

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION
SESSION 73
FAITH PART 12
HOW TO TURN YOUR FAITH LOOSE PART 3

SESSION _____
DATE _____
NAME _____

Romans 10:10

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Notice this verses says, *“... with the mouth confession is made unto...”* Jesus said in Mark 11:23, *“... whosoever shall SAY... and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he SAITH shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he SAITH.”*

You can always tell if a person is believing right by what they say. If their confession is wrong, their believing is wrong. If their believing is wrong, their thinking is wrong. If their thinking is wrong, it is because their mind has not been renewed with the Word of God.

All three of these go together:

Thinking
Believing
Confessing

God has given us His word to get our thinking straightened out. We can think in line with God’s Word; we can believe in line with God’s word, and we can speak in line with God’s Word.

DON’T TAKE SIDES AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD

I have never been able to figure out how a person thinks he can get help from God apart from the Word of God. I do not understand people – I mean Full Gospel believers – who think they can get answers from God apart from His Word. God only moves in line with His word. The bible says God has magnified His Word even above His Name (Ps. 138:2)! How in the world can believers get help from God when they are actually taking sides against the word?

You may unconsciously be taking sides against the Word through ignorance, for example. But no matter what the reason, if you are taking sides against the Word of God you cannot get God to work for you! He only works in line with His Word.

It is absolutely astonishing to see the attitude people have toward the Word. We should treat God's Word with the same reverence that we would treat Jesus if He were here in the natural. I do not mean we should reverence the paper and ink. I am not talking about reverencing a physical book; I mean we should reverence the words in the Book; we should reverence and respect what the Word of God says.

A visiting preacher was sitting in the office of the church where he was holding a crusade. The phone rang and it was one of the pastors in the community that was attending the crusade. Even though he didn't have the phone to his ear he could hear the conversation. The one calling was complaining about the sermon that the preacher had preached the night before.

The pastor of the church where the preacher was holding the crusade said, "Well, it is all in the Word. I have followed him and his ministry for years. It is all in the bible. I can read and it is all in the bible that he is teaching."

The other pastor said, "I'll tell you; I've preached it my way for twenty-five years and right or wrong, Bible or no Bible, I am going to stay my way with it."

Now that is a sad statement. That pastor said, "Right or wrong, Bible or no Bible, I am going to preach it my way." Just because he had been preaching it that way for twenty-five years and did not want to change did not make him right. As long as folks don't know any better, God will put up with some unbelief, much like we put up with spiritual babies. But when we as Christians come into the knowledge of the truth, then God expects us to grow up spiritually and walk in the light of the truth of God's Word.

You may have been saved for twenty-five years, but you can still be a baby. Fundamentally speaking, if you believe the same things you did twenty-five years ago and haven't changed then you aren't growing. I have changed a lot of my ideas and ways of thinking over the years, haven't you?

CONFESSION – AFFIRMING, TESTIFYING, WITNESSING

As we said, *thinking, believing, and confessing* in line with the Word all go together. Now whenever the word "confession" is used, we instinctively think of confessing sin and failure, but that is the negative side of confession that we discussed in the last session. The positive side of confession is in the bible more than the negative side.

As we said in the last session, confession is stating something we believe. It is declaring something we know to be true, and it is proclaiming a truth we have accepted wholeheartedly. Our confession should center around several basic scriptural truths. Let's review them again.

1. What God has done for us through Christ in His plan of salvation.
2. What God has done in us by the Word and the Holy Ghost in the new birth and the infilling of the Holy Ghost.
3. Who we are to God the Father in Christ Jesus.
4. What Jesus is presently doing for us at the right hand of the Father, where He ever lives to make intercession for us.
5. What God can accomplish through us, or what His Word can accomplish through us as we proclaim it.

GOD WORKS THROUGH BELIEVERS TO CONFIRM HIS WORD

The way God works through us and in our lives is by His Word through our lips. Jesus said in Matthew 28:19, **“Go teach.”** Jesus commanded us to teach His Word. That is the way God works in and through us – through His word. We are carriers of the Word. And if we don’t carry the Word and give out the Word, then we aren’t obeying Jesus.

God will work in our lives through His Word. For example, you are just wasting your time praying that God will save a person if someone is not going to bring the Word to him. If we could just pray and get people saved, we wouldn’t have to send missionaries all over the world. We could just pray all the heathen into the Kingdom of God. But the Holy Ghost and God only work in connection with the Word.

Mark 16:15-18, 20

“15 And he [Jesus] said unto them, ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe, in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover... 20 And they went forth, and preached [the gospel, or the Word] everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following...”

What did God do as the disciples preached His Word? God confirmed His Word. God did not do a thing until they preached the Word. If you give the Word out, the signs will take care of themselves. You don’t follow signs. Signs follow the Word.

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A pastor became greatly concerned in his church because there weren't enough signs following in his services. He shut himself up in his church and would pray for days at a time, and kept saying to the Lord, "Now, Lord, we get people saved occasionally and healed and filled with the Holy Ghost, but not a great number. There are just not enough signs following."

Finally, the Lord startled him. He said, "You don't have to ask Me to confirm My Word with signs. You have been praying that I would confirm My Word and that signs would follow, but all you must do is preach the Word, and I will do the confirming. If you preach the word, the signs will follow. If the signs aren't following, then you are not preaching the word."

The pastor was startled, and almost felt insulted. He said, "Why, Lord, you know I have always been a stickler for the word." (You can think you are a stickler for the Word, and yet not really be, you know.)

The Lord said to him, "Check up on what you are preaching, and see to it that you preach the Word."

This pastor began to examine what he had been preaching and to his astonishment he realized that sixty percent of what he had been preaching was the Word, but thirty percent was tradition and about ten percent unbelief.

Do you know what happens most of the time in a situation like that? The people will listen to the tradition and the unbelief quicker than they will the Word!

This pastor changed the way he preached, and it took a while to change. He realized that many times people would rather hear tradition and unbelief than they will the Word. He would stop himself while preaching in the pulpit and he would say, "No, that is unbelief." Or "That's tradition; and I am not going to say that because it isn't right."

Some of the people said, "Well, we have been saying that in Full Gospel circles for thirty years."

The Pastor would say, "Yes, but it is still tradition, and God won't confirm that with any signs following." When the Pastor corrected himself and started preaching the Word, then signs started to follow. He realized that the more he preached the Word, the more signs that they had.

CONFESSION IS WITNESSING TO WHAT YOU KNOW

Regarding confession, it is what you personally know about the Lord Jesus Christ and what you are in Him that counts. Of course, you must be born again before you can know Jesus. But just because you are born again does not make you a successful Christian.

You must also know what you have in Christ and who you are in Him. When you know who you are in Him, and when you think in line with that and believe and confess that, then there is no failure for you.

Our last session we learned about “in Him,” “in whom,” and “in Christ.” Find these in the scriptures and begin to confess those scriptures over yourself with “This is who I am, and this is what I have in Christ.” As you do this, you will find that life will be different for you.

A lady once said to a preacher, “I have read those scriptures, but they don’t seem real to me.” His answer to her was, “Have you confessed what God’s Word says about you?”

The lady said, “Well, yes, but what God’s Word says about me isn’t so in my life.”

His answer to her was, “God says it is so.”

She replied, “Yes, but I know it is not.”

His reply then was, “Either you or God is lying about it then. Because according to the Bible, what God says about you in His Word is so, but you say it isn’t so.” He then said to that woman, “If you stood right in front of your mother and called her a liar, would you feel bad? Of course, you would. Well, it is no wonder you don’t feel right. You are looking God right in the face when you read his word and you are saying ‘You’re a liar. Your Word is a lie; it isn’t so.’ You must start saying what God says about you in His Word is so, just because the Bible says it is so.” The woman walked away from the preacher mumbling, “Yes, but I know it is not.”

People cannot be victorious with that attitude. There are some people who just will not have things in their lives as the bible says they are. Some folks will not believe even when it happens. They just aren’t going to receive the blessings of God into their lives. Some are that way receiving anything from God.

It is believing in line with God’s Word; thinking in line with God’s Word; and confessing in line with God’s Word that counts. Or to say it another way, it is affirming, testifying, and witnessing to the truth you know of God’s Word that counts. Your confession is what puts you over and causes you to succeed in life!

CONFESS YOUR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES IN CHRIST

I want to use several scriptures that do not have the words “in Him,” “in whom,” or “in Christ” in them, yet they do infer something about our rights and privileges in Christ.

Colossians 1:13

“Who hath DELIVERED us from the power [authority] of darkness, and hath TRANSLATED US into the kingdom of his dear Son.”

The word **“who”** in this verse refers to God. In Christ we are delivered from the power or authority of darkness.

1 John 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.”

A companion scripture to **1 John 4:4** in the Old Testament is **Isaiah 41:10**:

Isaiah 41:10

“Fear thou not, for I AM WITH THEE: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

Then in the New Testament, God says something else that agrees with the scripture we just read.

Romans 8:31

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be FOR US, who can be against us?”

Take these scriptures as a personal message from God to you. Remember, the Bible is God speaking to you. God said in **Isaiah 41:10**, ***“Fear thou not; for I am with thee...”*** And because we as Christians are under the New Covenant, we can also say, “Thank God, He is ***in us***. (**John 17:23**)!”

That is the best reason in the world not to be afraid, because God is with us and in us. Sometimes we try to help people and we will say, “Well the darkest hour is just before dawn,”

or “Don’t worry, things will be better tomorrow.” But I am glad God gives us the best reason in the world not to fear. He is WITH US and IN US!

Did you ever notice that again and again when God sent a message to His people, He would say, **“Fear thou not?”** He would send a message, perhaps through the prophets, and say, **“Fear thou not.”** Also, Jesus said to Jairus when they came and told him that his little daughter was dead, **“Fear not, only believe.”** (Mark 5:36; Luke 8:50). If God just told me, “Don’t be afraid,” and left it at that, I might say, “I can’t help it.” But He said in **Isaiah 41:10**, **“For I am with thee.”**

Can you really believe that He is with you and be afraid? No! Can you really believe that He is in you and be afraid? No! If you are afraid, it is because you are doubting him.

Someone may say, “Yes, but you don’t understand, I am so weak.”

But God said, **“...yea, I will uphold thee...”** [Isaiah 41:10.]

Thank God, we already have the answer to every problem in the Word! It is amazing how little the word means to some people. We can help folks who want to be helped. But we can’t do anything for those who do not want to be helped. If you beat people over the head with the truth, so to speak, that still does not help them if they do not want to be helped.

Actually, love is the greatest tool there is for helping people. Just let people see that you really love them and that you are really interested in them. That will help them more than beating them over the head.

An article written by a president of the American Medical association said, “There are two things that the old country doctors as we called them, had that the doctors today do not have: That is consideration for the patients and love and sympathy.” This man said that those two qualities are the greatest healing agents we have.

I believe the same is true in the spiritual realm. I believe you will find that when most folks who are really sincere see what God’s plan is for them, and know it, they will rise to the level of it. Another way to say this is that if you will approach any subject from the positive side and not from the negative side, you will win more folks. Preach for something and not against something. I am glad that God is for me, aren’t you? **“Fear thou not; for I am with thee...”** (Isa. 41:10). And in the New Testament again we read, **“... If God be for us, who can be against us?”** (Romans 8:31).

Our Confession should be, “God is with me.” **“Greater is He who is in me than he that is in the world.”** (1 John 4:4.) Then you can fearlessly say, “God is in me now.”

You may be facing some task that seems impossible. Instead of talking about how impossible that task is, look to Him, who is inside of you, and say, "God is in me now." You will find that your confession of faith will cause God to work on your behalf. He will rise up in you and give you success.

The Master of all creation is in you. You can face life fearlessly because you know that greater is He who is in you than any force that can be arrayed against you. This should be your continual confession. Now hold fast to it.

NO FAITH WITHOUT CONFESSION

Let me say this: *There is no faith without confession.* There is no such thing as faith without confession! Confession is faith's way of expressing itself. Faith, like love, is of the heart or the spirit. And you know just as well as I do that there is no love without word or action.

You cannot reason love into people, and you cannot reason love out of them because love is of the heart. Faith is of the heart or the spirit, too, and it is safe to say that there is no faith without confession. Faith, like love, grows with your confession.

Remember, your confession does two things for you. First it pinpoints your location. Second, it sets the boundaries of your life. *You do not become beyond what you say.* If you say you can't, then you can't. You get nothing. But if you say you can, then you can. You can have what you say whether you talk unbelief or belief. Your confession will greatly affect your spirit or your inner man.

The reason the majority of Christians are weak, although they are sincere, is they have never boldly declared who they are in Christ. What they must do is find out from the Scripture how God the Father looks at them and then confess that.

These scriptures are found primarily in the epistles, as they are written to the Church. When you find those scriptures, boldly confess what the Word declares you are in Christ. As you do this, your faith will abound.

The reason many people's faith is weak, and they are held in bondage, is that they have never dared to confess who they are by saying what God says they are.

Remember again, *faith never grows beyond your confession.* Your daily confession of who the Father is to you, of what Jesus is doing for you now at the right hand of the Father, and what His mighty Holy Spirit is doing in you will build a solid, positive faith life. You will not be afraid of any circumstance. You will not be afraid of any disease. You will not be afraid of any condition. You will face life fearlessly, a conqueror!

CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO

You will never be a conqueror first and then believe you are one. No, you must confess it first, and then you get there. The confessions of your faith will cause the desired realities in your life.

I want you to get this spiritual law, and once you understand the truth of it, it will help your spiritual growth immeasurably.

Romans 10:10

“10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Paul said, ***“... with the heart man believeth... and with the mouth confession is made UNTO...”*** Confession is made unto what? In this case, unto salvation, but it can be unto anything.

Take for example, a man who wants to get saved. He must believe in his heart that Jesus is Lord, and that God has raised Him from the dead because the Word says it. Then he must confess with his mouth what he believes in his heart – that Jesus died for him according to the scriptures and that Jesus was raised from the dead for his justification. Then he must confess Jesus as His Lord with his mouth because he believes it in his heart. Then according to the Bible, he is saved.

You see, the same thing is true concerning healing, or the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or receiving any answer to prayer. You do not go by sight or by feelings. You go by what the Word says. The Bible says to believe the Word first and then to confess the Word with your mouth, and it shall be done (Mark 11:23-24). We walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Romans 10:10 says, ***“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation [or whatever it is you need from God’s Word].”***

If you can grasp that, you will understand God’s law of faith. I have seen Christians get their healing or begin to speak in tongues, but they would not accept it by faith, so they lost what they had. It is with the mouth that confession is made unto salvation and unto all the blessings of God.

When you read in God’s Word about who God’s word says you are and who you are in Christ and what you have, even though it does not seem real to you, instead of taking sides against the Word and saying, “No, that is not so for me,” and making God out to be a liar, start confessing, “It is so!” Say, “Yes, that is mine. Whatever God says in His word is mine! You will find that faith’s confession does create reality!