

UNDERSTANDING OUR CONFESSION

— by Kenneth Hagin

(Sixth in the series: Six Big Hindrances to Faith)

I Timothy 6:12

“Fight the good fight of faith....”

Sometimes folks have said, after having a little battle in the area of faith or a little fight in obtaining healing, “If I had just been there when Jesus was on the earth. It would have been easy then.” However, if you go back and read the four Gospels you will find that it was not so easy.

Take for instance the woman with the issue of blood. Jesus said to her, “Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole” (Mark 5:34). It was not Jesus’ faith, nor someone else’s faith, but her faith that made her whole.

To receive her healing she had a number of obstacles to overcome. First, according to the Book of Leviticus, a woman with an issue of blood was in the same category as a leper. They were not supposed to be in public mixing and mingling with other people. If anyone came close they were to cry out, “Unclean! Unclean!” That was her church teaching.

But she got right into that crowd, mixed and mingled with them, and reached right through and touched Jesus’ clothes. She had an obstacle of some church teaching to overcome to receive healing. But she overcame it.

Women in that country, especially at that time, didn’t have the rights and privileges of mixing freely in public that they have in most of the world today. She overcame that, too. She didn’t pray that God would make it easy. She just got right into the midst of the crowd. And, of course, when she got to where Jesus was, the multitude was there.

You could say that the multitude stood between her and healing. Public sentiment stood between her and healing. Some of her own church teaching stood between her and getting to Jesus. But she did not pray that God would overcome the obstacles or remove them for her. She did something about them herself.

You, too, will have to do something about the obstacles which confront you yourself. I have heard others actually pray, “Lord, make it easy for me to be filled with the Spirit,” and never be filled. You see, God puts it all on a faith proposition. Too many people want God to do all of it, leaving nothing for them to do; no part for them to play. But we do have a part to play.

And we do have obstacles to overcome. Our text says, “Fight the good fight of faith.” If there were no hindrances or enemies there would be no fight.

The Bible tells us, “...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Therefore the greatest hindrance there is to faith is a lack of knowledge of God’s Word. It is a mistake to pray for faith when what is really needed is a knowledge of God’s Word. If you gain knowledge of God’s Word, you will have faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

Faith will grow when our knowledge of God’s Word grows. If faith is not growing, our knowledge of God’s Word is not growing. I would be concerned if I did not have a growing faith.

It is a tragedy that folks can believe God more when they are first new baby Christians than they can after they have been Christians for years. Instead of growing in faith, it looks as though they deteriorate in faith. That should not be.

We have been looking at six hindrances to faith. All of them, of course, are in connection with a lack of knowledge of God’s Word. The sixth hindrance we shall look at is the reason many fail. They do not understand what the Bible says about “confession.”

When we use the word “confession” people instinctively think of confessing sin, confessing failure. And the Bible does say, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteous-

ness" (I John 1:9). But that is the negative side of confession. The Bible has much more to say about the positive side of confession--confessing our faith.

Regarding salvation, for instance, the Bible says in Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus (Jesus is Lord), and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." This does not refer to confessing sin. This is confessing Jesus. This is not a negative confession. This is a positive confession.

Now notice the next verse, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10). This is not a negative confession. This is a positive confession. "... with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." In other words we could say, with the mouth man confesses that he is saved.

Did you know that no man is ever saved until he confesses that he is saved? I don't care if he feels saved, he still is not saved until he confesses he is saved. God's Word says that, "with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

In a certain Full Gospel Church in one of our large cities, the men were in the habit of coming by the church each day before they went to work for an early morning prayer meeting. A lost man who had never been saved had been coming to the men's prayer meetings each morning for six months and was still unsaved.

When I came to this church to hold a meeting, one of the Christian brothers there told me about this lost man. "Brother Hagin, I believe you can help him," the Christian brother said. I knew that I could because God's Word will always straighten any of us out who will listen to it.

Since the men worked during the week and could not attend the morning teaching sessions we had during the meeting, they asked me to teach at a Saturday night teaching session for men only. And into the first Saturday night men's meeting here came this lost man with his Bible under his arm. We were introduced but we didn't have time to talk before the service began.

Some were still coming in even though it was time to start so I said, "While others are still coming in we'll have a few testimonies." One or two men testified and then I looked over at this man and said to him, "Get up and confess that you are saved."

That startled him. He said, "Oh! I'm not saved yet."

"I know it," I said, "but you see the Bible

says that with the mouth confession is made unto salvation, and you will never be saved until you confess that you are and make a public confession of it because Jesus said, 'Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven' (Matthew 10:32)."

"Yes," he said, "but I don't feel like I'm saved."

"Certainly not. You can't feel something you haven't got. You don't feel saved because you are not saved. You won't feel saved until you are saved; until you confess it."

"Well, I--I," he stuttered, "I don't much believe I want to do that."

"I want to ask you a question," I said. "Is it correct that you have been coming here for six months praying and repenting?"

"Oh, yes," he replied, "God knows I have prayed and repented every morning."

"Well repentance has its place, but you have already done that and you don't need to do it again. Now you are ready for the next step. You see, if there were three steps into this building, just because you got onto the first step, or even the second, would not mean you were in the building. If there are three steps, you have to take all three before you are in."

(Folks will just take a step or two, and the steps they take are Bible steps, but they don't arrive because they don't take all the steps that lead to the particular provision.)

Then I said to him, "You have your Bible, open it to Romans 10:9-10 and read it aloud."

He read, "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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

I said to him then, "Confess that you are saved."

"No, I don't much believe I'll do that."

(Now I do things sometimes that startle me. And in this instance I did one of those things. The Spirit of God came upon me to anoint me to do it. Even as I spoke the words I found myself thinking, "Is that coming out of me?" My head had nothing in the world to do with it.)

Suddenly I found myself pointing my finger at him and with authority and sternness in my voice, I said, "I command you! I command you to stand and confess you are saved!"

When I said that he stood. He looked around about half scared and said, "Well, most of you know that I have been coming by here for six months and praying every morning. And God knows I am tired of sin and that I have repented

and repented, prayed and prayed, and cried and cried. The Bible does say right here, '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.'

"Well," he continued, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for my sins according to scripture. And I believe that God raised Him from the dead for my justification. (He knew what the Bible said about it.) So I'll just confess Him as my Lord and Saviour and confess that I am saved." Then he sat down so fast and hard you would have thought he had knocked the bottom out of the seat.

To divert attention away from him, I quickly pointed to another fellow and said, "Brother, you stand and testify." He did. Then I pointed to another one and he testified, too.

After two had testified I looked back at this fellow and I'll tell you his face was lit up like a neon sign. I said to him, "Brother, you get up again now."

This time you didn't have to prod him. He jumped up as though that pew were wired with electricity. As he jumped off the seat he shouted, "Woo! When I said that, something happened down here inside me."

I said, "Sure something happened to you. It is with the mouth that confession is made unto, and when you made your confession God imparted eternal life into your spirit. Praise God that is what happened!"

Two nights later he was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues. The following summer, he and his family were on vacation and stopped by where we were in a meeting. In talking to us further he said, "Brother Hagin, I would go by the church and pray and I meant business. I was honest and as sincere as I could be. Every morning I would cry and repent and every afternoon after work I would stop by the beer joint and drink with the fellows. But after I just simply made that confession there was such a change in me. Instantly I was even delivered from cigarettes. I had been carrying a pack of them in my pocket and about a week later after breakfast I unconsciously reached for them. It was then that I realized I hadn't been smoking. My wife spoke up and said, 'I've been watching you and you haven't smoked a cigarette in a week.'"

He was a new man. And the inward man was dominating the outward man. Now some folks don't have it that easy. That is because the outward man keeps dominating. They let the body dominate the man on the inside. However, if you will let that new man on the inside dominate it

is easy to keep the flesh out.

He continued, "I didn't do that purposely, it was just that I was so carried away with the blessings of God and taken up in Him that I didn't notice I hadn't smoked for a week. I threw that package away and it has never bothered me. I went right past those beer joints and they were never any temptation to me."

When you make a positive confession of faith it creates reality. And then you walk in the reality of God's blessing.

Many people struggle because instead of being on the positive side, they are on the negative. It's always such a battle with them, "Oh, I'm having a time. Poor ole me."

Our faith keeps pace with our confession. Let me repeat. Our faith keeps pace with our confession. Faith never rises above its confession. As I said, I am not referring to the confession of sins, but to the confession of the Word of God and the confession of our faith in God's Word.

If we confess weakness, and failure, and sickness, we destroy faith. If your need is healing, boldly make your confession that your diseases were laid on Jesus, then hold fast to that confession. That is where the fight of faith comes in--in holding fast to our confession of faith. Hebrews 4:14 tells us to hold fast our confession. When we do that we bring God on the scene.

The majority of Christians, however, though they are earnest yet they are weak. This is because they have never really dared to confess what God's Word says about them. They have never dared confess that they are what the Bible says they are--that they are who the Bible says they are--that they have what the Bible says they have.

A spiritual law which few of us realize is that our confessions rule us. They are ruling us and they will continue to rule us. Jesus said, "...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." (Mark 11:23).

Notice that last phrase again, "he shall have whatsoever he saith." What we say is our confession. What we say is our faith speaking--whether it is on the positive side or on the negative. Jesus said that he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Did Jesus know what He was talking about or are these just the words of an irresponsible dreamer? No, they are not the words of a dreamer! He knew exactly what He was saying. And what did He say you shall have? He said that you shall have "what you say."

I tell people all the time, "If you are not satisfied with what you have, then change what you are saying--because you have created that yourself in your own life."

So many people will maintain a wrong confession, instead of maintaining a right confession. A wrong confession is a confession of defeat, of failure, and of the supremacy of Satan.

Many people have more faith in the devil than they do in God. They don't mind at all talking about what the devil is doing and what he's going to do. They talk about it all the time. But try and get those same people to talk about what God will do and they say, "Well, I would be afraid to do that." Are they afraid God won't keep His Word? Are they afraid that He is a liar? No, God will do everything that He said He would do! Praise the Lord! He will keep His Word!

All some people talk about is their combat with the devil and what a time they are having with him. They shouldn't have any trouble with the devil because Jesus has already defeated the devil for them. If they knew the Word they would know that Satan is a defeated foe. Colossians 2:15 says, "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." He triumphed over them in His resurrection and put them to nought.

Therefore always talking about your combat with the devil, how he is hindering you, how he is holding you in bondage, how he is keeping you sick, is a confession of defeat. And as long as you talk about that, that is what you are going to have.

Many times I have prayed for folks and they have been healed because of the mass faith present, or on my faith. All symptoms of their former diseases left. Yet, as they went away, I had a heaviness in my spirit. I knew the thing or something worse would come back on them. How did I know? The whine never left their voices. I knew they would go right back to whining and talking negatively; talking unbelief.

Wrong confession glorifies the devil. Talking about what a time you're having with the devil, what a battle you're having, what all you are going through, how he is keeping you from success, keeping you sick, holding you in bondage; that kind of confession glorifies the devil.

I know folks wouldn't do it if they really knew what they were doing, but to tell you the truth that kind of confession is an unconscious declaration that God, your Father, is a failure.

Everytime you testify, you are confessing something. Most of the testimonies or confes-

sions we hear today glorify the devil. I listen to them in churches where they have testimony meetings.

When you testify and brag on Jesus aren't you glorifying Jesus? When you tell what God has done and is doing, don't you glorify God? By the same token, if you get up and brag on the devil's works then you are glorifying the devil. Some folks have glorified the devil more than they have glorified God and that is the reason they are in the mess they're in.

When you talk about the devil and what he has done you are glorifying the devil and his works. When you talk about defeat you are talking about the works of the devil. Defeat is not of God! God did not intend that the Church should be defeated, did He?

Let's look at what the Bible has to say about this. The Bible declares in Matthew 16:18 that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church. Paul writing to the Church said, "... in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37). If he had just said we were conquerors it would have been enough. But it says that we are more than conquerors, through Him!

All right then, let's talk about what we are in Him. Rather than saying, "Well, I'm just whipped. I'm defeated," get up and tell what the Bible says about you. Say, "I am a conqueror!"

"But it doesn't seem that I am," you might say. It may not seem that it is so, but your confession of it will create the reality of it in your life. Sooner or later you will become what you confess.

An evangelist told me of holding a meeting in a Full Gospel Church in a city of around 100,000 population. The leading business man of the city, the wealthiest man in town, was a member of this church. This man had a heart condition and during the meeting he had an attack at home. His wife called the pastor and the evangelist to come and pray.

They went to the upstairs bedroom of the palatial home where the man lay unconscious. The doctor said that he could not be moved even to get him to the hospital. He told the man's wife that though they were giving him oxygen and doing all they could, he would never regain consciousness but would die there in bed. The evangelist and pastor laid hands on him and prayed and as quickly as you would snap your fingers, he opened his eyes and was all right!

He sat up, then got out of bed and walked down the stairs to the living room where he visited with them for about forty-five minutes. When the pastor and evangelist rose to leave,

he did not go outside with them as he was still wearing only pajamas and a robe and the weather was cold. His wife, however, did follow them outside. She closed the door as she followed them so that her husband could not hear. She said to the evangelist, "Keep praying for him. Keep on praying for him."

The evangelist asked, "Why?"

"Well," she said, "the devil will come back and put that right back on him and he'll have another attack."

"Sister, you have more faith in the devil than you have in God. You have just stood right there and told me what the devil is going to do. You said, 'The devil is coming back and he's going to put it back on him. The devil is going to give him another heart attack.' Why don't you say, 'God has healed him. Healing belongs to us and the devil can't come back. He's not going to put that back on him?'"

She answered, "Oh, I'd be afraid to say a thing like that."

"Why?" he asked.

Whispering she replied, "Don't you know the devil would hear me."

Many Christians are the same way; some preachers even. I was holding a meeting in the Los Angeles area one year when there came an epidemic of the Asian Flu. Headlines of "The Los Angeles Times" said that two million had Asian Flu in the Los Angeles area.

In the suburb where we held the meeting there were two high school football teams. The local paper reported that both of them cancelled their Friday night games. One team had a squad of thirty-nine men and not a single one turned up for practice. The other squad had forty-one men and only two showed up for practice. Our church building which seated several hundred had been full, but when this thing hit so many of them had it, we got down to forty people.

Someone asked me, "Aren't you afraid?"

I publicly declared, "I don't worry about it. I will never have the Asian Flu." And I never have.

Well, when I have made confessions of faith such as that, I have had Full Gospel preachers say to me privately, "Boy, aren't you afraid to make a statement like that?"

I said, "No, why?"

They whispered it out to me, "Don't you know that the devil will hear you?"

"Sure I know he will hear me. I said it for his benefit. He's the very dude I wanted to hear it. There was no need in my saying it for God's benefit. He already knew it anyhow. The devil is the one that I wanted to hear it."

A number of years ago my wife and I start-

ed to go in to visit someone whom we had heard was ill. "If you are afraid," they cautioned, "you'd better not come in here. I've got this virus and I've got a bad case of it."

"Don't let it bother you a bit," I said, "I'll never have it."

But my wife said, "Well, now maybe I'd better not go in. I might get it."

I told her to make her own choice and she did go ahead and go in with me, but sure enough she got it because she had said that she probably would. I did not get it. I pointed that out to her and told her, "You said the wrong thing." That hesitance was there. She had wavered. And I mean she came down with that illness almost before we got home. It jumped on her that fast.

If you open the door the devil will jump on you. Job said, "For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me" (Job 3:25). You open the door to the devil by being afraid. You open the door to the devil by saying the wrong thing and making the wrong confession.

There are also those who say, "I believe I'll try that," just because they have heard someone teach it; perhaps myself. Well, if you make confessions which are not really your faith speaking but are just off the top of your head, so to speak, you will fall flat on your face and the devil will whip you badly.

It is when you know what God's Word says for yourself and make that the confession of your faith that you cannot be defeated. That is why I encourage people to get into the Word. Find out what the Bible says about you as Christians. Underline those statements we told you about in our previous lesson, "Understanding Our Place in Him." Underline all the "in Him," "in Christ," "in Whom," etc., scriptures and begin to confess them. Confess, "This is mine because I am in Christ." "Because I am in Him, I have this." Find out what is yours and when you make your confession of faith because of what you see in God's Word, then because you have a foundation of God's Word under you, you will never be defeated.

In the natural, folks will maintain the wrong confession and then naturally their confession of doubt and failure and unbelief will sap the very life out of them and will destroy their faith. It will hold them in bondage. But the confession of your faith which has grown out of knowledge of God's Word will defeat the devil in combat every time you meet him. Praise the Lord!

Peter wrote, "...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom

he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

I think that is as far as some people read. They say, "Woo, the devil is after me. It says here he is going about like a roaring lion. It seems like I can feel his hot breath on my neck right now. He's seeking whom he may devour and I'm afraid he's about to get me. You all pray for me that he won't." There really isn't any need to pray for anyone like that because the minute they started talking that way he had them.

Certainly we have an enemy. "Your adversary" this verse calls him. An adversary is an opponent, an enemy, one who is arrayed against you, one who stands between you and victory, between you and success.

"Your adversary, the devil walketh about (right down here on this earth because he is the god of this world) as a roaring lion (if you let him he will scare you) seeking whom he may devour."

If you stop reading right there, that's not a very pretty picture, is it? But we are not to stop reading there.

Peter is writing to Christians, he's not writing to sinners. The devil has already devoured them and swallowed them up. He will swallow us up if we let him. Now what are we to do about it?

Are we just going to throw up our hands and say, "Well, there's nothing we can do. I'm so weak and unworthy. Poor ole me."? No! A thousand times no!

Are we just to roll over and play dead thinking, "He'll go away if I pretend he's not there."? No! We're not to do that.

Well, what are we to do? Let's read on and do what the scripture says to do. "Whom resist steadfast in the faith...." (I Peter 5:9). I like one translation which says, "Whom resist steadfast in your faith." Your faith in God's Word--your faith in what God said about the devil--your faith in what God said about you. You resist him in that! Hallelujah to Jesus!

James 4:7 puts it this way, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." "You" is the understood subject of that sentence. "You resist the devil...." It does not say to get somebody else to resist him for you. We can help each other temporarily but in the final analysis some things you have to do for yourself. James wrote this letter to the Church but he did not write them to this effect, "Word has come to me that our beloved brother, Apostle Paul, has had great success casting out devils and dealing with devils. I suggest you write to him and get him to do something about it." No, he did not say that. You have just as much authority as the

next fellow over the devil. You resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Now, in order for him to flee from you he would have to be right there with you or maybe even in you. I could not flee from Tulsa, for instance, if I was not in Tulsa, could I? When you resist him, he will flee from you.

I looked up the word "flee" in several dictionaries. I wasn't satisfied with the different shades of definitions I could gather until I got a dictionary about a foot thick which had more than one page on the word "flee." Under the heading "to flee" I found the one I liked. It said, "to flee from: to run from as in terror."

At the time I was looking into the meaning of this word, a dam broke high up in the mountains bordering France and Switzerland. Billions of gallons of water came down between those mountains and wiped out an entire town. One newspaper article read, "The townspeople are fleeing...." They were running from as in terror because their lives were in danger.

God's Word says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." He will run from you as if in terror!

Oh, he's not so afraid of you as an individual. But when you find out what your rights and privileges are in Christ; when you find out that the Name of Jesus belongs to you and you have a legal right to the use of that Name; when he knows you have found out what that Name will do--then he will run from you as if in terror.

Until then, he will hang around because you don't know and every chance he gets he will rub your nose in the sand. He will keep you on the defensive and defeated.

You resist the devil. You do something about it. God has already done all he is going to do about it. He sent Jesus and Jesus arose victorious over the devil. Jesus defeated him for you and now it is your turn to do something about it.

Let's find out what belongs to us and rise up and walk in the light of that which is ours! The way these things become real to us is by believing them in our heart and the confession of the mouth.

Romans 10:10 says, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." That is not only true concerning salvation. It is true concerning everything you receive from God.

It is always with the heart man believes and with the mouth confession is made unto the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is with the heart man believes and with the mouth confession is made unto healing. It is with the heart man believes and with the mouth confession is made unto an-

swered prayer. I thoroughly believe this and have proven it. The Lord said to me years ago, "I want you to go teach my people faith. I have taught you faith through my Word and I have permitted you to go through certain experiences. You have learned faith both through my Word and through experience. Now go teach my people faith. Teach them what I have taught you."

I heard a voice from heaven speak those words to me. And so I just teach people what I have learned from the Word or what I have learned from experience.

If you really believe a thing in your heart and say it with your mouth you will really have it because Jesus said that you would in Mark 11:23. Some say, "I did and I don't have it." I don't mind telling them, "You or Jesus, one is lying about it because He said, 'Whosoever shall say and not doubt in his heart but shall believe those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.'"

Usually though, if you let people talk long enough they give themselves away. They'll say, "Brother Hagin, I just want you to know I did just exactly what the verse said and it just does not work."

"Well, if it doesn't work then Jesus told a lie about it," I say to them.

They will stop and say, "That's right, He didn't lie, did He?"

"No."

Then they let the cat out of the bag, "Well, I sort of wondered if that would work for sure anyway."

You see, they were indefinite. Be specific about it.

"With the mouth confession is made unto...."

"He shall have whatsoever he saith." Those phrases from God's Word say the same thing using different words. You are not going to have victory confessing defeat, are you?

With the mouth confession is made unto--he shall have whatsoever he saith. You are not going to have health confessing sickness, are you?

With the mouth confession is made unto--he shall have whatsoever he saith. You are not going to have wealth confessing poverty, are you?

You are not going to have success confessing defeat and failure, are you?

It is amazing what faith people have in the wrong thing. And because they believe in it they constantly talk it. They believe in sickness so they talk sickness. They believe in defeat and they talk defeat.

I don't believe in sickness. I believe sickness exists, because you see it everywhere.

However, I believe in health, so I constantly talk healing and health.

Some say to me because they might see that it seems I have symptoms of a cold, "Oh, you're taking a cold."

I say, "No, I don't have a cold and I'm not going to take one. The devil is trying to give me one but I'm not going to take it." It leaves me then.

I am trying to teach you how to practice faith. It works for you. We walk by faith and not by sight God's Word declares. So go ahead and walk by faith. Quit walking by sight. Most people talk by sight rather than talking by faith. But we are to talk by faith. Talk faith. Act faith. Let your words and your actions agree--that makes you a believer.

I do not believe in defeat so I never talk defeat. I do not believe in failure so I never talk failure. I do not believe that God is sick, nor that He is a failure, nor that He is defeated. He never has been and He never will be.

I don't believe that Jesus is sick, do you? I don't believe that Jesus is defeated, do you? I don't believe that Jesus is a failure, do you? I believe that Jesus is the healer and because He is the healer I have health. I believe that I am more than a conqueror through Him who loved me and gave Himself for me.

The Bible teaches us that we are the Body of Christ. Did you know that the Bible calls you Christ? I want to read along with you a passage of scripture. making comments as we go:

II Corinthians 6:14-15

Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers: (Paul is writing to the Church at Corinth. "Ye" is the believers. "Believers," he says, "don't be unequally yoked together with unbelievers." Now why?) for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? (The believer is called "righteousness" and the unbeliever is called "unrighteousness." Have you ever thought of yourself as righteousness? The Bible says you are. Look at the previous chapter in II Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Did you ever think of yourself as being righteousness?--the righteousness of God in Him? You are. The believer is called "righteousness" and the unbeliever is called "unrighteousness.") and what communion hath light with darkness? (The believer is called "light;" the unbeliever is called "darkness.") And what concord hath Christ with Belial? (The believer is called "Christ!" And the unbeliever is called "Belial.") or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (The believer is called a believer and the unbeliever is called an infidel.)

Now why is the believer called Christ? Because this is written to the Church and Jesus is the head and we are the body.

Does your head go by one name and your body by another? Supposing you are a "Brother Smith." Wouldn't it be strange if someone asked

me if I knew Brother Smith and I said, "I knew him by Brother Jones. His head goes by the name Jones and his body by the name Smith."

Can you see that? Can you see the whole body of Christ? We are Christ. Can you see that? That is the reason he calls us Christ.

And you know the strange thing about it is that he's writing to that old carnal Church at Corinth; and he still calls them Christ. He is trying to get them to see what belongs to them so they can grow out of their carnality. He wants them to come up to that level.

I believe most Christians, if they are really Christians and if they will find out and know exactly who they are and what they are, will rise to the level of what belongs to them!

The trouble is, however, that some folks are looking at things from the natural--from the physical standpoint. God is looking at it from

the spiritual standpoint. They keep looking at themselves from the physical and they look out into this world of darkness and they walk by sight and not by faith. They will write and sing some old unbelieving song such as, "Here I wander like a beggar through the heat and through the cold." Those are the things that defeat us.

Find out what the Bible says and begin to confess, "That is what I am. That is who I am."

You see, I do not believe that Christ is sick. There should not be any sickness in His Body! I don't believe that He is defeated nor that He is a failure. I believe that He is a conqueror! And that is why the Bible says, "...we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37).



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