

# Next Level Faith

by Carl Brechi



The last article I sent to Rivers in the Desert I was 72. I am currently 78 and counting. The article was about moving from California to Nebraska where I was born. My wife, Teri, has always lived in Southern California. We moved because the Holy Spirit told us to. I had never planned on moving back because I couldn't wait to leave when I was younger. California had everything I wanted and Omaha was to slow for me. The transition was anything but smooth sailing because my wife Teri had medical issues in California and when we arrived in Nebraska they increased dramatically.

Let me say here that I am a big faith person. Before Jesus invaded my life I was a drug dealer and heroin addict. I was on the needle. I had hepatitis with yellow jaundice two separate years from dirty needles. Just before Jesus invaded my life I had been arrested by the secret service for being in a counterfeit ring and new I would be going to prison. Praise God, I had a Damascus experience. A couple I met was prophetically gifted and Jesus told them to tell me to say, "Praise you Jesus and hallelujah," Just those four words. I was hit on the top on my head and a wave went to my feet and back three times. I was instantly healed by the resurrection power of Jesus. Back in 1971 the only preachers that taught what the Holy Spirit was teaching me was Kenneth Hagin and Kenneth Copeland. I had become an associate pastor of a church in Huntington Beach, CA and was involved in ministry for 25 plus years, mainly in men's ministry ministering to men with addictions and preaching faith. That's why I am big on faith.

I know our faith should always be growing. In California I felt grounded and rooted in the principles of faith. Everything associated with faith, seemed to be there. One day I noticed my heart was out of rhythm and I had sharp pains in my chest. After a lot of tests my doctor said, well at least you know how you're going to die, heart attack or stroke. The Holy Spirit gave me a couple of visions and a powerful dream that walked me through to complete healing. Faith in God's Word manifested my healing that I knew I already had. 1 Peter 2:2 says: "*who His own self bore our*

*sins in His own body on a tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes we WERE healed.*" If you were, then you are!

I have great faith for myself and God has done amazing things for me. He always comes through. Sometimes quickly, sometime taking a while. Hebrews 6:12 says, "*through faith and patience we inherit the promises.*" I have been standing in faith for 25 years on a promise the Holy Spirit gave me through Marilyn Hickey in 1999. It is going to happen, period, even though I'm 78 and counting.

As I stated, my wife had medical issues in California but when we arrived in Nebraska, her conditions grew much worse. Without going into a lot of detail concerning her condition, the results are that she has seizures, and falls down a lot. She deals with a lot of pain. I have taken her to the emergency room a few times and also called 911 more than once. Watching her suffer so much on a regular basis became overwhelming. My faith concerning her became shipwrecked. I can take anything that comes my way for me with no fear. It has happened many times. However, I found that loving my wife and watching her continually suffer became too much for me. I found myself filled with anxiety. Worry, fear, doubt, and unbelief that I thought I had a handle on. I found I didn't. I never knew what I would find when I got home.

I needed help. I needed wisdom from God's Word. In prayer He told me that I have to trust Him with my whole heart. I received 4 scriptures over a period of time that made all the difference in the world. I'm going to share two of them with you that removed the anxiety, the worry, the fear, the doubt, and the unbelief.

**First** — John 14:27, "*Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*"

I have read this verse many times in the past, but suddenly it leaped off the page and penetrated my heart. The Holy Spirit quickened the verse to me and it was no longer just another scripture but a word living on the inside of me. I have meditated day and night now for over two years on this verse. I have let it germinate in the good soil of my heart until it began to produce fruit in my life. I was so used to having a knee jerk reaction to what my wife was going through

that I was overwhelmed with the circumstances. This scripture made it clear to me that I have a choice. Instead of letting my emotions rule me by what I saw, I could choose to embrace the truth of God's Word and walk and live by faith. Something I did for myself, but now must choose to do concerning my wife. The same God that I trusted for myself I must choose to trust for Teri.

Every time the Holy Spirit gives me a major revelation the enemy comes to try to steal the truth from me. This was no exception. It was tax time a couple years ago and I gave my taxes to a lady that had been doing ours the last few years. She fell off the gird. Moved out of her office and did not call me for a month. The devil tried to get me to worry but the revelation not to worry or let my heart be troubled was alive and well. I refused to worry and stood on Philippians 4:19: "*But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*"

I love the Word of God, what a sure foundation to stand on. We definitely had a need to get the taxes completed and filed. Five months went by but I refused to worry. I had peace. Finally she called and we connected. Once again the word of God came through. That was just the beginning. The devil has tried numerous times to get me to worry. In June we had two hail-storms which damaged our roof. Praise God, the insurance indicated they would pay for a new one. Unfortunately, we have had numerous road-blocks and delays going on four months. I was tempted to complain but knew to trust God with my whole heart. Suddenly a roofer called saying they would be delivering the material for the roof. Proof, once again, that God does perform His Word and comes through for you.

I had a Christian a few months ago say that it's normal to worry. Perhaps, but those of us who are born again by the Blood of Jesus, can choose otherwise. Jesus Christ tells to "*Let not our heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*" He doesn't tell us something that we cannot do. We have the Helper, the Holy Spirit. We can do all things through Christ, the Anointed One and His anointing which strengthens us.

**Second:** Romans 15:13, "*Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.*"

Let me say that if you are born again, then you

do believe. The problem is that there can be a lot of anxiety, worry, fear, and doubt mixed in with that belief. Keep in mind that the flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. Remember I was struggling with all the negative thoughts concerning my wife. I knew I believed but I was bombarded with all of the above things. When the Holy Spirit revealed this scripture to me it was like a light bulb lit up on the inside of me. I asked the Holy Spirit to quicken this scripture to me and make it come alive so I could live it. I started declaring by faith, day in and day out, that I have joy and peace in believing. Remember, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Then I added that I was abounding in hope, not the hope the world speaks of, but the earnest expectation that what the Bible promises is mine. Earnest means a sincere and intense conviction. That's not a maybe. Hebrews 6:9 says "*we have this hope as an anchor for the soul.*" We know that our soul is our mind, will and emotions. Biblical hope, like an anchor, keeps our soul from wandering and anchors it in God's Word. When we hope in the Word we expect it to come to pass. Romans 5:5 says, "*And hope makes us not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*" Bible hope does not make us ashamed because it is an earnest expectation. We expect what were hoping for to be manifested. When it does, it makes us not ashamed for trusting and expecting God to honor his Word and come through for us.

This the best part, through the power of the Holy Spirit. I love this part of the scripture because it is reminding me that I cannot do this in my own power. Psalm 127 says, "*Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, watchman watch but in vain.*" We do not have the power in ourselves to change ourselves. It's not by our might or our power but by the Holy Spirit. Our faith is in Jesus, not ourselves. I have absolutely no confidence in myself, but I have the utmost confidence in Jesus. Praise God that He gave us the Holy Spirit. He is many things to us but just knowing that He is our Comforter, Strengthened, Counselor, and Helper covers all we will need.

These two scriptures have given me joy and peace through the storm. I feel strengthened, settled, grounded, rooted, unmovable, and unshakable. I go

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