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Divine Healing
MINISTRIES

The Prayer of Faith

By Brother David Jardine

What does it mean to pray in faith? Quite simply, to pray with the confidence that God is going to respond. To many Christians this comes naturally, and they are absolutely right because Jesus made some very powerful promises about prayer. He said, *'If you ask for anything in My name I will give it to you': 'if you abide in Me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will and it will be given unto you'. 'if you have faith no bigger even than a grain of mustard seed you will say to this mountain "move from here to there", and it will move. Nothing will prove impossible for you'.*

These are all very powerful promises, but there is one which, I believe, goes even further: *'Whenever you pray, believe that you have received it and it will be yours'*. Agnes Sanford, the famous American lady who was a pioneer of the ministry of healing world-wide, had her own way of praying this prayer of faith. When she prayed for a situation that was damaged she did not picture it damaged, she pictured it well and praised God that that is the way He was making it.

When Agnes was the mother of three young children she would often be working in the kitchen and hear the three of them fighting with one another in the garden. She always resisted the temptation to go out and scold them. Instead she made a picture in her mind's eye of the three boys happy, peaceful, getting on well with one another, and praised God that that was

the way He was making it. Inside a minute or two, Agnes said, the quarrelling always died down.

It was the same when Agnes prayed for someone who was sick. She did not picture them sick, she pictured them well, or telling her how well they were, and praised God that that is the way He was making it. I don't find it easy to picture someone well: doing something physical like running, jumping, walking briskly, swimming, digging, climbing a mountain. It is much easier for me to picture a person telling me how well they are, with details they wish, and praising God that that is the way He is making it. You can pray this way about anything—for yourself, for someone else who is sick, for a damaged relationship, for revival in your country, for church growth, for God's financial provision for a church, God's protection of a home or person, whatever. The important thing is to picture the person or situation well, and praise God that this is how He is making it.

I want to be completely practical now, and tell you how I pray the prayer of faith:-

- 1. Go to a place where you are not going to be disturbed,** probably in your own home.
- 2. Sit down in a comfortable chair, or lie down in bed.** Try to keep your back fairly straight.

3. Close your eyes and relax (take a few minutes to relax every part of your body).

4. Start by praying for one area of your life, or one other person. **Identify that now.**

Once you have mastered one prayer topic you can go on to pray for more.

5. Make contact with God (through praise, talking naturally to Him, saying the Lord's Prayer, remaining quiet before Him, whatever is easiest for you).

6. Welcome the Holy Spirit to come, direct Him towards the part of your body or the person who needs healing. Sense the Holy Spirit coming in, bringing calmness and healing.

7. Give thanks that God is responding by picturing yourself or the person well, or telling someone how well you are. If I am praying for myself I picture myself telling someone that since I started to pray in this way I can feel the power of God flowing right through me, into the area affected, that pain is disappearing, that I can feel healing taking place, that I feel so much better, adding whatever details I wish. Or if I am praying for someone else I often just picture them telling me how well they are. I then hold that picture in my mind and praise God that that is the way He is making it. This is important, to hold

the picture in our mind for a minute or two, and praise God.

8. This prayer can take 10-15 minutes at the beginning, eventually you may want to take between half an hour and an hour.

9. Finally, and this is very important, once you have prayed the prayer of faith never go back on it again. Any time you think of the person or situation affirm faith. Picture the person or situation well, or simply praise God for the healing He is bringing.

I have found this to be a very powerful way to pray the prayer of faith.

Sometimes results come quickly. On other occasions we may need to persevere.

Don't give up too quickly. Jesus said, *'Whenever you pray, believe that you have received it and it will be yours'*.

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