

THE THREE LEVELS OF FAITH

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Happy New Year! We hear that a lot this time of year—it's a saying of the world. But happiness is of the world and of the soul—it's a fleeting emotion and very fickle. God does not promise us a Happy New Year but He does promise us a prosperous and blessed New Year if we can follow the Spirit of God and allow Him to lead us into our Promised Land.

In February of 2011 I ministered a series of messages at a church in Michigan titled: *Living in the Promised Land*. It's one thing to know about the Promised Land and what God's promised you through the *Logos* and *Rhema* word but quite another to enter into it. The Holy Spirit wants us to live in the Promised Land but, like Israel of Exodus, we normally don't allow Him to lead us there. In fact, the major problem most Christians face is that they never leave Egypt—you can never inherit your promised land if you don't leave the things and systems of the world. The world as you *see* it with your physical eyes is not the same world that God created—it's been changed and perverted by Satan through the Law of Sin and Death. The Bible warns us not "to love the world or the things in the world." Why? Jesus Himself said in John 15 that "The world hates us" because we are not of the world. Rather we have been chosen out of the world by God Himself to be a part of His Family.

The major secret to inheriting your Promised Land is given in the Scriptures and it's given to Joshua (another name for Jesus) in Joshua 1:8 and you should

meditate on this Scripture for several days and allow the Holy Spirit to help you see if there is anything blocking you from inheriting your Promised Land.

Some of your obstructions come from the devil and his Dark Kingdom—they will always viciously attack any blessing God wants to give you to prevent your receiving it but often the problem is our own choosing and making because we simply do not have the Wisdom of God discussed in James 1. Yet our gracious and loving Lord has provided us with the keys in the Scriptures and the keys to your inheriting your Promised Land are the same ones given to Joshua: 1) Meditate the Word day and night, 2) Speak the Word out of your mouth, 3) Then you “will make your way prosperous ... and have good success.”

Last year I was impressed by the Holy Spirit to study everything Jesus said and did in the Gospels and the Book of Acts. The Wisdom of God is available for all God’s Family but, like Jesus when He walked the earth as a Man, we must “increase in wisdom”—godly wisdom and the best way to do this is to spend time both praying and meditating in the Scriptures and we certainly see this example in the life of Jesus. But most Christians don’t do this—they could but they don’t. We’ve found over many years of Christian ministry to individuals in 37 countries that most Christians want a “quick fix.” They want you to pray a short, simple prayer and solve all of their problems. Well, guess what? It doesn’t work that way! It didn’t work that way for Moses and it won’t work that way for you. And there’s a reason *why* it doesn’t work that way.

This morning as I was praying, the Lord impressed me to write this new teaching – I’ve not preached it or taught it before—to help you in 2012 toward reaching your Promised Land and the best that God has for you. If you can follow the Wisdom of God and grow in wisdom then the decisions and choices you make this year will bless and prosper you. Praise the Lord!

Three is God’s perfect number. We see this number in God Himself—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We also see it many other places in the Scriptures, e.g., in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit—there are *three threes* or nine gifts—three power gifts that *do* something—three vocal gifts that *say* something and three revelation gifts that *reveal* something.

Therefore, if we accept that three is God's perfect number than we should begin to look for three *levels* in many spiritual things. For example, man was created in the image of God according to the Scriptures; therefore, like God, man is a three-fold being: spirit, soul and body. We find the number three also in the spiritual anointing given by the Holy Spirit when a person is born-again into God's family. Every Christian is given a basic three-fold anointing: prophet, priest and king. There are *three* levels of the prophetic. Every truly born-again Christian has a prophetic anointing—I've proven this in churches all over the world and if you don't understand this or you are not operating in your prophetic anointing then you need help and we are available to help you. God wants you operating in your prophetic anointing. If you don't, there are people who will die and go to hell; there are people who are praying to God for healing that won't be healed because God wanted to use you to heal them by the laying on of hands.

We could go on discussing the many "threes" in God's creation but today the Lord wants me to teach you about the three levels of Faith.

1. The First Level of Faith is *basic* faith.

For this level of faith you don't even have to be a Christian to exercise it. Don't believe me? Well, turn to Matthew 8 (cp. Especially Ro. 12:3) and I'll prove it to you from the Scriptures. An interesting aspect of this level of faith and this testimony of the Scriptures is that it reinforces the secret the Lord gave to Joshua in Joshua 1:8, i.e., an important aspect of faith and receiving the promises of God that we've meditated on is that we speak the word out of our mouths! God told Joshua: "This book of the law (the written word of God) *shall not depart out of thy mouth ...*" (italics are added for emphasis). But we are such failures at this, my brother and sister! We don't speak the Word out of our mouths very much and if we do then the devil attacks us and we begin to speak the *circumstances* instead of the Word and God's promises.

Now this man in Matthew 8 was a Roman citizen—a military commander of 100 men—and though the Bible doesn't explicitly say that he wasn't a Jew, i.e., in covenant with God (because the only way you came into covenant with God in those days was to convert to the Jewish faith, and for a man he had to also be

circumcised) I believe the text demonstrates that this centurion was not a Jew because of Jesus' response. So let's dissect the text. This Roman military commander came to Jesus and said:

“Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.” (Mt. 8:6)

Notice how the centurion honored and respected Jesus by calling Him, “Lord.”

Being in the Presence of the Lord is an awesome thing! It always elicits a response from us both now as well as when Jesus walked the earth. After a miracle of Jesus Peter responded: “Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” (Luke 5:8)

Isaiah responded similarly when he stood before the Throne of God in Heaven:

“Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: ...” (Isaiah 6:5)

Notice that the centurion had compassion on his servant and he had either been around Jesus before and seen Him heal people or else he had heard testimony of Jesus healing people. I believe it was the former as we will see later.

Jesus responded with like compassion: “I will come and heal him.” (Mt. 8:7)

The centurion responds with humility, again demonstrating honor and respect for Jesus: “Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.” (Mt. 8:8)

He then goes on to explain to Jesus that he completely understood the principle Jesus used to heal people—by speaking the word! “For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.” (8:9)

“When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” (8:10) I believe Jesus' response in this verse as well as vv. 11-12 demonstrates that the centurion was not a Jew and yet the centurion exercised faith and so his wish was granted (Mt. 8:13)

This Scripture is a wonderful testimony and a passage that can teach us much about the Kingdom of God. Yet, it's also a sad testimony regarding the state of Israel at that time as well as the state of the Church today: Jesus marveled at the faith of this Roman centurion and called his faith “great” *because* this man

exhibited more faith in the Word of the Lord than any single person in covenant with the Lord from Israel! We've experienced much the same thing in the Church today—the easiest people to get healed, especially of terminal illnesses, are non-Christians and the hardest people to get healed or receive a miracle are Spirit-filled Christians. Why? Because they don't exhibit the same level of basic faith that this Roman Centurion did. Remember, as we stated on this website under the tabs for “healing/miracles” you must demonstrate this basic faith for healing, miracles, and all the promises of God given in the Scriptures under the New Covenant the same way you do for salvation—by believing and speaking the Word out of your mouth.

Unfortunately, many like Israel of old that Jesus marveled at in this Scripture, many Christians *lack* in this basic level of faith—remember, although the Scriptures state that all receive a “measure of faith,” (Ro. 12:3 “...according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith”), the Apostle Paul also stated in 2 Thessalonians 3:2 that “not all have faith.”

And when I was rewriting the Second Edition of Mysterious Secrets of the Dark Kingdom (MSDK) in 2008, the Lord showed me how this “lack” was destroying the lives of many of His people causing them to die before their appointed time. He had told me in 1980: “Son, the devil is going to put cancer on more and more Christians.” Then, in 2008 He revealed one of the prime reasons Christians are being destroyed with cancer—they don't have **basic** faith to stand against it. Smith Wigglesworth is sometimes called “The Apostle of Faith.” Brother Wigglesworth used to say and preach all the time: “If you wait ‘til you need your faith to develop it you're too late.” The Lord showed me in 2008 and I wrote about cancer in MSDK one of the ways the devil was deceiving God's people into succumbing to cancer—they are doing the *opposite* of what the Scriptures say.

Listen closely and remember this! The Bible says in James that if we are *hearers* of the Word and not *doers* then we are in deception. The Lord showed me through 2 Corinthians 4:18 how Christians are not being doers of the Word in resisting cancer. In fact, they are doing the opposite of this verse and it's killing them!

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

When the doctor takes an x-ray and says that you have a tumor on your liver, what do you do? Unfortunately, most Christians begin to focus on the tumor—they are doing the opposite of the Scriptures and are “looking at the things which are seen” instead of the Word and “things which are not seen.” If you know somebody who has cancer, my brother and sister, minister this teaching to them and they will be healed as they focus on faith in the Word and not “the things which are seen.”

So, if you have been negligent in this basic level of faith, I hope this will encourage you to develop this basic level of faith the Lord has given you.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus: “If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” (Mt. 17:20)

Now, if you have cancer (or any other affliction), type out the above scripture and insert the word “cancer” in place of mountain. Then begin to confess this Scripture all day long thus demonstrating that you are a “doer” of the Word. Yes, people may think you’re crazy “talking” to the cancer but that’s what this scripture says to do: “Say unto this cancer” so you do it. I can guarantee you that the tumor will disappear!

“How long will it take, Brother Timmons, for the cancer to disappear?” I don’t know and neither do you—in this example it’s normally a function of how strong and developed your basic level of faith is. Over many years of ministering to people with terminal illnesses I’ve learned an important *fact* about the Lord’s healing: Jesus is not a liar and He will perform His Word on your behalf. But you don’t tell God *how* to do it and you don’t tell Him *when* to do it. Your part is to *believe* (and keep on believing; the Greek is active in John) and not doubt and to be a doer of the Word. If you will be a doer of the Word, then I can guarantee you will achieve the desired result.

Remember Jesus’ final words to the Centurion:

“And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.” (Mt. 8:13)

2. **The Second Level of Faith** is found in 1 Corinthians 12:9. This is the spiritual gift of faith given by the Spirit of God through what we call The Gifts of the Spirit. Although there are many “Gifts of the Spirit” discussed in the Scriptures, most Christians refer to the nine gifts of the Spirit discussed in 1 Corinthians 12 as “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.” The Lord had Evelyn and I write a book titled *The Gifts and Operations of the Holy Spirit* last year and I’d highly recommend that you obtain a copy and read/meditate on it because it will really help you by giving you revelation from the Spirit concerning all His gifts and also The Fruit of the Spirit.

Now the Gift of Faith, like all the Gifts of the Spirit, is supernatural so you cannot *develop* it like you can your own basic level of personal faith. However, as you become more and more sensitive to the Holy Spirit you will find yourself operating more and more in this gift. My wife and I operate in this second level of faith all the time because the Lord manifests this gift of the Holy Spirit. I could give many testimonies but one the Lord impressed me to share was in 1996 on the Island of Siquiior in the Visays of the Philippine Islands. There was an American living there who was married to a Filipino woman. He was a Baptist and had been diagnosed with cancer of the prostate. I had ministered the Baptism of Power to many people there through the laying on of hands and was impressed to hold a healing crusade—the first one ever on this island. The missionary couple there arranged it; we got permission from the mayor to use the stadium in the town and though this occurred during the monsoons there were over a 100 people who came to the crusade and 37 gave their hearts to Jesus (this island with a population of 78,000 only had one church and only about 100 Christians on the whole island).

We saw many miracles and healing at this crusade including a blind man of 90 whose eyes were opened. Yet the Baptist man, no doubt because of the false doctrine he’d been taught, could not believe that Jesus still heals today. We prayed for him anyway and when he left the island to go over to Dumaguete where there was a hospital for surgery the doctors performed several more x-

rays because the tumor was no longer there! Even though he did not have basic faith for this miracle, he had been completely healed so there was no surgery performed. Praise the Lord!

We have seen dead people raised and this gift is always necessary for the raising of the dead because no human being has the faith—on their own—to raise the dead. Essentially, what happens in this gift as a response to prayer is that God drops or enters His faith into the equation to effect the result that can look like either a healing or a miracle but more often a miracle. This gift operated during the life of Daniel when the mouths of the hungry lions were supernaturally closed. Oh they wanted to eat Daniel but they couldn't because God controlled them!

This Gift of Faith is one of the dominant power gifts demonstrated by the prophets of the Scriptures; therefore, we should expect to see this gift operated through prophets today. It is similar (in results) to the Gift of Working of Miracles except that it is *passive* whereas Working of Miracles is *active*.

3. The Third Level of Faith is one about which I've never heard anything written nor preached. This level of faith will be in operation shortly before the return of the Lord and it will operate only through His Bride. This was revealed to the prophet William Branham only a year before he died, although it was not referred to as I have as a "level of faith." The Angel of the Lord worked with Brother Branham and he revealed this secret to Brother Branham while he was fishing one day. He referred to it as "The Third Pull" and he told Brother Branham that this gift "would bring the Bride home." Now although Brother Branham demonstrated this gift on a few occasions before he died he never revealed what it was to anybody. He simply stated: "I will keep that secret in my bosom and take that secret to my grave."

About 12 years ago the Lord had me study Branham's life and ministry; I have all of the messages he preached. Although there was a lot of controversy over William Branham that still exists today about whether or not he was a false prophet due to some messages he preached, most notably *The Serpent's Seed*, I can tell you that he was *not* a false prophet—he

definitely was a true prophet—and his ministry birthed many, many ministries like Oral Roberts, T.L. Osborn, A.A. Allen, and many more that are too many to list.

I had learned some things about Brother Branham from a pastor, Millard Littlefield, in Cleveland, Tennessee, back in the '80s that piqued my interest because both my wife and I had received prophecies from different people about our ministry being “like William Branham” so I had an interest in his life. Brother Branham dedicated Pastor Littlefield’s church, Faith Memorial Church, that I preached in and I have that message on CD. During this time (1980-1985) the Lord had me studying the prophet’s office. Brother Littlefield was about the same age as Branham and they both “grew up” so to speak in the Pentecostal movements of healing, etc. that God restored to the Church through William Branham (among others). Brother Littlefield told me that he and Brother Branham were “bosom friends” and how Brother Branham “never missed it.”

Now brothers and sisters if he never missed it (and I learned *why* he never missed it when I studied his life) then he was definitely a true prophet and his life was a testimony that he was a true prophet. Perhaps he became deceived in some areas but I attribute this to the group of Christians he “ran” with because of their doctrine, e.g., that a woman cannot be holy if she wears makeup or cuts her hair.

It’s not my place to judge William Branham in these areas; however, just because he or you or I have some false doctrine doesn’t mean we’re false prophets, teachers, etc. I’ve learned over the years—especially since the Gift of Discerning of Spirits has become so strong and I see the operation of religious spirits controlling so much of the Church for Satan—how true a statement my pastor, John Osteen, used to say all the time when somebody would mention the false doctrine of the Catholic Church or some other church. Brother John would always retort, “Well, what about *your* false doctrine?” No, Jesus gave the definition of a false prophet in the Scriptures—you know them “by their fruit” and William Branham definitely produced good fruit and he did not live a life of sin.

In October, 1996, the Lord sent me to an island in the Philippines, Siquiior, that I mentioned earlier. This island is known as the “Seat of Witchcraft” in all of Southeast Asia. If you read MSDK, Second Edition, I discuss 2 of the forms of witchcraft I encountered here—the Poison Touch people and Bubblemen; however there are other types of witchcraft such as Aswara that I did not mention.

The main purpose of this mission trip the Lord sent me on was to rescue a young girl—the daughter of missionaries—who was about to be deceived through witchcraft into marrying the wrong man—a man who was not even a Christian. An interesting aspect about this mission trip occurred as I was praying a few months before departure over the direction of the Lord. I saw a vision of the island and a huge spider that resembled a tarantula, except that its legs were skinny and were not covered in “fur,” was draped over the island blocking the sun and I could tell from the vision that this *spider* was controlling the Island of Siquiior. When I arrived there I discovered that there were actually physical spiders of the same appearance that inhabited the island and they were very fast—one could run across the room in only a few seconds. These spiders are very poisonous!

The Lord told me before my departure to “fast and pray for 3 days and I will give you the battle plan.” So I shut myself up once I arrived there in a Nepa hut, fasted and prayed for 3 days. During this time I not only received the battle plan for that island but also revelation from the Lord concerning this Third Level of Faith. I also learned a very important principle of interpreting your own personal prophecies—sometimes they are quite literal! Because of this fact, we often gloss over various words in the personal prophecy when we need to read, meditate, and pray into every single word because they are important.

If you’ve read MSDK you know I discussed some spiritual operations that most people would not believe, e.g., a person being spiritually given the appearance or heart of an animal such as a lion. Things like this are difficult for the average person, especially if they are from the West or have a

scientific mind, to understand simply for *one* reason—few people have much knowledge or understanding about spiritual matters or the spirit world.

Now, spiritual things are much like physical things. For example, it's well known among marriage counselors or experts that the longer a couple is married and/or the better they know one another the more likely they are to be in sync with one another in both their thoughts, behaviors and actions. The same thing is true of the Bride of Christ.

My wife began to teach on intimacy back in the '80s before it became popular. You will not find anyone in the Bride of Christ who is not intimate with Him. Back in those days He told my wife, "I am not going to marry a prostitute." I believe that's one of the reasons why the Scripture states in Revelation that the Bride "made herself ready."

Many people, including those in the secular world, are wondering about the end of the world and all the "prophecies" surrounding 2012. As Christians, we have inside information that the world cannot end prior to the Bride being taken. The Lord spoke to me in 1998 and said, "When the Bride is ready the Bridegroom will appear." Yes, like many other misconceptions we have in Christianity, we're not waiting on God—He's waiting on us—waiting on the Bride to "make herself ready." So, if you desire to be included with the Bride perhaps you should meditate on that scripture and ask the Holy Spirit what it means—*how* does the Bride make Herself ready?

The Bride is able to operate in this Third Level of Faith because she has one heart and one mind with the Lord Jesus. The Apostle Paul said: "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." (1 Cor. 2:16) But as I've said when ministering in churches all over the world after reading this scripture: "Then why don't *you* have the mind of Christ?" I think it's quite obvious that most Christians don't have or exhibit the Mind of Christ. Why not? But because the Bride of Christ Jesus is One with Him and the Father then the Bride is able to minister on the same level of faith as Jesus Himself, i.e., the Third Level. Praise the Lord!

I pray that you will be like Jesus and “be about the Father’s business” this new year of 2012. As usual, we are available to help you fulfill the gifts and callings upon your life for expansion of the Kingdom of God.