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SESSION _____

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION
SESSION 74 – FAITH PART 13
HOW TO TURN YOUR FAITH LOOSE PART 4

Romans 10:10

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

We have been learning about confession: ***“...with the mouth confession is made UNTO...”***

Mark 11:23

“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.”

We have been discussing right and wrong thinking, right and wrong believing, and right and wrong confession.

Remember, if our confessing is wrong, it is because our believing is wrong. If our believing is wrong, it is because our thinking is wrong. If our thinking is wrong, it is because our minds have not yet been renewed with the Word of God.

But dare to think God’s thoughts after him! You see, the bible contains God’s thoughts, and of course God’s thoughts are different than man’s thoughts. God says, (Isa. 55:9) ***“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”***

Sometimes you can say some things that the bible says are true, and in our natural minds it doesn’t sound reasonable. That is because our minds aren’t being renewed with the Word of God. But the Word works. It works by saying or it works by praying.

Mark 11:22-24

“²² ...Have faith in God [or, have the Godkind of faith]. 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."

The Amplified translation of **verse 24** reads, *"For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe – trust and be confident – that it is granted to you, and you will [get it]."*

If you trust and are confident that whatever you asked for is granted, then you are going to say, "It is mine, I have it now." That is your faith speaking.

The greatest things that will ever happen to you will occur when you move out into this faith realm of believing and saying. But the intellect and the physical senses will fight you every step of the way to keep you from moving into this realm. That is because the physical or natural mind, if it isn't renewed by the Word of God, wants to hold you in the natural realm.

But there is a spiritual realm and that is really our realm as spirit beings.

A preacher once was told by the Lord, *"So many barely touch that spiritual realm. Yea, ye enter into it briefly in being filled with the Spirit and speaking with tongues. Why not enter on into it? Yea, go on out, even into the deep things of Mine. For surely your every desire shall be granted and the fullness of God shall be yours to enjoy."*

WRONG THINKING, BELIEVING, AND CONFESSING

In this session, let us talk for a while about wrong thinking, wrong believing, and wrong confessing. Then we will bring confession back to the positive side again before we conclude.

Wrong confession, of course, is a confession of defeat, failure, and of the supremacy of Satan. To talk about how the devil is hindering you and how he is keeping you from success, and how he is holding you in bondage, and how he is keeping you sick, is a confession of defeat. Such confessions as these simply glorify the devil. Confessions that glorify the devil are wrong confessions.

Remember, our confession is proclaiming a truth that we have accepted wholeheartedly, or it is declaring something we know to be true and stating something we believe. Testimonies that we give in church, for example, are our confessions. And sad to say, many of them glorify the devil rather than God.

A woman got up in a preacher's meeting one time and said, "The devil has been after me all week, bless his holy name." The preacher knew that she got her praise misplaced and did not

mean to praise the devil! She meant to praise God, yet she was glorifying what the devil was doing by getting up and talking about it.

Here's a question: Is what you talk about that God has done and what Jesus has done and is doing, aren't you glorifying Him? Well, by the same token then, if you talk about what the devil is doing and what he has done, you are glorifying the devil. So many times, people miss it by making the wrong confession. They lose the blessing, and they are defeated, and their life is a grind.

A wrong confession glorifies the devil, and we don't have any business glorifying the devil. Actually, a wrong confession is an unconscious declaration that your Father God is a failure.

Many of the testimonies and confessions we hear today glorify the devil and such confessions simply sap the very life out of you. A wrong confession destroys your faith; it holds you in bondage. But the confession of your lips that has grown out of faith in your heart will absolutely defeat the devil in every battle.

The confession of Satan's ability to hinder you and to keep you from success gives the devil dominion over you. You see, with your mouth you are either going to give God dominion over you or you are going to give Satan dominion over you!

For example, to be saved, you had to confess the Lordship of Jesus. **Romans 10:9** says, **"...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus [or, Jesus as Lord] ..."** That means you are to confess Him as your Lord. You are to confess Jesus' lordship over you! Then He begins to have dominion over you as you give place to Him in your life.

But, when you confess Satan's ability to hinder you and to keep you from success, then even though you are a Christian, you are giving Satan dominion over you. Satan is the god of the world (**2 Cor. 4:4**), and he will move right into your life **if you permit him to**. Now it may be a permission of ignorance or an unconscious consent, but if you give Satan dominion over you, it is still consent. Naturally, when Satan has dominion over you, then you are filled with weakness and fear. Don't ever confess your fears!

DON'T CONFESS FEAR – RESIST IT!

"Yes", someone might say, "but what if I am afraid?" Well, that is not what the bible says. It says, **"God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of POWER, but of power and of love and a sound mind."** (**2 Timothy 1:7**.)

Fear isn't something that is coming from the inside of you if you're a Christian. It is something that is coming from the outside of you, trying to grab hold of you. It is from the enemy!

God has given you the spirit of power, now say you do! And when you confess it, then what you confess begins to dominate you.

We must recognize that God has not given us a spirit of fear. We need to learn to stand our ground against the enemy. The bible instructs us in James 4:7, **"...Resist the devil, and he will flee."**

Fear is an evil spirit that brings torment. If you are tempted to be afraid, then say, "Fear, I resist you in the name of Jesus Christ. I refuse to be afraid." If you say this and practice it, the devil will start running when you start talking.

It is like this: If you happen to be a person who has a hot temper, and that is your natural make-up, when you yield to that then the devil can come in. The more you just let yourself go and fly off the handle, the more that temper will grow and rule you. But the more you resist that natural tendency and hold your flesh in check, the easier it will be to control your temper.

When you first start holding your temper in check, there will be a little battle to do it. But every time you win the victory, the easier it will be the next time. Practice these things. You don't just arrive at physical maturity overnight. You don't grow up spiritually overnight either. Spiritual growth is similar to physical growth. The bible teaches that. As we practice doing God's Word, we grow spiritually.

DON'T CONFESS DOUBT – RESIST IT!

The same thing is true about doubt that is true about fear. Don't confess your doubts. Don't confess your fears. I did not tell you to say you weren't doubting or that you don't have fears if you have them. I said just don't say anything about them. Confess the Word instead!

You don't have any business with doubt. You don't have any more business with doubt than you have with drugs. It is of the devil. Doubt is contraband goods. Doubt is just as evil as drugs or cussing. And if it is evil, we haven't got any business with it. Doubt is evil. Let's read **Numbers 13:31-33**.

You see, you haven't any business talking doubt because it doesn't belong to you. To tell the truth about it, a lot of people think they are being honest when they confess that they are afraid or that they are doubting. But if you are saved, the word of God says you are not full of doubt.

You may have been tempted to doubt, and you may have listened to the devil and yielded to his temptation. But you can put the devil on the run by resisting him. You haven't got a heart full of doubt. If you do, you need to get saved! So quit talking negatively – that you have doubts and fears – because that is not what you have or who you are at all according to the bible.

Start confessing about who you are and what you are in Christ. You are a believer. You are a new creature. Talk that. Believe that. Think that. And if you are tempted to doubt or fear (and you can be tempted because none of us are above temptation), you can resist the devil, and he will flee from you! (James 4:7.)

Refuse to doubt and fear in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and doubt and fear will leave you. But if you entertain doubt and fear, they will come right in and buddy up to you, and they will rob you and blind you spiritually, and defeat you if you let them.

Doubt and fear are tormenting twins of the enemy. So, if you are going to say anything, say what God says. God says, "Fear thou not." So, you just simply say, *"No, I am not going to fear. I am a child of God, and God has not given me a spirit of fear. I am not afraid. I refuse to be afraid. I resist you, Satan, in Jesus' Name."*

Don't get up and brag on how the devil tempted you to doubt. You should be just as embarrassed to get up and talk about being tempted to doubt as you would be if you were tempted to steal. It is wrong to steal, and you know that. But it is also wrong to doubt. There is no use getting into a discussion about which is the worst evil – doubting or stealing – because if it is evil, we just don't have any business with it.

You don't have any more business talking doubt words than you do talking curse words. Doubt is the devil's language. Now quit talking the devil's language and start talking God's language! God is a faith God. We are faith children of a faith God. I want to show you how to put into practice what we are studying.

If you are tempted to steal or lie (and the devil does tempt people in these areas) you wouldn't get up and talk about it, would you? No, you would resist that temptation and say, "Devil, you are a liar, and I am not going to do that. I resist you." And if you did any testifying, you would just simply praise God for victory over the devil in Jesus' Name.

Well, do the same thing when you are tempted to doubt. Quit entertaining doubt. Quit talking about doubt. Quit bragging about how you have been tempted to doubt. Instead, say, "Satan, I resist you in Jesus' Name. I refuse to doubt."

You do not have to doubt unless you want to, because you are not a doubter, you are a believer. So, keep on believing!

Let me say it again, your confession of Satan's ability to hinder you and to keep you from success gives Satan dominion over you. Your confession of your fear gives fear dominion over you. If you confess fear, your fears become stronger, and you get more and more into bondage to the enemy. But if you will boldly confess your Father's care and protection and confess God's Word and declare that what God says about you is true, you will rise above satanic influence every time.

Every time you confess your doubts and fears, your weaknesses, and your diseases, you are openly confessing that the Word of God is not true, and that God has failed to make His Word good in your life. Think on that for a while! I want you to see the place that confession holds in your life.

DON'T CONFESS YOUR SICKNESS – CONFESS YOUR HEALING

What does God's Word say? Ask yourself that question on any subject. Take healing or sickness, for example. What does God have to say about the subject of healing? The Word declares that with *Jesus' stripes you were healed*. (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24.) The bible also says, *"Surely He has borne our sicknesses and carried our diseases"* (Isaiah 53:4.) And Matthew 8:17 says, *"... Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."*

But many times, instead of confessing that Jesus has borne their diseases and put them away, people confess they still have them. You see, the reason we miss it so much of the time is *we take the testimony of our physical senses instead of taking the testimony of the Word of God.* But when we start confessing that Jesus has done something about our sickness and disease—that He has taken them away – then health will become a reality in our lives.

HEALED BY HEARING AND CONFESSING THE WORD

A preacher shared that a woman came to his meetings and said, "Brother, I am going to the state institution to get my sister. She isn't really bad off mentally, but she does need institutional care. When someone speaks to her, she does understand what is being said. The doctors usually let her come home for two weeks anytime I want to come and get her. I believe these meetings you have will help her, so I am going to bring her to them."

This preacher never prayed for this woman's sister during those two weeks she came to his meetings. But, just from hearing the Word preached, that woman's mind was made clear, and she never went back to the hospital. The doctors gave her a clean bill of health.

You see, she had begun confessing defeat, fear, and doubt, and those things became a part of her. That is how her mind became sick in the first place. But in those services, she saw where she had missed it and she began to make the right confessions and was healed. Even the doctors said that she was healed. Before she attended those meetings the doctors said she would never be right in her mind!

Because this woman's recovery was so dramatic, another woman that had come to the meetings said she was going to ask her neighbor to come. Her neighbor was mentally disturbed and had been committed to the state hospital but had not yet gone. She said neither she nor her husband were saved, but she said she was going to tell the husband what had happened to the other woman at those meetings and see if she could bring the man's wife to the meeting.

She brought her neighbor to several morning meetings. When that week was over, that woman had been saved, healed, and filled with the Holy Ghost. She never did go to the state hospital. Five years later that preacher preached again at that church and the woman still attended, and her husband had gotten saved too.

The first woman who was mentally ill had been saved and filled with the Holy Ghost before she became mentally disturbed. But you know, people can get sick mentally as well as they can get sick physically. God can heal a mentally ill person as well as He can heal a physically ill person!

BELIEVING GOD'S WORD FOR YOUR OWN HEALING

You must understand that your will and your believing have a lot to do with your receiving healing or whatever it is you need from God. If you do not believe the Word or if you do not want to be healed, then God won't push healing on you. You have a part to play in receiving from God too. God doesn't override your will in the matter.

Let's look at it from the natural standpoint. Doctors today don't just say to people, "This is what is wrong with you. Take this medicine and you will be healed." It doesn't automatically work that way. In fact, the doctor cannot help anyone without the person's cooperation. For instance, the doctor could write someone a prescription, but if that person didn't fill the prescription and actually take the medicine, he would not get well.

Well, if the natural physician cannot help you without your cooperation, how is the Heavenly Physician going to help you without your full cooperation? He will not be able to.

God has certain rules and laws that He works by, and even those to whom He gives the healing ministry don't go around pushing healing off on folks. There must be cooperation on the part of the people receiving healing. So many people have thought that if someone would just pray the prayer of faith for them, they would automatically be healed, whether they themselves believed anything or not.

But even if these people did receive healing by someone else's faith, it would not be permanent. For example, I have seen people temporarily helped, but later they lost what they had received because they did not know how to hold on to their healing through their own faith.

If you are going to receive any permanent help, then you are going to have to act in faith yourself. YOU must practice God's Word for it to work for YOU.

As long as you hold on to the confession of weakness, sickness, and pain, you will still have weakness, sickness, and pain. You may search for some man or woman of God to pray the prayer of faith for you, but it will be of no avail, because your unbelief will destroy the effects of their faith. It is true, however, that baby Christians can be carried for a while by other people's faith. But the times will come when even they must begin to exercise and develop their own faith.

That is exactly the reason people receive their healing and then lose it. They have been in a service where there was mass or corporate faith and they received healing. But when they got on their own, Satan took advantage of their unbelief and put the ailment back on them because they didn't know how to stand against him with their own faith.

DON'T CONFESS YOUR SINS AND WEAKNESSES – CONFESS GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The believer who is always confessing his sins and his weakness is building weakness, failure, and sin into his consciousness. If we do sin, when we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9.) Once you make confession of your sin, do not ever refer to it again. It is not past history because past history can be remembered.

After you confess your sin, it is as though it had never been because God said in **Isaiah 43:25**, ***"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions...and will not remember thy sins."*** God does not have any memory of your sins that have been confessed, so why should you? It is not good taste to remind God of your sins because He has already told you in **Isaiah 43:25** that He doesn't remember that you did anything wrong.

This is why a lot of people do not have any faith. They talk themselves right out of faith because when they pray, they bring up every sin, shortcoming, fault, mistake, and failure they can think of to accuse themselves with. And when they get finished condemning themselves, they don't have any faith at all because they are holding themselves under condemnation; they are making the wrong confession!

CONFESS GOD'S FORGIVENESS FOR YOUR SIN

What should you confess? If you are going to confess anything, confess what God says in his word in regard to your mistake, sin, or failure. Confess that He has forgiven you, cleansed you, and has forgotten your sin. Confess and say, "Thank God, I am forgetting it too. I stand in God's presence as though I had never done wrong."

If the devil tries to bring your sin before you then say, "Yes, that is right Mr. Devil. I did that and I was wrong. But **1 John 1:9** says that if I confess my sin, God is faithful and just to forgive me and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. So, God has forgiven me, and I am thanking Him for it."

At first, you may not feel a thing but practice it for a while, because you have been going in the wrong direction for so long, it may be a little hard at first to break yourself of the habit of wrong confession. But as you practice doing the Word, you will eventually experience the victory! You see, acting on the Word is making the right confession. Acting on the Word is believing the right thing; it is thinking the right thing.

No matter how long someone prays for you, if you act against the Word, the Word cannot work for you. But when you act in line with the word, it will work for you.

Also, you should never confess your sins to people. You might have to ask someone to forgive you, but after you have done that, forget it. Don't confess your sins to people. If you are going to tell anyone about your sin, tell the Lord, confess it to him and then forget it.

These are the ways you learn to turn your faith loose: by believing right, by thinking right, and by making the right confession. Always confess in line with God's Word regardless of contradictory circumstances and watch God's Word work for you as you learn to turn your faith loose!