



Shout
the
Word

 **STOP**
the
Thief

Frances Hunter

Shout The Word

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by
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Stop The Thief!

I'm a noisy Christian! And glad of it! Because there's a secret to walking in victory every day of your life, and I'll give it to you in one short sentence: **shout the word!**

There was a time when the centurion said to Jesus, "If you just speak the word, my servant will be healed." But I'm going to tell you to go beyond speaking the word; I'm going to tell you to *shout the word!*

When you really learn to shout the word of God from your heart, it is going to help you walk in glorious victory every day of your life, rain or shine!

Words paint pictures whether we whisper them, sing them, or shout them! If I told you about the beautiful hot pink azaleas that are blooming in front of our house right now, that's what you would picture in your mind. If I talked about the bluebonnets along the highway, you would instantly see bluebonnets! If I talked about the world's best husband, you would instantly picture Charles in your mind, or at least I would!

Because words paint pictures, we need to be extremely careful of the kind of pictures we paint. I can't take a brush and accomplish anything, but I can do a lot of painting with words, and so can you, providing you use the word of God.

Words give away what's really inside your heart. The word says, *Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks!* You can say many great-sounding things, but your words will eventually give you away.

Did you ever try to tell a lie when you were a kid? I did! When you tell a lie, you paint a picture with words, and the next time you paint the picture you have to paint it a little bigger than it was the first time because you have to try to cover the last picture you painted. Then you discover that you eventually get to the point where you don't paint the picture the way you did at all in the beginning! You don't even realize you have distorted the truth because you have been so busy painting over the truth that you don't even remember what the truth was to begin with!

I will never forget the consuming lie I told when I was a little girl. I was always so much bigger than anyone in my class that I wanted to cut off about six inches of my legs because I towered

over all the boys. The other girls were petite, graceful and charming, and I pictured myself as a big cow who fell all over the place.

Praise God I don't worry about things like that any more, because since I got saved I've discovered I'm a beautiful person because I've been created in the image of God. I'm smart, too, because I have the mind of Christ! That's the picture God painted on my mind when I was saved! It says so in His word!

I remember I wanted to impress my schoolmates so much, but my family was so poor I had only one dress all year long and if it wore out I had to keep on wearing it. We had one pair of shoes all year long, and if they wore out, we didn't have any more shoes until the next year!

One time in school they asked how many of us had parents who were born overseas. Some kids raised their hands. Then the teacher said, "Grandparents who were born overseas," and many more raised their hands. Then "great grandparents" and almost everyone raised their hands except me.

My people were all poor farmers who came from the river bottoms in Illinois, and as the teacher kept coming around the room asking the

other kids the country their relatives came from, I sat there like a little ugly duckling, and finally raised my hand. ‘Yes, Frances,’ the teacher said. With a poker face I said, ‘My grandfather is an Indian!’ ‘Really, what tribe did he come out of?’ The only one I had ever heard of was Cherokee, so I said, ‘Cherokee - he’s full-blooded Cherokee!’

‘Tell us about your grandfather.’

‘Well, he has high-cheek bones, and he’s got black eyes. (And there wasn’t a black-eyed person in our entire family. We all had blue eyes, but I knew Indians didn’t have blue eyes!)

And he’s got long black hair. And he wears feathers and he does Indian dances, and he is chief of the tribe, but he lives so far away he could never come to school.’

I had painted a picture that was a lie, and it got me into one of the biggest messes I ever got in with my daddy! I couldn’t sit down for a week!

You see, words do tell what’s in our hearts. I wanted to be somebody and I thought if I was an Indian Chief’s granddaughter, that would make me somebody. It did. It made me one big liar.

Words also tell your failures and your heartaches. I was talking to a woman at a conference ground and all she could tell me was

how badly her husband had treated her. The words she was speaking were telling me what was on the inside of her heart. Bitterness, resentment, anger, hate, jealousy of the other woman. She thought she was painting a picture that would make me sympathize with her, but her words were painting a picture to me of exactly what things were in her heart, all of them unscriptural – and what unforgiveness! It's amazing how our fears and our heartaches and our failures are registered in the words we say.

Words can also make things happen. There are three words, that can make more happen than anything else. **In Jesus' Name!** If we would just get so word oriented that we would speak nothing except the words that come out of the Bible, we would have the strongest vocabulary in the world. I used to think I had one of the strongest vocabularies in the world before I got saved, but it was really a weak one. A strong vocabulary is one that will accomplish things. And so when your vocabulary becomes the word of God, when you begin not only to speak the word, but actually begin to shout it, great and exciting things are going to happen in your life.

Words also gloriously bless or revoltingly curse. Haven't you ever been blessed when someone said, "Mary, I really appreciate you." That's a lot more blessed than if you said, "Mary, you stink!" Every thy I tell Charles that he is the world's best husband and he gets blessed every time I say it. It never gets old. And that's scriptural, too. The word says, "Wives should highly praise their husband." Not only that but when I say that, Charles isn't about to prove me wrong, so he keeps on being the world's best husband!

The sixth verse of Philemon says, *That the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.* It says to acknowledge every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. When God saved me, if I had kept my mouth shut, I would have never acknowledged that He saved me, but if I say, "Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul," I am acknowledging something good that He has done for me.

The Amplified Bible says, *(And I pray) that the participation in and sharing of your faith may produce and promote full recognition and appreciation and understanding and precise*

*knowledge of every good (thing) that is ours in
(our identification with) Christ Jesus - and unto
(His glory).*

That verse gives you four things. It says as you share your faith as you participate in the faith of other people, it produces full recognition, appreciation, understanding and precise knowledge of every good thing that is ours in our identification with Christ Jesus.

We need to tell people of the good things God has done for us. Not only by our own words but by the word of God. And if you paraphrase the word of God, that's all right. The main things that you need to know are the principles in the word of God. The word of God has not lost its ability, because the ability of the word of God to produce is guaranteed by the author of the ability – that's God! God's word can never be challenged, because He is the author and finisher of our faith and everything that He says is true.

The word is full of creative ability. If we could just understand that, we could call into being those things which be not as though they were. We have creative power in our mouths! You will have creative ability in your mouth if you will learn to speak and shout the Word. Many of us would

honestly have to say, if we kept track of our time, that we spend more time talking about the devil than about God! Think about the conversations you have with the people you meet all day long.

There was an old song entitled “*Accentuate the Positive, Eliminate the Negative.*” I don’t know whether or not the person who wrote that was a Christian, but he really said a good thing. We need to operate in the positive! The word of God is always positive. The devil is always negative. He may seem like he’s positive, but a lie is negative, and he is always against God’s word!

I have heard students at Bible Colleges say, “I just don’t seem to be getting very much out of school. My faith isn’t increasing at all. They just don’t teach the right subjects!” Whose book is that remark taken from? The devil’s bible. If they would learn to say, “Boy, am I ever learning. My faith has really learned to escalate and now I’m beginning to shout! I’m never going to be a secret-service Christian again. I am going to be a big loudmouth! I’m going to be the biggest blabbermouth that ever existed in the whole United States!”

Then we go shopping and how many do you think get negative on a shopping binge? Glory to

God – two pairs of eyelashes and one can of shrimp - \$66.00! Wow! Do you realize that we spend a tremendous amount of time griping to each other about the cost of food? We say, “Oh, I can’t believe those prices. They are terrible! I can’t believe it!”

We waste much of our time and energy in things that are really devil talk. I can guarantee you that you could stand in that store and talk with the manager and say, “I think this is an absolute outrage. Why I’m not going to pay that much for a package of cheese. I’m not going to pay that much for a gallon of milk.” He wouldn’t change his prices because he has no choice. Stores certainly are not of the devil, but right now the devil is trying to control the finances of the world. Do you know what I would do instead? I would say, “I thank you, Lord. You provide all my need, according to your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. You provide all of my need. I need a gallon of milk today, Lord, and I thank you that you provide all my need.”

We had an interesting thing happen in a service the other night. During the offering I had everyone pass their wallets to the person next to them because we were going to pray for a return of the

money they gave to God. I said, “You always have more faith to pray for the person next to than you have for yourself.” One man handed his empty wallet to the person next to him, and when he got the wallet back, there was a \$5.00 bill in it! He got so excited because there was absolutely **nothing** in it when he handed it over. The person who held it said he didn’t put the \$5.00 bill in there. But there it was! Why? Because we were speaking positively that *my God shall supply all our need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 4:19)

We were speaking the word. We were not speaking the devil’s word, we were speaking God’s word!

The reason I say, **shout** is because we have too many whispering Christians. They shout over everything else, but they can’t shout over what God has done for them. You’d be surprised at the end of a miracle service or during a miracle service, when people are sovereignly healed in everyone the audience and they come up and I ask them what God did for them, they say the answer in such whispered tones that I have to ask them over and over before I can finally understand them.

Revelation 1:5, 6 says: “*And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.*”

You have become a royal race. When you were born again by the Spirit of God, you became a king and a priest. Do you think that’s worth shouting about? I do! If you went to England and the Queen passed by, you’d hear more shouting than you ever hear in some churches!

We hear people shouting about almost everything these days! I turned the television on one morning when I was teaching on this subject at the City of Light School of Ministry because I wanted to hear a few commercials, and I heard someone **shouting** about a wonderful cereal. They indicated that if I ate it I would have the figure of a young athlete. I’m not interested in having the figure of a young athlete, because I’m not the type to have bulging muscles, but as they sat there saying, “Hmmmnnimmmm, oh, this cereal is so good.” It made me want to go out and buy some anyway! They were shouting about it and raving

about how fantastic it was! We've got a lot more to shout about than some cereal that's coated with sugar!

Another commercial which really "gets" me concerns shampoo! I've always had real tacky hair. That's why I wear wigs! I've always had super-thin, super-oily, super-fine baby hair. You have to wash it every thirteen minutes if you want to keep the oil out of it . . . that's a slight exaggeration, but you got the point, didn't you? If you've been born with that kind of hair, you always appreciate those people who have long flowing hair. Well, here comes a beautiful girl with thick lustrous long hair, just having been shampooed with "slicky-tricky shampoo." She throws her head sideways like a race horse, and her hair flies in one gorgeous swing across her face. This beautiful, perfectly washed shiny mop of hair flies in front of her face in perfect order and then she turns her head the other way, and the hair gracefully flows around and looks gorgeous all the time! The implication and the words behind this say that the same thing will happen to your hair.

When I was young, I fell for all that kind of advertising. I would get in front of the mirror after using it, and all I'd end up with would be a wet,

stringy little mop of thin hair that would just lie there and look like a wet, stringy little mop of thin hair! But those people went on day after day promising what the shampoo would do! I've washed my hair now for sixty-five years, and it always takes one hour to go "pffftt," regardless of the kind of shampoo I use! But they're still shouting about it!

Then there's always the TV commercial with a beautiful sylph-like girl who has on a very gossamer nightgown, and she's bouncing on a "beddie-bye" mattress. She flies all over the place, and the announcer insists that you'll look just like that if you sleep on one of those mattresses! You've got to be kidding! I don't care if you pile five of those on my bed, I still would never look like that when I wake up. But those same people have been shouting that for as long as television has been invented. They're shouting and screaming, "Eat this cereal, sleep on this 'beddie-bye' mattress, swish your head all around ...

Then came the frosting on the cake. There is a new brand of cologne that is supposed to be absolutely irresistible. They insist that a treasure of surprises awaits you if you wear the cologne that brings out the beast in men. I had some, so I put it

on, and began to visualize what would happen to me on the way to the City of Light School of Ministry if the things the world shouts about were really true! I gave myself an extra dose to make sure that I would be utterly irresistible to anyone who came within twenty miles of me.

There is one stop-and-go sign on the way to the office, and sure enough, I got stopped there. Do you know what happened? Men got out of their cars on the freeway one-half mile away and began to run to sniff this creature who smelled so good! What a traffic jam occurred because the breeze carried the fragrance up and down the highway! The men could not stay in their cars!

Now I want to tell you the truth. That was a big lie! Do you know what really happened? I stopped at the sign, and nobody got out of their car, They just sat there like they didn't even know I was in there, smelling all over the place. I even rolled the window in my car down so that the fragrance could get out a little better, but it didn't do a thing!

The world **pays** to shout that stuff on television! Advertising companies pay a lot of money to get up and shout about junk. How many of us would be willing to pay to get up and shout

about Jesus? And yet we've got a product that can't be beat!

I'm going to give you some statistics that are really interesting. The word "proclaim" or "proclaimed" is used forty times in the Bible. The word "speak" is used over 511 times. God thinks the word "speak" is pretty good. God commanded Moses, to speak to Israel over fifty times. God said, "Moses, tell Israel this." God said, "Moses, speak." And every time God had Moses speak, what did He have him speak? The word of God. You can believe that He did not have Moses out there telling some of these fantastic fibs. Maybe fibs isn't the correct word; maybe exaggerations would be better.

The words "speaketh," "speaking" and "spoke" are used 152 times. Add all these up. "Spoken" is used 287 times. "Shout" is used 35 times. "Shouted" is used 27 times. There are 13 times in the Bible where we are commanded to shout and tremendous things happen when you get your voice lifted up and you begin to shout to God.

Psalm 47:1 says: *Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples; **shout** to God with the voice of triumph! It doesn't say, "Whisper, you little bitty characters down there."* It says, "Shout unto God with a voice

of triumph.” Shout! Get your voice up so people can hear you. Shout unto God with a voice of triumph.

Psalm 5:11 says: I’m a noisy Christian. Do you know why I have so much joy? Because I **shout** all over the place. Think about that verse, *Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; let those also who love Your name be joyful in You.*

Let them that love thy name be joyful in thee. Glory to God! It’s a command of God that we are to be joyful. We shouldn’t be walking around with long poker faces looking miserable! There should be such a dance in our feet and such a song in our hearts that we want to dance all over the place all the time. The joy of the Lord is something to shout about!

I personally can’t stand still during a worship service. I’m standing up, jiggling all over the place all the time. You ought to let your whole body know you’re worshipping God!

We need to be vocal Christians – alive Christians. God is raising up an army of shouters in these days! He’s raising up an army of people who are not ashamed of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 32:11 says, *Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!* You can't shout for God if you're not upright in heart.

Psalm 35:27 says: *Let them shout for joy, and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.*

Did you know that God has pleasure in your prosperity? God does not have pleasure in your poverty. God has pleasure in your prosperity!

Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Lord! Thank you that you want me to prosper. Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Glory! Glory to God! Thank you, Father! I can just see those finances rolling into the ministry. Thank you, Lord! I can see you meeting my every need!

Glory – His word says, ***Shout for joy!***

Psalm 132:9 says, *Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness!* You and I have been made kings and priests because of Jesus. Therefore we are clothed in the robes of righteousness, so it says, *Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness and let Your saints shout for joy. Shout for joy! Shout for joy!* If God says something one time in the Bible, that's good enough reason to do what He

says, but when He commands you thirteen times, He means business about shouting!

Psalm 132:16 says: *I will also clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints shall **shout** aloud for joy. My cup runneth over, Father. Glory to God! My cup of joy is running over, running over, running over!*

There is a tremendous story in Joshua 6:1-5. It says, *“Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. And the Lord said to Joshua, See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.*

Now God must have thought there was power in shouting. Don’t you think it would be a

ridiculous thing to build a big wall, wide enough for a car to drive around it, and say, “Go around six days. Don’t open your mouth. Keep your mouth shut but on that seventh day, let go, let it out, **shout**, and the wall will go down so flat that there is no rubble there. You will be able to walk right straight on top, on level ground.”

Continuing at the tenth verse: *Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, ‘Shout!’ Then you shall shout. And it says, So he had the ark of the Lord circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp. And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the Lord went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the Lord, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp.*

They did this for six straight days! Do you have any idea how their faith was rising up? Do you see

why God told them to go around it six days? If He had said, “You go out there and shout, the wall is going to fall down,” it wouldn’t have really done very much for them.

I can just see them going around and around! One day, six to go. Two days, five to go. Three days, four to go. Four days, three to go. Five days, two to go. Six days, one to go! Can’t you see the anticipation rising up in those individuals until they said, “Tomorrow is the day!” Do you think anyone slept that night? I don’t think there was a single person who slept. I can hear them saying, “WOW! What do you think is really going to happen?” Their anticipation was exploding. This is why God often allows us a waiting period so that our faith will increase!

For three years I have confessed a million dollars coming into our ministry. Every day that it doesn’t arrive, my faith increases! Why? Because I know it’s one day closer to the time when it will arrive. That was just like these men! They kept saying, “One day less, just one day less, one day less.” And then if you really believe it with your heart and soul, you’re going to know that day is someday going to get there. And when that day comes that Hunter Ministries gets a million dollars,

do you know what I'm going to do? I'm going to **shout**! Am I ever going to shout! I've been shouting about it for years, so when it finally gets here, I'm going to shout so loud they'll be able to hear me all the way over in Africa.

Then the word says, *But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early. They weren't going to sleep that day! They rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times.*

Now what else were they doing? They were being obedient to God. They only walked around one time every day. They did not whisper, nor did they make a sound in those six days. Do you have any idea what a hike it is to go around Jericho seven times? They didn't shout on the first time around. Shhhh. They didn't shout on the second day. Third, fourth, fifth, sixth . . . shhhhh. Then it says, *And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: shout, for the Lord has given you the city.* Do you know what happened? They **shouted**! How loud do you think they shouted? Super loud!

Verse 20 says: *So the people **shouted** when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when*

the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Why did it happen? Because they **shouted**. They didn't softly say, "Would you please fall down?" They **shouted!** It's time that all Christians began to shout!

Isaiah chapter 12 says: *And in that day you will say: O Lord, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for YAH, the Lord, is my strength and song; he also has become my salvation. Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And in that day you will say: Praise the Lord, call upon his name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the Lord; for He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth. Cry out and **shout**, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!*

If you are ever down in the dumps and depressed, just read that passage over and over and

see what it does to you! And then when you get to the end it says, “Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.” You **shout** those same words!

God is in the midst of you because Jesus lives inside of you. If everything else in your world falls apart; if everything else goes wrong, do you know that you’ve still got something to shout about? You can **shout** because Jesus lives inside of you.

Isaiah 42:10, 11 says: *Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands and you inhabitants of them! Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits: let the inhabitants of Sela sing...*

In other words, if you live inside of a rock (Jesus), sing. ... *let them **shout** from the top of the mountains.* Did you ever go on top of a mountain and shout? You know there are some places where you can go where there is a tremendous echo and you can get up there and shout, “Jesus!” and it comes back, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.” You can hear yourself shouting over and over again.

In the house where Charles and I lived when we were first married there was a big brass plate on the wall in our dining room, and there was one place where you could sit and look that plate squarely in the face and shout, “Jesus!” and that brass plate would say it back to you about fifty times. It only happened from one place and that was the place where I always sat in the dining room. What a place to shout from! I could just sit there and say, “Jesus” one time and then sit back and enjoy the rest of it!

The word tells us to **shout!** Glory to God! Shout it from the housetops and the top of the mountains! We always ought to be so excited about Jesus that we can’t be quiet. Isaiah 44:23 says: “Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth; break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel. “It says shout, shout! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so. Say it so loud that the world can hear you.

Zephaniah 3:14 says, *Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!* It says, **shout, shout, shout!**

Zechariah 9:9 contains the last of the thirteen commands that God gave us to shout in His word. It says: *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly, and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.* Why should we shout? Because the King of the Jews is going to come riding in. This is prophecy in the Old Testament, that the King is going to come in and He's going to be riding on a donkey. And they said that's something that's worthwhile shouting about! Glory to God!

The word "mouth" is used 417 times in God's word. There is only one way I know of to **shout** and that's with your mouth. You can clap your hands all you people, but it still says **shout** unto God with a voice of triumph. **We need to start shouting the words of God!**

Romans 10:10 says: *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. I'm saved!* Glory to God! **I'm saved!** I've been shouting that from the housetops ever since it happened! Why don't you go and call someone right now on the telephone and say to them, "**I'm saved!**"

If you want your faith to grow, if you want to walk in victory every day of your life, begin **shouting**, “Lord, I love you! Jesus is Lord! Hallelujah!”

At the top of my lungs I screamed, “**Get out of my car! What do you think you’re doing with it?**”

The thief didn’t blink an eye! Neither did I! I just screamed again, “**Did you hear me? I said get out of my car!**”

Later as I related this story to a police chief, he said, “According to statistics, you should have been dead in thirteen seconds!”

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

Satan comes to steal your joy, your peace, your comfort, your finances, your salvation, your health! He comes to steal everything that you hold precious.

Why do you know about peace and joy and love and happiness and contentment and prosperity and the abundant life? Because of the word of

God, and the minute the word of God gets into your heart, it makes the devil mad!

It makes him mad because he knows that now you realize that the price has already been paid for everything you are entitled to as a child of God. And the minute you begin to get the word of God into your heart and you begin to understand the promises of God, then the devil comes to try to steal the word away. This is why in all our meetings and teachings we put so much emphasis on reading the word, on speaking the word, and on believing the word, because once you get your spirit man full of the word of God, the devil is going to have a more and more difficult time accomplishing anything in your life!

It's the word of God hidden deep within your heart which will allow you to rise above the negative situations in life. Luke 8:5-12 really tells you how to be on the lookout for Satan, because if ever Satan was roaring around like a lion, it is today, and you're going to be seeing more of the devil's roaring around before Jesus comes back than you have ever seen before. *"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as*

soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.

What's the moisture that you need in your life? The moisture is the living water of life! It comes in to water your inner spirit by a continuation of **reading** the word of God, and **staying** in the word of God, and **believing** the word of God, because not only do you need to plant it in there, you need to water it and you need to fertilize it so that the word that's in you will continue to grow.

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold. When He had said these things He cried, 'He that hath ears to hear, let him hear! Then His disciples asked him, saying, 'What does this parable mean?' And He said, 'To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

The seed that the devil wants to try to steal from you is the word of God.

“Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out

of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”

The minute you begin to hear the word, the devil is going to be right there and he is going to try to steal that word out of your heart so that you will no longer believe and so that you will no longer want to follow after Jesus.

Romans 10:17 says, *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* I like to say it this way, *Faith comes by hearing, and hearing, and hearing, and hearing, and hearing the word of God,* because the word of God will never stay in your heart if you hear it only one time. You need to keep replenishing that supply.

The same thing is true of food. We could not exist very well if we ate one meal this year and then didn't eat another until next year. I'll grant you some of us might do a little better with a few less meals, but we all know that there is no way you can get along without physical food. You have to eat! God made a plan when He created us that we would take nourishment into our bodies and the nourishment that we take is physical food to keep our bodies alive.

To keep our spirits alive, we need to feed on the word of God, because the most important food in the world that anybody can ever get is the living word of God. I often think about the nations around the world where people are starving to death. What is their main problem? They need to hear the word of God. If they could just hear the word of God they could be delivered from the poverty, sickness, disease, sin and death in which they now live. It's because of a lack of the word of God that they are in the mess they are in. You can give them physical food and it will satisfy their stomachs for one day, but what is going to happen the next day? They are going to be hungry all over again. So if you give them the word of God, they will learn how to be delivered from sin, sickness, poverty, death and disease, and then you won't have to worry that this nation or any other nation is going to have to feed them!

They need to understand the principles of God! Jesus came to deliver us from the curse. You and I have been delivered from the curse, which is sin, sickness, poverty and death!

Remembering that *Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*, we ought to have Hebrews 11:6 underlined, scribbled on, marked

with a marking pencil or something equally distinctive in our Bibles. It says, *But without faith it is impossible to please him.* **It is totally impossible to please God if you don't have faith! It is totally impossible to please God if you don't have faith!** You cannot please God when you have doubt and unbelief in your life because without faith, it is totally, completely 100% impossible to please God!

The word continues to say, *for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* First of all, you've got to believe that He is, and how do you discover that He is?

Through reading the word of God you discover that God is, and then you have to **believe** that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. That's why the hungry people in the nations around the world need to know and believe what the word of God says, because they can never please Him until they have faith. And they certainly don't have faith when they are starving to death and don't hear the gospel and don't know anything about the only true God, the God who said, "I Am."

James 1, verses 5 through 7 reads, *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all*

liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.

Don't you dare waver, because the word says that then you are like a wave of the sea that is driven with the wind and tossed. And let not that man who wavers between faith and doubt and unbelief think he is going to receive a thing because he isn't going to receive a thing!

Verse 8 says, *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.* Sometimes we forget what that really means! It means that you cannot come to church on Sunday morning and say, "Jesus is Lord," and then walk out and live directly opposite of what you've just gotten through saying in church! God is real at all times!

If you believe God is real, then don't you dare go around wavering all week long saying, "God doesn't answer my prayers! The devil has got more power than God has, and nothing good ever seems to happen to me." When you jump from one side of the fence to the other, you cannot expect to receive anything from God because he says that a

double-minded man is unstable in all ways and he's not going to receive one single, solitary thing from the Lord. I want everything that God has for me!

John 8:31, 32 tells us some good news: *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, If you abide in My word. ... Praise God that He is so plain and simple in his directions to us! Does He tell us to continue in sin? Does He tell us to continue in the devil's bible? No, He certainly does not, but He says to continue in God's word!*

If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Once you know the truth, the truth is going to make you absolutely, totally and completely free. That is why the devil hates it when you really understand the truth, when you know what the truth says and when you have hidden the word so deep in your heart that the devil can't reach down there and snatch it away from you! That's what the devil really hates, but what God wants you to do is to get it planted down there so deep that the devil can't steal it!

I have enjoyed almost total divine health ever since I became a Christian. However, every once

in awhile the devil sneaks in and punches me with a low blow and down I go for the count! While we were out on a recent trip, the devil delivered to our motel room a case of something called the flu or a viral infection.

As soon as I felt the symptoms sneaking up on me I rebuked them in the name of Jesus and kept on doing the things I was supposed to be doing. I continued speaking, laying hands on the sick and ministering the baptism with the Holy Spirit. However, as soon as we completed a meeting I would have to run and jump in bed because I was totally and completely exhausted.

Finally the long trip was over and we came home. I was still too busy trying to teach in the School of Ministry and getting things ready for our Video Schools so I was still exhausted and as a result the devil really closed in.

One morning, when I woke up I thought, “I don’t believe this! I must have signed for that package of flu the devil wanted to give me.”

I immediately bound the devil and rebuked all signs of the flu, and decided to get up. I got about as far as the end of my bed and turned around and went back to bed and thought “Wow, I’d better lie

here for another thirty minutes until I recover my strength.”

At the end of thirty minutes I did the same thing again. I slid out of bed, got just as far as the end of my bed and turned around and went right back to bed again. Once again I resisted the devil and told him to take his little merchandise someplace else because I wasn't about to sign for it, but it didn't seem to me that he even bothered to put his hearing aid in.

I began to cry out to God, and I began to pray, and I began to ask God to touch me and then I rolled over and went back to bed for another thirty minutes. At the end of the thirty minutes I got up and went as far as the end of the bed and turned right around and came back.

This same pattern continued all day long. I do not know when I have had a day that I felt so totally and completely miserable in my entire life.

About two years ago we moved from the house where we had lived ever since we had been married, to a house close to our *City of Light*, and so while I was lying there feeling absolutely miserable and crying out to God and pleading and almost yelling, I finally decided God forgot that I had moved. I looked up and said, “God, did you

forget that we moved last year? Did you forget that we don't live over on that other street anymore, that we're living out here in Kingwood?" But I didn't hear a word from God. I kept crying out reminding God of my new address but it didn't seem to me like He heard one single little bit of my prayer at all.

Charles came home after work and I didn't even get up to fix him supper because I felt so terrible. So he came to bed early that night and I said, "Honey, we received a tape today from somebody in New Zealand. Do you want to listen?" I had not even been able to listen to a tape because I felt so miserable.

We turned the tape player on and as the man began speaking it seemed like a long finger reached all the way over from New Zealand and pointed straight at me because this is what he said, "Have you ever had a day when you felt that God didn't hear your prayers?"

I screamed at the cassette recorder at the top of my lungs, "**Yes!**"

It seemed like the speaker on this tape waited just long enough for me to say "yes" and then he said, "If that's your problem, why don't you try

praying in tongues for thirty minutes without stopping?”

I turned off the tape recorder. I turned to Charles and said, “Charles, did you hear what he said? He said to pray in tongues for thirty minutes, so let’s do it!” Then I added, “Let’s watch the clock.”

We noted the time and began to pray in tongues. I felt so utterly miserable, I didn’t feel like praying in tongues at all! But I forced myself to continue, because in the beginning it sounded like sounding brass or tinkling cymbals. However, the word says that praying in the Spirit edifies the believer. After I had forced myself to pray, within two or three minutes my spirit man began to rise up and to be edified by my praying in tongues.

At the end of thirty minutes I was so totally edified in the Spirit that I leaped out of bed, ran to the bathroom, took a shower, washed my hair, blow dried it, came back to bed and slept like a baby all night long.

The next day we got up, went to Dallas, and appeared on a national television program! From there we were on the radio for two hours and from there we had a Miracle Service that night and then

came home early the next day. I was jumping all over the place with energy.

There lies within every Spirit-filled believer an unleashed, limitless reservoir of power. Let's take the lid off of that power and use it the way we should. If we would all spend thirty minutes a day praying in tongues, we could turn the world upside down!

I suggested this to the students at the School of Ministry. I also announced this on my radio program and am amazed at how I have been swamped with people telling me of miracles that happened as a result of praying 30 minutes a day in tongues.

I love what Brother Paul said, especially in the Amplified Bible. *I thank God that I speak in (strange) languages more than any of you or all of you put together* (Corinthians 14:18).

Let's do something special. Let's show Brother Paul that we can pray in tongues more than he did and let's get ourselves so edified and so built up in our faith that there will absolutely be no holding us back!

I've learned something else about "confessing" a healing, and it concerns a "more excellent way"!

Were you ever flat on your back and insisting at the same time, *By his stripes I am healed?*

Did you ever have your checking account down to zero and still confess, “My bills are paid, my mortgage is paid, I have money in the bank. I claim money in my bank account”?

I have often confessed those things, but I want to tell you the story about a car as it relates to healing and prosperity, and whatever else is yours as a child of God, but which you’ve allowed the devil to steal from you, and I want to show you how to get it back!

Shortly after I became a Christian, I bought a new car. It was very special to me because the eye problem that turned me toward Jesus, the one that God took and made a miracle out of, gave me problems in seeing through a normal windshield at night.

I ordered a new car that had a special tinted windshield so that I would not have problems as I drove at night. I had to wait about eight weeks to get the car, and when I finally got it I was so excited, because I thought it was the most beautiful car I had ever owned, and it enabled me to drive at night without eye problems!

I praised God that I had enough money to pay cash for it. It was a beautiful shade of teal blue-green and it had everything on it that anyone could have ever wanted on or in a car! It was beautiful on the outside and elegant on the inside, and I loved it! It was all mine; it had no mortgage lien against it. I had the title to it which showed it was clear of any encumbrances. The title had been registered in the county records so it was recorded officially that it was mine, and nobody had any right to it except me! It was bought, paid for, and all mine!

At that time I owned a printing company which was located in a shopping center mall. My back door opened onto the alley so that the mail trucks could pick up sacks of mail that went out from my business daily. It was also nice because that was where the cars were parked for the people who had businesses in the shopping center. The front of the shopping center was reserved for customers, but the back was a big parking lot for the tenants. This was super for me because every time I walked by a window as I was going from one department to another, I could look out at my new car and say, "Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus!" It was a super-beautiful car and it just

thrilled my heart, and I was so grateful that it was totally mine because it was completely paid for!

One day as I was going through the office, I looked out the window at my beautiful car, and I saw a strange man driving my beautiful brand-new car out of the parking lot!

I could hardly believe my eyes! I looked again, and, sure enough, it was my new car being driven right out of the parking lot in front of my very own eyes!

I looked again!

It was my car!

I had the title to it!

I had paid cash for it.

The title showed that the car was mine. Nobody had any claim on that car and here was a man driving off in my car!

I got mad!

One of the girls in my office had a husband who was a policeman, so I felt sure she would know what to do, so I screamed, **“Toni, somebody is driving off in my new car!”** Then I said, “Get in your car, let’s go get him!”

This girl had flaming red hair and really had plenty of zip! She and I ran out of my office,

jumped into her car and she screeched out and raced down the alley after the thief.

Across the street from us there was a big supermarket, and when the thief got over there, he slowed down, so I said, “Toni, zip around in front of him, and block him off!” She did just that and I got out and ran up to the side of my car, stuck my head inside the window right up against the face of the man driving it and said, **“Get out of my car! What do you think you’re doing with it?”**

I could have been shot!

He said, “What makes you think this is your car?”

I said, “What makes me think it’s my car? That’s my Bible on the seat next to you, and this is my new car.” Then I screamed again, **“You get out of my car right now!”**

He looked at me and said, “What makes you think your name is Frances?”

I thought to myself, “You’ve got to be kidding! I certainly ought to know what my own name is!”

I realize now that he was looking in the rear view mirror and he couldn’t back up, and he couldn’t go forward because Toni had her car in front of him, and he was just stalling for time. Again I screamed, “Did you hear me?” I said, **“get**

out of that car! It belongs to me!” Beloved, I meant business!

By that time, the car in back of him pulled out and he was free, so he backed up my car about sixty miles an hour, turned it around and roared off down the alley behind my office again.

I ran and jumped back in the car with Toni. Like cops and robbers, we took out after him. He got about halfway down the alley when he stopped my car, jumped out, got in his own car, and **really took off!** I said to Toni, “Follow him!”

And she did! Here were two women racing down an alley going up to eighty miles an hour! I never prayed so hard in my life for a policeman and never saw one anywhere. We finally got his license number, but he eventually lost us!

You may wonder what the point of this story is, but I’m trying to show you that I was even willing to be foolish to protect something that was mine. That car didn’t belong to him. It was mine! I had paid for it! I had worked hard in my printing company to pay for it, and here comes a thief to try to steal it right from underneath me.

If I had not been so rambunctious and if I had not gone out there, I would never have gotten that car back again! But I knew it was **mine** and

nobody was going to get it away from me! We need to fight to keep the devil from stealing our health and finances just as hard as I fought to keep that man from stealing my car!

Many times we think we have to reach out to get our healing!

Many times we think we have to reach out to get our prosperity!

Many times we think we have to reach out and claim something, when all we have to do is to protect and recover what rightfully belongs to us!

Everything God is going to do for you has already been done! Everything Jesus Christ is going to do for you has already been done! But we have let it slip through our fingers because we didn't understand! We thought we had to beg and plead and claim something that was already rightfully ours when Jesus died on the Cross!

Jesus died on a cross two thousand years ago and in so doing He gave us a title deed (with no liens attached) to health, wealth and happiness. It is ours. He paid for it fully and that deed is free and clear! The Bible is your title deed!

Healing, health, prosperity, joy, abundant living plus many other things belong to us **right now!** They are not something that God is going to give

to us in the sweet by-and-by. These things belong to us, and yet we have let the devil steal them from us. We have let him steal our goods! We have let him steal our joy! We have let him steal our health!

The devil came back at me after I had recovered from the flu and he said, “Ha. ha, ha, that praying in tongues didn’t work! You got up one day, didn’t you? But I got you right back in bed again!”

Do you know what I did? I prayed in tongues again. For thirty minutes I said, “Devil, healing is mine! Health is mine! It isn’t something that I have to pray and ask God to give to me. He’s already given it to me, you’ve tried to steal it but it’s mine, and I’m going to protect it!”

The longer I thought about the episode of the car, the more I began to see a real spiritual truth! I said, “Satan, you have stolen the last thing from me that you’re ever going to steal.” I said, “You have messed with the finances of this ministry long enough, because Jesus became poor that we might become rich.”

Then I added, “You have had your hands in the offerings, you have had your hands in the mail that comes in, but you’ve done it for the last time,

because do you remember how I protected that car years ago? I'm giving you notice right now that today, and from this day on, I am protecting everything that God gave me in salvation in exactly the same way and with the same fervor that I protected that car, because it's mine!" I don't have to plead for it!

I don't have to beg for it, I just have to protect it! And some of us have not been protecting our assets the way they should be protected!

It's all been paid for! Every ache, every pain, every bit of sickness has already been taken care of, but we've let the devil steal it from us. We need to say, "Devil, you are never going to steal from me again." I don't know what you're going to do, but I'm going to fight to protect what is mine!

God told me I was going to prosper! God told me in His word that the desire of His heart was for me to prosper and to be in health! Jesus told me that I've been delivered from everything of the curse, so I'm going to protect what belongs to me! It's not something that I have to attempt to acquire - it's something that belongs to me!

How do we protect something that belongs to us? If it's money, we take it to the bank and deposit it because we believe when we need it the

bank will give it back to us! Most of us don't even check out the bank we deposit our money in. We bank for convenience sake, yet we believe the bank is trustworthy because banks are regulated by law and protected by insurance as security. I have never had an urge to hide my money in the ground by burying it and then hoping to find it when I needed to dig it up! We automatically take all money to the bank and leave it there without a doubt or worry about its safety!

To protect our homes, we all have doors to keep out intruders and burglars, and we keep our houses locked! Very few people keep valuables in their homes but deposit them instead in a bank vault! Many homes have burglar alarm systems which sound off when someone tries to enter illegally.

To protect our offices and property, many organizations have night watchmen. Lights burn continually because a thief likes to operate in the dark. Doors and windows are checked nightly to make sure there is no easy way for a thief to enter and steal.

What protection do we have to prevent the devil from stealing what Jesus paid for and gave to us?

Because Jesus is the door through which we must go to reach our heavenly Father, He is our

greatest security from theft by the devil. Jesus provided a double-lock system for our protection. Not only is He the door, but He gave us the word of God. *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart* (Hebrews 4:12).

Remember the attacks of the devil often come through the thoughts and intents of our hearts, so if we have the word of God hidden in our hearts so we might not sin against Him, we can defeat the entrance of the devil into our hearts and minds. Knowing God's word, His laws, and His principles enables us to operate in the nature of God which is a shield from the entrance or attacks of Satan.

He tries to enter the door of our life by bringing sickness into our bodies.

The best preventative medicine I know of is the word of God.

When we saturate ourselves with God's word, the devil has difficulty trying to get in.

When you're out of the word of God, you cause cracks to come into your armor, and the devil can sneak in.

Jesus said, *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you* (Luke 10:19).

We wrote the book, *How to Heal The Sick*, so that ordinary people would know that they have the power to recover what the devil has stolen, because we can heal the sick by the power of the Holy Spirit and with the authority that Jesus has given us to protect our families, we keep a watchful eye on them when they are little and unable to protect themselves, and as they get older, we lay down certain rules and regulations for them to follow for their own safety and protection. We make sure they eat the right foods and get sufficient rest and sleep until they are mature enough to operate on their own!

To protect our spiritual life, we need to be alert to the built-in burglar alarm which we have, which is the Holy Spirit! We need to listen to the little nudges which the Spirit gives us. We have the best and most fool-proof burglar alarm system in the world nestled inside of us!

We need to put on the whole armor of God! A soldier never goes to battle without all the protection he can get! We need to do the same

thing because we're in a spiritual war where the enemy is fighting to steal everything we have been given by God!

The word of God will clothe you from head to toe, and once you get it inside your spirit, so that it will come out of your mouth at all times, you will have the best protection in the world against Satan!

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15).

Just as we lay down certain rules and regulations for our children, God has laid down rules and regulations for us and He put them into permanent form - His word!

Then the next time the devil tries to steal your health, your wealth, or your happiness, you can scream at the top of your lungs the same thing I said to the thief who tried to steal my car!

Start today and say, **“Devil, get your hands off of my life. Who do you think you are?”**

You can't steal what's mine!!!