

# The Mountain and the Seed



*And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

—MARK 11:22-23

**T**here is one ancient well the devil hopes we will never redig in our generation. It is one of our fathers' wells that he fears the most. The water from this well transforms the conquered into conquerors and the fearful into the fearless. It is the key that places all of the resources and power of heaven into the frailest of human hands. My friend, I want to drink deeply from this ancient well of my fathers: the well of faith.

God has used many people in the area of faith throughout human history, but He called one man in particular from the plumber's trade to plumb the depths of the ancient well of faith. We know this is true because of the supernatural fruit of faith in his ministry.

### *Ancient Wells—Living Water*

Smith Wigglesworth was a blue-collar worker, a servant of God who would read only the Bible and who dared to believe and act upon the things that God said while others gave them only lip service.

Many have read the account of how Wigglesworth once walked into the parlor of a funeral home where the body of a man had lain for three days. He was on a mission from God. He abruptly told the family to get out of the room. Then he grabbed the man by the lapels and pulled him out of the casket! That wasn't enough. He propped up the man's body against the wall and commanded it, "Live!"

When he released the man's body, the stiffened corpse promptly fell on the floor with a thud. That is probably where you and I would have quit, but most of us don't have the kind of faith that Wigglesworth had!

Wigglesworth grabbed the lapels of the coat on the corpse and propped the body against the wall once more. Again he shouted, "I told you once, now I tell you again...*live!*"

Again, the stiffened corpse fell to the floor with the same thud it had made the first time. Who knows what in creation that poor family and funeral home workers must have been thinking with all the noise coming from behind that closed door!

A third time Smith Wigglesworth picked up the corpse and propped it against the wall. He pointed his finger at the body and demanded, "I've told you once, I've told you twice, but I shan't tell you again after this third time. Now, *live!*"

Suddenly the man coughed, shook his head, wiped off his face and walked out of that funeral home!

This supernatural raising of the dead took place in Smith Wigglesworth's ministry not once, not twice, but *fourteen times*. Some say it was even more. Wigglesworth had the God kind of faith to command the dead to come back to life again. Have you ever seen someone raised from the dead? If your answer is *no*, may I ask you, "Have you ever prayed for it?"

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### FAITH COMES THREE WAYS

How do we get this amazing kind of faith? For that matter, how do we get any kind of faith?

The Bible says that faith comes three ways:

1. God gives unto every man the measure of faith that he needs (Rom. 12:3).
2. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17).
3. Faith comes to us by divine delivery through impartation, as Paul shares in his letter to Timothy:

When I call to remembrance the *unfeigned faith* that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up *the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.*

—2 TIMOTHY 1:5–6, EMPHASIS ADDED

Before Smith Wigglesworth went to heaven, he wrapped his huge plumber’s arms around Lester Sumrall and prayed over him, “Let the faith that is in me come into this young man.” This is especially meaningful to me because on the very last occasion Dr. Lester Sumrall stood on the platform of World Harvest Church in Columbus, Ohio, none of us knew that he would soon be gone. Although he was the picture of health, his time was near.

That day Dr. Sumrall suddenly called me to the front of the congregation, wrapped his arms around me in much the same manner as Wigglesworth had done to him and prayed, “Let the faith that is in me come into this man.”

I desire to pass this impartation of faith on to you.

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*Let it come, Lord Jesus, even as we join our hearts and minds through the pages of this book. By Your Spirit, rend the dividing lines of time and distance, open the gates of heaven and pour out supernatural faith upon Your people. Let an impartation come into our spirits from the well of our fathers so that when we speak a thing according to Your will, it shall be established. Let Your faith, Lord God, be imparted to every willing heart in the name of Jesus.*

I challenge you to take the next few minutes and declare to the Lord what you are believing in faith to receive. Then praise Him because you know it is already on the way!

### FAITH CAN BE NULLIFIED BY RELIGIOUS TRADITION

Faith is a precious gift from God, but *it is a gift that can be lost or nullified!* I didn't say it—Jesus did. He rebuked the Pharisees and religious leaders in His day saying, “Thus have ye made the commandment of God of *none effect* by your *tradition*” (Matt. 15:6, emphasis added).

Tradition may steal your faith in three ways:

1. Tradition *takes doubt to school and produces unbelief.* The Spirit of God still moves freely even when there is doubt, because doubt is nothing more than questioning. Yet even Jesus found it harder to work miracles in the presence of unbelief. (See Matthew 13:58.) Doubt says, “I *wonder* if it could be,” but unbelief declares, “I *know* it cannot be.” Tradition will school you in the art of producing unbelief.
2. Tradition makes the Word of God of no effect by training you *to ignore the power of Satan, to trivialize the spirit of the antichrist and to*

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*be ignorant of your own power.* When we portray the archangel of hell, the chief of demons, as wearing a laughable red suit with horns and a forked tail, he doesn't mind at all! He knows that to refuse to acknowledge the existence of a literal, utterly evil devil is the first step to refusing to acknowledge the existence of a literal God. The Word of God specifically forbids men to trivialize demonic power.<sup>1</sup>

3. Tradition *steals your faith and hope*; it refuses to allow you to stand up in the winter of your life and bear fruit as if it were springtime. Tradition will train you in the art of being a weak, ineffectual Christian. Tradition refuses to allow you to call those things that be not as though they were. It refuses to allow you to offer the sacrifice of praise, giving thanks to God even when you are experiencing pain and sorrow.

In the darkness of your despair, when everyone around you says you should cave in and give up, true faith rises up on the inside of you and declares, "I am going to be resurrected even though everything looks hopeless!"

### GET RADICAL, "PROMISED-LAND" FAITH

Faith transforms the way you pray. It energizes and empowers the way you do battle in the heavenly realm. When faith takes hold in the redeemed human spirit, walls come down! Suddenly our words take on creative capability. We find that when we declare a thing in the Spirit, God establishes it. If faith is rising in your heart as you read these words, begin to declare your miracle. Open up your mouth and speak creative words with the anointing of God.

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Get radical, “promised-land” faith! Begin to proclaim salvation over your family, and ask the Holy Spirit to begin to soften their hearts toward the things of God. Speak to your bank account and command it to prosper. Speak to your car—command it to operate as it should and to keep from breaking down. Speak to your spirit and declare yourself to be holy, pure and righteous in Christ Jesus. Declare that you have wisdom because He has been made wisdom to you. Declare that you will increase in wisdom and favor with God and with men.

**When faith takes hold  
in the redeemed  
human spirit, walls  
come down!**

Most people don’t have a future, because they have no hope; they only have a prolonged today. They live in what I call the “someday syndrome.” In order to have something you’ve never had before, you must do something different than what you are doing right now. God-given hope sees your tomorrows as different from your today!

Do you know that God has given you the power to establish your world within the boundaries of His Word? You create your world by declaring the Word of God into your future by faith!

**FAITH REQUIRES OBEDIENCE**

The only way to operate in faith is to walk in faith. Smith Wigglesworth paid a dear price to redig the well of faith, and opposition came from virtually every angle.

Kenneth E. Hagin tells the story of the time God spoke to Smith Wigglesworth to “go raise Lazarus.” This particular “Lazarus” was a Welsh tin miner who used to work in the mines during the day and preach the gospel at night. However, he had contracted tuberculosis. This man had spent six years as an invalid by the time Mr. Wigglesworth received

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the orders from God to seek him out.

Wigglesworth wrote down on a postcard what the Lord had said and mailed it to the miner's home before his visit. When he arrived, he was greeted at the door by a man holding the card.

"Did you send this?" the man asked. "Do you think we believe in this? Here, take it!" And he threw it at Wigglesworth's feet.

Then the man called a servant and said, "Take this man and show him Lazarus." He said to Wigglesworth, "The moment you see him, you will be ready to go home."<sup>2</sup>

If natural appearances could be trusted, the cynical man was also a prophet. When Smith Wigglesworth was introduced to Lazarus, all he saw was a mass of skin and bones. The man had been spoon-fed his meals for six years, but, even as bad as the illness was, the state of his faith was worse than the state of his physical body.

Most of us would have taken the cynic's advice, given our condolences and headed for home. Mr. Wigglesworth didn't have that option because he had heard from God. Faith doesn't give up and it doesn't give in—it prevails. He greeted Lazarus and left the house, but he would soon return.

Mr. Wigglesworth sought out seven other people to stand with him in prayer that night. After praying and fasting all night, he showed up at Lazarus' house with his seven prayer warriors the following morning. They were greeted by the same cynical family member who had greeted Mr. Wigglesworth the day before.

What happened next also shows us that faith requires us to walk with listening and obedient hearts.

While Wigglesworth had been fasting, God had told him what to do: "Don't pray, don't anoint him with oil, don't touch him. All eight of you gather around the bed, hold hands and repeat the name of Jesus."

So he said, "We just stood around the bed and said, 'Jesus,



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Jesus, Jesus (all eight of them in unison), Jesus, Jesus!”

As they spoke, the power of God fell. Then it lifted like a cloud. They continued to hold hands and say, “Jesus, Jesus,” as the power kept coming down and lifting. The sixth time it came down, Lazarus said, “I’ve been bitter in my heart, and I know I have grieved the Spirit of God.” He repented and cried out, “O God, let this be to Thy glory.” As he said that, the power of God went through him, and he was healed.

Lazarus got up and dressed himself without any assistance. Then he and Brother Wigglesworth walked downstairs while singing the Doxology.<sup>3</sup> Lazarus testified in an open-air meeting about what God had done, and many were saved.<sup>4</sup>

Faith requires obedience to activate God’s provision. Most of the miracles that occurred in Dr. Lester Sumrall’s life and ministry began with a divine seed of direction, but they required a giant step of faith to yield a harvest.

Dr. Sumrall described the way he purchased his first television station in the book *Secrets of Answered Prayer*:

When God brought me back from the Orient, He told me, “Lester Sumrall, I want you to win a million souls.”

I said, “Lord, how can I see that come to pass?”

He told me, “Get on television.”

I’ll admit I was fearful, so I started with a little radio station. It was successful. One day I met a man in Washington, D.C., who asked me, “Do you want a TV station?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Well, I’ve got one for sale in Indianapolis.”

“I’d buy it, but I don’t have even ten dollars to spare.”

In a total miracle transaction, he sold me the station for a million dollars, when I didn’t have any money. But

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I signed for it on faith. Within a week, through a number of extraordinary transactions, even the amount owed was cut in half. The purchase of our South Bend, Indiana, station was just as miraculous as the first one. Through the miracle action of prayer, I went on the air to reach and win the million people for Christ that God desired of me.<sup>5</sup>

We've seen how God worked through the faith and obedience of men like Smith Wigglesworth and Dr. Lester Sumrall. The Bible says that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). In other words, He doesn't play favorites. He will do for you what He did for both of those men.

All it takes is a seed of faith and the courage to plant it in the field of impossibility. Are you ready? Then take a deep drink from the ancient well of faith and live!