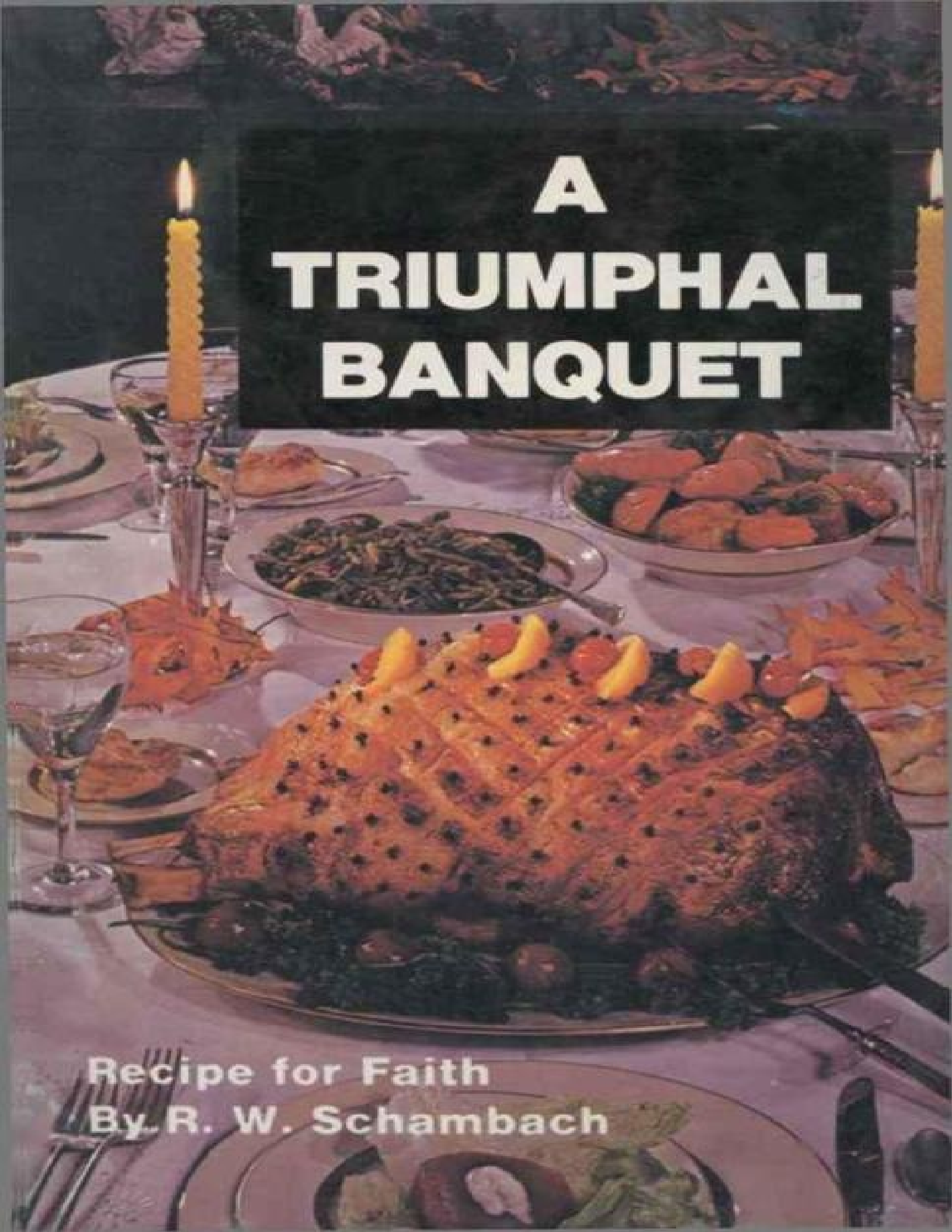


A photograph of a formal dinner table. In the center is a large, roasted bird, possibly a turkey or goose, garnished with orange slices and dark berries. It sits on a bed of dark green herbs. Surrounding the bird are several side dishes: a bowl of green beans, a bowl of orange slices, and a plate of small, round pastries. Two lit candles in glass holders are visible, one on the left and one on the right. The table is set with white plates, glasses, and silverware. The background is dark and out of focus.

A TRIUMPHAL BANQUET

Recipe for Faith
By R. W. Schambach

Pastor of four MIRACLE TEMPLE churches, in Brooklyn, Newark, Philadelphia, and Chicago.



Evangelist, bringing the message of POWER to America and the world in our day, with signs following.

Missionary, preaching the gospel with demonstration of God's power in many parts of the world, and providing for the support of full time missionaries in Africa, Indonesia, New Guinea.

Writer of a number of faith inspiring books and articles. Radio and Television minister.

The message of this book is taken from tape transcriptions of a series of radio and revival sermons.

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand; and Joshua went unto him and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

* * * *

And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor.

And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do for six days.

And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

—Joshua 5:13, 14 and 6:2-5

A TRIUMPHAL BANQUET Recipe for Faith

Many of you are engaged in conflict.

It may be a spiritual battle. It may be physical. It may be mental. It may be a domestic conflict, in the home. Or it may be a conflict on your job.

You long to triumph over all those conflicts that drag you down, but your efforts fall flat.

I want to tell you that just as sure as your mother could follow a recipe in her old-fashioned kitchen, there is a recipe for triumph in your life. If you follow that recipe, using the right ingredients and combining them in the right way, you cannot fail.

I direct your attention to the sixth chapter of Joshua. I find a marvelous recipe here, and I want to leave it with you.

NEW TO THE JOB

In the first five verses of this chapter, we find that Joshua is ready to engage in his first conflict as the new commander in chief over God's chosen people.

Moses had failed to bring the people into their inheritance, and Joshua has been appointed to take his place. God has led the people across the river into the promised land, but still they must take possession of it. There are giants in the land, and walled cities to conquer.

In our own lives, as Christians, we have learned that it is a wonderful thing to be saved, but there are still many battles to fight, many victories to be won. I believe that is what we are all after—the victory. God has promised, that we shall be more than conquerors through Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us. There is no defeat for the child of God!

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of

them all. " *Psalms 34:19.*

Are you ready to follow this recipe, and share in a triumphal banquet?

THE RECIPE

This recipe consists of five different things. If you want to shout the victory, consider them, step by step, and be obedient in every respect.

I would like to list these ingredients as follows:

1. The *command* of faith.
2. The *obedience* of faith.
3. The *silence* of faith.
4. The *patience* of faith.
5. The *shout* of faith.

First of all, Joshua listened to the command of God. Then, there was obedience to that command. Then, if you ever want to be able to shout the victory, you must learn how to be patient.

You say you like to shout?

If you want to shout the victory, you've got to learn when to be silent. Being quiet is an important part of it!

Then, don't forget that the shout is not just a matter of getting all excited in the flesh and "whooping it up." God says, "There is a time to shout." If you want real victory, you have got to learn to shout when it is God's time to shout!

I know a lot of people who are moaning and groaning because they are suffering in body. They believe that God put that sickness on them "to make them humble." They don't know the Word of God, nor the Spirit of God. God didn't put that sickness on you! The devil is the author of sickness. He is the one that puts sickness on people. God is the one who takes it off!

What I am telling you is that if you are to enjoy the victory that God provides for His people—for you, His child—you need first to know His Word, and to understand His will.

"IF IT BE THY WILL"

Is that the way you pray? You can't pray with real faith for anything while you doubt that it is God's will to do it.

You say, "But Jesus prayed that way!"

Not when He was intending to change anything. Not because He doubted God's will for the occasion! There is only one record in the Bible of Jesus using those words in prayer. That was in the Garden of Gethsemane. He already knew that it was God's will for him to drink that bitter cup to the dregs, and He already intended to drink it without shunning one drop of its bitterness. It was to drink that very cup that He had laid aside His glory and come into the world. Because

He was the Son of God, He knew beforehand every agony that would be his at the whipping post, on the cross, and in the hour of loneliness when His

Father must turn away His face from the sin—yours and mine—that would be placed upon His shoulders.

Don't let anybody ever tell you that because He was divine He did not feel the pain! Because of His divinity, He felt it even more, and He felt it in advance as well as during the ordeal. Because He was made like unto us, His brethren, (See Hebrews 2:17,) His very nature recoiled from the coming agony. When you pray, "If it be thy will —", let it be followed by a prayer of dedication: "Nevertheless, not my will but thine! Yes, Lord! I will drink of the cup that you drank. I am ready to share in the fellowship of your sufferings."

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, there was no wavering in the expression He taught regarding His will. *"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."*

Not, "Let me have my way, if it be thy will!"

Rather, "Your Word has revealed Your will. Lord, Thy will be done!"

Before you are healed, you need to know beyond the shadow of a doubt that it is absolutely God's will for you to be made whole!

You say, "How can I find that out, Preacher?"

By knowing God's Word!

A leper came to Jesus and said, *"Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean!"*

The first thing Jesus did was to make plain His will, and then He cleansed the leper. Hear this! *"I will! Be thou clean!"*

Jesus said, *"I must be about my Father's business."*

What was that?

He went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil. (Acts 10:38).

You have got to know God's will!

Would you dare ask Him to do anything against His will?

But it is God's will to heal you. It is His will that you prosper, and be in health, and triumph gloriously over every trial that comes into your life! When you believe that, you can hold your head high and walk in faith. And faith is the victory that overcomes the world! (1 John 5:4.)

JOSHUA

Now, let us go back to our story.

Joshua has just been appointed as the new leader of Israel, to take the place of Moses. I want you to know that every promise God had ever given Moses was

passed on to Joshua. He had no reason to say, "Well, God made that promise to Moses, but this is a different age. I don't know whether He will do it for me!"

Listen to me, beloved! The promises that God made to His believing Church through Jesus Christ didn't die with the apostles! There may have been generations when you didn't see many of them fulfilled, but I want you to know that those same promises were in effect for your mother and dad, and for your grandpa and grandma. If they didn't receive what God promised, it wasn't because there was anything wrong with the promise. If they wouldn't accept it, that doesn't change it! The promise is still good for you today. And when you are gone, those same promises will be just as powerful and just as real for your children and grandchildren. It is how you, personally, react to that promise that determines whether or not you will gain the victory.

God made the promise to Moses, and to all the people that he brought out of captivity. The land was theirs—a land that flowed with milk and honey. But they did not enter in—including Moses himself—because of their unbelief. You know the story, how God turned them around, right there in view of the promised land, and their carcasses bleached in the sands of the desert.

Why?

God said, *"They shall not enter in, because of their unbelief!"*

But the next generation began to rise up, and God put Joshua in charge of those young people. That new generation finds itself moving in and laying claim to the promises that God had given to their fathers. They believed, and God led them from victory to victory.

Beloved, you have got to make up your mind for yourself that if God said it, He will do it! If He spoke it, He will bring it to pass! There aren't enough giants to stop Him! He is bigger than all the giants! You have got to stand on God's Word for yourself, regardless of what Mother and Dad believed—regardless of what friends and loved ones say—regardless of what your church may teach. You have got to stand on the truth, that if God said it, He will do it. Let every man and every devil be a liar, and let God's Word be true.

God is looking for men and women today that will dare to stand on His Word!

Are you ready?

I believe that this is the reason Joshua was successful.

Joshua had brought the people over Jordan, and they had their feet in the promised land. But now they had to take possession of it. Thirty-one kings had to be fought. Thirty-one battles had to be waged. Thirty-one armies had to be destroyed.

If you are going to be victorious, there are certain victories that you must

win.

Thank God, we are more than conquerors through Christ.

"SEE I HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU"

I want you to notice, right from the start (v. 2), before you go into the battle, God starts exercising your faith. He says, *"See, I have given it to you."* Before you have taken a single city, God says, *"I have given it to you."* When you know that it is yours, you don't mind fighting for it.

Before you feel the first touch of the healing power of God, He says, *"I am the Lord that healeth thee."* When you are suffering pain and agony—when the doctor is standing over your bed and saying there is no hope, God is saying, *"By His stripes, you are healed!"*

Isn't that beautiful?

Before you even attempt to stand on His Word, God says, "It is yours! I have given it to you!"

I don't mind getting into the battle when I know beforehand that I am going to come out victoriously. Just to know that God says victory is mine, and I can stand anything! I can stand adversity. The devil can knock me down, but I know that I am going to get back up again. I can endure pain and keep shouting the victory, because I know that the devil can't kill me until God gets through with me.

Here we see Joshua standing on a mountainside, looking over the city of Jericho. It is the night before the battle, and troops are resting in their tents, but Joshua is figuring out some last minute military strategy. God has said, *"I have given it to you,"* and Joshua believes it. But he isn't just sitting around waiting for God to drop it into his lap! He is out there on the mountainside, waiting on God and examining the situation.

All of a sudden, here comes another man walking around the mountain. At least, Joshua thought it was a man. He had a sword in his hand, and appeared to be ready for battle. Now, Joshua was no coward. Immediately, he drew his sword and heads right for him.

"Who are you for? Are you for us or for our adversaries?" he asked.

"I am not for either of you. I am come as the captain of the Lord's hosts."

It was an angel that God had sent to lead His troops into battle.

Right then, Joshua did something that shows why God chose him to be commander in chief over the hosts of Israel. Joshua took his sword and laid it down at the feet of the angel. He said, "Lead on! And whatever you tell me to do, I will do it!"

This is the reason why Joshua was victorious. He had a good beginning. The

first thing he did was surrender completely to the will of God.

There comes a time in every one of our lives when there must be a total commitment to Christ. Sometimes we get so hard-headed that God can't use us. We say, "Well, I am doing all I know how!" That is why we get so messed up. Doing "all you know how" isn't enough. You have got to surrender everything—your body, your mouth, your soul. Put it all in God's hands, and let Him use His know-how!

This is the beginning. Get into the position where God can speak to you and give His command. Steep yourself in His Word. Know Him through His Word and through His Spirit. You need to know His will, and He will make it plain.

That is the command of faith!

OBEDIENCE

Now it is time for obedience.

And God gives Joshua a command to do something very strange.

Listen to me, Beloved! The reason some of us as Christians have not moved into our full inheritance in Christ is because sometimes what God tells us to do goes contrary to the way that we have been educated. It goes contrary to our human reasoning. Obeying His command would make us feel foolish, and look foolish before our friends—and our enemies.

I want you to analyze what God told Joshua to do. He said, "I want your troops to march around the walls of Jericho one time every day."

"You mean we are going out to battle in the morning, and all we are going to do is march around the walls once, and then go back to our tents?"

Don't ask questions! Just do what God tells you to do!

"And do this same thing every day for six days. Just march around the walls! While you are doing it, be quiet. Don't let a word proceed out of your mouth."

In other words, God said, "Shut up!" That is the biggest job in the world, to get some people to be quiet!

I can imagine the men of Jericho standing over them on the walls, shouting down at them, "What do you think you are doing? Are you dumb fools? Answer our challenge!"

How easy it would be to say, "we'll have the last laugh! We are doing this because God said to do it!" When God tells us to do something, we think we have got to explain, so that everybody will understand that we are not just fools. God said, "Don't let a word proceed out of your mouth until I tell you!" This was God's command, and upon obedience to that command depends victory or defeat.

The first thing God demands of every one of us is obedience. What He told

them to do was very simple, and this is where the obedience of faith comes in. March around the walls.

What is He trying to do, here?

Just checking out their obedience. He wasn't checking their ability as warriors, or their intelligence. Anybody could walk around a wall! He was checking their ability and willingness to follow an order!

Do you remember the story of the Syrian captain, Naaman, who was stricken with leprosy? He had brought back captive a little Israelitish maiden who became a servant to his wife. On one occasion, this little maid overheard that her master was a leper, and that there was no hope for him. He had spent a fortune, but there was no cure. The little maid said to her mistress, "If only he could be in my home church, in Israel! I've got a pastor there who knows how to pray, and could recover him of his leprosy!"

Naaman went to her home town, to the prophet's house. He took with him ten expensive changes of raiment, and brought silver and gold in his chariot. He was prepared to pay whatever the price. When he arrived at the prophet's house, he sent his servant to the door. Elisha was inside, sitting in his rocking chair. He didn't even answer the knock. He sent his servant Gehazi to meet Naaman's servant.

Naaman said, "Doesn't he know who I am? I thought surely he would come out and strike his hand over the place! Go ask if he has any message for me."

Gehazi said, "I'm just a servant! Let me go ask my master."

Elisha just kept on rocking. He said, "Go tell him to jump in the lake!"

Well, really, what he said was, "Go tell him to dip in the Jordan river—seven times."

Now, hear this! Elisha told him to do something.

Why should a servant of God tell you to do something?

Just to see if you are willing to do it!

Naaman was really riled up! The man practically ignored him. He paid no attention to his rank and importance. Now, he said to dip seven times in that muddy, filthy river!

"I'm not going to do it! Dip in that muddy river seven times? Why we've got two rivers better than that in Syria, the Urban and the Pharphar, fresh, clean mountain spring water! If water could do this, I could take a bath in clean water!"

If that's the way you feel about it, you don't have to dip, and you don't have to be healed!

His servant said, "Master, why don't you do what the man says? We've come all this way, and it really wouldn't hurt you that much to do it. If he had told you

to do some great thing, you would gladly have done it. All you've got to do is humble yourself!"

You know the story!

Naaman went down into the muddy water once, twice, three times. Nothing happened. He went down four times, five times, six times. Still when he scraped the mud away, the leprosy was there. That would be enough to discourage anybody!

But when God says seven, He means seven. If you want the reward of obedience, you had better go down seven times! The Bible says that when he went down the seventh time, the leprosy was gone. His flesh was like a baby's flesh, all over his body. Brand new flesh! Nobody laid hands on him. Nobody anointed him with oil. The prophet didn't even come out and pray for him. But when he was obedient to what the man of God told him to do, his leprosy was gone.

The obedience Of faith!

Obedience is better than—what?

Sacrifice!

You can shout that you have faith all you like, but God knows how to test that faith.

Faith can be defined as, "Taking God at His word!"

When you are ready to exercise faith in your own life, your faith will be checked out by a test of obedience. God will tell you to do something, just to see if you will do it. Don't pretend that you have faith if you are not willing to move in obedience when God tells you what to do!

Consider Abraham.

Abraham is called the father of all that believe. Abraham was a man of faith. When he was seventy-five years of age, God told him, "You are going to have a son. Your name has been called Abram (High), but now your name is going to be changed to Abraham (Father of a multitude)."

Seventy-five years old, and with a wife sixty-five years old, and not even one little baby to call their own! Sarah didn't believe it!

God said, "You think that is impossible? I'm going to let you wait another twenty-five years,"

Abraham and Sarah waited until he was a hundred years old, and Sarah was ninety. Then Isaac was born. God had spoken, and God was true to His Word!

But then Isaac was beginning to grow up, and you know what happened!

The same God who had given him Isaac said, "Offer him up as a sacrifice!"

What would you say if God told you a thing like that? "I wonder if that could be the Lord talking to me! That could be the devil talking! God gave me this son,

and now the devil is trying to take him away from me!"

We live in a day when most people don't know the voice of God.

Abraham knew the voice of God, and he wasn't going to question it. All he was going to do was to obey.

Remember, Jesus said, *"My sheep know my voice, and a stranger's voice will they not follow."*

Abraham called his son to him and said, "Isaac, come here, boy! We are going up on the mountain and have church! I've got the knife and the rope to tie down the sacrifice. You bring the wood." Some of the servants went along with them, but halfway up the mountain, Abraham said, "You all stay here. Isaac and I are going on up the mountain and offer a sacrifice. Wait here. We will be back."

Not "I'll be back!"

God had made promises to Abraham about this son, and Abraham believed those promises. He also believed God's command and was determined to obey it. He didn't know how God was going to manage the whole thing, but he trusted God.

I can imagine Isaac as they walked up the mountain. "Dad, you say we are going to offer a sacrifice? You've got the knife and the rope, and I've got the wood. But where is the sacrifice?"

Abraham said, "Son, Jehovah Jirah! The Lord will provide Himself a sacrifice."

Isn't that beautiful? Here was a man of faith, not questioning God, doing exactly what God told him to do. God will always make a way where there is no way when we move in obedience to Him. "I do not ask to see the distant path. One step is enough for me!"

Abraham did not delay. He got up there and built that altar. When it was finished, he took his son and tied him up, and laid him down on the altar. He took the knife in his hand, and was bringing it down toward his son, lying there bound, without hesitation.

Then the angel of God stopped him. He couldn't bring that knife down any farther. And God said, "Now, Abraham, I know that you love me more than you love your own son! Turn around!"

Abraham turned around.

There he saw a ram, caught by its horns in the thicket.

He took the knife that was in his hand and cut the ropes that bound his son to the altar. He said, "Didn't I tell you, Son, that the Lord would provide Himself a sacrifice? Go get him! We are going to have church!"

When Abraham's obedience was tested, he proved that he loved God more than he loved God's gift.

Do you love God more than you love His gifts? Will you return to Him at anytime, without question, anything that He has given you?

That is the obedience of faith.

God said to Joshua, "March around the walls one time every day for six days. On the seventh day, go around seven times."

"But Joshua, we are here to fight! You mean we are just to walk around the city one time today, and go back to our tents? That sounds crazy!"

Do it anyway!

Not because it sounds crazy, but because God said to do it! The obedience of faith!

THE SILENCE OF FAITH

Now we come to another aspect of it. I call this the silence of faith. God said, *"Don't let a word proceed out of your mouth."*

There is a time, Christian, when you need to learn to be still. There is also a time to shout. Don't get it mixed up.

Most preachers today have got it backwards. They want everybody to be quiet when they come to church. That is getting the cart before the horse. When we come together in the presence of the Lord, we come there to worship Him, to glorify His name. We come to shout! We come to sing praises! We come to clap our hands, and to dance before the Lord, as David did, with all our might!

Yes, there is a time to keep silent. But there is also a time to shout. I am going to spend some time on this, because there is a move on in the religious world today to quiet down the church services. In this, we are falling right into the hands of the enemy. God says, "Enter into his courts with praise, and into his gates with thanksgiving."

Some preacher will say, "What about that scripture that says, Be still and know—?"

That is the silence of faith. That is when you are engaged in a battle with the enemy. Don't try to argue with him! Keep still! Don't try to explain your obedience to the devil! It was when Eve tried to explain things to the devil, in the garden of Eden, that she got the whole human race in trouble!

"There is a time to shout, and a time to keep silent!"

Learn to know God's will, and understand God's timing.

When we come to church, we don't come to keep silent. We come to have fellowship one with another. We come to worship God. We come to get our battery charged!

If you learn to be so quiet when you go to church, you will probably make a big noise when you get out on the battlefield. "Oh, Lord! Why is this happening

to me? Oh! I am sick! I am going to die! Call the doctor, quick! Help!"

You see? You've got it backward! Make a noise in church! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord of your salvation! Then, when you are on the battlefield—when the enemy comes in like a flood—you are supposed to be still and know that God is God. Be still, and watch Him work. Say in your heart, "I know that my redeemer liveth. Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him!"

Wait quietly for that still, small voice to come and make its whisper. Because you are not making a noise, you can hear Him when He says, "*This is the way; walk ye in it!*"

That is the silence of faith!

This isn't easy, I am here to tell you!

Can you imagine all that army walking around the wall, down there. And there were the enemy soldiers up there on top of the wall, looking down on them, making fun. "Hey, you bunch of sissies! You come to take our city, and you act like a bunch of deaf mutes! Can't you even talk?"

I can picture some of those Israelites, down there, with their fists doubled up, wanting to knock their teeth down their throats! It's hard to keep silent when somebody calls you names. It's hard to keep from defending yourself when you know that you are right. Here you are trying to live holy, and folks are pointing at you and laughing at you and talking about you!

Just hold your peace!

Just keep right on walking!

Victory shall be mine if I hold my peace and let God fight my battle!

Shout hallelujah! Shout when it is time to shout! This is the silence of faith.

This is waiting patiently for Him, knowing that He will bring it to pass!

In the time of conflict, the Spirit of God will bring something into your heart.

I am not talking about memorized Scripture. That is just storing it up in your mind.

Eat the words of the Lord. Hide it away in your heart.

Let it become a part of you. Then at the moment that you need it, the Holy Ghost will bring it to your remembrance.

A lady in one of my churches was dying of a cancerous tumor on her neck. She was on the operating table. The doctors had cut out the tumor, and she became blind in one eye, deaf in one ear, and paralyzed on one side. The doctors said that she didn't have a chance—that she was going to die. But as she lay there dying, the Word of God came into her heart, and she cried it out: "You shall live and not die!"

She didn't know that those words were the words of scripture until later, when she looked it up. She found that it came from the Psalms. She had read it,

but she had not remembered it. But at the very moment that she needed it, God dropped that word into her heart. The Holy Ghost brought it to her memory.

That is the reason, many times, that you need to be silent—so that the Holy Ghost can bring back those things that you have learned, and that you have stored away in your heart.

"You shall live and not die!"

Three days after that woman left the hospital, she was carried into the church. I went to lay hands on her, but my hands never touched her. The power of God came on her and stretched her out on the floor. I call this God's operating table. While she was lying there, the blind eye opened, the deaf ear was unstopped, and the paralysis left her. The hole in her neck where the doctors had removed the tumor was filled in.

That was thirteen years ago. That woman is living today. She was in my meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, in the summer of 1973. She is glorifying God, and preaching the gospel today!

There is a time in our lives when we need to learn to be quiet, but not in church!

When I come to church, I come to shout! I come to praise the Lord!

I've got something to shout about! I've got something to praise Him for!

THE PATIENCE OF FAITH

Now, after discussing the command of faith, the obedience of faith, and the silence of faith, we come to one of the most difficult ingredients of this recipe.

The patience of faith!

If you are like many people that I know, you have need of patience. We are living in a very fast age. Nobody wants to wait for anything any more. We want things right away.

We want what we want when we want it!

Some of you precious mothers remember when you used to spend all day over a hot stove, just to cook one meal.

Today, you go to the freezer and pull out one of those TV dinners. You stick it in the preheated oven for a few minutes, and you slap it down in front of your husband and say, "Eat it, and shut up!"

You can get on a plane in New York City after breakfast, and be in San Francisco four hours later, in time for lunch! A friend of mine left Holland on Monday morning and at noontime he was in my office in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. I left Philadelphia, and landed in Djakarta, 13,000 miles away, just a couple of hours later by the clock! (Of course, the clock turns back a full day when you cross the international date line.)

Everything happens so fast, and we just don't want to take time to wait for anything any more.

You get a headache, and you go to the cabinet and set out the aspirin. You draw a glass of water, and you say, "Now, Lord, I am going to give you five minutes to heal this headache. If it isn't gone in five minutes, I am going to take this aspirin."

You might as well not wait five minutes. Go ahead and take it! You aren't going to get an answer from God that way. God isn't responsible to meet man's deadlines!

Now, I am not saying that God doesn't ever do things quickly. He can, and He does! But most of the time, you have to be patient.

I believe that this is the message that we need in our deliverance meetings today.

Too many people are looking for immediate visible results the moment the preacher touches them. Sometimes it happens that way. When it does, that is a miracle! But my Bible says, *"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint."*

When people come for prayer, they say, "Preacher, I am hurting here. Put your hand on me."

A minute later, they say, "It still hurts! I had better go see a doctor!"

Why don't you just wait, and hold onto the horns of the altar?

I am here to tell you that God is still on the throne. Every promise that He ever made is still in force. He not only hears your prayer, but He answers prayer. The answer is on the way, the moment you pray. But you have got to learn how to wait on Him.

The Israelites under Joshua's leadership needed patience. God could have knocked those walls all down the first day, but He didn't. There was a lesson for those people to learn that was more important to them than just taking the city. That is why God said that they must march around it every day for six days, and then seven times on the seventh day.

What was that lesson?

Patience, my friends! Hear me!

I want to tell you about a man who demonstrated remarkable patience.

Daniel lived a life of prayer. He prayed every day, and God always answered his prayers.

Do you know why prayer is so unpopular in the churches today? You can advertise a musical group and pack the church. You can even sell tickets at the door, and people will buy them. But it's hard to fill the front row for prayer

meeting on Wednesday night! Why? Prayer seems like a waste of time, because so many people never get an answer.

It shouldn't be! Jesus said, *"Ask, and ye shall receive. Seek and ye shall find. Knock and it shall be opened unto you!"*

Do you know what I like best about His promise? He went on to say, *"Every one that asketh receiveth, and to every one that knocketh it shall be opened!"*

I don't know how many times I depend on that! I love to pray.

If people believed that they would get answers when they pray, they would jam the prayer meetings, every time a prayer meeting was called. Look again at God's promise. Not one out of ten times. Not four out of five times!

"Every one that asketh receiveth!"

But Daniel prayed, and the answer didn't come. Daniel said, "Lord, there is something wrong! I always get an answer. I know the trouble isn't up there, on your part, because you always answer me. There isn't anything wrong on this end either. But there is something wrong. I refuse to eat any pleasant food until the answer comes. I am going to wait right here until I get the answer!"

Daniel called a fast. Seven days went by, and still there was no answer, and Daniel was still fasting. Fourteen days went by, and no change. The twenty first day dawned.

Now, listen to me! I am about to open your eyes to something important.

Twenty one days of fasting and waiting on God, just for the answer to one prayer. And then here comes an angel. The first thing that came out of the mouth of that angel was, "Daniel, twenty one days ago, I left the throne of God with the answer to your prayer. There were some demon spirits that ganged up on me. They wrestled with me, to keep you from getting your answer."

The reason you don't have the answer to your prayer is because those demon spirits have been holding it back!

A lot of people think the devil is in hell. Don't you believe it! He is right there in your city! He is in the air around you. He is the prince and the power of the air! It is the devil's job to keep you from getting answers to your prayers, to keep the answers that God sends from getting through!

The angel said, "I've been wrestling with those demons for twenty one days. God saw that I needed help, and sent Gabriel down to give me a hand. When Gabriel came, I slipped through to bring you your answer. Here it is! Take it, man! I've got to get back and give Gabriel a hand with those demons!"

When I read that, I started shouting.

Listen to me, friends! Some of you still have unanswered prayers, delayed somewhere up there in the atmosphere. You wonder why you don't get an answer. Right away, the devil says to you, "You might as well give up. It

probably isn't God's will for you to have it!" That lying devil!

This is why you need to learn to wait, and to hang onto the horns of the altar.

"Every one that asketh receiveth."

The answer is on the way!

Some of you mothers have been praying for your sons and your daughters. Instead of getting saved, they are getting worse. You have got to have patience. God said that He would save you and your household!

You have been crying for healing. The answer has been clogged up somewhere. The answer is in the atmosphere. You have got to learn how to wait on God, because the answer is just about to break through.

The patience of faith!

Lord, teach me to wait!

Can you say amen?

I love to lay my hands on people and see them get a miracle, right away. But I firmly believe that even if I don't see anything happen, they still got it! God always answers prayer.

The devil is a liar!

Don't believe a word he says!

Have the patience of faith!

AND LAST OF ALL!

Then comes the last ingredient in this delectable recipe for faith! The shout of faith!

Would you believe it? That is the part of the whole matter that some people don't like! They don't like the shouting. That's the part I love!

I've been quiet long enough. Now it is time for me to shout.

I've been walking around those walls for seven days. The pressure has been building up on the inside!

Some of you have been waiting a long time for that deliverance. You have been waiting for those children to come back home. You have been waiting for that husband to get saved. You have been waiting, and keeping silent. Now, it is time to shout the victory!

God said, *"When you hear the ram's horns, on the seventh time around, all you priests take those ram's horns and blow. And when you hear that ram's horn being blown, then lift up your voice and shout!"*

Here is a secret, Beloved!

A lot of people are sitting there in church and saying, "Well, when the Lord heals me, then I am going to shout!"

I am telling you now, you are never going to shout. The time to shout is

before you see it! Before those walls fell down, they had to shout. Before you get healed, you have got to thank Him for your healing. Here is where the shout of victory comes in. The very fact that you are able to thank God for victory means that you have accepted victory and are waiting for it to come.

You have understood the command of faith.

You have accepted that command, and have entered into the obedience of faith.

When it was the right time for it, you have practiced the silence of faith.

And you have let the patience of faith have her perfect work in your heart.

Now, it is time to shout!

Shout, and the walls will come tumbling down!

Victory is yours!

Hallelujah!

I want to tell you about a man who came into my church some years ago, on crutches, bound by arthritis.

I had opened the service for testimonies, and all over the congregation, people were standing up to give God glory as they told what He had done for them.

All of a sudden, that man stood to his feet and said, "Well, folks, look what the devil did to me! I can't walk without these crutches. I've been bound like this for thirteen years!"

A cloud settled over that entire congregation. I said, "Brother, don't say another word, please!" Then I apologized for stopping him. I don't like to be rude to anyone. I asked him to please see me in my office after church.

When I took him into my office, I said, "Brother, please! A testimony meeting is for the purpose of giving glory to God, not to the devil. We gather here to tell folks what God has done for us."

Do you know what he said to me? He looked me right in the eye and said, "I'll tell folks what God does for me, when He does something!"

I said, "Do you mean to tell me that God hasn't done anything for you?"

He said, "Not a thing! Look at me!"

I said, "That is just the trouble! When I look at you, I see what the devil has done. Brother, you are looking at the wrong thing! Look here! I want to show you something else. I want to show you what God did. When you look at man, you see what the devil does. Abraham considered not his own body, now dead—and God gave him a son when he was a hundred years old, because he believed what God said!" I opened my Bible and said to him, "Now, look at this! Read it out loud!" He read, "*I am the Lord that healeth thee!*" I said, "Who is *thee*?"

"Why," he said, "man, that's me! I never saw that before!"

I said, "I didn't think you had! Now, if you think that is good, I want you to look at this!"

He read, "I will take sickness away from the midst of thee! I never saw that before either."

I said, "Here! Read this one!" I turned to Psalms 103.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name, and forget not all his benefits;

who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all my diseases."

He sat there and went, "Mmmm-mmm!" like he was chewing on a steak. Then he said, "I have never seen that before, either!"

I said, "I didn't think so! And if you think that is good, here is another one" I opened the Bible to the book of Isaiah, chapter 53. I put my finger on verse five, and laid it in front of him.

He read,

"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed!"

When he got through reading that one, he looked across the desk at me and said, "Pastor, what am I doing sick?"

I said, "You've got it! Get out of here!"

He picked up his crutches, put them under his arms and hobbled out, saying, "You lying devil, you! I am not sick! I am what God said I am! I am healed!"

You couldn't tell it by looking at him. He looked just as crippled as ever. The pain of arthritis? He could feel it all over. But he was no longer confessing arthritis. He was confessing what God said.

"You devil, you! I am healed! You've got to take this thing off of me, because I am healed by the stripes of Jesus!"

People saw him come down the street, shouting the victory. They circled their ear and said, "Old John has gone loco! Hollering that he is healed, and he is still hobbling on those crutches!"

He got on a bus, and rode from Glassport to McKeesport, the next town. The whole way, he was saying, "I am healed by His stripes! Devil, you are a liar! I am not crippled! I am healed!" He was praising God for the victory. He was shouting the shout of faith!

I didn't lay my hands on him. I didn't anoint him with oil.

All I did was plant the Word into his heart, and he began to confess it.

In the middle of McKeesport, the Word began to take root in his heart, and sprang up, alive! He had heard it, and accepted it in his head, but God didn't

promise anything for head knowledge. It's a good thing to start by getting it into your head, but let it get down under that fifth rib, down into your heart. It is with the heart that man believeth and with the mouth that confession is made unto salvation!

I want you to know that something happened. When that thing got down into his heart, all of a sudden he straightened up. The crutches went one way, and old John went the other. He ran down the street shouting, "My God! I've got it! Didn't I tell you, devil, that you are a liar? Didn't I tell you that I was healed?"

Do you read me?

You have got to shout the victory before you get the victory!

That is the reason so many church people are still sick. They are sitting there saying, "I am going to wait! If you are going to get something from God, you have got to learn to shout first, before the answer comes.

That is the shout of faith!



ABOVE: In the East thousands worship under the Schambach Miracle Revival Tent.

BELOW: All Tribes Indian Camp Meeting, Gallup, N. M. April 1973. It snowed night after night, but the Indian brethren, wrapped in blankets, gathered under the tent to experience the miracle working power of God.

