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SESSION _____

**SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION
SESSION 81 – FAITH PART 20
CONFESSION BRINGS POSSESSION**

Mark 11:23,24

“²³ For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall SAY unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and SHALL NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART, but shall believe that those things which he SAITH shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he SAITH. ²⁴ Therefore, I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them.”

These two verses of Scripture changed a young man’s life that was dying from a heart condition. They can change yours too. Faith is fed by feeding on God's Word.

Feed and Exercise Your Faith

Many people wonder why they are not growing in faith. Many times, it is because they are not feeding on God's Word. Faith will grow by feeding it and exercising it. We *feed* our faith by reading and meditating on the Word, and by hearing the Word of God being preached.

We *exercise* faith by being doers of the Word, and not hearers only. James said, (**James 1:22**). **"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only . . . "** Being doers of the Word means that we *act on the Word*.

Simply reading and meditating upon the Word will not build your faith. Reading and meditating on the word will feed your faith and build a capacity for faith, but faith must also be a part of our daily speech. In other words, the Word that you feed on must be exercised daily. It has to become a part of your daily speech. That word must become a part of your daily conduct and actions.

As faith grows, Satan's dominion over us wanes. Circumstances become less formidable, and fear is destroyed. Nearly everyone longs for the day when he can be rid of fear; people can have so many fears.

For years a certain preacher, said he was bound with certain fears. But as his faith grew the fear left. Now it has been so long since he had those fears, that now he says it seems like he never had any at all. Fear does not need to dominate us in life because we have been redeemed from fear. Fear can become a thing of the past.

As Your faith grows you begin to possess your rights in Christ. You begin to take ahold of what belongs to you in Christ. You begin to take the things that you only hoped for before. You hoped for money before, but now by faith you have it.

If you are sick, you need to confess, "By His stripes I *am* healed!" But you can't confess that and confess that you're still sick at the same time! If you say you are still sick, then you are perhaps agreeing that the Word is still true, but you haven't acted upon it and received it for yourself in your own life.

If you say, "By His stripes I am healed, therefore, I'm not sick," then you are acting upon the Word. You can reach that place of walking in divine health by acting upon God's Word.

HOW ONE MAN EXERCISED HIS OWN FAITH

A young man that was healed became a Baptist preacher. As a Baptist preacher, he hadn't ever heard of anything such as Full Gospel churches, and he didn't know that anyone else believed in divine healing except him, having been healed of an incurable heart disease at the age of 17. As a young Baptist boy preacher, when any kind of a symptom attacked his body; he would stop that very minute and start laughing out loud.

Then he would say "Satan, don't you know that you can't put that on me? The Word of God says that I'm healed. The Bible says that '*Jesus took my infirmities and bore my sicknesses*' [Matt. 8: 17], and I declare that I am well." He would stand against sickness just like he would stand against temptations.

We need to take a stand against that which doesn't belong to us. When those physical symptoms would come, he would praise God and then he would just go on and forget about the symptoms, praising God continually.

He remembered reading in James where it says, "*... count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations*" (James 1:2). He knew that "temptations" here meant *tests* or *trials*. So, he started counting it all joy when he would go through a test or a trial, when symptoms would try to attack his body. He would start praising God with all diligence and fervor, and sometimes as he was doing this, all the symptoms would leave his body.

After he received the Holy Ghost, sometimes symptoms would try to attack the bodies of his children. He would get mad at the devil when this happened. He would immediately start praising God for the opportunity to act upon His Word and to experience His saving power. Nine times out of ten, his children would get their healing before he ever got up from praying and praising God that way.

One time his little girl was sick and had a fever, and he was kneeling by the bedside praying for her. He was thanking God in the midst of that test for the privilege of believing His Word, because He said, ". . . **count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations**" (James 1:2). He was joyous about the integrity of God's Word - that healing belongs to us in our redemption. While he was rejoicing about the Word, he felt his daughter's forehead, and suddenly it was cool again. He didn't even get to pray about it! This would happen nine times out of ten. His children would always get their healing as he praised God for healing and for His Word.

That was his faith in action. He was acting upon the Word because he had read that the Bible says, ". . . **count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations**" (James 1:2). And the fact that his daughter was sick was a test and a trial. He would rather have been sick than to have one of his children be sick.

But it is wonderful to just be able to look up and say, "Father, I thank Thee that I am what you say I am. You say that I am healed and, thank God, I am healed. You say my children are healed by Jesus' stripes, and they are healed!"

We Have Because We Believe

Believing and confessing is possessing. The Bible says in effect, "**He that believes has.**" (John 3 :36). A person has his petition because he believes it and confesses that the word of God says so.

Faith grows in the atmosphere of the confession of the Word of God. I'm not talking about the confession of sin. Certainly, if we have done wrong, we confess it, and God forgives us. But I'm talking about the confession of who we are in Christ and what we have in Christ. It is the confession of our lips that is grown out of the faith in our hearts that puts us over that mountain or that hindrance that seems to stand between us and victory.

One preacher thought that he was doing too much teaching along this line, but the Lord spoke to him and told him that He wanted him to do even more teaching along the lines of faith and confession. The Lord told him that the Church was sadly lacking in teaching in this area.

Believe and Say

MARK 11:23

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

The preacher hadn't noticed it before, but the Lord pointed out to him that **Mark 11:23** mentioned the word “believing” one time and some form of the word, “say” three times. The Lord whispered in his ear that he was going to have to do three times as much preaching about the saying part of that verse as he was about the believing part. The Lord told him that most Christians are failing primarily in the saying part and not in the believing part.

You see, it doesn't work just to believe the Word. No, you have to say the Word, too, in order for it to work for you.

ROMANS 10:8

“8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, EVEN IN THY MOUTH, and IN THY HEART: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.”

This verse says, ***“ . . . The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth...”*** This word of faith must not only be believed in your heart, but it also has to be confessed with your mouth.

Too many times, even though we are believers, this word of faith, the gospel, is not in our mouths. We are talking something else besides the word of faith. What we must do is correct ourselves and speak in line with the Word. To tell you the real truth about it, what I confess, I possess. And that is all I will ever possess.

Believe God's Word, Confess It, Then Possess It

If you want to wait and possess your petition first, and then confess it, you are wrong. You've got the cart before the horse. You'll never get what you desire from God that way. You must believe the promises in God's Word are true for you, confess them for yourself; then you possess them. That is as true with salvation as it is with all the promises of God.

ROMANS 10:9,10

“9 That if thou shalt CONFESS WITH THY MOUTH the Lord Jesus, and shalt BELIEVE IN THINE HEART that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVETH unto righteousness; and WITH THE MOUTH CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO salvation.”

Christianity is called "The Great Confession." The law of that great confession is that I confess I have obtained the promises of God's Word before I consciously possess them in the natural realm.

That is exactly the way a young man received healing for a deformed heart. He saw the truth in God's Word, and he confessed that he received his healing before it ever manifested in his body. He confessed he had his healing before he consciously possessed it in the natural realm. He confessed that his heart was well while he was still in bed and his heart didn't seem any better. It didn't feel healed.

Also, the minute he confessed the promises in God's Word regarding healing, the devil challenged him but, thank God he had discovered the law of faith, which says, "***... I BELIEVED, and therefore have I SPOKEN ...***" (2 Cor. 4:13).

The devil told him that he wasn't healed because he didn't look healed or feel healed. He told the devil he was healed because the Bible says he was healed and because he believed the Bible. He told him that by faith he had his healing; if he was lying, then Jesus Christ also lied in His Word because He said that by His stripes ***HE WAS*** healed! Within ten minutes, he was out of that bed and standing on his feet! The devil had tried to call him a liar, but we know that the Word of God is true.

With your lips you confess salvation. The confession of the lips for your salvation comes *before* God acts upon your spirit and recreates it. When you were born again, you had the witness of the Spirit of God in your heart that you had become a child of God; but you didn't have the witness first and then confess it. You confessed your salvation first and *then* your confession created the reality of it in your heart. Then God acted upon your spirit and recreated it.

Salvation, the Holy Spirit, and Healing: Confession First, Then Possession

A few years ago, a man was holding a meeting in Texas. He had some advertising material and it had been passed out all over town. In the material was part of a sermon he had preached about the laying on of hands and receiving the Holy Ghost.

One night there was a very distinguished-looking woman in the line as he and his team were praying for the sick and for those who wanted to receive the Holy Ghost. When he came to her, she told him that she had come to receive the Holy Ghost. She said that someone had left one of our pamphlets at her house. She said that she wanted him to lay his hands on her and pray for her to receive the Holy Ghost.

But then added that maybe she ought to get saved first because if she had ever been born again, she didn't know it! She also needed healing. She had come for the Holy Ghost, but she needed all three - salvation, the Holy Ghost, and healing.

He instructed her to pray a prayer after him from her heart: "Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. You said in Your Word, '*... him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out*' [John 6:37]. You said, '*... whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*' [Rom. 10:13]. I am calling upon Your Name. I want You to save me now. You said, '*... if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved*' [Rom. 10:9].

'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that He died for my sins according to the Scriptures. I believe that He is raised from the dead for my justification. With my mouth, I confess Him as my Savior, and I confess now that I am saved.'

When she finished praying this prayer, she said that something had happened on the inside of her. He told her that by confessing Jesus Christ as her Savior, she had confessed eternal life and eternal life had been given to her. Her spirit had been recreated. You see, she confessed that she had it first; then she received her salvation. Then within a few minutes she also received the Holy Ghost and her healing. She received all three gifts within ten minutes' time.

The confession of the lips for salvation comes before God acts upon our spirits and recreates them. The minute you acknowledge Jesus as your Lord, you have eternal life. You confess that you have salvation before God acts and recreates you.

The same law prevails when it comes to receiving the Holy Ghost or anything God promises in His Word. You believe it and confess it first, and then you receive it.

Receiving the Holy Spirit by Faith

When this young Baptist preacher began to fellowship with Full Gospel folks, he found that he knew more about faith than they did. They knew more about the Holy Spirit and gifts of the Holy Spirit, but he knew more about faith. We make a sad mistake sometimes to think that we know everything and that we can't learn from anyone else.

This young Baptist preacher went to a Full Gospel pastor's house in order to receive the Holy Spirit, but he told him to wait and seek for the Holy Spirit in the service that night. But the Baptist preacher told him it wouldn't take him long to receive. He knew the scriptures well enough that he didn't need to wait or tarry anymore to receive a gift from God.

So, the Baptist preacher knelt by a chair in the Full Gospel pastor's living room, and he lifted his hands and said, "Heavenly Father, I came here to receive the Holy Ghost. According to your Word in **Acts 2:38**, the Holy Ghost is a Gift.

"Father, Your Word says, '**. . . Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**' The next verse says, '**For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call**' [**Acts 2:39**]. That includes me.

"Father, I know the Holy Ghost is a Gift in the same way eternal life - receiving Jesus - is a Gift. I received the Lord Jesus Christ and healing by faith and now I receive the Holy Ghost by faith. I thank You that now, Heavenly Father, I am filled with the Holy Ghost, and He has come to live within me."

That settled it for him. Then he said to the Lord, "Your Word says in **Acts 2:4**, '**and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**'"

I want you to notice here in Acts **2:4** that they didn't start speaking in tongues until *after* they were filled with the Holy Ghost. That's the reason people struggle so. They do not want to believe they have the Holy Spirit until they start speaking in tongues.

But you have to receive the Holy Spirit and believe and confess that He has come to infill you *before* He gives you utterance in tongues. It is only as you open your mouth to speak in faith that the Holy Spirit will give you utterance to speak in tongues as the immediate evidence that you *have* received Him.

The Holy Spirit Urges - Never Forces

I've heard people say some foolish things along this line. For instance, one fellow said that the Holy Spirit *makes* people talk in tongues. It never says in the Bible anywhere that the Holy Ghost made anyone do anything. However, demons do drive people and try to make people do things. But the Holy Ghost leads and gently guides. He gives you a gentle urging or prompting. In Acts 2:4 it says, ". . . *the Spirit GAVE them utterance.*"

There's a vast difference in receiving something someone gives to you and in being forced to take something against your will. For example, a young boy about nine-years old, went to live with his grandparents on his mother's side of the family. His aunt was still living at home. And for some reason or another, his aunt always thought that if she needed to take any medicine that he did too. She *made* him take it, but he sure didn't receive it.

Confession Before Possession: Receiving the Holy Spirit

In the Acts of the Apostles, it says that the believers at Ephesus received the Holy Ghost; they weren't forced into it. They weren't made to receive him. The Holy Ghost is a Gift. (You need only to be saved first in order to receive Him.) You receive the gift of the Holy Spirit; then you confess you've received the Gift; and then you speak in tongues.

Notice you confess first before you speak in tongues. In this Baptist preacher's case, he confessed that the Holy Spirit had infilled him, and then he said he expected Him to give him utterance in other tongues. He said that he would speak out what God gave him.

About that time, down on the inside of him there were words forming that he didn't understand. They just seemed to be going around and around inside of him. They just seemed to come up until they got up to his throat, and then he just started speaking those words out. He shut his mind off and just started speaking. He also sang three songs in tongues and went to the church that night speaking in tongues.

The same thing is true concerning salvation. The same law of faith that applies to receive salvation works in receiving the Holy Ghost. Many have it all backward. They believe that you should confess you have received after you speak in tongues. But the law of faith says that you believe and confess whatever you desire from God is yours first and *then* it comes into being.

Confession Before Possession: Healing

The same thing is true in regarding healing. We confess that by His stripes we are healed when the disease is still in our bodies.

ISAIAH 53:4,5

“4 Surely he hath borne our griefs [sickness] and carried our sorrows [disease]: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

Make the confession that by His stripes you are healed. The disease and its symptoms may not leave your body at once, but as you hold fast to your confession, those symptoms will leave (Heb. 4:14). We are to hold fast to our profession or confession because we know that what God has said in His Word, he is able also to perform (Rom. 4:21).

ROMANS 4:17-21

“17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he [Abraham] might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”

I know, too, that what God has said in His Word, He is able to make good in my life. I know that I'm healed because God said I am healed (Matt. 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24). It makes no difference to me what the symptoms are in my body.

Satan may tell you that you are not going to get your healing, but we tell him that the truth is, we don't have to get our healing because Jesus has *already gotten it for us!* 1Peter 2:24 says, *“... by whose stripes ye were healed.”* If we were healed by Jesus' stripes then, then we are healed now.

Stand your ground and the devil will pack up and leave! So, no matter what the symptoms may be, laugh at the devil. Then command the author of disease to leave your body, in the Name of Jesus. You are a victor. You must learn the law of faith: Confession of the promises of God comes before possession of the promises. We must learn this law if we are going to be successful.

When we boldly *declare* and *confess* God's Word, then and only then do we possess the promised blessing or benefit. Make your lips do the work. Give the Word its place. Take sides with the Word. If you side in with the disease and pain, there is no healing for you. But if you repudiate the disease and the sickness with your words, which are an expression of your faith in God's Word then your confession gives you possession.

Faith is governed by our confession. If we say that we have been prayed for and we are *waiting* for God to heal us, then we are not in faith and we have repudiated our healing. Instead, our confession should be this: "The Word declares that I am healed. Based on God's Word I thank the Father for my healing now, not when I *see* my healing. And I praise Him I am healed because according to His Word it is a fact."

Thanking God for the Answer

PHILIPPIANS 4:6,7

"6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by PRAYER and SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

The thanksgiving comes after the asking. You have asked God for your petition, and now you have it by faith. Therefore, you thank the Father for the answer. Don't be worrying or fretting any longer because you have the answer. I'm not *going* to get the money I need; *I already have it*. It is just as real as if it were my pocket.

Also, we have our healing because we have God's Word on it, and our hearts are filled with perfect confidence because His Word is true. Your confession of God's Word solves the problem. When you teach this way, those who are unlearned in the scriptures don't understand what you've said, and they may try to come against you. But if you will stand by the Word the Word will stand by you.

One man thought that what we are teaching was like Christian Science. No, it isn't Christian Science. There is as much difference between faith principles and Christian Science as there is between daylight and dark. Over in the realm of Christian Science and the science religions, they use some of the same scriptures we use, and they make confessions. However, they make their confessions based upon their own will and their own ability to make their confessions work. **They think that their mind is God.**

But we are making confessions based upon God's Word and upon His ability to bring His Word to pass in our lives. Theirs is a mental confession. Ours is a *spiritual or heart confession*.

Confession Is the Expression of What We Believe

Think of it this way: As humans, we are constantly affirming something. Sometimes our affirmations are disastrous. In other words, the effects of our own words upon our life have the power to defeat us. For example, if you continually say you can't do something because you don't have the strength, you will begin to feel your strength actually diminishing. You are left weak and full of indecision and doubt. Your efficiency is gone.

An affirmation or a confession is the expression of what we believe, whether good or bad. Some people say that their children are disobedient. Don't say that. Confess that your children are obedient. The confession of your faith creates the reality of it.

Some people continually confess the wrong thing. They confess their doubt and failure. They don't realize that their negative confession robs them of their ability and efficiency. They little realize that their confession can change the solid, straight road of life into a boggy, clogged mire.

The confession of weakness will bind you and hold you in captivity. Talk poverty and you will have plenty of it. Confess your want or lack of money all of the time and you will always have lack. These principles of confessing work because they are in the Word.

Some years ago, a man took the pastorate of a Full Gospel church temporarily while the pastor was gone on a leave of absence. He had a daily radio program. Tuesday night in church the offering went toward the radio program. During this meeting, every Tuesday night they would take from thirty-five minutes to an hour raising the money for the radio program because they were behind. That's too long to take up an offering. The interim Pastor told himself that they would get the money without pulling for it.

The first Tuesday night after the pastor left, they spent some time taking the offering and then the interim pastor he asked them to try it his way. He told them to just mention the offering and then pass the plate. They had a man who was called the radio minister. All he did was answer the mail. For three months while this man was there, they just passed the plate and announced that it was a radio offering.

Finally at the end of the three months, the radio minister told the interim pastor that the money that came through the mail had doubled. He said that usually the offerings decreased during the summer.

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But this time they had been able to pay all the bills and everything they owed and didn't owe anyone a cent! You see, they had stopped confessing lack.

When you say you don't have the money, you are confessing lack. We confessed plenty and we had plenty. The Bible says, *"For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath"* (Matt. 13:12).

Your confession is the expression of your faith. Confessions of lack and sickness shut God out of your life and let Satan in. Confessions of disease and sickness give sickness dominion over you. They honor Satan and rob God of His glory. So, do not confess your doubts. Confess God's Word, and God's Word will work for you.