

CHRISTIANS — THERMOMETERS & THERMOSTATS



CHARLES CAPPS

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There is an event recorded in John chapter 5:2-8 that reminds me of myself many years ago when I majored on problems instead of answers.

When Jesus asked the impotent man at the pool of Bethesda, “*Wilt thou be made whole?*” the man told him the reason he could not be made whole.

Jesus ignored the man’s reasoning and commanded him to “... *Rise... and walk.*”

Even though God’s Word can change situations in your life, so many seem to be set on talking the problem.

You will notice that Jesus didn’t mention the problem, but He asked the crippled man to do something he couldn’t do within himself. When the man obeyed, he received his miracle.

I have come to the conclusion that
there are two kinds of Christians. There
are Christians who act like

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thermometers. They rehearse the
problem over and over, but never do
anything to change it. Then there are
some who function as thermostats and
change things for the better. The
thermostat on the wall of your home is
wired to the heart of that unit which is
designed to control the temperature in
your house. That thermostat has a built-
in thermometer to reveal the present
condition (temperature) and a dial to
make the desired change. When you
change the dial setting, it makes a
demand on the heating and cooling unit.
The thermometer only tells you how it

is. But by setting the thermostat to what you desire, you can change present facts.

God never intended for us to become Thermometer Christians and keep rehearsing things as they are. Even though it is a fact—if it's not lovely and of a good report—don't spend your time talking about it. Faith cometh by hearing. Always give preeminence to the Word of God regardless of the present facts or circumstances, "... *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" (Hebrews

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11:1)

BIBLE FAITH

Bible faith comes from the Bible,
and it is evidence of the things that are

not yet manifest in the natural realm.

But what some people call faith is not Bible faith at all. It's high expectations based on wrong information.

You may have heard someone interpret Mark 11:23 as: "All you have to do is say it to receive the promise."

Saying is part of applying the principle of faith, but there is more to it than just saying it. You must believe and doubt not in your heart. Then you must believe that those things you are saying will come to pass. Faith is not just a quick fix for your problems.

Sometimes it takes weeks or even months to get your mind renewed to God's Word and to get rid of years of unbelief.

DEVELOP FAITH

Yes, Jesus did say, "... *he shall*

have whatsoever he saith...” That statement is in the Bible. But we must

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take it in context of which it was spoken.

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. (Mark 11:23)

Notice Jesus said, “... *whosoever shall... not doubt in his heart, but shall believe...*” This implies that you must also believe in your heart, because faith works in the heart not the head. The

whosoever Jesus referred to in this Scripture said with his mouth what he already believed in his heart. And Jesus said, “... *he shall have whatsoever he saith.*” Notice that he didn’t have it when he said it, but he called it in faith that he would have it.

The problem is that some people have high expectations based on what happened when someone else was operating in faith. Without faith in the heart, which comes from the promises of God, they are thermometers trying to

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get the results of a thermostat. There is no connection between the words of their mouth and their heart which is designed to produce results. (Matthew 12:35)

Someone who hears a testimony such as: “I gave my old car to a missionary, and someone gave me a new one.” Someone else may get excited and say, “Glory to God, I’m going to give my old clunker away.” If they do that based on the experience of others, they are probably going to walk for several months. Sometimes people are motivated by the experience of others and greed rather than the desire to help someone in need. Bible faith is based on God’s Word.

High expectations based on wrong information will fail to produce desired results. True Bible faith in the heart will always produce what the Word promises.

Some people say, “Well, if they can do a certain thing I can do it, too.” That

statement is often based on wrong
information. If you saw a pilot of a 747
get out of the cockpit, would you say
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—“If he can fly that airplane, I can,
too”? That would be wrong thinking
even though you possibly could fly that
plane after several years of training.
You have probably heard someone
say: “If God did a miracle for them, He
will do it for me.” But my questions are,
“Do you know what that particular
person knew?” Are you fully persuaded
from God’s Word? Is your faith based
on the promise of God or someone
else’s miracle?”

Yes, it’s true that God’s Word has
the ability resident in it to cause the
promise to come to pass in your life.

But first, there must be a time of renewing the mind and confessing God's Word until you become fully persuaded that He will perform His Word. There must be a time of gaining information and understanding the principles involved. Then you can make a demand on the promises of God and get the desired results.

A thermometer will always tell how it is at a particular instant. Yet, it changes with every breeze that blows. But it gives no information as to how to

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change what is already present.

A thermostat has two functions. It has a built-in thermometer to reveal the problem for reference only. The thermostat is connected to the heart of

the unit which is designed to change the present condition. When the dial is set to the desired results, it makes a demand on the unit which produces exactly what the thermostat calls for. A thermostat doesn't deny what exists at the present, but rather concentrates on changing it.

When it comes to faith, your head is basically a goal-setter. Your head determines what you say. Then what you say with your mouth determines what you believe in your heart. (Romans 10:8, 17) What you hear produces faith either in the problem or the answer.

The Apostle Paul said, *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."* (Ephesians 4:29) You and God hear everything you

say. So we shouldn't spend our time talking the problem. To change the things which exist, we must set the goal-

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setter on the thermostat to a different setting. The words you speak are the determining factor of what you believe. And they are setting the thermostat of your life daily.

You may ask: "What must I do concerning my situation?" First, go to God's Word and find what God said about your situation. Paul gives us some good Scriptural advice in Romans 12:2:

"... be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Adjust your thermostat so that it is in agreement with God's Word. Then you will see your situation the way God sees it. The faith that comes from God's Word will cause you to see through the storm. You can then concentrate on the end results rather than the problems.

God's Word confirms this truth: *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then*

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thou shalt have good success." (Joshua

1:8)

Meditate means to mutter and speak to oneself. You are to study, meditate,

and speak the Word of God to yourself,
that you may observe (perceive) to do
all that is written therein. Then you will
make your way prosperous, and you
shall have good success.

There are some who say: "I just
can't see this faith business, or I can't
see this healing business." There's no
need for them to be concerned, they
won't be bothered with it. They must
first see it on the inside before it is
manifest outwardly.

If they dare to put God's
thermometer (how God sees it) in their
mouth, they will get a different reading.

You do that by giving voice to the
things God said rather than
circumstances that exist at the present.

The following verses reveal God's
insight:

*Who his own self bare our sins
in his own body on the tree, that
we, being dead to sins, should live
unto righteousness: by whose*

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stripes ye were healed. (I Peter
2:24)*

*Who hath delivered us from
the power of darkness, and hath
translated us into the kingdom of
his dear Son. (Colossians 1:13)
According as his divine power
hath given unto us all things that
pertain unto life and godliness... (II
Peter 1:3)*

*He sent his word, and healed
them, and delivered them... (Psalm
107:20)*

... all things are possible to

him that believeth. (Mark 9:23)

*And all things, whatsoever ye
shall ask in prayer, believing, ye
shall receive. (Matthew 21:22)*

I challenge you to make a decision to be
a Thermostat Christian and change the
things in your life that are not in
agreement with the Word of God.

Exercise your authority by turning your
attention from what has happened to
what will happen, because of your faith
in the promises of God.

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MARANATHA!

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Charles Capps Ministries
P.O. Box 69 • England, Arkansas 72046

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