in life."*

But the language of faith says, ***"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*** (Phil. 4:13). Paul wrote that to the church at Philippi.

Some might say, "But Paul was an apostle." Just because Paul was an apostle doesn't mean he had more strength than you do. Being an apostle didn't give him any extra strength. Preachers don't necessarily have any more to draw from than others do. They just have a ministry and an anointing to fulfill that ministry. But ministers face the same storms of life that each lay member does.

Paul said, ***"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"*** (Phil. 4:13). Paul didn't say he could do all things because he was an apostle. He said he could do all things ***"through Christ."*** You are "in Christ" just as much as Paul was.

Second Corinthians 5:17 says, ***"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*** If you have been born again, you are a new creature in Christ too. Christ didn't belong to Paul any more than He belongs to you.

The language of faith says, "I can do all things through Christ. My Heavenly Father strengthens me. I cannot be conquered, and I cannot be defeated." You can do all things through Christ, just as much as Paul could. I'm speaking from a spiritual standpoint. If a test or trial comes against you, it can't whip you, because there aren't enough natural forces in all the world to conquer the Greater One who dwells in you.

1 John 4:4

***"4 Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."***

This verse declares that you are fortified from within. I have learned how to put the Greater One to work *for* me. Not only am I born of God and made a partaker of his love, but I have dwelling in me the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead.

Therefore, *I have God's wisdom, strength, and ability in me.* I am learning how to let that wisdom govern my intellect. I am letting the Greater One who dwells in me govern my mind and speak through my lips. I am daring to think God's thoughts after Him. I am daring to say in the presence of all of enemies of faith, "God is my ability."

PSALM 23:4,5

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***“4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me- thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”***

**PSALM 27:1**

***“1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”***

**1 JOHN 4:4**

***“4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”***

**Psalm 23** is for us. You need to make these confessions daily:

1. God prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
2. Thank God, the Lord is my Ability.
3. He is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world.
4. In Christ, God has made me greater than my enemies.
5. God has made me to put my heel on the neck of weakness, fear, and inability. I stand and declare that whosoever believes on Christ shall not be put to shame (**Rom. 10:11**).
6. I cannot be put to shame. The strength of God is mine, and in Christ I am greater than my enemies.

I am not trusting in my own strength because the Bible never said a word about my being strong in myself. Paul wrote to the Church at Ephesus and said, ***"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of HIS MIGHT"*** (**Eph. 6:10**). God is your strength and your ability! So many people have the wrong idea about this. They are struggling, trying to put themselves over in life.

### **Wrapping Ourselves in the Promises of God**

For example, there is a song which says, "If I can just make it in," referring to heaven. Some people get up in church to testify but end up telling everyone to pray for them. They want people to pray that they'll be able to hold out till the end. But God doesn't want you to make it into heaven by just barely holding out till the end!

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He wants you to swing free, wrapped in His promises, and let Him help you. He wants to be your ability and your strength. So, wrap yourselves in the promises of God and swing free!

Years ago in San Diego, California, a group of Navy men were trying to moor a dirigible, the U.S.S. Akron, which the government had built. As the ground crew were attempting to moor the dirigible mast, the thing suddenly shot up into the air. Three men reportedly hung on and went up with the aircraft. Two of the three soon fell to their deaths.

But there was one who just kept hanging on as the aircraft rose higher and higher, until he appeared as just a speck in the sky. People were screaming below because they knew he could fall to his death any minute. But for two hours, he continued hanging on.

Afterwards, they were able to pull the dirigible downward and rescue the man who had been hanging on to the rope. An ambulance was waiting to take the man to the hospital, but he said he was fine. People were asking this young man how he had held on for so long when the other two men plunged to their deaths.

He told them that he had used the rope to make a rigging for himself, so he didn't have to hold on to the rope; and the rope held him. He had just been swinging free, enjoying the scenery, while all the people below were screaming and carrying on, thinking he was going to die at any moment. Most Christians are like those two men who fell. They are trying to hold on and hold out until they give out. Some fail when all they need to do is wrap themselves in the promises of God and swing free! They can be enjoying the scenery while they put God's Word to work for them.

I heard a story about a man who was walking down a railroad track with a pack on his back, when he came to a section gang; these men were repairing the railroad. He thought the foreman was going to tell him to get off the railroad track, so he showed him a train ticket he had. But the foreman told him that the ticket only gave him a right to ride the train on that track - it didn't give him the right to *walk* on the track.

Many people are like that man. They are on the right track, but they ought to be riding instead of walking. Besides that, they ought to check in their baggage because they don't even have to be carrying it! The Bible says, **"Casting ALL your care upon him; for he careth for you"** (1 Peter 5:7). The cares of life are excess baggage you are *not* supposed to be carrying! The strength of God is mine. The ability of God is mine. That's faith speaking. That's corresponding action. That's acting upon God's Word. If you will begin to make confessions in line with God's Word, God's Word will work for you!