

***Now Concerning Spiritual Things***  
an historical account of one man's walk with God

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**A MAN WHO KNOWS THE KING**

I have been writing these spiritual news letters since September 1997. This letter is number 61 which means that I have averaged about ten letters per year and the subheading is still correct. My letters simply chronicle my walk with God since I came to know the Lord Jesus personally at age forty-five after being a Christian for many years. That one event changed my life forever. I have not been the same since and I'm grateful to Jesus who is Lord of my life.

This letter is a first. I have never written one like this before because I have not previously found the faith that I have recently discovered in someone. There not only have been, but there also will be other firsts in my life, because this man has set for me a new standard of excellence in knowing the word of God and in walking righteously before God and man.

This teacher of the Bible has had a profound effect on me. Although Jesus has been Lord of my life for many years, his teaching has added a new dimension to my understanding of the Bible. The reason is simple. Although he readily admits that he is still learning, he walks, talks and lives the word of God as no one I have ever known. His simple teaching of the Bible will lift your faith in God. In some of my past writing, I have mentioned names of those whose writing and lives have influenced me. This man's teaching of the scripture has influenced my walk with God so as to take me into a new dimension of faith I have never previously known. He and I differ on a few minor doctrinal issues but I have come to understand that this is to be expected where two people are serious students of the Bible. When Biblical doctrine is established without spiritual revelation, it may be flawed. I have also learned that the best way to get your doctrine changed is to take one step closer to Jesus. The closer you are to Him, the more time you spend alone with Him, the more you become like Him. If you want your life changed – if you hunger for a better understanding of the word of God, spend time alone with the living Word.

As a writer and student of the Bible, I can

remember saying, "The Lord answers every prayer, but some times the answer may be no." However, since listening to this teacher in Dallas for the past year, I have begun to understand why some of my prayers have not produced the answers I sought and why neither I nor you may not get the answers we want. *That is the important thing about his teaching.* He does not teach and minister just to demonstrate the power of God in his ministry, although that, indeed, is a blessing. His teaching is so simple and thorough it leads one to understand that *such a walk with God is accessible to you and me.*

Dale and I have been listening to the teaching of Thurman Scrivner for a year. Thurman has a church in Dallas that meets in a business on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4:00 P.M.. He was reared as a Southern Baptist and still teaches a Sunday school class in the Baptist church in Justin, Texas where he has been a faithful deacon and Sunday school teacher for many years. An engineer by training, Thurman is a licensed pilot who holds most every known aeronautical certification, is a former air line pilot, certified in single, twin, and four-engine aircraft. He is neither a Bible College nor Seminary graduate, but now spends full time in a ministry that began by believing the Bible. That might sound a little elementary until you discover that signs, wonders and miracles follow his ministry. ***And that is not elementary!*** This is in line with the word of God which states, "And *they* went forth and preached every where, the Lord working with them and *confirming the word with signs* following. Amen."<sup>1</sup> One may draw the conclusion that "they" in this case were the original apostles. However, three verses earlier, Jesus said, "*And these signs shall follow them that believe.*"<sup>2</sup> Jesus is not talking about apostles, He is talking about ***believers!*** And yet, you may say, that's not the way I understand that verse of scripture. However, when signs, wonders and miracles *follow* Thurman Scrivner's ministry, one takes notice. I happen to be such a one and my knowledge and understanding of faith is at a level I never dreamed of a year ago.

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<sup>1</sup>Mark 16:20, Italics added

<sup>2</sup>Mark 16:17

We are involved in the Healing and Deliverance Ministry at Hillcrest Church in Dallas. During the week we minister to people who have recurring problems in their life over which they seem to have no control. We have literally seen God do miracles in front of our eyes and lives restored to usefulness in the Kingdom. We also act as prayer counselors and prayer rail ministers in our Church each Sunday morning. After that, if we have no conflicts, we eat lunch and drive over to the business where Thurman's church services are held and listen to him teach the Bible for two hours. The service begins at 2:00 P.M. with praise and worship which may take from twenty to thirty minutes. Thurman then usually allows anyone who desires to testify concerning a miracle that may have happened during the past week. I remember one Sunday when people finished giving testimonies at 3:30 P.M.. No one leaves during his teaching unless it is necessary.

He recently spoke at the Hillcrest Church first Friday luncheon where we usually have 40 or 50 in attendance. There were 168 in attendance, a record in our church. The luncheon speaker usually finishes about 1:30 P.M. since some people have to go to work afterward. Thurman spoke until 2:00 P.M. and there was rapt attention. No one left. In his testimony, he shared several miracles that God had done in his life, including the miraculous healing of his five-year-old granddaughter, all of which were the result of his unwavering faith in the word of God. When he finished speaking, it was announced that he would be glad to pray for anyone who desired prayer. It was 4:00 P.M. before he got to the end of the prayer line. His teaching engenders that kind of faith. It is most unusual to find someone who is as committed to a church and ministry as we are, who will regularly attend another two-hour session on the Bible Sunday afternoon unless one hungers and thirsts for righteousness and is being fed spiritual food – and that is what makes the difference. Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Me." No one goes to Thurman Scrivner's church just to "go to church." They go because Jesus [not doctrine] is lifted up and because those who are spiritually hungry are fed the Manna which came down from heaven.

Each month, Thurman conducts two healing schools, one in Justin on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday and one in Dallas on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, and teaches on healing for about four hours. People come to listen and learn of the mighty promises of God in His Book as explained by the

teacher. His explanations, all of which are reinforced by scripture and testimonies, build faith as he teaches nothing but the word of God. Questions are answered openly and honestly from scripture. At the conclusion of the healing schools, people are prayed for. Healings are common, including some who may have had chronic illnesses or some physical impairment for years.

Audio and video tapes of his teaching are made available free of charge with the provision that you may make a donation to his ministry if you choose. And that is also unusual. Many thousands of his tapes have been sent to people in different parts of the world who are hungry for the kind of teaching that literally feeds your soul. He gets calls from people over the United States and from other parts of the world who have watched or listened to his tapes, asking for prayer for healing. He has sent his audio and video tapes throughout Europe, Ireland, England, Africa, Australia, Hawaii and all over the continental United States. He shipped one hundred of his video tapes to one pastor in Ireland. He regularly gets many e-mails and phone calls from these and other areas. His simple, humble teaching of nothing but God's word will lift your faith to a new level. And it's not about him, it's about Jesus.

I have heard Thurman say that the hardest ones for him to teach are other pastors and Charismatics because they believe that they "already know that," for example. That, of course, puts me smack in the middle of the "know it alls," since I am a Charismatic. But I am the first to admit that his teaching is so simple, so Bible based and explained so thoroughly that you realize *the same walk with God he teaches and lives is attainable by believers like you and me if we are willing to conform our lives to the operational manual for Life*. And that's exciting! I have *begun* to venture out into the faith area *where he lives* and on two occasions saw God's blessings fall as His word promises. They happened according to God's word as I prayed and spoke it by faith over two different people.

Thurman was asked by someone in another state to appear on his radio show. Afterward he got a phone call from a representative of the radio show host who said to him, "Do you have twenty minutes for an interview? The man who hosts the radio show is writing a book and wants a chapter in the book devoted to you." Thurman said, "Yes." The twenty minute interview lasted four hours after which the one who called said, "Wow! Mr. Scrivner, you need to write your own book!" That's the

kind of impact his simple teaching on Bible-based faith has on people. The impression he makes, however, is not of himself, but of the word of God when believed without restriction and acted upon by faith, always with praise, glory and honor to “The King,” as he says, whose name is Jesus. His knowledge of the word of God together with his faith disarms doubt and is reminiscent of the Psalmist who wrote, “He sent forth his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.”<sup>3</sup>

I have heard it said that the only scripture you *believe* is the one you obey. Demons, Satan’s secret agents [weapons] that he uses to steal, kill and destroy man, *believe* and tremble.<sup>4</sup> At first, these two statements appear to be contradictory, but here is the explanation. The only scripture you believe [with your heart – NOT WITH YOUR MIND], is the one you obey. One may believe with the mind and be no further along the road of faith than the demons who believe and tremble. True Bible faith is of the heart, “for with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”<sup>5</sup> Confession with the mouth from the heart, without doubt, will avail oneself of God’s awesome promises. And interestingly enough, “All of the promises of God in Him [Christ] are yes and in Him Amen, to the glory of God.” This simply means that *every promise of God in Christ is available to every believer who will meet His prescribed conditions!*

Here are five obstacles to receiving His awesome promises through faith:

### (1) Unconfessed sin

The apostle John wrote, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and Just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”<sup>6</sup> For prayer to be effective, one must come before God cleansed from all unrighteousness by confession. Here is an additional thought on this subject. This scripture states that forgiveness is conditional upon confessing the sin, *not upon asking for forgiveness*. If you confess the sin, forgiveness is the result. Asking for forgiveness after confessing the sin, therefore, is redundant since the sin

doesn’t exist. Confession purges and cleanses us and *forgiveness is the result*. The purging and cleansing of the sin comes through *confessing the sin*, not through asking for forgiveness. If you are like most Christians, you ask for forgiveness instead of confessing the sin. I understand that this is also efficacious, for what you are praying is what is in your mind and on your heart. It took me a while to train my mind to the truth of this scripture and I practice it regularly. I have personally found that a more cleansing and purging effect comes from confessing the sin than from asking for forgiveness.

Receiving forgiveness for some sins may require a more thorough purging and cleansing. Three examples are abortion, murder and giving birth out of wedlock. Here is the effective prescription for the latter which may be used in principle for all three: In prayer, confess the sin by praying out loud something similar to: “Dear Lord, I confess the sin of fornication [or adultery] with John [the father] and bearing a child out of wedlock. I repent. I forgive John and ask you to bless him and I bless him. I forgive myself and I bless myself.” Forgiving oneself is often overlooked but is necessary in some instances for total cleansing. Satan will not like for you to be free so he will send spirits of shame and guilt [darts] into your mind. The response is to rebuke those spirits [they are real] by saying out loud, “You spirits of shame and guilt, I do not receive you. God’s Spirit within me gives me authority over you. In Jesus’ Name, I command you to leave me and go straight to the feet of Jesus and never return.” If you do not feel immediate relief, a brief period of praise followed by turning your mind to another subject will usually suffice. **Sin is not a necessity, it is a choice.**

### (2) Unforgiveness

Although unforgiveness is *unconfessed sin*, I am treating it separately because of its importance. This is one of Satan’s primary weapons and one that we must not fall prey to. On a number of occasions, Jesus said that if we do not forgive, we will not be forgiven.<sup>7</sup> No matter how extreme the crime or offense, forgiveness is required by God. This blanket statement on forgiveness excludes no one, whether dead or alive. *Death does not erase the need for forgiveness*. Furthermore, if we fail to forgive, the Lord delivers us to the torturers [or tormentors] which

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<sup>3</sup>Psalm 107:20

<sup>4</sup>See James 2:19

<sup>5</sup>Romans 10:10

<sup>6</sup>1 John 1:9

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<sup>7</sup>Matthew 6:14, 15; Mark 11:25, 26

are demons.<sup>8</sup> Forgiveness is not a feeling, it is a choice that we must make to walk in covenant relationship with God. I have elaborated on forgiveness in a prior letter, so I will not do so here.

About two years ago, Dale and I attended a Christian retreat at a Lodge adjacent to a beautiful lake. One free afternoon when nothing was scheduled, five of us walked down to the boat dock to sit and chat. While there, one person asked us to pray for the healing of one of her shoulders. The four of us then gathered around her, laid hands on her according to Mark 16:17 and began to pray for her healing. As there was a lull in our praying, I asked the lady if there was anyone she had not forgiven. She then bowed her head and wept. I then explained that Jesus said unless we forgive, we won't be forgiven and suggested that she should take care of this as a personal matter with the Lord. She then bowed her head, silently did as I suggested, then looked up at me with a smile on her face and a sparkle in her eyes. We then continued and concluded our prayer for her healing. She immediately lifted her arm and began to move it in a circular motion around the shoulder and said, "The pain is gone." God had healed her. Her unforgiveness would have blocked her healing if it had not been taken care of. Unforgiveness will put you in prison to be victimized by the tormentors – a spiritual prison and sometimes both a spiritual prison and a literal prison behind bars.

### **(3) Lack of knowledge**

From the pen of Hosea, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge . . ."<sup>9</sup> Here is only one example: "There is physical correspondence to faith and to doubt. Especially is this so among those who would serve Me. For unlike others, they are not so controlled by the law of physical success or failure, but are under the direct control of the Laws of My Kingdom. So, in many cases, you may note good health in one ignorant of Me, and ill-health in one of My followers, until he has learned the full control of the physical by the Spiritual. In this case, the warring of the physical and Spiritual may cause physical unrest, ill-health, or death. So do not fret about the physical side, aim increasingly at control by My Spirit."<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>See Matthew 18:23-35

<sup>9</sup>Hosea 4:6 (a)

<sup>10</sup>Sourced from GOD AT EVENTIDE, written by **The Two Listeners**, Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, NY, p.37.

### **(4) Unbelief**

"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."<sup>11</sup> This scripture clearly defines unbelief as sin. Unbelief hindered the ministry of Jesus. "Now He [Jesus] did not do many mighty works there [in Capernaum, his hometown/country] because of their unbelief."<sup>12</sup> The reason this occurred is because, "A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house."<sup>13</sup> If unbelief hampered the ability of Jesus to minister and perform miracles, it will also hamper our ability. Faith without doubting is an essential ingredient in the one who prays and in the one who is prayed for or it won't work! This explains why many prayers do not produce the desired results. This is also one reason why, when one who is ill asks for prayer according to Mark 16:17, James 5:14, 15 or Isaiah 53:5, the desired results are not obtained. When you and I as believers meet God's requirements in His word, the results He promised will occur without fail every time. The reason is because his word is Truth and will not return void, but will accomplish what He pleases and prosper in the thing for which He sent it.<sup>14</sup> Lastly, the antidote for [casting out] unbelief is prayer and fasting.<sup>15</sup> Jesus did not do a single miracle until he had fasted for 40 days.

### **(5) Lack of confidence and patience**

"Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."<sup>16</sup> This scripture clearly states that one can be walking in the center of God's will on the way to receiving one of God's awesome promises and *lose it by giving up due to a lack of patience and endurance*. The prescription is to (1) stand on God's promise, (2) walk in forgiveness with all sins confessed, (3) pray without doubting, (4) continue to confess what the word of God says and "believe God who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did."<sup>17</sup> In the world, seeing is believing. In the Kingdom, believing is seeing.

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<sup>11</sup>Hebrews 3:12, 13

<sup>12</sup>Matthew 13:58

<sup>13</sup>Mark 6:4

<sup>14</sup>See Isaiah 55:11

<sup>15</sup>See Matthew 17:14-24. See also my brief comments on this passage of scripture in my Christmas, 2003 letter. .

<sup>16</sup>Hebrews 10:35, 36

<sup>17</sup>Romans 4:17 (b)