

The Power of Positive Thinking

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Starting with Luke 17: 5 *And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith (6) And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.*

A couple more scriptures to get your mind channeled in the direction we want to go tonight. I believe there is power in the Word of God, it's not just hearing it but doing something about it. It's not just reading it but putting it into your heart by faith.

In Heb. 4:2 *For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard [it].*

The writer said the word preach did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. You can hear it but if you don't mix faith with it will not do you any good. You can hear the Holy Ghost preach till the preacher drop dead but if you don't believe you need it and you've got to have it, it will do you any good. You can hear the healing preached till the man passed out. But if you didn't believe that you could be healed it will do you no good. I believe there is power in the Word of God.

Listen to what this article says: this article says this pill containing no medicine, gave people more relief from anxiety than did compose or aspirin. An experiment composed at the University of Pennsylvania. When they conducted this experiment they said we chose compose as one because it was the largest selling non-prescription sedative for temporary relief of simple nervous tension. Aspirin was second because it was frequently used for relaxation and lessening nervous tension. The third pill they used was called Librium, a prescription drug which has proven affective as an anti-anxiety agent and was widely prescribed by doctors. The forth pill used was a place bow containing nothing but a medically inactive substance ingredient called sugar. You know which pill you get relief from anxiety, nervous tension? The sugar pill that tells me something, they didn't have faith in what was in the pill they had faith in the pill. a doctor once said, if I could lead 85% of my patients to Christ their ails would be cured automatically.

This next article says, "Psychiatrist warns" listen carefully, "negative thoughts can cause paralysis, ulcers and death". The Psychiatrist that made this study said, "we've to find a to program the brain for only positive thinking." It is a fact that only positive thinking is not a figment of the imagination. Negative thinking is a reality that accounts for a great deal of suffering, these doctors pointed out. Let me again remind you that negative thinking can cause blindness, ulcers, paralysis and even death.

There is power of positive thinking, positive thinking brings forth positive results and positive thinking brings forth positive faith. Positive faith is the only faith that will touch and move God. Anything short of that will never bring you an answer from God. It's going to take that which is positive.

The disciples came to the Lord in Luke 17 they said Lord, increase our faith, He begin to tell them if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed. He was not talking about the size but AS THE MUSTARD SEED. The seed is planted in the ground it brings forth life and produces a large tree so the birds can nest and roost in its branches. He's telling them that is a faith that if they would exercise it, it would grow to produce result in the time to come. A lot of people don't exercise their faith that God has given them therefore they never get much from God. When you and I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the Bible says to every man dealt a measure of faith. It is up to you and I what we do with the measure that God gave us when we were baptized us with the Holy Ghost. When we were born into this spiritual kingdom of God we were dealt the measure of faith and what we do with that measure determine what God does for you and I in the days to come. We can take the faith that God gave us and trample it in the dirt if we wanted to or we can take the faith that God gave us and exercise that faith and believe what He spoke in the Word of God and believe for what He said and see those things happen. We believe not only praying for the sick, we believe God healed them. Lot of people have prayer lines and other people get prayed for but they don't believe God is going to do anything when they get prayer. I'm thankful for the power of positive thinking it will produce positive faith and positive faith will bring back an answer from God.

It's impossible to believe God for a miracle and not receive a miracle. It's impossible to make the impossible possible and Him not do it. It's impossible to believe God to heal your body and Him not do it. Everywhere in the book that Jesus wrote, He wrote positive. Some people all they preach is negative, most people in the Pentecost they were raised in a negative pew, they were raise on negative testimony, they were raise on negative messages, and they don't know what it is for anything to come forth that is

positive. But friend you can't find one thing negative in the Word of God. You don't find where Jesus said if you believe it you just might get it. No He said in Mark 9:23 *Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things [are] possible to him that believeth.* You know what that says- POSITIVE.

Matt. 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Anybody can pray, whatsoever you ask in prayer, you will receive.

Matt. 9:29 According to your faith be it unto you.

Mark 5:6 Be not afraid, only believe.

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Those are positive statements made by our Lord Jesus Christ, He never said anything but positive.

There was a man that wrote a book about the power of positive thinking, he was a Presbyterian minister by the name of Norman Vincent Peale, if that man can do something with one scripture what can we do with the Holy Ghost and the entire Word of God. He took business men that were ready to go down on skid role and join the bums. They were ready to quit and some ready to commit suicide. He took them in his office and he said listen, I want you to memorize, I want you to commit to memory one scripture I want you to quote it when you get up in the morning; I want you to quote it when you go to bed at night. I want you to quote it all day long over and over in you mind.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Practically every one of those business men left his office with their shoulders squared ready to go back to work and most of them made successful business men. If that man can take one scripture and do that with men that don't know God what could you and I do with the 66 books of the Bible and baptized in Jesus name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Why a lot of people don't because all talk and all they think is negative. I had an article one time and gave a message on WHY, why according to the Bible you're suppose to trust the Lord, well that is a good question there is a lot involved in it. But in the message I clipped out an article I got out of the magazine one time and it tells how many hundred thousands of people there time in the hospital is double because either the nurse gave them the wrong medicine or the doctor prescribed the wrong medicine. In this article it tells how many thousands upon thousands died because they gave them the wrong medicine. I'm thankful tonight I'm trusting one that never gives you the wrong dose of anything. My friend one time they was operating on and they gave him a spinal block, the doctors was working on him being paralyzed from the waist down and all of a sudden the doctor said oops. God don't have any oops, when He does it He does it right, He don't leave any needle in there. Doctors have a motto, "when in doubt cut it out", God don't do that. God put parts in your body for a reason; He can go down in there and give you a new organ or whatever you need. He don't need to experience on you. You know why people don't have positive thinking today because it is the same old story, potluck dinner, popcorn party's ice cream socials. I went to a church one Saturday and they were having a gumbo supper, the preacher said he couldn't get too many out on Saturday but will come for the gumbo supper but not to the house of God. You get an ice wagon going down the street nobody will be running after it, but you get a fire engine it will get them stirred up, if you get some fire in the pulpit it will stir people up. People in this country are so thirsting for the gospel they're so dry spiritually they can hardly swallow. One preacher said he had 300 messages and when he got through he would preach them over and over. Today you can preach the same message for two nights people wouldn't know it that's why people don't have any faith, they're too busy playing with the baby, scratching their nose, looking around, counting the spots in the ceiling.

Rom. 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. When the Word of God is being preached they are not listening. We don't need some old dry sermons we need something that will give us life something that will go into our inner most being. I'm talking about power of positive thinking and the Word of God that will produce something if you'll let it. The Word of God will make you leave here with your shoulders out and your head high make you feel like you can rip every devil on earth. The Word of God will bring forth something in your heart and it's going to bring forth something positive. It's the devils business to destroy.

John 10:10 the thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:

He comes to kill your faith; he comes to destroy your walk with God; he comes to steal your victory. Jesus said I am come that they might have life and they might have it more abundantly. How do we get that life-by the preaching of the Word of God? Bring a big gospel group in and you would have to have a building three times this size. When the Word of God is the only thing that will give life they don't want to hear it. Jesus Christ died to that you and I could have life but very view wants it. Negative

thoughts can destroy you. Most people look for the worst they don't look for the best. Some say it's just my luck that it would fall on me. It probably would be your luck. You never hear anyone say that with the Holy Ghost. If you're following witchcraft it probably will fall on you.

Ps. 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

No such thing as good luck. Twenty five or thirty million in America carry a rabbit's foot for good luck. One man was preaching one time talking about witchcraft all these signs, good luck, and said don't look at me like that some of you right now got a possum tail in your pocket. 25- 30 million people carry a rabbit's foot in their pocket but if it was so lucky the rabbit would still be wearing it. It wasn't too good of luck he lost it. Good steps are ordered by the Lord. No good luck or bad luck. God's hand is on all of us.

Rom. 8:28, And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Are we His called? Things have to work together for the good, not for the worst, positive thinking. Someone said I can't believe it, claim it. Let it roll over in your mind to believe it. If some people can brain wash their mind to believe a lie. We can have a positive mind to believe the truth. The Bible says in all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths I would think about buying a car until consulting my councilor first. I wouldn't think about buying anything until I talk to my heavenly father about it. You know why it pays to do what the book says, that's positive. Acknowledge Him in all thy ways and He will direct thy paths. It makes a difference.

Prov. 3:5, 6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

If you don't believe the scripture you might as well cut it out of your Bible, it will still be in the original. You say I believe I'm coming down with a tumor, I'm afraid I've got arthritis. They say when you get 42 or 43 you might expect Arthur to come visit you. Who's Arthur? Arthur Ritis. I've got something better than Arthur has to offer. Like brother Trip when I saw him he looked well they said he had a heart attack. He got so bad and so much pain he prayed "God heal me or take me." You'll get in a place that you'll say that sometime possibly. You'll get in so much pain you'll think if it's time for me to go then let me go. God heard him and you know what they said when he was in the worst shape? He had a massive heart attack he didn't know what he had, he didn't go to the doctors. He trusted the Lord they tried to convince him he had a heart attack. He got to the place he went against the devil. He stuck his finger up in the devils betty eyes and said devil I got news for you I haven't had a heart attack and I'm not gonna have one. Whatever he had God healed him. We need to produce the power of positive thinking; you can't produce God on negative thought. I'm afraid I've got a tumor they feel something they never felt before.

Job. 3:25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

Fear is faith in reverse. You can fear the worst on you the same as faith it off you. One brother said to another brother someone's going to get your hubcaps being around a lighted area and sure enough one night they got the hubcaps they might have been 60 miles away but negative went to work. One brother said how you are; the other said 'well I'm trying to catch a cold.' I didn't know he was running after one. Someone said I'm trying to catch the flu. Well I'm trying not to. Positive thinking will bring some results I'm talking about positive thinking. It's the devils business to destroy; it's his business to do whatever he can do.

2 Tim. 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

You want fear out of you, get love in your heart it will get love in your heart and will get it out of you some are afraid of the devil they wouldn't pray in a dark church alone much less sleep in a house alone. If you evangelize by yourself you will be in a place rather a little spooky.

I was in a place one time preaching with one eye open and one eye closed. The pastor said he was back in the room one time studying and felt like a cat rubbed against his pant leg, he said he thought it was a strange cat got in the church. He got up looked out the door and down the steps. He thought it could be the pant leg got caught up & slid down. He went back in to study as he studied it happened again and he looked and nothing there. So he folded his books, and got out of there. The pastor said the evangelist who preached there before He didn't sleep in there. Like one brother went home and the devil said somebody is gonna get you. He opened every door and turned on the light saying devil I'm looking for you. Don't think the devil won't try to put fear on you, he will put fear on you. But positive thinking and the love of God will put it off of you. I'm thankful God didn't give us the

spirit of fear but of the power of a sound mind. Without positive thinking the devil will destroy everything God ever gave you. If he can get by with it he'll tear down every faith you've got. Why? Because of one reason he comes to steal, kill, destroy, steal your faith, kill your victory, he'll destroy your walk with God, don't think if you'll let him do it he won't do it, he will. The power of positive thinking, negative thinking will get you in trouble with God.

We was on our way to a revival in Tennessee and about halfway over there a spirit of discouragement hit me, the devil taking 90 miles per hour (mph). When he talks he don't give you a word inch wise. I almost made a u-turn in the road and forget revival. God gave me a scripture,

Heb. 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

James 1:6, 7 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. (7) For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

I was in revival one time in a small town, I was going to the post office and there was a street like an alley between two buildings. So I wheeled around to park since there was no place on Main Street. I started down there and there was a sign that said, "Don't even think of parking here". I've seen signs that said \$100 or \$200 fine and I didn't know what they would do in this case so I went on. God said don't even let that man think.

My mind went back one year before this when I was walking down the center isle of the canning plant in Chicago I know the time was drawing nigh to go out to do the work of the Lord I didn't have details and time or nothing like that. There God laid out everything before me, He began to talking to me with all those empty cans coming down the line and all that racket going on. That don't mean anything to God you can still hear God's still small voice in the midst of all that noise. God will never leave you hanging on a limb but when He tells you something He'll confirm it. I got me a pencil and pad and wrote down most of it before I forgot it, as the Lord gave it to me. We went back to the home in September of the year in fall of 71. I had what they call ordination brother Bob and all of them prayed and a spirit of prophesy came on him and prophesied over me you know what he said? Almost word for word of what God spoke to me I hadn't told anybody except my wife. But God confirmed it.

I was at another revival months after that in Missouri one night the Holy Ghost was moving and the Lord was moved on the pastor in prophesy you know what he gave me? The same thing like brother Bob spoke to me. You see He knew what script to give me. Heb. 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

I knew what God had promised me when He spoke to me in that canning plant and when He prophesied through these pastors I knew what God told me and He confirmed it. So I put my foot on the gas and felt like whipping every devil that ever walked and I went on to Charlesburg and we had an out standing revival. You know why? Because you can produce some power of positive thinking if you want to do it. It will work for you.

Power of positive thinking. The book of Mark the most positive scriptures ever written when the Lord taught He taught positive.

Mark 11:19 And when even was come, he went out of the city.

Get the setting of the scripture? Back up to:

Mark 11:12 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: 13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. 14 And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever. And his disciples heard it.

Mark 11:20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

If he would have been like the so called prophets of this time hour he would have said if you fool with me I'll give you the same thing the tree got, that's the attitude and the spirit. They can't curse something God blessed let them prophesy about money the bible never prophesied about money. Jesus didn't say any of that He simply said have faith in God. If you have faith in God everything will work out for you. If you have positive faith in God it will bring forth results when it looks like the battle is almost lost.

1971, November of the year we were in the state of California in a revival I closed out a revival was waiting a few days to help brother Davidson with camp meeting around thanksgiving every year so we was out of revival in a trailer behind the church. I woke up two days before camp meeting started early one morning with a sever pain in the lower part of my body. I went back to sleep 2-4 hours later I woke up and it was almost unbearable. The pain was so excruciating it was almost unbearable to stand. It

run on a 20 minute cycle, every 20 minutes pain and fever would rage on the cycle it would come just when the fever broke. The pain would drop a steady throb and when that happens I'd chill and they give me blankets and electric blankets. The power of the Lord would come on me and began to speak in other tongues, a message in tongues as soon as the tongues ceased he gave me the interpretation, "when your feet hit the floor you'll be made whole by the power of my spirit". I come off that bed and he healed my body. I went through the house of God that night shouting like I never shouted. He'll do something for you if you produce the POWER OF POSITIVE FAITH.

Three weeks later came in to Tenn. We were there for a revival. The first night a large kidney stone passed and I put it in a clear plastic box, there was a nurse that received the Holy Ghost which worked in cases with severe kidney stones this size. It take at least six grown people to hold him into bed not only that it will rupture and cut that tube, the tube is the size of a pencil lead and one this size it is impossible for it to pass. Without an operation chances are they would die. Because it would cause hemorrhages after splitting on the middle, they will bleed to death. There wasn't a drop of blood. I don't know what God done. No telling what God will do if you'll trust him, if you'll believe Him, put your confidence in Him. He'll leave you with a testimony. He's still the healer and deliverer.

Ps. 107:20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

Ps. 103:2-3 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: (3) Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Jesus said have faith in God.

Brother Tingle and I making a tape for a radio broadcast when we lived in Tenn. A child busted through the door screaming brother Day is dying (living 8-10 miles away). We jumped into the car got there as fast as we could and got in the house. What happen is the county trimming trees this fellow cut a limb and it snapped and fell but first on brother Larry's chest. God performed a miracle God completely healed him; he was running around hitting his chest. Before God healed him he said it felt like everything was crushed and the pain was unbearable.

God tells us to have faith, how, faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. That is God's promise to you and I. He didn't say take a chance flip a coin pick a card, He said have faith in God. Listen what else He had to say, verily, verily I say unto you whosoever say unto this mountain be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea and shalt not doubt in his heart but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Not only will God will remove a mountain for you but He will move anything that you want Him to move.

Brother Bobby Chandler had a house in Missouri and it burnt down and had a good foundation. Building material went up so high that he couldn't rebuild the house; he couldn't afford it so he said he would get one moved on the foundation. He was in Seneca Ms. and he found a house, a real good deal for a hundred dollars. He didn't know but a Baptist minister had bought it before him and was on church grounds. There was one stipulation he had to sign a contract to move it in 30 days. He didn't know that the Baptist minister couldn't move it and pound it off on him. He went to the clerk's office that next day then found out that it was too wide to move the house. He had another fellow with him and he said come on lets go back to the church and pray. They went back to pray and he said I feel good about this I don't know what's going on but I feel it's God's will to get that house. They said we'll go back, the next day they went back and a different man in the window and the man told them the same thing and Brother Bobby said we've been praying about this and the man said you better pray some more, so the men went back to pray. The next day or two a permit came in the mail for them to move the house. The police directing the traffic scratching his head saying I don't believe it.

God will move anything that you want to move if you'll exercise the power of positive faith.

There was these people living next to the church and got tired of the singing and shouting so they built them a bond fire and the wind blowing it through the windows of the church and they started putting rubber tires and inner tubes on the fire you know what that does. They didn't know there were some Holy Ghost holiness people calling on God. About the time they got the black soot and smoke a boiling God switched the wind and blew it into their house and they had to head for the hills till the fire burned out. I'm glad I serve the one that can turn the tables on the devil in time of trouble.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

We was in a revival in Columbia, Tenn. Sister Tina in that church, passing blood for five weeks from her body I don't know what happen or what was wrong. She was it trusting the Lord and her family was not in church not even her own husband. She shouldn't have been dead by nature's law, she was in bad shape. Faith will change the course of nature. One morning a knock on

the bedroom door he said Sister Tina is worse than she's ever been she needs us to pray. He husband and relation said we'll going to bodily take you and get something done because you're going to die. As soon as I got out of the car I felt a felt positive faith come into that car and I told the pastor I feel positive faith, the works already done, I know what God's going to do I feel it. As I went into that bedroom the Lord gave me a scripture. I went to the dresser and found it, Nehum 1:7 The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. God knew what He was doing because God healed her body. In the evening she was passing more blood and I said maybe God was cleaning out the corruption. In two nights we was having song service and I felt a breeze and I heard someone talking in tongues and I opened my eyes and it was her. She was shouting up this isle and sideways and shouting backwards speaking in tongues, she was made whole by the power of God. It may not come the first time or the next hour. If you put your faith and trust in him He will never leave you or forsake you. Job 13:15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.

A Sister in a church in a revival the phone rang at 3 in the morning I had my cloths on when he came to the door, said sister Kingleton is dying with a severe heart attack, she's in bad shape. It was real foggy that morning I told them to bring her to the house by the church and we'd meet them there of course when we got there they just pulled up and got her out she was bent double just a screaming in agony and pain. We got her in the house and everybody prayed and it looked like she got some relief she went into the bedroom and laid down. They said you might as well go back home if we need you we'll call you she looks like she's doing better. She didn't get relief they called us about nine or ten o'clock said she's in bad shape went back ever there, she was in bed everyone getting around the bed and prayed. All at once I felt a breeze and opened my eyes and she was shouting down the hall made whole by the Holy Ghost she told me later God delivered her whatever it was He healed her but here's what stuck with me. When she was in that room in pain couldn't hardly breathe look like she was going to leave any minute. She said that "I've been trusting God for 35 years and I don't know when He's going to do it, but I know He's going to do it." With faith like that He's got to do it.

I went to a revival in Georgia and called the pastor from a telephone booth. He said I'll come and get you but my wife is sick so He told me where he lived. I got out of the car started up the house I heard praying and I thought she is sick so I rung the door bell his wife laying on the couch. He was bent over the foot stool praying and here is what he said "God we are trusting you, you told me in the bible what things soever you desire when you pray believe you will receive them". I didn't know it but she suffered for weeks and had a women taking care of things something as sister Kindleton had. The devil was making his rounds. God instantly delivered her in that revival. God did like when He promised these things all God is looking for is someone to say God I believe what you wrote. What you and doing when you say I believe is exercising the Power of Positive Faith.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

I don't see how the Lord could speak any more positive to you and I than that in the book. I believe He did it exactly right. He could have gave us one or two scriptures and said there it is. He used every channel approach He could use, every angle like spokes in a wheel coming in every direction. Open the book and a promise here and a goody there and this is mine. He's trying to get positive thoughts in our hearts. Positive thinking will produce something and it won't be negative it will be positive faith and positive faith is the only faith that will touch God. People could exercise the power of positive faith they wouldn't tarry for the Holy Ghost. Don't look for the worst look for the best, don't look for bad luck but look for the blessings of God that is what is promised in this bible. Everywhere we read there are promises which are ours if we want them

A brother was over in Liberia a few years ago and he was in an organization at the time and they would buy him a plane under one condition he had to make an air field or landing strip. He said the drunk of the trees are the size of limbs over there. They cleared the air strip and got it level for landing but there was one problem, there was a gigantic tree at the edge of that air strip and if that tree ever falls on the air strip you can forget it because you could never clear it up. They had one hope that tree would fall the opposite of the air strip toward the forest. So they began to cutting to get that tree to fall toward the forest. Driving the wedges and sawing the tree, on a clear day and all at once it popped and lunge toward the air strip. He looked into heaven and said Oh God, you said you would give help in the time of trouble and all at once there was a clap of thunder and a mighty wind and the last time he looked that tree was going over the forest. God will move and any condition or any situation whatever it is, we're serving one if you'll product the power of positive thinking it will bring positive faith and positive faith will bring results from God.

Believe God for the best, believe God has the best to offer, believe He's going to do nothing but good. He's your shield, defense, and your buckler. He's one that will never fail you.

Rom. 8:31 if God be for us who can be against us.