

The Wonderful, Powerful Gospel of Jesus Christ

THE WONDERFUL, POWERFUL GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

*Learn how
to share or
preach the
glorious
Gospel of
Power!*

*By
Jerry &
Marilyn
O'Dell*



THE WONDERFUL, POWERFUL GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

These Attributes of the Gospel Were
Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Penned by ...

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto **the gospel** of God. (*Romans 1:1*)

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach **the gospel**: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (*I Corinthians 1:17-18*)

But if **our gospel** be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of **the glorious gospel** of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (*II Corinthians 4:3-4*)

For I am not ashamed of **the gospel** of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; (*Romans 1:15-16*)

... By the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through **the gospel**: (*II Timothy 1:10*)

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach **the gospel** of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (*Romans 10:15*)

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All Scriptures references in this text are from the v.1611 King
James Bible unless otherwise specified.

Second Edition - December 1999

Third Edition - June 2004

Fourth Edition - June 2007

Copyright by The I.F.H.
Printed by O'Dell Ministries
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Pine Knot, KY 42635
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www.odellministries.org

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INTRODUCTION

If you want to see the power of God truly work in your ministry to affect lives, then you must realize it is the inherent power of the simple Gospel which brings this to pass in our age. While the Gospel is the Word of God, all the Word of God is not the Gospel. This book will teach you how to present the simple nugget of life-changing truth which, when believed, enables God to intervene in human affairs.

The message with the power to change lives never has and never will change. It is forever the same. Every Christian and, in particular, every minister should become proficient at sharing or preaching the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ. The contents of this book offer you three ways to present this truth. The first way is the raw, pure Gospel in its simplicity ... start to finish. We have preached this Gospel of power all over the world and have never seen it fail to produce multitudes of salvations and healing miracles. It is the sermon to begin and end all sermons. It is the first sermon every preacher should master.

For believers, sharing the Gospel produces the same miracle power one-on-one as it does on an open-air field. For preachers, the preaching of the pure Gospel will enable them to boldly declare to people in any nation: **“We can *prove* Jesus is still alive, because He will do the same miracles tonight as He did when He walked the Earth! If there are no miracles, then we must be false prophets and you can chase us out of town; but if there are healing miracles, then you must believe on this Jesus and receive Him as your Savior!”** This proclamation, following the preaching of the Gospel, never fails to produce a high level of expectation during an evangelistic crusade; and Jesus never fails to do miracles! We have never been chased out of town!

In crowds of mostly unreached people, who have never heard the Gospel even one time, the simple truth must be presented over and over again, night after night. If you are preaching a meeting in which a healthy percentage of the people *have* heard

the Gospel previously, then your strategy for presenting the Gospel should change. It should not have to, but those present who are Christians will probably not appreciate the pure Gospel for the raw power that it is. As a result, you may become concerned that you are not captivating your “audience.”

For this reason, this book also contains two examples of how to preach the Gospel in a way that will still produce power, yet bless the Christians. These sermons still contain the four power-points of the Gospel: the virgin birth, Christ’s miracle life showing the will of God, the shedding of His innocent blood for the remission of sins, and the resurrection/ascension. Whether you present these points one-on-one or to large crowds in a crusade format, they will have the same effect.

Whenever possible, before the actual body of the Gospel message is delivered, we share what we call “the prelude” with the people. The reason for this is that people all over the world, regardless of their religious background, seem to be confused about the nature of God. They often do not know the difference between God and the devil. They are afraid of God and believe the difficulties they suffer have been sent into their lives as punishment. Once told that God is love, people the world over wonder why, if God is a good God, there is so much sorrow and evil in the world. If they already believe there is a devil, they also wonder why God made this evil creature. The prelude attempts to answer these questions for those who are confused.

After the body of the Gospel is shared, we encourage believers to share a miracle story from the Bible with those who are sick, in order to build faith in their hearts to receive their own miracle. Please remember, the simple format and presentation of these messages are not meant to be just reading material. They were transcribed from sermons actually preached overseas and interpreted by a local interpreter. Therefore, the terminology is purposely designed for, and meant to relate to, the unsaved - not mature believers. The vocabulary and sentence structure are also kept on a level which is simple to translate and easily understood

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by city-dwellers and villagers alike. Although it is hard on your “flesh” to preach so simply, you must discipline yourself to do so! You are not ministering the Gospel to impress other Christians or ministers around you. You are preaching to the end that people might be saved!

Once in India, after we shared the pure Gospel in a city meeting, a man walked up to us and said: *“I have been going from church to church, trying to find out about Jesus and Christianity, but I could never put all the pieces together. After hearing you preach tonight, I finally understand who Jesus is and what Christianity is all about.”* He had finally heard the Gospel presented in its raw form, start to finish, in a manner simple enough to understand. This man was not ignorant. He was educated, but no preacher he had ever heard had so simply told Him who Jesus is and what He came to do.

Determine in your heart that you will do the same, just as Paul the Apostle did. God will bless you as you do, for you will surely see the true *glory* of God!

*Whereunto he called you by **our gospel**, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

(II Thessalonians 2:14)

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CHAPTER ONE

**The pure, raw, unadulterated, simple, wonderful,
powerful Gospel of Jesus Christ!**

PRELUDE TO THE GOSPEL

The God we serve is the one true and living God. He put the stars in the sky and the fish in the sea. He created all the birds and animals, all the trees and plants and every living thing. When God finished preparing the Earth, He made the first man and woman. He created them to love them and He put them in a beautiful garden. Every day, God came to walk with them and talk with them. There was no sickness and there were no demons to torment them. Their life was beautiful, easy and peaceful; but God had an enemy. His names are Satan, Lucifer, the devil! Lucifer had been the most beautiful angel in Heaven, but he became lifted up in pride. He wanted to be greater than God and worshipped as God. When he rebelled against God, God cast him out of Heaven, down to the Earth.

When Satan saw this beautiful man and woman that God created in His own image, he hated them. He wanted to destroy them, so he went to them and spoke with them and tricked them into doing the one thing God had told them not to do. When they sinned by disobeying God, God was so grieved. He had created this man and woman to rule in the Earth and have power over all evil; but when they obeyed the devil instead of God, they gave Satan the right to torment human beings. He brought sickness into the human race and demons to torment them; and every generation thereafter has suffered at his hand.

Yet, God loved this man and woman so much that on the very day they sinned, He made a promise. He said, "*The day will come when I will send my Son to the Earth, who will set the human race free from the power and works of the devil.*" Two thousand years ago, God sent an angel to the Earth to announce the time had come for His Son, to arrive.

THE GOSPEL

The angel came to a young virgin named Mary. He said, "Blessed are you among women, for you shall bear in your womb the Son of God." Mary asked, "How can this be? I have never known a man!" The angel explained, "The Holy Spirit of God shall overshadow you, Mary. You shall conceive a boy child. You shall call His name Jesus. He shall save the people of the world from their sins and destroy the work of the devil!"

It happened just as the angel said. The child was born and grew to become a man. Then, Jesus went everywhere showing people how much God loved them. He did this by healing their diseases. He opened the eyes of the blind. He made deaf ears to hear. He put strength into the legs of cripples, so they could walk. He healed every form of sickness and He never turned anyone away. He never said "NO! I will not heal you!" He healed everyone who asked Him; and His words were so powerful that when He spoke, demons came out of those who were possessed.

Most important of all, because Jesus was God in the flesh, he could forgive people their sins. He forgave the most evil people. He forgave prostitutes and adulterers. He forgave thieves and murderers. He forgave drunkards and drug addicts and gave them all power to change their lives and sin no more. Jesus did no evil, but did only good.

Still, these miracles made religious leaders angry. They did not want Jesus to be accepted among the people as the Son of God. So, they plotted how to kill Him. They took Him to court. They falsely accused Him and they sentenced Him to die. They beat His back with a whip; they plucked out the beard from His face and they put a crown of thorns on His head. Then, they hung Him on a cross. They put nails through His hands and nails through His feet. While He hung there, they stuck a spear in His side and His blood rushed forth to the ground.

You may be wondering ... if Jesus was truly the Son of God,

how could these men kill Him; but you see ... THIS WAS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE GOD MADE THAT DAY IN THE GARDEN! Jesus knew He was born for this purpose. He was born to die; for God had made this law: *Without the shedding of innocent blood there is no remission for the sins of mankind.* Jesus knew the blood of animals was not good enough to pay the price for the sins of human beings. He knew there was no man alive on the Earth who was sinless, whose blood was pure enough to wash away your sins and mine. Jesus knew that only the sinless, pure blood of the Son of God would be accepted as the price for our sins.

Jesus never even answered His accusers and He could have called angels from Heaven to come and take Him off that cross; but while He hung there, He looked ahead into into the year 2____ (*insert year*) and He knew that you would be right here, in need of a Savior and a healer. He loved you so much that He willingly hung on that cross, gave up His life and died!

His friends took His body off the cross and laid it in a tomb, which is like a cave. That is how they buried people in those days. He laid there dead for three days. He was as dead as any man you have ever seen is dead, but God was about to show the whole world that Jesus was not just a holy man, a teacher, a miracle worker, a prophet. (Some say He was a good man and a prophet, but not the Son of God; but God proved they are wrong!) After three days of laying dead, the power of the Creator of the Universe came into the lifeless body of Jesus Christ and He rose from the dead, stood up in that tomb and walked out alive! Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL'S CONCLUSION

After Jesus raised from the dead, He showed Himself to many people, so they would believe on Him. Then, He said, "I must go back to Heaven to be with my Father; but it is good for you that I go away, for I shall send my Spirit to the Earth. Then,

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wherever you tell this Good News about Me, if the people will believe it and call on My name, My Spirit will come to live inside of them and they will become children of God.” When a child of God dies and their eternal spirit leaves their body, they go to Heaven to live with God. In Heaven there is peace and joy forever! However, Jesus said, “If they do not believe and will not call on My Name, oh! ... My Spirit cannot come to live within their eternal spirit and when they die, they will go to Hell: a place of torment and pain and separation from God, from which there is no escape. For you see, we are all members of the human race, but we are not all children of God; but God loves you. He does not want even one of you to go to Hell.

Before He returned to Heaven, Jesus also promised, “Wherever you tell the truth about Me, if the people will believe it and call upon My name, I will be there among them to do the same miracles I did when I walked the Earth.” Now, reason with me. If what I have shared about Jesus is true, if He is really alive, then there will be miracles here tonight. If there are no miracles, you can say we are false prophets and chase us out of town; but if there are miracles, you must believe this Jesus is the only way to God and receive Him as your Savior and Lord.

*(Our confidence in these statements stems from Mark 16:15,20: “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach **the gospel** to every creature. And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them**, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” Once the Gospel has been laid out, we suggest telling a miracle story from the Bible, to build the faith of the people for healing. Here are two of our favorites.)*

THE MIRACLE STORIES

(Continue to address the people.) In the Bible, there are many stories about sick people who were healed by Jesus. They were written in the Bible, the Holy Book of the Christian. *(Hold up*

your Bible when making this statement.)

The Leper

One story is about a leper. When the leper saw Jesus, he ran to Him, fell at His feet and worshipped Him. He said, “Master, I know you have the power to heal me. I believe you are who you say you are, but will you heal ME?”

The leper was not certain that Jesus would heal him because he was not anyone special. He had lost everything and he was going to die. This leper did not know how much God loved him. Yet, he believed what he heard about Jesus. He believed Jesus was born of a virgin. He believed Jesus was the Son of God and he believed Jesus could heal him, *if* He wanted to. You may feel just like this leper. You may believe Jesus *could* heal you, but you wonder if He *wants* to! Jesus looked at that leper and answered him like this: “I WILL! Be made whole!” He will answer you the same way: “YES, I WILL HEAL YOU! Be made whole!”

Get ready to worship Jesus tonight, just like that leper did. God loves you! He is ready and *willing* to heal your sick body.

Blind Bartimaeus

While Jesus was alive on the Earth, there lived an old blind beggar named Bartimaeus. One day, as Bartimaeus was sitting by the roadside begging, he heard the noise of a large crowd passing by. He asked his friend nearby what the noise was about. The friend replied: “Jesus is passing our way.” Bartimaeus was so excited because He had heard about Jesus. He had heard Jesus was the Son of God and born of a virgin. He had heard that Jesus did miracles for everyone who came to Him and Bartimaeus *believed* what he heard. So, he stood to his feet and cried out, “Jesus! Have mercy on me!” ... but Jesus did not stop. Bartimaeus did not give up, though. He cried all the louder, “Jesus! Have mercy on me!”

This time Jesus stopped. He said to those around Him, “Bring that blind man to me.” When Bartimaeus heard Jesus say that, he did something very special. You see, he wore a special coat, which signified he was blind. When people saw someone wearing this kind of coat, they would step aside and let the blind person pass by. Bartimaeus, however, *knew* in his heart that Jesus would heal him and that he would not need that special coat anymore. He had faith in his heart! So, while Bartimaeus was still in a world of darkness, he took off his coat and threw it aside. When they brought Bartimaeus to Jesus, Jesus asked him, “What do you want from me?” Bartimaeus replied, “Oh! That I might receive my sight!” Jesus healed that blind man.

You can be healed tonight, too. Be like Bartimaeus. Believe in your heart that Jesus wants to heal you; and get ready to act your faith the way Bartimaeus did. He threw off his special coat, even before he could see. You begin to think about what you will be able to do when you are healed, that you cannot do now. Get ready to act your faith. After prayer, do what you could not do before!

(Other miracle stories are found in chapter two. Also, consider sharing a current miracle that you have seen God do in that city or country recently. This builds faith in the hearts of the people that Jesus did not just do miracles 2,000 years ago, but He is still doing them today.)

THE WRAP-UP

Once the Gospel has been laid out, it is time to “wrap” your message. If you have used this format ... of first telling the story of Jesus, then telling a miracle story ... the next thing we suggest you do is stress, illuminate or reiterate some point or portion of the Gospel. All three segments — the Gospel, the miracle story and the wrap-up — can be ministered by one person. However, this segmentation also makes it possible for two, three or four ministers to share in the delivery. One can deliver the prelude, one

the Gospel, one the miracle story from the Bible, one a current miracle testimony and one the wrapping conclusion. It will then be time to “pull in the net.” It is even possible for different ministers to make the altar call and pray the prayer of salvation with the people. Still another can pray the healing prayer. We suggest that everyone who has participated in the service joins together on the platform for the healing prayer. This helps destroy the misconception among the people that one man is responsible for the healing miracles that will take place.

When we preach open-air crusades, it has become our joyful tradition for one of us (most often Marilyn) to preach the Gospel and tell the miracle story. Then, the other (most often Jerry) will bring them to the point of decision for salvation and give an altar call. If we are training another minister, we will generally begin their experience by having them tell a miracle story. Next, they tackle preaching the Gospel. It has been our observation that even some highly-developed preachers have difficulty preaching the Gospel in a manner simple and organized enough for even the most uneducated villager to comprehend. However, practicing the Gospel as it is presented here, along with a determination to do whatever is required to snatch people from Hell, will overcome this handicap.

In order to facilitate those who may not have had previous opportunities to lead people in a prayer for salvation or healing, we have included samples of both. You can pray these prayers with confidence that they will produce salvations and healing miracles, as long as the Gospel has been shared or preached. (Without a comprehensive understanding of who Jesus is and what He came to do, salvation is difficult to obtain.) In open-air meetings, a short, simple ‘wrap-up’ precedes this salvation prayer.

Wrap-Up For A Predominantly

Non-Christian

Nation

(The emphasized details of each wrap-up and altar call can vary with the makeup of the crowd. This short wrap-up is particularly useful in a country where the people are confused about which God is the true and living God.)

We have come here tonight as servants of the most High God! We are here to declare to you that the God who created the world, the God who created all mankind, sent His Son to shed His blood as a sacrifice for you and for all the people of the world. He wants you to be free from the torment of the devil! If you will believe this, God will do wonderful things for you. The most wonderful thing He will do is to send His life into your spirit. The same life that came into the virgin Mary and created Jesus will come into you. It will come into all who believe this story and call upon the name of the Lord. When you do that, and His Spirit comes into you, you will become alive with the very life and power of God.

Someday all of us will die, but it is our bodies that will die. Our spirits will live forever. We must decide where our spirits will live for eternity. God created men perfect, but when man disobeyed God and sinned, the eternal spirit of man became separated from God. That is one reason why some men are so evil. The spirit of man is evil. It is dead; but when you call on the name of the Lord tonight, the life of God will come into you and your spirit will be born-again. You will still look the same, but inside ... you will be different. You will have the life of God in you! The Bible says that when this happens, God declares that you have become His son or His daughter. Someday, when you die - as all of us will - your eternal spirit will go to Heaven ... and not to Hell to be tormented of the devil.

In addition to this miracle happening in your spirit, God said your sick bodies will be healed. My friends, all you have to do to receive these blessings is to believe what we have told you and then call on the name of the Lord Jesus with your own voice. **You must determine to follow Him and no other god.**

He is the only manifestation of the true and living God who can bring you eternal life. The wonderful thing is that this blessing, and the other blessings I spoke of, are free. Jesus paid the price for you. He became your sacrifice. You do not have to pay for these blessings. They are free for you to receive now. It does not matter whether you are the richest man or woman here or the poorest. God will see everyone who calls on Him and He will know everyone who does not.

God sent Jesus for YOU! He came 2,000 years ago, but throughout every generation, those who have heard the message and believed it have become children of God. How many of you tonight will receive these blessings by calling upon the name of the Lord and making Him the Master of your life?

After the Wrap-Up

(One of the keys to successful evangelism is knowing how to pull in the net. After the wrap-up, you must begin to reason with the people in a way that will draw them into the net and bring them to salvation. The basic principles used in the following example of an altar call, will work anywhere. Included in this altar call is a short wrap-up that will also work anywhere.)

THE ALTAR CALL

I realize that most of you have come here tonight because you have heard that miracles of healing are going to take place. I realize many of you need a miracle in your body. You are sick and no one seems to be able to help you; or perhaps you are tormented by the devil and you don't know what to do about it. If you came tonight because of the miracles, I have good news for you. God not only wants to heal your sick bodies, but He wants to do much more for you!

Tonight we have told you that Jesus Christ is the only Son of the one true and living God and that He came to the Earth to show us the love God has for all mankind. It is so important

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that you remember what we have told you: that Jesus died for YOU! In other words, He became your sacrifice. He shed His blood as payment for your sins. Now, tonight, you must make a decision. God's instructions are very clear. He said that once you hear about Jesus, if you will believe the message and do what we tell you to do, then the life of God will come into you. You will become a child of God.

Remember, all of you have an eternal spirit; and that spirit will either go to Heaven or Hell when you die. Tonight, we have preached the Gospel so you might believe the message and do what you need to do, to spend eternity in Heaven and not in Hell.

Jesus Christ is on this field, by His Spirit, and He will help you believe. His Spirit will come into you when you declare that you believe He rose from the dead. The same life of God that created the whole world will come into you. The same power that raised the body of Jesus from the grave will come into you. When that power comes into your spirit, your spirit becomes alive to the true and living God. You will still look the same. You will still live in the same place and your name will still be the same, but you will be a child of God. Children of God have the life of God in their spirits. This means that when you die, your eternal spirit will go to Heaven and not to Hell.

I had to do this, too. So did everyone on this platform. We used to be just like you. We did not have the life of God in us. Our spirits were dead to the presence of God, but one day we heard the Gospel, just as you have. We believed the message and then we did what we had to do. We declared with our own mouths that we believe Jesus shed His blood as the sacrifice of God for our sins. We made him the Lord and Master of our lives, with the declaration of our mouths. Then, the very life of God came into us. When that happened to me, I became a child of God.

That is why I have come here tonight. Remember, we told

you that after Jesus rose from the dead and went back to Heaven to live with God, He said: *"It is good for you that I am going to Heaven, because I will send my Spirit to the Earth. Wherever you tell people this truth about me, if they will believe on Me and call on My name, My Spirit will come into them and they will become children of God."*

These words of Jesus from the Bible are very clear. If you believe what God did 2,000 years ago, when He sent His Son to die for you, you must call on His Name. How many of you here tonight believe the message you have heard? Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Even here on this first night, before you see the miracles, how many of you already believe? How many of you believe that He shed His blood and died, then rose from the dead? How many of you believe that when you call upon His name, His life will come into you; and you will go to Heaven and not Hell when you die? How many of you believe this message is true? Wave your hand at me if you believe! Oh, Praise the Lord! I am so thankful that you are so willing to believe this!

For how many of you is this the first time you have heard this message about Jesus Christ? Raise your hand. *(In some countries, like India, most of the crowd responds with a raised hand.)* Oh! I am so sorry that no one has come to you sooner, but that is alright. Jesus is here now. His Spirit is here and He is out there working among you. If you do believe, please stand to your feet. I want to help you.

(Have those who signified they believe, by raising their hands, come forward and stand in front of the platform. This may not be possible if the crowd is very large and compressed, or if the people are already jammed tightly against the platform.)

Once you believe, the Bible makes it clear that YOU must call on the name of the Lord. No holy man can do this for you. No priest can do this for you. No preacher can do this for you. You must do this for yourself. Once you do it, the life of God will come into you. In a few minutes, we will pray for the sick, but first let us ask God to put His Spirit into you, so that you

will be a child of God. Please place your hand on your heart and repeat what I say out loud. I will be helping you by saying the words, but the words must come from your heart. Now, repeat this after me.

(The salvation prayer is on page 20.)

Making The Altar Call In A Predominantly "Christian" Nation

(The following altar call is tailored in its emphasis for countries where the predominant religion is Catholic, or some other Christian denomination in which the people have not been taught about a true salvation experience. People are malnourished in these religions and usually do not have an assurance of Heaven.)

Tonight, you have heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Jesus is here working with us. I realize many of you have come to this meeting because you need God to do a miracle in your body; or because you want to see healing miracles. Those things will happen here tonight, but, my friends, we have so much more for you!

Remember that every human being has an eternal spirit. That spirit will spend eternity in either Heaven or Hell. Only children of God will escape Hell and live with God forever in Heaven. The only way you can become a child of God is for you to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and call upon His name. Every human being is guilty of sin and every man and woman, boy and girl, must call upon the name of the Lord themselves. You must make Him the Lord and Master of your life. **No priest can do that for you. No preacher can do that for you.**

The sad thing is that the majority of the people in this country believe the right things. They already believe that Jesus was born of a virgin. They believe He lived His life showing us the will and nature of God, by healing all who came to Him. The people here believe that according to the plan of God, Jesus went to the cross as a sacrifice. Most even know that He suffered

the stripes on His back before going to the cross, so He could take your sicknesses and your torment. You already believe His blood was pure and that He shed His blood for the remission of the sins of everyone in the world. You believe that He was laid in a tomb and stayed dead for only three days. You believe that on the third day, the power of God came into the dead, lifeless body of Jesus and raised Him from the dead.

I know many of you already believe in Him, but my friend, it takes more than that. **You must do more than just believe in Jesus.** You must do more than believe He was born of a virgin, lived His life doing miracles and rose from the dead, after becoming your sacrifice. In this country, multitudes believe this. However, the Bible clearly says that you, yourself, must call on the name of the Lord. You must declare to Him, with your own voice, that you believe. You, of your own free will, must choose to make Jesus the Lord and Master over your life. You cannot trust in the prayers of another man to get you into Heaven.

Confessing each of your sins will not get you to Heaven. The Spirit of God comes into you, when YOU call on His name. Then, His blood washes all your sins away and you become clean, without mentioning every one of your sins. When you do that, the very life of God comes into your eternal spirit.

You might be religious. You might go to church every time the doors are open. Yet, if you have not called on the name of the Lord, according to the scriptures, then you are not a child of the living God. You cannot have assurance that you will go to Heaven. On the other hand, whether you are religious or not, if you call on the name of the Lord, God's life will enter you.

You might consider yourself a "very bad" person. That does not matter. When God looks at the people of the Earth, He only sees two types of people. Those who have called on the name of Jesus and those who have not. A religious man will go to the same Hell that a mean man will go to, if he does not call on the name of the Lord.

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You might feel that sounds harsh! So, let me remind you, once again, that all you have to do is call on the name of the Lord. Jesus is here on this field working with us. He promised that if you will do this, His Spirit will come into you. Afterwards you will still look the same. If your hair is gray, it will still be gray. If you are thin, you will still be thin. If you are heavy, you will still be heavy, but inside you will be a new creature. Your eternal spirit will become alive to God. You will know you are a child of God and you will know that you will go to Heaven when you die. The life of God will be in you and you can call God your Father. Jesus will be your big brother.

Remember, this is available to everyone who is here tonight. It is up to you. God has done all He could do. He sent His Son. Jesus did all He could do. He died for you. We have done all we can do. We have given you the Gospel and now we give you this opportunity. I cannot do this for you, but I can help you do it. Let's take this opportunity right now and the greatest of all miracles will happen to you. Oh, I know that tonight Jesus is here to heal the sick, to open blind eyes and cause cripples to walk. Those will be marvelous miracles. Still, the greatest miracle of all is when the life of God comes into you.

Jesus is on this field and tonight is your night! What Jesus did in Bible days, He will do today. He forgives sinners now, just as He did then. He forgave hypocrites, prostitutes and even the thief on the cross next to him. He is here tonight on this field to forgive you. If you will let us help you tonight, raise your hand and wave it at me. *(We often have them wave because the blinding lights on the field make it difficult to see.)*

(The following copy contains altar-call "pleadings," which encourage those who are on the brink of answering the call to come forward. Sensing when to "put the pressure on" the crowd and when to finally stop the pleading or calling of the people to salvation is an art. This art will be perfected by those who learn to feel the leading of the Spirit inside of them, when giving altar calls. Keep pleading as long as you feel the weight of sin on your

spirit. When you sense a release, stop.)

Oh, I am so thankful that these have raised their hands, but I know there are still others out there. I pray that no one will reject this opportunity! The question tonight is not: "Are you Catholic or Protestant?" The questions are: "Have you called on the Name of the Lord? Have you made Jesus your Lord and Master? Are you a child of God? Will you go to Heaven or Hell when you die?" It is your decision my friend!

You young people ... you boys and girls ... if you are old enough to understand me, then you are old enough to come to Jesus. Come to Him tonight! God wants to bless your life and use you. Raise your hand if you want this. Oh, I am so happy to see you do that.

Right now, I want to ask those who raised their hands to come up to the front. *(If people seem to be slow to move, continue encouraging them.)* I know for some of you it is difficult to come forward publicly. Many people here know you. Yet, Jesus allowed Himself to be hung on a cross in such a public place, they had to write the inscription over the cross in three languages. He died publicly and I want to ask you to acknowledge His sacrifice publicly. Just come right down here to the front. Come on, right now!

(If the crowd is small enough for you to take note of which types of people are not coming forward, put the pressure on those. For instance, sometimes we notice that a lot of men are on the outskirts of the field, or are huddled together in one area, trying to act "macho" and disinterested in answering the call. The problem is usually their concern for what the other men around them are going to think or say. In that case, appeal to their "macho" pride and use it positively.)

Oh, I am so thankful to see these men come up, but where are the rest of the men. The men who come up here have to be "real men." It takes a REAL MAN to do this. Jesus was a real man! It took a brave and courageous man to allow evil men to nail

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Him to a cross. No wimp of a man could have willingly suffered for your sins. Jesus knew He could have called the angels to save Him, but He did not. Come up here and be a real man. Receive Christ as your Savior tonight!

(The Spirit of God will lead you to customize your altar calls according to the situation. Sometimes, the people come forward quickly. At other times, the people come slowly, but steadily. As long as they are coming, keep talking and encouraging.)

What a night of salvation this is! I am so glad to see so many coming up! Are there still more? As long as some are coming, I will not stop. Are there any others? Hallelujah, here is another one. I am so glad we waited. Others of you ... come on! I said if no one else came, we would close, but three more came. Are there any others?

(When you sense a "release," or people stop coming completely, then address those who are standing in front of you.)

Those of you who are up here, please look at me. Coming to the front does not save you or bring this life of God into you. Coming to the front is simply a breaking of your will. You have willed to turn your back on sin. You have chosen to come out publicly and say, "I make Jesus my Lord and Master. However, what we are going to do now will bring this miracle of salvation to you. Remember, I said I cannot do it for you, but I will help you do it right now. Before we pray, are there any others who want to get in on this prayer. Look! Here are some others! Isn't that wonderful!

Now, you must call on the Lord. I will help you with the words, but the prayer must come from your heart. Put your hand on your heart and repeat my words with a loud voice.

Prayers for Salvation and Healing

(You can pray these prayers with confidence that they will produce

salvations and healing miracles, as long as the Gospel has been shared or preached.)

The Salvation Prayer

(Have the people repeat this.) Oh God! I declare that I believe Jesus Christ is your Son. I believe He was born of a virgin 2,000 years ago. I believe He shed His blood, so my sins might be forgiven. I believe You raised Him from the dead. I believe that Jesus is the only way to the true and living God and the only way to receive eternal life. I believe that, as I make Him my Lord and Master, every work of the devil is broken in my life. I am free from the devil's bondage and free from sin. I declare that Satan is no longer my master, but that your Son, Jesus Christ, is my Master from this day forward. I further declare that I will serve Him the rest of my life. I thank you that you have heard this prayer and declaration. I know that I am now your child and that you are my Heavenly Father. I understand that I will go to Heaven and not Hell when I die. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for dying for me. I will follow you the rest of my life. **Thank you God for sending your son to die for me.**

(Talk to the new converts for a moment, but then it is often best to move on quickly to the healing prayer.)

The Prelude to the Healing Prayer

The Bible says to, "*Forget not ALL of His benefits. He who forgives your sins is He who heals your diseases.*" Jesus is going to confirm all we have said and done tonight with wonderful healing miracles. How many of you need a healing miracle? Tonight is your night!

God said, "*I am the Lord who heals you*" and the Bible declares that by the stripes of Jesus you are healed. Tonight, Jesus is on this field because the Gospel has been proclaimed. He is here working with us. He will heal all of you who believe. Just do not look to me for this healing power. You must look to

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the Lord Jesus Christ. He is here tonight to heal you. Nothing is too hard for Him!

(Next, tell them that once the prayer is finished they should begin to act their faith, as the person did in the miracle story. When you have done this, instruct them to ...)

Put your hand where you suffer. This is where Jesus will put His hand. If you have a deaf ear, put your hand on your deaf ear. If your back is bad, put your hand on your back. If you have a lot of sicknesses, cross your hands on your chest. If you feel demons are tormenting you, put your hand on your head or on your heart.

Why are we doing this? Your hands will not heal you, but you are showing God that you believe Jesus is going to put His hand where your hands are. After the prayer, by faith, begin to do what you could not do before. Then, be willing to come up here and tell what God has done for you. When you see any difference, rush up here and tell what God has done. Give glory to God. He likes that! It will please Him. Are you ready now to receive your miracle?

The Healing Prayer

(There are two ways to proceed from here. You may choose to simply pray a mass prayer over the people. Or, you can have them call on Jesus themselves first, by having them repeat a prayer for healing. Then, proceed by praying a mass prayer over them, also. Pray this prayer with boldness and confidence.)

Oh, Father! We thank you for hearing our words. In the Name of Jesus, I call upon you tonight to show yourself alive among this field of new believers. Stretch forth your hand to heal, as we obey your Word. In Jesus name, we take authority over every demon spirit on this field. We command them to leave the people and leave here. We curse the life of every sickness on this field and command them to dry up and leave their bodies. We curse tumors and cancers and command them to dry up.

Now, Father, we call for great creative miracles, to restore what Satan has destroyed through accident or disease. We call for your healing virtue to come into tissues, nerves and organs that have been destroyed. In Jesus name, show these people this night that you are truly God, that Jesus is your Son, that we are your servants and that we have given them this message according to your Word. Stretch forth your hand to heal! Bring glory to yourself!

(At times, we begin to petition God for specific things. This is probably not necessary, but it lengthens the time the people remain focused on receiving their healing.)

Oh, God! Let your creative power go into dead nerves. Let blind eyes see and deaf ears hear. Fix what accidents and sicknesses have destroyed, in the name of Jesus. Cause the cripples to stand and walk. ... etc. Thank you Lord, that you have seen those who are crying out to you. Loose their pain and their symptoms. Show yourself this night.

Now, everyone repeat after me: Thank you Jesus that I am being healed now. Thank you that your power is coming into me now.

Conclusion to the Healing Prayer

Now, begin to do what you could not do before. If you had a deaf ear, put your finger in the good ear and hear me out of that deaf ear. If you brought someone who was crippled, help them act their faith and watch as new life comes into their legs. Check and see where your tumors have gone. I tell you ... God is doing great miracles on this field tonight! If you brought a blind person, turn them toward the light and check their eyes. If you brought a deaf mute, check them and help them begin to talk. Jesus is doing great miracles here tonight. Act your faith now! When you see that you have been healed by an outstanding miracle, come up to the platform. There is someone at the side of the platform to check you. Come up and give God glory tonight.

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(Position someone at the platform entrance to check those who say they have been healed. It is important that a high level of integrity is maintained during the testimonies. Instruct those checking the testimonies to be certain the people are really healed. They should test the people before allowing them up on the platform.)

Working The Testimonies

(The first few times you pray a mass prayer and call for testimonies, the time it takes between your prayer and the first testimony can seem like an eternity. Don't fret! The miracles are there. Jesus never fails. However, while you are waiting for the first testimonies to come up, continue to talk to the people. It will help them and help you, too!)

Act your faith NOW! You who have been healed by an outstanding miracle, come to the side of the platform now. If you see any difference, come up here. There is someone next to the platform to check you. Come up and give glory to God tonight. If your miracle is not manifested yet, do not give up. More people are healed during the testimonies than during the prayer. Jesus does not need my prayer to heal you. He heals you by your faith. Just keep on believing. Keep testing yourself. Don't give up! God is still doing miracles!

(When the first testimonies are ready, have the people state clearly their name, where they are from, what has been wrong with them and how long they have had this condition. Hang onto the microphone while they answer your inquiries. If there is anyone else present who can confirm that what the person is saying is true, it is good to let them do so. It adds credibility.

Next, test those testifying in front of everyone. If someone was blind, make them tell you the number of fingers you are holding up. If someone was deaf or a deaf-mute, stand behind them and whisper something in their ears. Hold the microphone to their mouth, so they can repeat what they hear. Have healed cripples

show you how well they can walk on the platform and, if possible, how they used to get around before they were healed.)

Advice Concerning The “Word of Knowledge”

Do not rely on the gift of “the word of knowledge” in crusade situations. You have just spent a lot of time and effort teaching the people to look to Jesus as their Savior and healer. You have convinced them God sees them, knows their problem and desires to help them. You will be hurting, not helping, if you begin “calling out” certain illnesses. You will also be destroying the faith you have worked so hard to build, in those whose sickness is not “called out.” Besides, if the crowd is sizable, most any sickness you name will be present.

The pastors who follow-up on the new converts can teach them about the operation of spiritual gifts. If this concept is foreign to you, please allow yourself to become enthused about putting your faith in the Gospel instead of in your special gifting. Believe us, after more than three decades of experience on the front lines of evangelism, we know it is the best way, in most cases.

Advice Concerning the “Laying on of Hands”

We do not recommend you “lay hands on” people, when you pray for the sick in an open-air meeting. There are two exceptions. First, if your meeting is simply an outdoor church meeting and the crowd consists almost entirely of Christians who are expecting you to lay hands on them, then you may not get good results praying “in mass.” Their faith will be in your *touch*. Second, if your crowd has a decent percentage of unbelievers and you have a large enough team with you, who are trained, eager and ready to lay hands on people — and if you can be certain everyone will be prayed for — then laying on of hands would be productive. Keep in mind if you do this, however, that you are almost guaranteeing these new converts will not have the kind of faith they need to

receive their healing directly from Jesus, when they become sick and you and your prayer team are no longer there.

Advice Concerning the Demon Possessed

At our crusades in India, there are almost always occasions where demon-possessed people begin to thrash about, scream, roll on the ground or gyrate in a demonic type dance. We have learned over the years that only on rare occasions should you direct yourself toward these. Yet, in every crusade there are always people who come up and testify they have been set free from demons. In many cases, it was the Gospel itself that set them free.

On many occasions, demon-possessed people have clenched their fists and screamed at us while we were preaching. They are usually rolling in the dirt, in front of the platform, at the beginning of the service. How beautiful it is, at the end of the service, to see these same people among those who come up on the platform to tell how God has set them free. We usually do not address the victims or the demons individually. They are simply set free by the preaching of the Gospel.

We have learned that if you try to deal with devils individually, you will spend all your time doing so and the Gospel will not get preached. The devil will gladly give up a few of his own, in order to keep people from being saved, knowing he can get his own back later. Always remember, it is the Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation, healing and deliverance. Many of the demons will leave while you preach. Also, remember that when you command the demons to leave “in mass” during the healing prayer, they are just as subject to your word as if you were commanding them one at a time. You may need to make an exception, if the crowd is small and one or two demon possessed people are causing an enormous distraction.

Advice Concerning the Rain

We are not referring to the former or the latter rain, but to natural rain. There have been occasions when we have confronted a crowd of people in drizzling rain, or in a downpour, or when it was obvious that rain was about to fall. On several wonderful occasions, we have “by faith” stopped the rain, by speaking to the storm, as Jesus did. However, there have been times when we could not stop the rain. Usually, during those times, we do get a small “window” of operation when the rain lessens and we can preach. There have been times, though, when the rain persists.

Our theory in this situation, is that when you have several hundreds or thousands of people who are so desperate for a miracle that they are willing to stand in the rain, then bless God! ... preach in the rain! Simply declare to them that the miracle they seek and the peace they are desperate for comes by believing what they are about to hear. Then, preach the Gospel in its simplest form, quickly and concisely, being certain to cover the four power points. Pray with them for salvation. Pray a healing prayer and have people testify of their healing. If they stood in the rain to hear the preaching, they will most likely stay to hear the testimonies. What a joy it is to watch people so eager to receive from God! Just take care to protect yourself from electrocution, should the microphones or exposed wires become wet.

CHAPTER TWO

Preaching the Gospel to crowds of people, when a portion of them have already heard the message.

The Gospel is powerful regardless of the society or culture in which you are preaching it, but there are secrets to helping people believe it, which will enable them to bring its awesome power to bear in their lives for salvation, deliverance or healing.

Always remember, there are four power points to the Gospel: the virgin birth, Christ's miracle life, which showed the will of God, the blood He shed for the remission of sins and the resurrection/ascension. As long as these power points are included in your delivery, the Gospel has been preached. Care must be taken, however, not to weave the Gospel within a sermon in such a way that it is hard for the people to put all the pieces of the Gospel together.

When you share or preach, if you know the predominant cultural or religious emphases against the born-again experience in that area, then there are certain points you can emphasize that will help attract these people to Christ. For instance, when preaching among the Moslems, consider the fact that their religion is based on a central prophet figure. They have heard about Jesus and believe He was a prophet. However, it must be stressed among Moslems that Jesus was "not only a prophet," but He was the Son of God who was a blood sacrifice for the remission of sins. The power point of the resurrection must also be stressed, emphasizing that no other prophet has ever raised from the dead. Then, of course, you must boldly declare that miracles confirm this message is true. This is of utmost importance. Take care, however, when ministering to a group with the potential for becoming volatile, that you do not speak against their religion or their "prophet figure," unless you are willing to suffer the consequences. Just preach the Gospel! (Once in Pakistan, we emphasized that Jesus was killed by Jewish religious leaders. We

did this because we know of the inherent bad feelings between Moslems and Jews. The strategy worked. Some seemed more accepting of Jesus because their enemies crucified Him.)

Among Hindus, it is profitable to stress that when a person believes on Jesus, God brings His eternal life into their eternal spirit. They believe everyone has an eternal spirit. Therefore, it will excite them to know that when the Holy Spirit comes to live within their human spirit and they become a child of God, that regardless of their “caste” ... they will become a member of the “Royal Caste.” Also, because of their belief in reincarnation, you can cautiously mention they will not have another life here on Earth, but do so without degrading their religion. Just proclaim the truth and prove it with miracles.

When preaching to Buddhists, although we have not ministered much among Buddhists, one emphasis which works is that true peace and oneness with the Universe can only be obtained when you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and experience His power in your life. Once again, current outstanding healing miracles are a prerequisite.

Concerning Catholics, please understand that we realize many Catholics are already born again. We do not categorize them with religions that do not embrace Jesus Christ. There is one thing which can be stressed, though, and it will help “turn the light on” for Catholics. It is the fact that the Bible states very clearly that every person must not only *believe* in the message of Jesus Christ ... (*how He was born of a virgin, lived His life to show the will of God, shed His blood and rose from the dead*) ... but each individual is also responsible to *call* upon the Lord with ***their own voice***. As we showed you in the “Wrap-up for a Predominantly Christian Nation,” you must emphasize that no priest, preacher or any other human being can do this for them. It is essential that they understand they must do this for themselves.

Many of the people raised in main-line denominations, such as Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist, etc., have not been taught about salvation. They have merely been taught a little

about Jesus. We are aware this statement is a generalization and realize there are exceptions in each of these denominations, but the majority of the people in them are the ones ministers speak of when they say “millions are riding a church pew square to Hell.” As a rule, they have no confidence that they will spend eternity in Heaven when they die. As a rule, they have not been taught to trust in the Word of God or to call on the name of Jesus for assurance of salvation.

You can draw them and relate to them simply by stating that you realize they already believe Jesus was born of a virgin. They already believe He shed His blood for their sins, was crucified and buried, but rose again from the dead on the third day and sits on the right hand of God the Father. Then, show them there is only one thing they must do to be sure they will go to Heaven when they die and lead them in prayer. Assure them that God will not be mad at them and they are not necessarily changing religions. They are simply obeying the Bible and coming to Christ.

The remainder of this book contains two excellent examples of how to administer the Gospel when the majority of the people listening have already heard the truth. These “nutshell” sermons cover all the power points of the Gospel and the truth is clearly stated, yet they should keep the believers attentive while you minister to the unbelievers. These messages were used with great success when preaching to a mixed audience of believers, Hindus, Moslems, Atheists and nominal Christians. We believe they will minister to most every culture and religious group. Have faith, as well, that the Spirit of God will creatively inspire you with a fresh way to preach the Gospel to the people whose souls you have been entrusted with.

We cannot encourage you firmly enough to always give preference to the unbelievers in open-air meetings. Even if your crowd is composed of 80% believers and 20% unbelievers, we suggest you aim for the unbelievers, while doing your best to keep the attention and heart of the believers. Once again, remember as you are reading that these sermons were not meant to be

reading material. They are easy to translate messages that were delivered on a level easily comprehended by both city-dwellers and villagers in developed and developing nations.

**SERMON #2:
Are You A Slave Or A Free Man?**

(This sermon exemplifies the use of a "lead in" to the Gospel. When the Gospel must be preached night after night, because there are new unsaved visitors in each meeting, try approaching the Gospel from a different "angle" each time.)

Tonight, I would like to ask everyone this question. Are you a slave or are you a free man or a free woman? Before you answer that question in your mind, let us stop and consider what a slave is. A slave is actually possessed by another. He or she is literally owned by another individual. Slaves have little control over their lives. Slaves have no control over their future. So, you may be thinking, "No, I am not a slave. I am employed and I receive wages" ... *or* "I am a business person." However, consider this. Are you a slave to sickness? Has sickness come and put its chain and lock around you and held you captive? Has sickness forced you to bow your knee to it? *or* Are you a slave to sin? Has sin come and taken you and placed you in prison and locked the key? Has sin commanded that you become a murderer, a thief, a cheat or a liar? *or* Are you a slave to fear or to worry? Are you a slave to torment in your mind? Are you a slave to ignorance? ... the kind of ignorance that makes you afraid to die because you do not know what will happen to you afterwards.

If you have answered "YES" to any of these questions, then you are not a free man or a free woman. You see, there are two masters on this Earth. One master is a good master. He is the God who created the Universe and created you. He loves you and He wants you to be free! He wants you to have control over your life. He wants you to be free to destine your own future. He wants you to be free from sickness and free from fear. He

is love.

There is another master. He is the enemy of God. He is not even close to being as powerful as God, but He is an evil master. He would like to tell you that you may not have control of your life. He would like to tell you that your future is already predestined and you can do nothing to change it. He would like to tell you that whatever is going to happen to you in life, is just going to happen and there is nothing you can do about it. He will demand that you be sick. He will demand that you be imprisoned in your mind with tormenting thoughts. He will demand that you lie and cheat and steal and commit adultery. He will demand that your body be a slave to alcohol and drugs.

So, I ask you once again. Are you a slave or are you a free man? Are you free to command sickness to leave you? Are you free to be a happy person? Are you free to look forward to your future with joy? Are you happy in your heart, knowing that someday you will go to Heaven and live with God when you die? *or* Are you locked in a prison of fear and worry? If you are not a free man or a free woman, I have good news for you. God has sent a liberator to the Earth. Satan, the evil master, has held the human race in bondage to his slavery; but God sent a man to set every slave free. He was no ordinary man. He was the Son of God!

Two thousand years ago, God sent an angel into a village to speak to a young virgin named Mary. The angel announced the coming of this liberator. He said to the virgin, "You are favored above all the women of the world. For you shall bear in your womb, the Son of God. You shall call His name Jesus and He shall save the people of the world from their sins." The virgin replied, "How can this be? I have never known a man." The angel explained that the Holy Spirit from God would overshadow her and she would conceive a boy child. It happened just like that angel said!

Then, the liberator grew up. He began to unlock the chains which were binding the people of the Earth. Some people were

chained as cripples. He set them free and they could walk! Some people were slaves in a world of darkness. He began to open their blind eyes and they could see! Some people were deaf and could not hear, so He opened the door of liberty for them and they could hear! Just think about it. They could not hear their mothers say, "I love you." They could not hear the birds sing, but when Jesus opened the lock and set them free from their silent slavery, they became free men.

Wherever Jesus went, He found prisons full of people in bondage to sin. He looked at them and said, "Believe on me and I can let you out of this prison. I will forgive your sins and you will have power to sin no more." If they believed, they were freed from their prisons. Their lives were changed forever!

God showed the people of the world how much He loved them. He did not want men and women to be slaves. You can be a very wealthy man or a very wealthy woman and still be a slave ... *or* ... you can be a very low paid servant and be a free man or a free woman, just like those people who were set free when Jesus was on the Earth.

However, these wonderful miracles Jesus did made the jealous religious leaders angry. They plotted to kill Him. They took Him to court, falsely accused Him and they tortured Him. They took a whip and beat His back over and over again, until it became like raw meat. Yet, in Heaven, God declared that Jesus was paying the price to set the captives free from sickness. For God's Word says that because of the stripes Jesus received from that whip, you could be healed today.

Then, they plucked out His beard and put a crown of thorns on His head, but Jesus allowed it willingly. He knew that some of you would be a slave to torment in your mind. He knew you would be thinking thoughts you don't want to think: thoughts which almost drive you mad. So, He willingly took that crown of thorns on His head, that you might have peace.

Then, these men hung Jesus on a cross. They put nails

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through his hands and nails through his feet. They stuck a spear in His side and His blood rushed to the ground, but He did this willingly for He knew THIS WAS THE PLAN OF GOD! Jesus could have called the angels from Heaven to come and take Him off that cross and save His life, but He did not because He loved you! While He hung there, he was looking to _____ (*insert name of city and country you are ministering in*) in _____ (*insert year*). He knew you would need a liberator, so He willingly gave His life for you. When Jesus willingly shed His blood, God said, "The price is now paid for the sins of all mankind to be forgiven!" For you see, God had made this law: Without the shedding of innocent blood, there would be no forgiveness for your sins or for mine. The blood of a mere mortal man was not good enough. The blood of animals was not good enough. Only the pure blood of the perfect Son of God was good enough. His life was a sacrifice for you.

What happened next is the most exciting story of liberation in the history of the Earth! As Jesus laid dead for three days, the people who killed Him were glad; but God was about to show everyone that this man was not just a prophet, a good man, a holy man or a teacher. He was the only Son of the one true and living God. After three days, the power of God came into the dead, lifeless body of Jesus Christ and raised Him from the dead. When He showed Himself to the people, they were truly liberated. They were free men, for they knew the truth!

You may be asking, "How can I become free? How can I become a liberated man or woman?" God's Word says, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free!" What I have told you tonight is the truth. All you have to do to be liberated is to believe. Tonight there will be miracles to show you this message is true. All you must do, to receive a miracle of healing, is the same thing people did back in Bible days. You have to believe in your heart. That is how you are set free from sin and sickness.

You see, after Jesus was raised from the dead, the time came for Him to go back to Heaven. He said to His followers, "It is

good for you that I go away.” How could that be good? How could it be better than having the Son of God walking among them? This is how. He said, “I am going to send my Spirit to the Earth and wherever people tell the truth about Me, if they will believe in their hearts, My Spirit will come inside them. It will open the locks of their slavery. They will become children of God and when they die, they will go to Heaven to live with God. If they do not believe, it will be terrible for them. They will not only be slaves on the Earth. They will be in slavery to torment throughout eternity, for their eternal spirit will go to Hell, which is the ultimate prison from which there is no escape.”

Then He said this. “If they believe what you tell them, I will be among them to do the same miracles I did when I walked the Earth.” So I say to you tonight, ask God to help you believe in your heart. *(At this point, tell a miracle story about someone who believed in their heart, such as the woman with the issue of blood.)*

The Woman with the Issue of Blood

When Jesus was alive on the Earth, there was a woman who had been sick for a long time with an “issue of blood.” Her sickness was in her female organs. She had gone to many doctors and had spent all her money, but they could not help her. She was going to die.

One day, she heard a noisy crowd outside her house, so she went to the window and called out to the people: “What is happening out there?” Someone answered, “Jesus is coming this way!” The woman had heard about Jesus. She had heard He was born of a virgin. She had heard He was the Son of God. She heard He did miracles and she believed everything she heard.

She was so excited that she went outside to get near to Jesus. She said in her heart, “I know if I can just even touch the hem of His garment, I will be healed.” When she tried to get to Jesus, the crowd was too great. She was determined, though. So, she

pushed through the crowd until finally, she touched the hem of His garment. Jesus felt power leave Him and He stopped. He asked, "Who touched Me?" The men around him laughed and said, "Master, there are people all around you who are pressing you and you ask who touched you?" Jesus explained, "NO! I mean someone has touched Me with faith!"

The woman looked up and admitted, "Master, it was I." Jesus looked at her and said, "Woman, your faith has made you whole!" The woman got up and walked away, totally well.

Tonight, determine in your heart that you will touch Jesus. It will not help you to touch the clothing of the preachers, but when we pray for you and with you, we will help you touch Jesus.

SERMON #3:

Jesus Is The Only Way To God!

(This sermon is an example of how to weave a miracle story within the Gospel, without scattering the sequence of happenings in Jesus' life. It assures that the people listening will hear the Gospel in a way which is easy for them to comprehend and remember. However, do not use the lead-in to this sermon in a meeting where a large percentage of the people are steeped in a radical religion. Representatives from certain factions of those religions could become violent if you insinuate their teaching is not correct, at the start of your message. In those cases, give the Gospel in its most simple form a chance to do its work.)

All people are created with a hunger inside them to know God. All people want to know the way to get to God. They want to know how to get His attention. They want to know how to pray so He will hear them and answer their prayers. This is why we have so many religions. Different religions teach people different ways to get to God, but they cannot all be correct. There is only one correct way.

Jesus Christ, the Son of Almighty God said, "I am the way!

I am the truth! I am the life! No man can come to My Father, except through Me!" Perhaps you have never heard this. If you were raised in a religious family, perhaps you embraced what your family taught you about how to get to God, because you thought it was the truth. Yet, at some point, when each of us become adults, we must be willing to say, "I want to know the truth, even if I discover that what my family taught me is wrong."

Deep down inside their hearts, many people know they walk in spiritual darkness. They know inside that they do not know the right way. They know God does not seem to answer their prayers. This is why Jesus made it so clear that *He* is the only way to God; that *He* is the truth and *He* is the way to receive eternal life from God. He is the light that takes men out of darkness.

Once, when Jesus was alive on the Earth, He went to a village. He gathered some people in one of the houses and He taught them and healed them. There were so many miracles happening that people came and filled the house. There was no more room inside. Everyone in the village was excited.

There were four men in the village who were friends. They had watched the miracles. They believed Jesus was "the way" because they had heard He was born of a virgin. They had heard Jesus' Father was not a man, but God. They believed it. They saw the miracles and they knew no one could do miracles like that unless He were sent from God.

When these four men saw the miracles, they remembered their friend who was sick with the palsy. They went to their friend's home and found him laying in bed shaking. He could not get up. He could not walk. These four men knew that Jesus could heal him. So, they picked up the four corners of his bed and they took the man to the house where Jesus was teaching. They tried to get in, but there was no room. They did not give up, though. They were determined!

They climbed up to the top of the house and they tore off part of the roof. They tied ropes to the man's bed and they let

him down through the hole in the roof. He landed right in front of Jesus. Jesus was glad because He saw that these men had faith. He knew they believed the sick man would be healed. However, Jesus did not heal the man right away. Instead, He looked at the man and said, "I forgive all your sins."

Well, there were some religious leaders standing by. In their heart they questioned, "Who but God can forgive sins?" Jesus knew what they were thinking, just as He knows what you are thinking tonight. He said, "So that you may know that I am the Son of God and that I have power on Earth to forgive sins, now I will say to this man: 'Rise, take up your bed and walk!'" The man got up out of his bed, perfectly whole. The shaking had stopped. He rolled up his bed and walked home.

Even though the religious leaders saw these kinds of miracles, they did not want to know the truth. They did not want to know Jesus was the way. Jesus had told them, "No man comes to the Father God, but through Me." Yet, they wanted their way to be the right way. So, shortly after Jesus did that wonderful miracle, they plotted to kill Him. They hung Him on a cross to die.

He had done nothing evil. He had broken no law. He had only healed people and forgiven their sins. Yet, the religious leaders said, "NO! We do not want Him to be **the way**. We want to be the way. We want people to think they can get to God through us. We want people to think that if we pray for them, they will hear from God. We want people to think that if they give us money, God will be pleased with them." So, they killed the sinless, perfect Son of God.

The religious leaders were happy, but the people who believed in Jesus were so sad. He was their hope and their joy. He had changed their lives and set them free from sin and torment. Still, this was the plan of God and in Heaven the angels were rejoicing! They knew Jesus was born to die. God had sent His Son to the Earth for this reason and God had made a law: *without the shedding of blood, there could be no remission of sin for the*

men and women of the Earth.

When Jesus hung on that cross and the men stuck a spear into His side and His blood rushed to the ground, God was rejoicing! The precious, innocent, holy blood of His Son paid the price for the sins of the whole world to be washed away. Today, the sins of everyone in the world could be washed away by that blood, but they are not. Some of you have not had your sins washed away. Some of you are not holy before God and God cannot answer your prayers, because you have not known about Jesus or have not believed that Jesus is the only way to God.

God knew it would be difficult for people to believe that the blood of Jesus paid the price for their sins, so God had a plan to show them it was true. He let the body of His Son lay dead for only three days, but then God's power came into His lifeless body and He rose up alive! Oh! The Earth shook and graves opened and Jesus showed Himself to everyone, so they would believe He truly was the Son of God!

It happened a long time ago and Jesus knew many more people would live and die after that. So, before He went back to Heaven, He told His followers, "Wherever you tell this truth about Me, if the people will believe that I am the only way, then My Spirit will come into them and will live inside of them forever. They will be called sons and daughters of God and when they die, their eternal spirit will go to live with God in Heaven."

He also said, "You must warn the people. If they do not believe that I am the only way to God, my Spirit will not come into them and when they die, their eternal spirit will burn in Hell, where there is torment forever." Remember though, God is a God of love. He does not want you to suffer in Hell. He wants to show you how much He loves you.

God wanted to show His love throughout all generations. So, Jesus told His followers: "Wherever people believe in me, then I will be there to do the same miracles I did when I walked on the Earth. I will still open their blind eyes and their deaf ears.

I will still make the crippled people to walk. I will still fix their problems and take away their torment and pain. I need them to know I am the way. I need them to know God in Heaven loves them. I need them to know He is willing to forgive each one of them.”

Jesus will be here tonight. Later, when we pray for you, do what we tell you to do. Those prayers will bring you to Jesus, the only way to God!

(We hope you will allow these two sermon ideas to inspire you to “jump off” into your glorious future in Gospel ministry. Unfathomable evidences of the power of the Gospel await you on the Earth and unfathomable rewards await you in Heaven, as you purpose to minister the strongest, most important message there is.)

IN CONCLUSION

Unless you are fully convinced that this simple Gospel is the power to salvation and that Jesus actually works with us when we proclaim it, then you will not be faithful to preach it time and time again. However, if you will discipline yourself, you will find the end results will develop ... not just a *willingness* to preach it, but an *eagerness* to preach this unchanging message that will alter the destiny of any life, anywhere, anytime!

Still, we are always surprised when we find those who have no intention of becoming enthused about sharing or preaching the Gospel. We have found they commonly ask us two questions. The first is: “*Do the heathen really believe, after hearing the Gospel only one time?*” The second is: “*Isn't water baptism necessary to fulfill the requirements for salvation?*” Not understanding the correct answers to these questions has hindered believers from doing their part to reach the unreached. These questions are the result of “doctrines of devils” alive in the Church today, which hinder the harvest. Therefore, we would like to address them briefly.

Let us deal first with the question about whether the heathen can really be saved, after hearing the Gospel one time.

God's instructions on how to get people saved, after they have heard the Gospel, are just as clear in the scriptures as the simple Gospel itself. It pleased God to save men through the foolishness of preaching the Gospel. Jesus intended to build our confidence in the end results, by declaring that He is actually there working with us when the simple Gospel is proclaimed. In spite of this, many preachers have trouble "closing" the supernatural, eternal deal God has made with the human race.

Romans 10:9,10 clearly states that once people have heard the Gospel, they must believe that what they have heard about Jesus Christ is true.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Theologians often want to "split hairs" over the definition of *believing*. They debate about the difference between believing with the heart and believing with the mind. As an evangelist or soul-winner, you must have faith that the Holy Spirit will enable the hearer to believe with whatever part of the human or spiritual anatomy it is necessary to believe with, in order to be saved.

The Bible also gives us several examples of people who were saved after hearing the Gospel only one time. The first of those examples is in Acts, chapter two, where Peter preached the Gospel on the day of Pentecost and 3,000 were saved at once. The Jews Peter preached to that day were aware of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the virgin birth of the Messiah. This is probably why

Peter began his preaching with power point #2: the miracle producing life of Jesus Christ. He quickly proceeded to the other power points, as he continued preaching. This is only one of several examples we have in the Bible of people being saved after hearing the Gospel one time.

Finally, let us deal with the question about whether or not water baptism is a prerequisite for salvation. We are aware of Mark 16:16, which states: *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.* You must understand, we are not going to deal with this question thoroughly in this short book. However, I will state the case very simply. Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward possession. While the refusal to be baptized might cause one to question the validity of a person's confession, we can assure you that something as divinely supernatural as the new birth cannot be "voided" by someone's failure to experience physical water baptism. I will also simply state that a careful study of that scripture reveals it is referring to baptism *into* the Body of Christ ... or one's eternal spirit being born again.

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone who believes! ***"For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved; but how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:13,14)***

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