

Faith, Family, and Freedom - the Cultural Mandate

“Release Your Faith”

Genesis 1:28 NLT

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“Then God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it.’ ”

Release your faith: the power of your words

What does it mean to release your faith? As we know, there is a *gift* of faith, but there's *negative* faith as well. Negative faith would be doubt, fear, and unbelief, and that can be released. We leak out what we're full of. And, there are times we're not always full of *Jesus*. There are times that we are taking in things through our eye-gate, our ear-gate, our heart-gate, and they're coming out of our *mouth-gate*. *“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”* So, sometimes we're taking in things that we don't need to be giving to somebody else.

The act of laying-on of hands, which is replete through Scripture all the way back to Abraham, Moses, and all through Scripture, there was laying hands on and commissioning. It's where the anointing that is the power, presence, and person of God was released upon another person - it was *imparted*. When we talk about releasing our faith, we're talking about the laying-on of hands and praying over another person. And, when we talk about *release*, that literally means *to let go*. So when we release our faith towards somebody, we're letting it go in a practical manner.

We need to learn what it means to pray for other people in a very real, tangible, hands-on way, and so first we would pause and say, *“Lord, thank You for Your anointing. Your Word in First John tells me I have an anointing from the Holy One, and I already know all things. So, Lord, I tap into that which I already know in my spirit. I may not have made a connection to my brain yet, but it's in my spirit.”* And that is the laying-on of hands and the releasing of faith for life-change. So, as we do in the natural, being situationally aware, we need to be in the spirit as well.

1] Faith is birthed in the heart

We have to walk by faith. We're talking about this gift of faith, this idea of faith, and it's birthed in the inner places. This is where it is nurtured. Before faith can be spoken or released, it must be conceived and born on the inside of us. We talk about the idea of "seed faith", where we can actually *increase* our faith. The Bible says that "*faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God*" - the Message of Christ - the Gospel. Actually, we've been given a *gift of faith*. We have the ability to hear the Word, receive the Word, act upon the Word, and that will increase our faith.

Also, when we have stepped out in faith in the past and we saw God do something, *that* gave us a *history* in God. When we have history in God, and the longer our history in God *is*, usually the more faith we have because we know how *faithful he is*. Some of us may not be aware of it, and maybe we've never thought about this - we don't have a category for it but, think back for just a minute. Some of us know that if God had not intervened in our life, we wouldn't even be alive today.

So, we have history in God, which means we have something for our faith to *rest* on, and that is birthed "*in here*." We know in our "*knower*." God came through for us and now we have something to set our faith on. That's called *history in God*. Every once in a while we need to stop and take inventory, and begin to think back on our history in God - to think about how good God was when we didn't deserve him to do anything for us, but he showed up *anyway*.

We need to begin to *recall*. The Hebrew people by nature would *retell* the stories of the Exodus - the deliverance from Egypt into freedom - and they would talk about the walls of Jericho falling down. They would talk about crossing through the Red Sea as the water parted on either side - Moses going across with a staff - that staff turning into that rod that turned into a snake - all the amazing things God did. They re-told the stories over and over. Why? To strengthen their faith and remind themselves of their history in God.

We have history in God. If God was good *then*, he'll be good now. We can rest our faith on that because the same God who *spoke still* speaks. The same God who answered prayer still answers prayer. The same God who healed *then*, heals today. And when we replay that and rehearse that in our mind, it builds our faith, and so now we can rest our faith on that history.

Romans 10:10 NKJV

"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness..."

With the *heart* one believes. Faith is birthed in the *heart* and with the *heart* one believes. That scripture is actually about salvation and coming to know Jesus. Faith begins in the unseen realm of the spirit as a settled conviction deep *within* as it's settled. This book is *enough* for us. We don't need the book of Enoch. We don't need to add anything to the Word of God - this is *enough* for us. If God never spoke another word into our spirit, that would be okay because we have this Book - because this Book is enough.

2] Faith speaks with a mouth. We give our faith movement - we give *energy* to faith by speaking it. What fills our hearts inevitably comes out of our mouths. We leak out what we're full of. We've all slipped and said something really bad, right? And we know where it came from. It didn't come from the devil. It came from the deposits we've allowed to be made into our lives. The eye-gate, the ear-gate, and the heart-gate are in our power to *shut*, and keep things from coming into our lives that are dark by nature that we know *better* than, but we open our gates to. If we're not guarding our "gates," then things get *in*.

But guess what? There's also a *mouth*-gate that we need to guard as well. What'll happen is, if we're filled with darkness, it will come out through the *mouth*-gate, and some of us need to lock the door and throw away the key to our *mouth*-gate. We need to lock and guard the gates. Think about that for a minute. The things that we put our eyes on can be *guarded*. How do we do that? Through choice - through an act of the will - by having the "mind of Christ" and by the fruit of the Spirit, which includes "self-control," and by saying, "*Lord, I know this is not good. I should not have my eyes on this, Lord, and I'm going to lock that gate - I'm going to guard that gate.*" Sometimes, in order to guard the gate, we need to remove ourself from the situation.

Luke 6:45 NKJV

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

Good in - good out. Garbage in - garbage out. Whatever is on the inside wants to get on the outside. *That's it.* It's a very simple principle. Whatever is *in* us will come out of us. We may be able to control it with an act of our will to a degree, but there will become pressure. And when we squeeze a lemon, we get what? Lemon juice. Whatever is inside will come out when the pressure is on. "*For out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks.*" Whatever is abundant in our heart will come out through the mouth-gate. Some of us need to lock the gates - our eye-gate - our ear-gate - what we're allowing to come in.

Faith speaks with a mouth. Speaking faith is not just “positive thinking.” It is aligning our words with heaven's truth. We line our words up with his Word. When we're stating what the Bible says about us and who we are in Christ, it is not bragging - it's Bible. We have to understand if we're saying something like this out of Deuteronomy 27, *“Well, the Bible tells me I'm the head and not the tail. The Bible tells me that I'm above only and not beneath. The Bible tells me that I'm blessed coming in and blessed going out.”* That sounds like bragging, but it's not. It's what the Word of God says about the *children* of God who will walk in obedience to his truth and who have a relationship with him.

So we can say with confidence, *“I'm the head and not the tail!”* What we're doing, when we speak forth faith with our mouth, we're actually aligning ourselves with the Word of God, and when we align ourselves with the Word of God, then things begin to happen. It positions us to be in a place of blessing for somebody else. It's not wrong to say, *“I am blessed”* when we understand we've received something from God that is good and it has been implanted in the soil of our heart and it begins to produce life out of our mouth.

It begins to produce faith out of our mouth because *“If God was good then he'll be good now, and I can tell you that sir or I can tell you that ma'am because what you're going through, I've been there done that, and this is the good that's in the heart where I saw God come through on my behalf.”* And now it's coming out as I'm encouraging them, edifying them, exhorting them, lifting them up, and giving them hope for *themselves*. If God did it for *us*, he could do it for *them*. *That's* releasing faith into somebody else. Speaking faith is not just positive thinking, it's aligning our words with heaven's truth.

3] Faith releases God's power. We release God's power by faith. When we're talking and praying with somebody, we can actually release faith in that moment. “Speaking faith” is not empty talk. It's the release of spiritual *authority*. Our words are “power containers.” We need to understand that what we say matters. The words we *use* matter. Communication matters. We have a choice - we can speak words of life, words of faith, words of hope, and words that align with the Bible. When you release that, we actually release spiritual authority. When we're speaking God's Word, we're standing in God's authority.

As we're speaking and as we're saying something, it is landing, and we can pray, *“Lord, let what we say and what we do land. Prepare the hearer to receive what we want to say.”* Ephesians 6:17 calls the Word of God the “sword of the Spirit.” A sword is only effective when it's drawn and used. A sword does no good when it's still in the scabbard. We have to learn how to use the sword of the spirit, which is an offensive weapon.

Faith-filled words are weapons against doubt, fear, and the enemy. When believers declare God's promises, the Spirit confirms those promises with power, just as in the Book of Acts, where the apostles spoke boldly and signs followed them. We don't chase signs - signs chase us - when we are operating under the authority of God, according to God's Word, and we learn what it means to release faith into somebody else.

2 Corinthians 1:20 NKJV

"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen."

In other words, God means what he says. How does this work? Let's say we get an opportunity to pray for somebody - if somebody walks up or if we're in a conversation and they throw out a prayer request. They'll say something like this: *"Hey, if you remember, would you pray for me? I've got this thing coming up."* Why is it that we sometimes say, *"I'll pray for you."* and then we walk away. For some reason, we don't take advantage of the moment. If someone has requested prayer, they've now opened themselves up to *receive* something from us, and we can step into that space and say, *"Hey, let's pray right now."*

Sometimes people are shocked if we do that but they'll just say, *"Okay."* Right then we should stop what we're doing and say, *"Let's pray"* - just *pray* over them. Take the moment, but also, before we pray for them, we should pause and get our heart set before the Lord. Because if they caught us on a bad day or in a bad situation, the last thing we want to do is give them what we have. What we *want* to give them is faith and hope, and sometimes we have to rekindle that and stir it up in our own heart and say, *"Lord, I want to give them something good."*

And so in that moment where we pause, which feels like ten minutes, but it's probably ten *seconds*, we could say, *"Hey, just hold on just a second."* And silently pray *"Father, I receive your grace. I receive your anointing. I receive the gift of faith. And now, Lord, as I pray for this person, I want to release the gift of faith that you've given me to them."* And so, by faith, we can say out loud, *"Yeah, I want to pray for you - mind if I put my hand on your shoulder?"* Or we don't even have to do that, but there is power in the laying-on of hands, and we pray over them and release our faith and then let it go.

We trust the Holy Spirit and we trust God. And we trust that what he's given to us just got on *them* - something good - the anointing - the power of God - the hope, the truth, and the life that's in Christ.

Bold Bible faith is not *reckless*, it's *relentless*. Sometimes we're afraid that we're going to be "over the top," braggadocious, or proud. This isn't about that at all. Bold Bible faith just trusts God without wavering. Bold faith doesn't come from us trying *harder*. It comes from us *trusting deeper*. It's not about pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps. It's by confessing our reliance upon God himself and by praying, *"Lord, it's really not about me. I'm just a vessel, but use this marred, cracked pot to contain the glory of Your presence. And today may I leak out on somebody else and give them the life they need."*

Whatever mountains in our life that need to hear our faith, we can speak to, and release our faith *onto* and *into* that situation. We can speak and release our faith over our family, our health, our job and career, and our future in agreement with God's Word. In order to do this, we need to know this *better*, and that means spending time in the Book. And when we will do that, it's amazing. We don't need to memorize the whole Bible, but if we'll just read it a lot, it's amazing how when we're talking to somebody or praying, a scripture or verse will roll off our tongue. Allow this Book get *in* you. Let the Word of God *read you*. Don't just read *it*, but let *it* read *you*. We should speak and release our faith over every situation in agreement and in alignment with God's Word, and mountains will move and people will be blessed because they crossed our path.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your goodness. Thank You for the gift of faith. Teach us how to use the sword of the Spirit - the Word of God - and the shield of faith to both fight and ward off the enemy and to advance the kingdom. We pray for opportunities this week to pray with people - not deep, long, intense prayers, but just a word of hope, and a word of life. Fill us so that we may leak out on others this week. Teach us how to exercise faith, and how to release our faith in prayer so that others may prosper and grow and live and develop and become all You've called them to become. We love You and honor You. In Jesus' name. Amen