

Faith Empowered By Love

Roger Taylor – 11/07

The basis for my title is found in Galatians 5:6 Amp.

“For [if we are] in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love.”

Having now met Father and experienced His love firsthand, I can tell you how my faith has grown as a result of Father’s love pouring into me. His love has empowered my sense of legitimacy and self-worth. My faith and trust in Him has skyrocketed. My life has changed dramatically. Relationships have changed dramatically. Ministry has changed dramatically. My blinders are coming off and revelation is on the increase. Father is loving me to life and it is already beyond my expectations. He is re-introducing me to the message of faith and my faith is growing and I am excited as He reveals to me what I have been missing as His son.

With that said, consider this: Father spoke and the universe appeared out of nothing. This is hard to comprehend for the natural man, but when we begin to walk in the Spirit in Father’s world we must begin to see beyond the natural world into the supernatural world. That’s where all children of God belong; living in the natural world and the supernatural world simultaneously.

When Father spoke, the unseen world of atoms and molecules responded and came together to form what we see with our natural eyes. Only recently has science developed the ability through more progressively powerful microscopes to see into the unseen world. In other words, to see what was before unseen by the naked eye. We now see into creation at sub-atomic levels and can literally see what we are made of!

Father spoke and it became a reality. Let there be light and light appeared. What model did Jesus use? He used Father’s model. He went everywhere declaring the Kingdom of God is at hand. He spoke the truth. He spoke life. He spoke healing. He spoke correction. Jesus said He only said what He heard the Father saying. Jesus also said He could do nothing on His own, but only what He saw the Father doing. When Jesus spoke, what happened? It was same thing that happened when Father spoke. The world changed. Life changed. People changed. Circumstances changed. The impossible became possible. He healed the sick, raised the dead, cleansed the lepers and cast out demons. He turned water into wine, calmed the storm, walked on the water and much more. All this was impossible in the natural! That’s why the people who were present were astounded by what they saw and experienced. They knew they could not do what Jesus did. They had never seen anyone do what Jesus did. He was supernatural in a natural world. The Kingdom of God was at hand in demonstration! Are we any different today? Would most Christians be astounded by someone doing today what Jesus did in His day? I think so! As a matter of fact, the supernatural expressions of God through His children are happening today all over the world just as they did

in the first century. The response today is the same as it was then. The people who experienced the supernatural gifts of God are abundantly blessed and the religious criticize and condemn. But this is not right! The work that Jesus did should be commonplace through the church. This is what should set us apart from the world! This is the evidence that God is real and that the Kingdom of God is at hand! Didn't Jesus command us to do what He did and greater works than He did? Didn't He? He sent the twelve disciples out to do just that. Then He sent out the seventy to do the same. This is our legacy and His command to every generation until He returns again. Speak the word of God to your world, and then demonstrate the truth and reality that the Kingdom of God is at hand by healing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing the lepers and casting out demons! This is our legacy; our inheritance as children of God. What He has commanded, He has made possible for us to fulfill.

God spoke and look what happened. Jesus spoke what He heard His Father saying and look what happened. He commanded us to do the same, so we must speak what we hear Father saying and watch what happens. This is our legacy. Speak the truth, speak life, speak revelation, speak wisdom, speak the Kingdom and our world will change because that's how Father designed things to work. The universe responds when Father speaks, when Jesus speaks and when we speak. Go for it!

Identify the negative in your life. The negative hinders our ability to fulfill God's plan for our life. It hinders our ability to live a supernatural life. The lies we live by can stop us from walking in our inheritance and God's commands. The negative can hinder the growth of our faith in God and in who we are in God so we never demonstrate the Kingdom of God is at hand to our world.

Let's go a bit further with the lies we live by. They are usually more important than we give them credit for. A lie we live by can have the power within itself to become self-fulfilling prophecy. As an example, if I believe the lie that healing is not for today, or if I believe that God may heal other people but not me, guess what? In either case, the lie that I believe will keep me from getting healed. It does not matter why I believe the lie; it still has power over my life. Can you see it? It does not matter what the lie is, it can be bondage and a major hindrance in my life. Consider the following examples:

- 1) Healing is not for today/or for me
- 2) The gifts of the Spirit are not for today/or for me
- 3) I cannot have a relationship with God because He is a spirit
- 4) Men/women will always hurt or disappoint me
- 5) I don't have enough faith
- 6) No one will ever love me
- 7) I will never have any friends
- 8) Praying for the sick is the pastor's job

The lies we live by can have the power to cause us to think or act in whatever way necessary to prove the lies to be true.

That may sound confusing, so let me explain. If I believe the lie that the opposite sex will always hurt or disappoint me, then my attitude and/or actions towards the opposite sex at some point in a relationship will change (empowered by the lie) to insure that the other person will somehow reject me and thus the lie becomes true again in my life.

This is very important for each of us to consider. If you can see this truth then it would be wise to ask the Holy Spirit to begin to reveal the lies that you live by.

What do you do with each lie that is revealed? First you must repent for believing it. Then you must renounce and reject it, and with a prayer partner you must break the power of it off of your life. Now replace the lie with the truth from the Lord. Continue to confess the truth until you believe it. Your freedom will bless you. Your faith will grow with each lie that is defeated. Healing may be required when the lie is rooted in wounding.

There is power in the decisions we make both positive and negative. Making up our mind about what we are going to believe will determine our future, either good or bad. Many times the difficulties we run into in our lives we put there ourselves by our own choices. Whatsoever a man sows that also shall he reap. Galatians 6:7. Instead of blaming God or other people, it would be most helpful if we would look in the mirror and deal with our contribution to the situation.

Now consider the following revelations. The first comes from a spiritual daughter whose life has been powerfully transformed by the message of the Father's love. This revelation brings life and power to James 5:16:

“The tremendous power of transparency comes from God being able to pour more of His life, love and power through us & into those around us. It is then the more transparent we become. Like a spigot, the more transparent we are willing to become, the more powerful the flow of His life is into others.”

Carol Bandi, Durango, CO

The second is from Pastor Bill Johnson, Bethel Church, Redding California.

“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”. Revelation 19:10 NIV.

What God has shown Pastor Bill about this scripture is that each time we share testimony about what Jesus has done in someone's life, that testimony carries the power to reproduce itself for those who will receive it?

In light of this, consider ***Mark 11:23, “Truly I tell you whoever says to this mountain be lifted up and thrown into the sea, and does not doubt at all in his heart, but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him.***

I hope this increases your faith to see and believe that what is in your heart and what you speak with your mouth are extremely important to your life and your relationships with both God and man.

If a death wish can cause our body to transition from life to death, can the reverse also be true? After all, does the Word not say, “There is death and life in the power of the tongue.”

Proverbs 18:20 Amp “A man’s moral self shall be filled with the fruit of his mouth; and with the consequence of his words he must be satisfied (whether good or evil). Vs 21, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it (for death or life).” If a death wish can cause the body to physically change to allow death to invade, what is at work? At what level does the response begin? We have evidence that children can die due to lack of expressed love! How does that happen? Is the body responding to a spiritual/emotional crisis? Is this an example of a death wish in action?

When we speak in faith or out of our heart’s desire, our world responds! In other words, things change! Whether positive or negative, things change, physically, emotionally or spiritually. When we prayed for our granddaughter and she repented for her death wish, things in her body changed at the cellular level and she was healed. When Bill Johnson or his teams pray for someone with cancer and they are healed, things changed at the cellular level. Whether we speak life or death, blessing or cursing, positive or negative, things change when we speak. The spiritual, emotional and physical atmospheres/conditions can be changed. If this is true, then Father has obviously given mankind power and authority over His creation. Isn’t that what the Word says?

How far does our power and authority go? It seems that by our words, our heart’s desire, our power and authority, we can influence life even at the cellular level. Just as healthy cells are alive, so are the cells involved in sickness and disease also alive. If Father has given us power and authority to influence life in our world then we should exercise our authority to bless life and health and to curse sickness and death and expect life to change accordingly.

There is energy/power in love and also in hate! They both can change our world even at the cellular level! Powerful emotions not only affect us personally, but also the people around us. Mouthing words without believing what you say (faith) will not change your world. For example, mouthing words of repentance when your heart is not in it will not change your status. So is mountain moving faith simply mental assent or is it a heart issue? If it is a heart issue, then Father’s love will again empower that faith to grow exponentially. Remember a relationship based on mental assent is a shallow relationship and produces little power. A relationship that becomes a heart issue has power to love and love empowers faith that will move mountains. So then could we say that words that change our world are words of the heart? The power of the words we speak is based on the belief in what we are saying.

“For with the heart the person believes (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms (his) salvation.” Romans 10:10.

Telling someone else what they want to hear in order to get your way will not change your world, your status or condition. Simple words will not produce the desired results, but words that come from the heart as a result of relationship with Father will change our world.

Things obey our words. The fig tree, storms, waves, death and sickness obeyed Jesus’ words. We give or take away substance to our world through our words. Those things we believe in our heart and say with our mouth that come from God produce life. Those things we believe in our heart and say with our mouth that come from our flesh, the devil, our woundedness, misbelief, unbelief, or lies we live by can

produce death. They can steal the power of life and love that God purposed for all of us. To the degree we believe in our heart and speak life, to that degree we experience life. To the degree we believe in our heart and speak death, to that degree we experience death in our life. Sooner or later, we speak with our mouth what we really believe in our heart, whether life or death.

Therefore, some of the difficulties we experience in life are a result of our own actions (sowing), and our belief system both good and bad. We have power and authority to change this. Obviously, some of our difficulties are the result of living in a world of sin surrounded by godless people, or Godly people acting in an ungodly manner. Also, some of our difficulties are the result of Satan being alive and well on planet earth. We have power and authority here also. Be careful that you do not begin to expect a life without difficulties. That is not going to happen. Jesus and every Christian after Him had difficulties even unto death, so you can expect difficulties from God, from people and from the devil as long as you live. However, Jesus said He was leaving us His peace; His ability to live this life in peace in spite of its difficulties. Please note that I said above we could expect difficulties from God. That statement may be a problem for some, so let me go a little further. God loves us so much that He is willing to become an adversary to everything within us that hinders us from becoming all He created us to be! Therefore, when He starts messing with the unresolved issues of our heart, we will experience difficulties. Just remember, He is good all the time, so no matter how difficult the issue is, He is motivated by love and He always has the answer available for you.

The purpose of the supernatural is to draw mankind into relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Life is about relationship. Those that want the supernatural but not the relationship will be disappointed and possibly bring destruction on themselves. For example, Pastor John Arnott, of Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship, Toronto, Canada, has publicly shared testimony of more than 4 million visitors to their church since 1996. Many of these visitors came to get in the river of the supernatural gifts that were flowing in John's church. When they arrived they found that the reason for the supernatural demonstrations was the message of Father's unconditional love for His children. Those who accepted the message and began to pursue Father enjoyed the supernatural but that was not their focus. Those who came for the supernatural gifts and rejected the message of Father's love went home only to see their ministries diminished or destroyed. They came for the gifts not the Giver.

The purpose of the supernatural is also to provide a clear distinction between a Christian lifestyle and the world as we know it. The world around us should be just as 'wowed' with us as Jesus' world was 'wowed' with Him! We Christians should be living channels of Father's will on earth just as Father's will is done in Heaven.

The Christian walk is a faith walk. Faith is required if we are going to live a supernatural life. That is why we are all given a measure of faith when we are born again into God's family. From that initial deposit of faith we decide what we are going to do with it. We have the choice to do nothing and continue to live a natural life and miss many blessings that God has made available to us, or we can follow God's plan and work at growing our faith to enable us to increasingly walk in the supernatural life intended for all believers.

How do we grow our faith? First of all, through relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit and with each other. God is love, and love empowers faith. Galatians 5:6. So we need the love of God through personal experience with Him and we need the love of each other to build faith. We need the Word of God,

both the written and the freshly spoken, to build our faith. We need the five fold ministry to build our faith. We need interaction with those who walk in the supernatural to build our faith. Obedience to God's Word will build our faith. Peter would never have walked on water if he had not obeyed Jesus and got out of the boat. So if God tells you to do something, it is your choice to say yes and amen or stay in the boat where you are. As my first pastor once said, "Do you want to be a boat sitter or a water walker?" The choice is yours. Experience will build our faith. Do not isolate yourself to one belief, one teacher, one church, one denomination and so on. Pursue God with your whole heart and He will pursue you. James 4:8. Make love and relationship your first priority, not performance. Learn in relationship with God before you try performing for God. You will find true life in God by learning to be His child before you begin work for Him. Many quote James 2:17, "Faith without works is dead" as their ammunition for pushing people to work for God prematurely. Get out there and do. Go! Go! Burn yourself out for God! Baloney! Faith without works is dead. I agree. But what about works without faith will get you burned out and get you works without relationship! I have seen multitudes in this latter group everywhere we go. They have been taught the responsibility of performance without the power of intimate love relationship and the fruit has not been great. They basically live a natural life with very little evidence that separates them from the world. There is discouragement everywhere in this lifestyle. Disappointment is a way of life for many Christians. Is this the victorious life we are supposed to be living and demonstrating for the world around us? I think not. Look at me, world. I am frustrated, discouraged and burned out. Don't you want to come and be a Christian like me?

What we believe in our heart can help us move forward in our faith or it can hold us back from experiencing a true life of faith. Which do you want? The true Christian life is a constant risk, a constant challenge and a constant stretching of our natural self. That is the only way to experience the supernatural life that is available to us. If we will make relationship with God our priority in life, He will lead us in every step necessary to fulfill our birthright, our purpose, our destiny and His plan for each of us. He will constantly ask us to do things that will stretch us beyond natural reason, beyond our natural abilities so that we can experience our supernatural abilities in Him.

The true Christian life is also a constant reward. The supernatural experience of knowing God and His unconditional love for us is the greatest reward of all. Then obeying Him and experiencing the supernatural results are also a great reward. Then there is the reward of wisdom, knowledge and revelation that changes our lives. Then there is the reward of growing intimacy bringing a deeper and deeper love experience which produces a greater sense of safety and security and tremendously grows our faith and trust in Him. This is not to mention the healing of our woundedness and our freedom in deliverance and liberty in the lies and deception that we have lived by. This also builds our faith and deepens our commitment to God. Our own experience of praying for others and seeing them healed and their lives blessed will strengthen and encourage us beyond measure.

Every Christian is in full time ministry. It doesn't matter what you do for a living, you have a full time ministry wherever you are 24/7. The purpose of the five fold ministry is to prepare you to do the work of the ministry. See Ephesians 4. We are supposed to grow and change until we come fully into the likeness of Christ, Himself! We are all to demonstrate Him to our world as in the Kingdom of God is at hand just as He did in His world.

Our supernatural life is not to be bound up or restricted in our church or fellowship, but it must be celebrated everywhere we go at work, at home, at the mall or at Wal-Mart. It doesn't matter. Wherever we encounter people, this is where our ministry is. If we see physical needs, they are a legal target for the supernatural. If we overhear emotional and/or spiritual needs, they are all a legal target for the supernatural. There are opportunities everywhere. Are you available? Are you willing to risk? Do you think Peter had to fight fear in order to get out of the boat? You bet he did! So do you have faith in fear and failure or do you choose to have your faith rooted and grounded in God and His unconditional love for you. Does His calling on your life prompt you to walk in His supernatural ability to heal and deliver people when you pray for them and change their world forever?

If you will be faithful to God, He will be faithful to you and He will lead you into all the promises and privileges that belong to all of His children.

Our faith is empowered by His love!