

Living Faith in the Power of God

By F.F. Bosworth

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Praise God for our precious privileges, as individuals and as a company of people. Perhaps there is nothing more important at the beginning of these meetings than that each individual, personally and collectively, shall come to God with something more than a desire - even with a real purpose of heart, and ask God that He shall do everything He wants to do in these meetings. Thousands of prayers are wasted because the person does not come to God with a real purpose of heart. As I see it from the Word of God, a real purpose of heart is indispensable to a living faith. If I can find out God's will on any line for me, and I come to Him with a real purpose of heart, I know that living faith will spring up and the result will bring things to pass. See to it that you really pray.

Many people in these days have given themselves to prayer, and give as much time to intercession as God wants them to spend; but I believe that even those who ask for less than God wants them to. God has infinitely more power than any of us have seen, and God would rather manifest His power in some great way than in a little way. It thrills me to think that God is love and is a benevolent God, and it is impossible for Him not to love us. Divine love must flow. That fills me with faith in asking for a revival, or for anything else that God has provided for His children. Many times

we kneel down and ask God for something, and get up when we have only just begun. I have begun asking God for something and did not at first get into His presence, but as I pressed closer and closer I would know I was in His presence, and would know that I was asking for the things He wanted me to ask for.

I believe it is possible for every individual to pray through, and to believe for just as much as God wants to give. I believe we should ask for the salvation of others with the same purpose of heart with which we asked for our salvation. If the Bible teaches anything it teaches that I shall love my neighbor as myself, and if I do, I shall come with as much purpose of heart and with as much perseverance as I came for my own. God would rather have us ask for a big revival than for just one to be saved. You know friends that God is leading us out of the old track and giving us glimpses of what He wants us to do. It is so easy to get tied down by our environments. "They limited the Holy One of Israel", and I believe that every one of you do that by not asking for as much as He wants you to ask. If I pray for any less than God wants to accomplish through my faith, then I have not been a full overcomer. With so many things to occupy our minds it is a wonderful thing to be an overcomer. I have been asking God to not let me

ask and believe for any less than He wanted me to do.

People come for healing and say, "I have not much faith." It could not be otherwise as long as they have not a purpose of heart in the matter. No sinner ever got saved by saying, "I would like to be saved". If you come to God for healing with as much purpose of heart as you came for salvation, you will get healed every time. Living faith is perfectly natural if we come in the line of obedience. You cannot exercise faith if you have not got it. It is hard to exercise what you have not got. The other day, in Fort Worth, a woman had been kicked by her husband. Some ribs had been broken and she; was vomiting blood. She was trying to keep it quiet but finally sent for a physician. He bandaged the wounds but she went on vomiting blood, and she came down to the meeting to be prayed for. I had not the living faith when she asked me, but we do not need living faith before we have use for it. With no living faith that I could feel, and no inspiration at all, I put my hands on the woman's heart and finally "prayed through" and knew it. A person can know when he prays; through just as he can for salvation.' I said to her, "Find your broken ribs." She began bending and could not make them hurt; then she pounded her side and could not hurt herself.

I was reading where Finney got hold of a man's diary. This man had tuberculosis of the lungs, and a merchant sent him some fruit. The man was so grateful in his heart, that he said "What can I do to repay him?" And he said, "One

thing I can do; I can ask God to save Jim." So he started with a purpose of heart to pray for that man. His wife said she thought he would die in prayer, but he prayed through, and that merchant was wonderfully converted to the astonishment of the town. Then that man went on praying for the town, and prayed until finally he wrote a note in his diary like this, "I was enabled today to pray what I call the prayer of faith for ----- town." Then he took another town and afterwards wrote the same in his diary about that town. And then God put on his heart a County in another Country, and he wrote, "I was enable to pray through for that place." And Finney said there was revival at every one of these places.

If we would get the same purpose of heart, God would make bare His arm. When I think of it, it thrills me. People say the days of revivals are over; I don't believe it. God can multiply His power a million times. We are living in the time of the Gospel age when He has promised to pour His Spirit on all flesh. We are in danger of anchoring to an experience instead of expecting God to pour out His Spirit on all the people. If the devil tries to hinder, God can pour out enough to meet the circumstance. "They were all together in one place and of one accord," and they were in perfect tune with God. Friends, if the outpouring could come to them then, it can come a thousand times, and you and I have it over and over. We can have it a thousand times if we need it. We can have all the good messages

and preaching in the world but if some individuals don't take hold of God, we cannot have a revival.

God works in answer to prayer. What a privilege for us to be allowed to come into the Holy of Holies and then see such wonderful results! It seems to me to be a crime not to be engaged in prayer for souls. Eternity is a mighty long time. To be indifferent to anything, that will bring such results as that, is terrible. It is hard in Conventions for people not to eat and eat, and forget to pray and take hold of God. I think it would be better sometimes for people to have one sermon a month and then practice it. It is a wonderful thing, friends, to be able to get right before God and pray until people are loosed from the devil's power. I believe the thing the Christian world needs today is prayer and faith and taking hold of God, and making it possible for God to bring revivals into existence.

Oh, friends, let us go right in and do what we will be glad we did when we have been in Heaven a thousand years. You know the Bible says, "If our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight." (I John 3:21,22). If a person neglects prayer then his own conscience condemns him and he does not have a living faith. Let us take hold of God with our whole hearts. God does not want us to simply CHOOSE to have a thing, which is according to His will,

but to PURPOSE WITH ALL OUR HEART to have it. God looks at what we have; we may not have faith at first, but we have a will, and if we will with God that is all He wants of us.

If we will with God, faith then will spring up with perfect naturalness, and your heart will not condemn you. Faith will spring up for you, and for others. If we want God to manifest Himself to us only, then that is not the obedience of Christ. Jesus lived to serve others. "If ye have not the spirit of Christ, ye are none of His." The idea of our getting together and having a good time by ourselves is not the spirit of Christ, and nothing so disqualifies us as this. Jesus wants us to live as He lived. Every man should live for the highest interest of the world, and we should set aside our own interests for the interests of others. For any person to act all the time for the glory of God and the highest interest of God's kingdom, no angel can do better. You can have a grand experience if you are right in the will of God. When I was a sinner I used to hear people talk about having a burden for souls. I want to say that a burden for souls, and sympathy for others, is a most exquisite luxury. If a man will act on that principle, he will have a grand experience. God then responds with a miracle.

We have a baptismal service at home every Sunday, and every one comes out of the water shouting. It brought such conviction on the sinners. I said, "There is never a better time to give yourselves to God, and if you will give yourselves to God, and choose to live for His glory, I will guarantee He will meet you right now." One went in

and came out shouting, then another and another. Some came out shouting, and others weeping and shouting together, until eighteen new ones came out of the water shouting. We announced that we would baptize the next Sunday and fifteen were baptized, and God's power fell on the audience, and I said, "If you actually choose once for all to Obey God, I guarantee you will come out of the water shouting, and I put the same proposition to them I had the Sunday before. The convicted sinners began to come forward and put on the wet robes the others had taken off, and to walk into the water; and no sooner did they do this than they commenced to shout and there was thirty-two baptized that day. Among this number was a tailor who got up weeping and said, "That means me." He started to the men's room, and while putting on the robe, began to shout, and as he went into the dressing room, his wife, jumped up and ran to the women's dressing room, and as the man went into the water he met his wife, and they kissed each other, and I baptized them together. They came out of the water shouting and were drunk with the Spirit I had to hold them up. A policeman was there to watch the proceedings, and he was so moved upon that he threw off his coat and left his cartridge and belt and walked into the water; he came out shouting and then went on his beat.

I have asked myself this question, "Am I as earnest in trying to save people from an eternal death as would be from a temporal death!" The salvation of one soul is worth more than a whole

world. If that is true, friends, then unless we act on these principles, our religion is more head-religion than heart-religion. There are a lot of people who think if they get the baptism they have, be foolish and it takes a lot of consecration to be willing to be foolish; but instead of having less wisdom and less brains after having the baptism, I believe we should have more. The Holy Ghost is sent into the word to win the world to God. If I act foolish it is hard to get a man to want what I have got. I admire people's consecration in being willing to do what they think God wants them to do, but God wants us to be wise. It takes wisdom to win souls. It is one thing to be persecuted for the gospel's sake, but it is another thing to be persecuted for foolishness.

I know if you will come to God in a spirit of prayer He will lift you up and enlarge your will. I have felt sometimes so weak that I could hardly stand, but as I have gotten into His presence and His power has worked in me, I felt, as Jesus says, that I had all power over the devil. It is glorious to know, friends, that any company, no matter how small that company may be, can pray through until God sweeps that place with a revival. So let us pray until God fills our minds with a vision of what He wants to do.

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