

Jerry Savelle Ministries International • Oct-Dec 2015

Adventures

in Faith

The Word of Faith in the 21st Century

The Six Characteristics of Faith

—Jerry Savelle

The Victorious Life of Faith

—Carolyn Savelle

Our Heritage of Faith

—Jerry Savelle

The Three Levels of Faith

—Carolyn Savelle

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Adventures in Faith

Volume 41 Number 4

Oct-Dec 2015

Adventures in Faith is published quarterly by
Heritage of Faith Christian Center a/k/a Jerry
Savelle Ministries International.

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Printing and distribution costs are paid for by
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You're Somebody Special to God

For those of you who don't know Jesus, would you like to know Him? All you need to do is pray the prayer below with a sincere and trusting heart, and you will be born again:

Dear God in heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus to receive salvation and eternal life. I believe Jesus is Your Son. I believe He died on the cross for my sins, and You raised Him from the dead. I receive Jesus now into my heart, and I make Him the Lord of my life. Jesus, come into my heart. I welcome You as my Lord and Savior. Father, I believe Your Word says I am now saved. I confess with my mouth that I am saved and born again. I am now a child of God.

If you prayed this prayer, please write and tell us about it. We want to send you a free book, *You're Somebody Special to God*, to get you started winning in life.

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Live Events and Meetings

Jerry Savelle

North Reading, MA

October 2 / Friday 7:30pm

International Family Church
99 Concord Street / 01864
978.276.6400
www.intlfamilychurch.com



Chariots of Light North Carolina Tour October 7-11 / Wednesday-Sunday

with Bill & Ginger Horn, COL Directors

Brevard, NC

October 7 / Wednesday 7pm

Spoken Word Church
305 S. Broad Street / 28712
828.884.5942
www.spokenwordchurch.org

Roanoke, VA

October 9 / Friday 7pm

Valley Word Church
1928 Loch Haven Drive / 24019
540.562.1500
www.valleyword.org

Clemmons, NC

October 11 / Sunday 9 & 11am

Agape Faith Church
2101 Lewisville-Clemmons Road / 27012
336.766.9188
www.agapefaith.com

North Miami Beach, FL

October 11-14 / Sunday-Wednesday 7:30pm

Words of Life Fellowship / Conference
20051 NE 16th Avenue
305.653.8155
www.wordsoflifefellowship.com

Crowley, TX

October 18 / Sunday 10am

Heritage of Faith Christian Center
10350 Old Cleburne-Crowley Road / 76036
817.297.2243
www.heritageoffaith.com

Crowley, TX

October 25 / Sunday 10am

Heritage of Faith Christian Center
10350 Old Cleburne-Crowley Road / 76036
817.297.2243
www.heritageoffaith.com

Pennsville, NJ

November 15 / Sunday 10am & 6pm

Christian Life Center
670 S. Broadway / 09070
856.935.6011
www.clcnj.com

Meno, OK

November 22 / Sunday 10am

Faith Center Fellowship
201 S. Meno Avenue / 73760
580.776.2200
www.faithcenterpeople.com

Okmulgee, OK

November 22 / Sunday 6pm

Jubilee Christian Center
12430 N. 230 Road / 74447
918.756.5338
www.okmulgeechurch.com

Crowley, TX

November 29 / Sunday 10am

Heritage of Faith Christian Center
10350 Old Cleburne-Crowley Road / 76036
817.297.2243
www.heritageoffaith.com

Firebaugh, CA

November 30 / Monday 7pm

Firebaugh Faith Fellowship
355 "N" Street / 93622
559.659.2571
www.firebaughfaithfellowship.org

Los Banos, CA

December 1 / Tuesday 7pm

Praise Fellowship Intl. Church
1510 Canal Farm Lane / 93635
209.827.1079

Mississauga, ONT CANADA

December 12 / Saturday 10am & 7pm

December 13 / Sunday 10am & 7pm

Promise of Life Church
140 Capital Court / L5T 2R8
905.564.1117
www.promiseoflife.ca

Crowley, TX

December 20 / Sunday 10am

Heritage of Faith Christian Center
10350 Old Cleburne-Crowley Road / 76036
817.297.2243
www.heritageoffaith.com

2016

Kahului, HI

January 3 / Sunday 10am

Faith Family Fellowship
420 N. Wakea Avenue / 96732
808.244.4992
www.faithfamilymaui.com

Honolulu, HI

January 10 / Sunday 9 & 11am

Word of Life Christian Center
540 Queen Street / 96813
808.537.2409
www.wolhawaii.net

Crowley, TX

January 17 / Sunday 10am

Heritage of Faith Christian Center
10350 Old Cleburne-Crowley Road / 76036
817.297.2243
www.heritageoffaith.com

Crowley, TX

January 24 / Sunday 10am

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The Six *Characteristics* of Faith

by Jerry Savelle

FAITH IS A SPIRITUAL substance. When activated, it causes the unseen things in the Spirit that we desire to become manifest in the natural world. The Bible says, “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” (Hebrews 11:3).

Throughout the past forty-six years of ministry, I’ve learned a lot about faith. Some I learned from those who served as my mentors, people such as Oral Roberts, Kenneth Hagin, T.L. and Daisy Osborn, and Kenneth Copeland. However, much of what I learned came from my own study of what God’s Word says—and demonstrates—about faith.

I believe the Scripture clearly illustrates six definable characteristics of faith. When set into motion through a believer, these characteristics produce a full cycle of faith that causes the unseen to manifest in the natural realm. These

characteristics are as follows:

- Faith sees
- Faith speaks
- Faith acts
- Faith stands
- Faith rejoices
- Faith rests

Faith Sees

Faith always sees the end of a matter before the result shows up in the natural. Every good thing that comes to pass in your life starts in your heart—your spirit. Jesus said, “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things” (Matthew 12:35). The Bible also says, “The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart” (Proverbs 20:27).

Your human spirit is creative and productive—just like God. Functioning much like a manufacturing plant, your spirit forms an image that creates a

picture in you of what God’s Word says you can rightfully have and do.

When you meditate on the Word and allow the Holy Spirit to join with you in your studying, He will use the Word of God like an artist’s paint to create an image of what God says on the canvas of your heart. For instance, if you need money, you can meditate on and confess scriptures that promise to meet your financial needs, scriptures such as Philippians 4:19, “My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” As you read, confess and envision God’s Word coming to pass, the Holy Spirit will create in your heart an image of you having enough money to meet all your needs. Eventually, that faith image will be more real than what your physical eyes see.

God saw an image of the universe in His heart before He ever spoke that image into existence. He saw mankind

before He created man and woman in His own image. And because we are created in His image, we can use our faith to bring what we see with the eye of faith into the natural.

The Bible says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Once you have conceived an image, faith is the evidence that what you need exists—whether or not it is yet visible.

The unseen realm is not a fantasy world in which you pretend certain things exist: the unseen realm deals with ultimate reality. The highest form of reality is this: God’s Word is true.

According to what the physical eyes can see, it is not possible to feed more than 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus proved these natural facts were subject to change when He used His faith to multiply the loaves and fishes to feed the multitude (see Matthew 14:17–21).

Meditate on the Word and use your faith to see yourself as God sees you. You are a joint heir with Jesus (see Romans 8:17). Whatever He gets, you get. You are a winner, more than a conqueror and an overcomer (see Roman 8:37; 1 John 5:4). Choosing to see yourself as God sees you is the first step to bringing this image into existence.

Faith Speaks

Faith always speaks a thing into existence. In the book of Genesis, we see this second step that God established for bringing the unseen into the physical realm: “Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. Then God said, ‘Let there be a firmament ...’ Thus God made the firmament” (Genesis 1:3, 6–7).

Notice that whatever God *said* came into existence. Because we are made in the image of God, we too can speak things into existence.

The apostle Paul understood the connection between faith and speaking.

He said, “And since we have the same spirit of faith according to what is written, ‘I believed and therefore I spoke,’ we also believe and therefore speak” (2 Corinthians 4:13).

When you see an image inside yourself and believe it, you’ll automatically speak it. Creative words will come out of your spirit. Be careful to conceive the right kind of image in your heart. Jesus said, “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things” (Matthew 12:34–35).

You will always talk about the image you have conceived, whether good or bad. If you have an image of failure, you will talk failure. If you have an image of success, you will talk success. Regardless of the kind of image you’ve conceived, your words will bring it into existence.

Jesus revealed this principle of faith in the book of Mark: “For assuredly, I say to you, whoever *says* to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he *says* will be done, he will have whatever he *says*” (Mark 11:23).

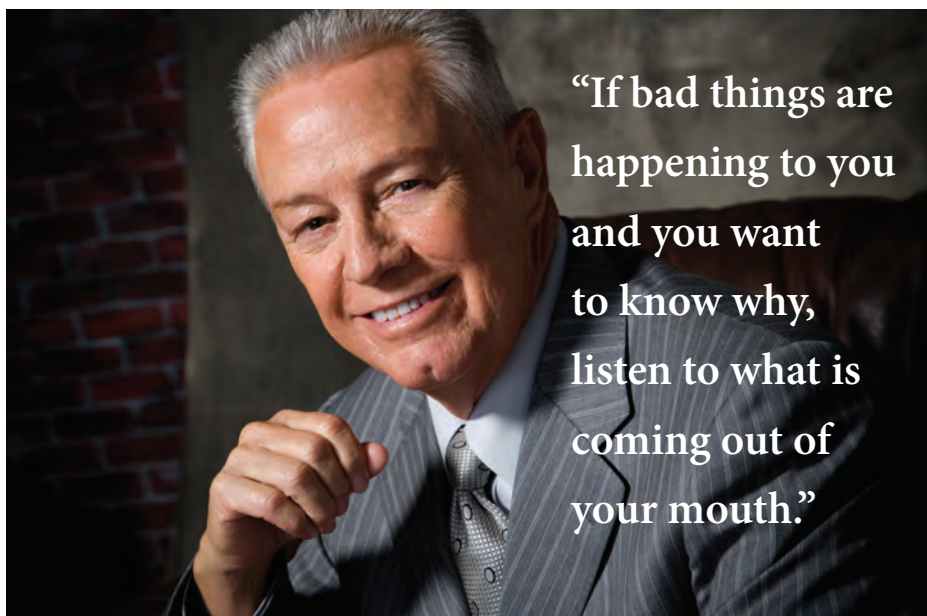
If bad things are happening to you and you want to know why, listen to what is coming out of your mouth.

You may say, “But, Brother Jerry, I just *can’t* make good confessions.” Yes, you can. Start by changing the image in your spirit.

A person who continually speaks curses is speaking what is in his heart in abundance. In the same way, a person who has God’s Word in his heart in abundance will have no problem speaking the way God speaks. When you are full of God’s Word, it is what comes out. Jesus said, “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38). Notice that Jesus said *rivers* of water—not mere trickles.

Many people attempt to speak faith without first having conceived an image in their spirit. Because they haven’t seen by faith, what they say doesn’t come to pass. Then they are quick to say their faith confession didn’t work: “I’ve confessed that I’m healed, but I’m still sick.” The Bible says, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7).

Jesus said the time would come when men’s hearts would fail them for fear of what is coming on the earth (see Luke 21:26). This statement literally means that people will die of fear, but it also means the spirits of those who don’t operate in faith will fail to produce. Allowing our faith to speak is vital, but it is only one part of the full cycle of faith.



Faith Acts

Once you've spoken the image, you begin to act accordingly. Peter saw an image of himself getting out of the boat and walking on the water to Jesus. Then he spoke the image: "Lord, if it is You, command me come to You on the water" (Matthew 14:28).

Jesus said *come*, and immediately Peter began walking on the water. Peter's faith saw, spoke, and acted. But then he allowed the circumstances to change his image. When he got his eyes off the unseen and focused instead on the storm about him, he began to sink.

When circumstances are against you, you have to be bold with your actions and use what I refer to as the "ripping-off-the-roof" kind of faith. The book of Luke gives us an example of this kind of faith. After conceiving an image of getting their friend to the Master for healing, four men carried the sick man to the house where Jesus was ministering. When they arrived, the place was so full of people that they couldn't get in. But they didn't focus on the circumstances. They saw, they spoke, and then they acted:

And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus (Luke 5:19).

Those men were bold with their faith. They ripped off the roof to get their friend to Jesus. The Bible says, "And when He saw their faith, He said to him, 'Man, your sins are forgiven you'" (verse 20). When Jesus saw their faith and their actions, He healed the man.

Let faith operate this way in your life. Once you see an image, don't let anything stop you. Start speaking it, and then take action. When every door you come to is shut, use the ripping-off-the-roof kind of faith to guide your actions.

Jesus will see your faith, and He will meet your need.

Faith Stands

A man once said to me, "Brother Jerry, I have symptoms of sickness, and I've done everything you said. I've meditated the Word and allowed Holy Spirit to create an image of health on the canvas of my heart; I've talked the image; I've acted like I'm healed. But I've got a problem."

"What is it?" I asked.

"I'm still sick. What do I do now?"

I told him what I'm about to tell you: "You've got to put the full cycle of faith into operation. Faith sees, speaks, and acts, but it also stands, rejoices, and rests."

The book of Ephesians gives us a powerful word of encouragement about standing:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ... take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Ephesians 6:10–11, 13).

When you've seen the image of what you desire, you've spoken it, and you've acted accordingly—yet the circumstances haven't changed—then put on the whole armor of God and stand. God hears you; therefore, keep standing on His Word. God said, "My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips" (Psalm 89:34). If you are full of the Word, you always know what God will do in every area of your life.

In the life of faith, there is no room for compromise. You must be determined to win. You must become single-minded and unwavering about what you believe God's Word has promised you. Don't allow circumstances or what others tell you talk you out of what God says is yours. Put on the whole armor of God, and then, having done all to stand, *stand!*

Faith Rejoices

In the book of James, we find an interesting directive about how we are to conduct ourselves while standing in faith:

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (James 1:2–4).

When you are under Satan's attack, maintain an attitude of joy. Don't let the enemy discourage you; don't let pressure or anything else take your joy. If Satan can steal your joy, he will get your strength. If you are weak, you won't be able to resist.

During times when nothing seems to be working out, you can get under such severe pressure that you almost wonder if God has forsaken you. You're dressed in the full armor of God, but your shield is becoming so heavy with the weight of the darts that you can hardly hold it. You think, *If the devil fires one more dart, I've had it.*

This is exactly what once happened to me. That's when God said, "Now is the time for rejoicing."

"What is there to rejoice about?" I asked.

"Son, you've got the devil right where you want Him," God said.

I thought, *I do?* It didn't look like it to me, but God said I did, so I began to praise Him and rejoice. Immediately I sensed something whistling through the air. It wasn't just another dart; it was a missile zooming straight for my shield!

"I thought you said I had the devil right where I wanted him," I shouted.

"You do," God replied. "Start rejoicing."

"Why should I? A missile is coming."

"Son, that's a good sign. When you are under the most severe pressure, you know the devil has

just fired his best shot. If it doesn't get you, then he's finished."

Once I understood this truth, it was easy to rejoice and say, "Glory to God! Hallelujah!"

The Word of God says, "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding with thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:6-7).

We are to abound in thanksgiving. Giving God praise and thanksgiving is the highest expression of faith. After you pray and believe you've received, immediately thank God and then rejoice; your answer is about to manifest.

Praising God is a principle directly linked to increase and blessing: "Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Then the earth shall yield her increase; God our own God, shall bless us" (Psalm 67:5-6). Praise keeps the enemy at a standstill and opens the door to the blessing of God.

Faith Rests

The Bible says, "Let us labour therefore

to enter into [his] rest" (Hebrews 4:11 KJV). There is labor involved in conceiving an image. You may have to spend a few nights confessing God's Word until you get the image you desire firmly planted inside you. You don't always have to labor, but if that's what it takes to win, be willing to do it.

Sometimes when you lie down to go to sleep, the devil says over and over, "This faith stuff won't work. You'll never have what you're believing for." When this happens, you have to get up and labor.

You shouldn't mind missing some sleep when you can change things in just a few hours by successfully conceiving an image. Then you reach the point in your faith where the labor is over and you rest. Some people continue to struggle with their faith after they enter into the rest. They struggle because they don't let the nature, the characteristics, and the full cycle of faith operate in their lives. The Bible explains it this way:

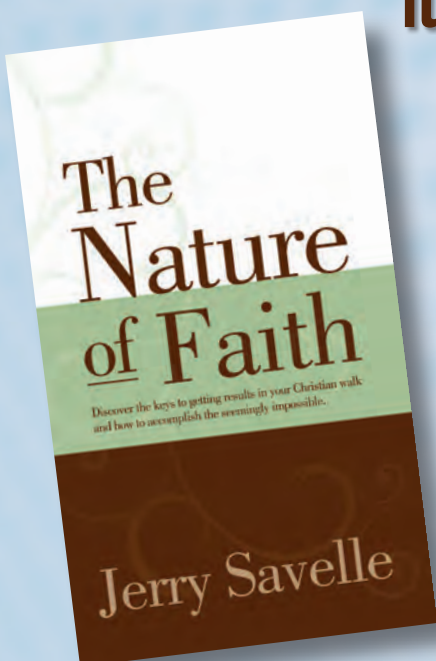
Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to

have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. For we who have believed do enter into that rest (Hebrews 4:1-3).

Once you've conceived an image by seeing the end result through the eye of faith, you have spoken and acted accordingly, and you've stood and rejoiced, then all there is left to do is just enter into God's rest. When you do, you will experience the consuming assurance that the struggle is over and what you are believing for is yours.

The characteristics of faith that worked for believers in Bible times are no less significant or powerful for us in the 21st century. Whether you're a seasoned believer or you are hearing these Bible truths for the first time, God's Word always works. So, stir yourself up in the Word, activate your faith, and enjoy the victorious life that God has already provided for you in Jesus Christ! **A11**

Many people misunderstand faith. They don't know how it works or how to make it grow.



In order for faith to grow, it must be fed every day—just as you feed your body every day. In this revealing look at faith, noted author and Bible teacher Dr. Jerry Savelle gives an in-depth study on what faith is and how to live a life of faith. You'll discover how faith grows, how faith can decrease, how to determine your level of faith, how to see through the eyes of faith, and how your faith can move mountains.

When great faith is operating in your heart, you will get great faith results!

Order online now

www.JerrySavelle.org

866.576.4872

3015BK Book \$5

3015EBK eBook \$4



The Archives COLLECTION

Jerriann Savelle Newton

Dear Partners and Friends,

I want to tell you about an exciting new project we've undertaken at Jerry Savelle Ministries International—*The Archives Collection*.

Not too long ago I went into the archives department here at the ministry. I was overwhelmed as I stood there, surrounded by a roomful of my dad's messages. He has preached over 10,000 messages all over the world in the past 46 years. God has used him in such a big way to bring the message of faith—and of course *favor*—to the Body of Christ. I know millions have been affected throughout the years by his wisdom, his faithfulness, his humor, and his integrity to the Word of God.

I feel it's part of my heritage to protect and preserve his legacy and the Word that's been preached—and to make these valuable treasures available to you. We've re-mastered scores of his powerful audiocassette messages, and I can tell you that they are as anointed today as when they were first preached.

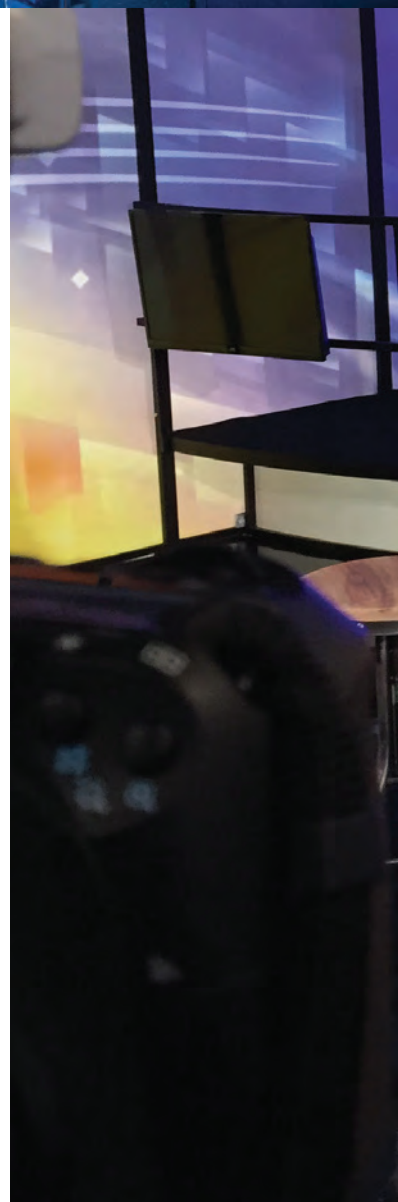
Beginning in January, 2016, I'll be featuring a selected monthly message, which will be offered as a digital download at our online store. Not only will the featured messages be available; as we continue to digitize all of Dad's messages, you can shop and purchase as many as you like.

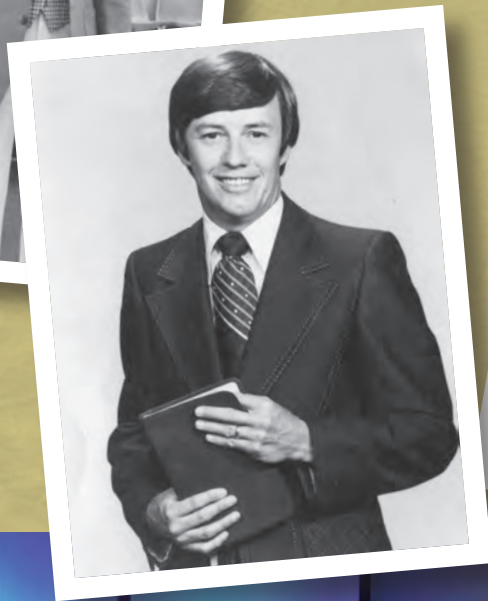
I'm excited about *The Archives Collection*, and know you'll be so blessed by these messages.

Love & blessings,



Jerriann Savelle Newton







The *Victorious* Life of Faith

Carolyn Savelle

When Jerry first told me the theme for this issue of our magazine was to be “the word of faith in the 21st century,” I thought to myself, *How fitting for the days that we are living in right now!* We are living in perilous and unstable times; therefore, I personally believe that faith needs to be preached now more diligently than ever before.

JESUS’ DISCIPLES ASKED what would be the sign of His coming and the end of the age. He said that we would hear of wars and rumors of wars. But He added that we were not to be troubled. The Amplified Bible says, “See that you are not frightened or troubled” (Matthew 24:6). Today, every day on the news, we are hearing these reports Jesus spoke about. ISIS is trying to take over the Middle East, and it looks like that is just what they are doing.

The Bible tells us that everything that *can* be shaken *will* be shaken (see Hebrews 12:27). However, in the midst of this present-day, worldwide turmoil and distress, I’m reminded of the beloved, old hymn “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less.” Written in 1834 by pastor-hymnist Edward Mote, its words are as powerful today as when Mote first penned it:

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking stand.

God’s Word in Troubled Times

Over 30 years ago Jerry preached a sermon entitled “A Whole Lot of Shaking Is Going On.” In this message he addressed the very essence of Edward Mote’s powerful hymn. We saw then, as we see now, that we cannot depend on things in this world. Banking institutions and major corporations were failing then, just as they are failing now.

The national news recently reported that China hacked into our national security and now has the social security numbers and addresses of all of our government officials and military personnel. If you think the United States government is secure, think again!

Nevertheless, our instruction from Jesus is not to be troubled in troubled times. The only way not to be troubled is to know what’s in the book (the Bible). Peace that passes all understanding comes from knowing God’s written Word (see Philippians 4:7). Hebrews 11:6 says, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must

believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

It is impossible to please God without faith. In fact, faith is the very thing we are to live by, “for in [the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed *from faith to faith*; as it is written, “The just shall live *by faith*” (Romans 1:17, italics added). Living by faith is not an option or a suggestion; it is a command. We even see the same words “the just shall live by faith” in Habakkuk 2:4 and again in Galatians 3:11.

Do you think God is trying to tell us something?

Luke 18:8 asks this question: “When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” We can see how important faith is to God as we read Hebrews 10:38: “Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” God has no pleasure in those who cave in, compromise, and draw back from the life of faith. This scripture doesn’t say He doesn’t love them, only that He’s not pleased with them.

Sadly, most Christians today aren’t looking for truth that demands a change in them or produces a lifestyle of faith pleasing to God. Rather, they are looking for something that entertains them and offers a quick fix to their problem. Once an immediate crisis is over, they soon forget God and go back to their old lifestyle.

The Message says, “You’re going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food—catchy opinions that tickle their fancy” (2 Timothy 4:3). A continual diet of spiritual junk food will prevent us from walking in the fullness of the life of faith God has made available for us in Jesus Christ.

The Measure of Faith

Because God made us in His likeness and image, we are to have dominion over everything. He operates by faith because He calls things that are not as though they are, as He envisions them to be (see Romans 4:17).

I see God demonstrating His faith in Isaiah 55:11: “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the things for which I sent it.” God’s words carry such creative power that all He has to do is say, “Let there be light,” and there is light (see Genesis 1:3).

So in the life of a believer, where does faith reside? We find the answer in Romans 10:8–10: “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” This scripture tells

us that faith is in two places: in our heart and in our mouth. We are to *believe* with our heart and *confess* with our mouth.

If we have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, then we know we already have faith because that’s how we receive everything from God—by faith. The Bible says, “Think soberly, according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith” (Romans 12:3 KJV). Notice it says *the* measure of faith, not *a* measure. Remember, this verse is talking about the Church, the Body of Christ; it is not talking about non-believers. The word *faith* in this verse is the Greek word *metron*, which literally means “a determined extent, a portion taken of.”

The word *portion* implies a part, or a measure, of something. From what I see in this verse, God predetermined the amount of faith to give every believer when he or she accepts Jesus as Savior. We all received the same exact amount, or measure, at the time of the new birth; however, *the* measure can grow.

Consider a newborn baby. That baby’s body is equipped with all of the same muscles an adult has, yet the baby cannot raise its head or roll over. Its muscles haven’t yet grown or developed. Likewise, our faith is always subject to growth and development, regardless of our level of maturity as believers.

According to the Bible, *the* measure of faith can grow: “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Your faith level can grow. The amount of God’s Word you read and hear on a daily basis will cause your faith to grow. And with more of God’s Word comes greater understanding: “The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple” (Psalm 119:130). Now let’s see what else the Word has to say about light:

You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:5 NIV).

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of the darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

“While you have the Light, believe in the Light [have faith in it, hold to it, rely on it], that you may become sons of the Light and be filled with Light” (John 12:36 AMP).

One definition of the word *light* is “something that makes vision possible.” Therefore, the brighter the light shines, the more darkness is dispelled and vision increases. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12).

We have Jesus, the light of life; we have *the* measure of faith; and we have God’s Word—all dwelling within us. That’s why we can be assured that, despite all the chaos and turmoil going on in the world, we are firmly established in God’s *victorious life of faith!* **AIF**



Our *Heritage* of Faith

Jerry Savelle

Many people do not look at faith as a heritage; instead, they look at it as an experiment. When Jesus returns to this earth, He's not coming for those who have *tried* to live by faith but rather for those who have actually *lived* a consistent lifestyle of faith (Luke 18:8).

What is a lifestyle of faith? One that refuses to draw back or give up. Hebrews 10:38 says, "Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

THE FAITH LIFE is also one that is committed and one that is perpetuated. The Bible consistently records God speaking in terms of at least three generations, most frequently, "I am the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob." I believe the reason for referencing three generations is this: once a lifestyle is adopted by at least three consecutive generations of people, there is a strong possibility that lifestyle also will be perpetuated.

If God can get me to live by faith, my children to live by faith, and my children's children to live by faith, it is likely that from now until Jesus comes, the Savelle household will be people of faith.

God wants you and me to live by faith—not just because faith works, but because He is establishing a heritage. For us to draw back from faith is to do dishonor to our heritage.

God said, "For I have known him [Abraham], in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him" (Genesis 18:19). Here we see the Lord saying, "The reason I have chosen this man, Abraham, is that I know him. He will command the lifestyle of faith to his children and to his children's children."

Abraham is recognized as "the father of faith," not simply because he exercised faith in God, but because he perpetuated that faith to his descendants. This is where Noah failed. Although Noah acted in faith during his own lifetime, he failed to perpetuate that life of faith in his children and their children after them.

As God's children, you and I are to create and demonstrate a lifestyle of faith in our homes. In many families, the only time the children see their parents demonstrate Christianity is on Sundays and special occasions. Likewise, the only time the children see their parents pray is just before a meal, and the only time they see their parents read the Bible is on Saturday night, in last-minute preparation for Sunday school the next day. Once these children become adults, most who have grown up with this type of double standard want nothing to do with such an empty, hypocritical lifestyle.

There is an old saying, "Like father, like son." It means, of course, that, in time, most young people end up being very much like their parents. When children grow up in a home where there is darkness because God's Word is not lived and taught, it's not unusual to find that they establish homes like the one they came from. This negative heritage of darkness, ungodliness and perverseness gets passed down from one generation to the next.

Our two daughters know what it's like to live a lifestyle of faith. They saw their parents stand on the Word time and time again, trusting God to supply their every need. Our daughters had many opportunities to watch God do what He does best: keep His Word. Because they were taught that way, that's how they live today.

In developing this lifestyle of faith, you must be determined. When you get up, talk faith. When you lie down, talk faith. What are the results of talking faith? The Bible says, "And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith"



(1 John 5:4). God promises that our faith will bring victory in the midst of every adversity we face in this world.

I know you may have had struggles with faith in the past. You may have allowed difficult circumstances, bad experiences, or the negative opinions of other people to convince you the faith life is not the way to live. But once this message of faith drops into your spirit, no circumstance or experience will be able to defeat you. Winning will become your lifestyle.

When faith has healed your body, restored your marriage and your family, and provided finances in what looks like an impossible situation, when faith has provided you with a place

to live, clothes to wear, a car to drive, and food to eat, then it's too late for anyone to try to convince you that faith won't work.

We don't live the life of faith because it's a fad or a movement. We live the life of faith because *it is our heritage*. My ancestors lived the life of faith. When I read the Bible, I don't look at Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob only as Bible characters. They are my spiritual ancestors. They lived by faith before I did. I owe it to them to live this way too.

I believe the reason Peter called our faith "precious" is this: it is a spiritual heirloom passed down from one generation to another. It's my *responsibility* to pass down this precious heritage to my children. My life before them must be an example of faith. God holds me responsible, not only for passing the life of faith to my children, but also for seeing that they, in turn, pass it down to their children.

When my grandchildren were born, I held each of them in my arms, and within twenty minutes, I was blessing them and talking to them about their heritage. Today their heroes are faith preachers—not rock-and-roll stars or television celebrities.

There is a precious heritage thriving in my family, and I pray you have one thriving in yours as well. If not, I hope this article encourages you to begin passing down your faith from generation to generation.

Psalms 89:1 says, "I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations." God expects us to talk constantly about our life of faith and His faithfulness.

It's not uncommon for people to hold conversations about their family and their ancestry. One woman told me that someone in her family decided to trace their family tree. Going back generation after generation, she became more disappointed the further she went. Her heritage was not thrilling. In fact, it was downright embarrassing.

But you and I are not like that. We have a wonderful family history, one that we can be proud to pass on to future generations – regardless of natural parentage. It's a "faith family history" that is recorded in the Bible. For example, our father Abraham had the audacity to believe God that he was going to be the father of nations—when he knew full well that in the natural, this was impossible.

We have another ancestor named Daniel who had unwavering faith in God. Because of his faithfulness to the Lord, when he was thrown into a den of lions, he was able to lie down beside those savage beasts and go to sleep in peace and confidence.

Another of our ancestors is Elijah, who prophesied to the king of the land that there would be no more rain until he (Elijah) decreed an end to the drought. It happened just as Elijah said it would. This same man was so strong in faith that he once outran the king's horses and chariots.

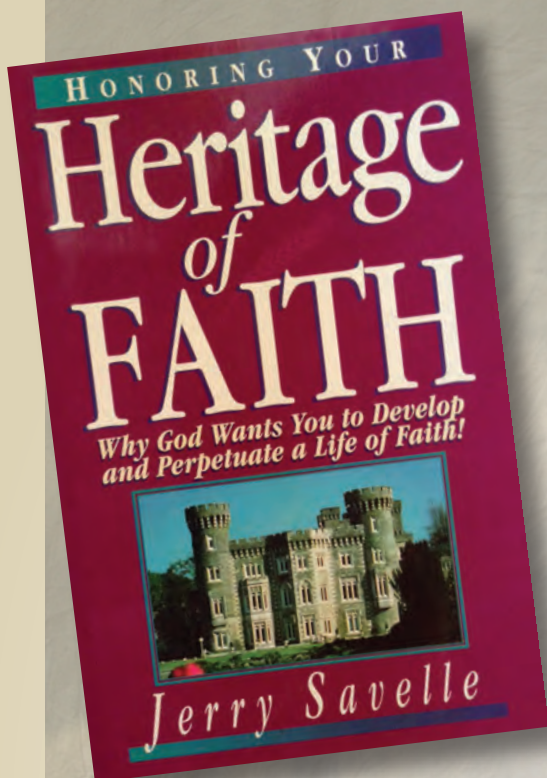
We have an ancestor named Samson who was so powerful that when the Holy Ghost came upon him, he uprooted the city gates, slew a thousand men with the jawbone of a donkey, and ripped apart lions with his bare hands.

In fact, we have a great cloud of spiritual ancestors who act as witnesses to watch over us as we live out our faith and to cheer us on to ultimate victory. With this kind of family history, we should never be ashamed. Like Paul, we can boldly proclaim, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes ... For in it the righteous of God is revealed from faith to faith [from generation to generation]; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'" (Romans 1:16–17).

You and I have a wonderful heritage and legacy of faith. Let's not dishonor it in any way. Why? Because it's faith that activates God, that moves His hands to intervene on behalf of those in need. God wants you and me to live by faith and to pass it on to our descendants so that those who come after us will know and experience this wonderful gift—this marvelous heritage of faith.

I encourage you to do with your family as God instructed me to do with mine: Sit them all down and share with them their precious heritage. Reveal to them the vitality and importance of living by faith, not just experimenting with it. Most of all, uphold a lifestyle of faith before your children and your grandchildren so that this faith can be perpetuated in your family for generations to come. Declare that your family is a household of faith. After all ... it's your heritage! **AIF**

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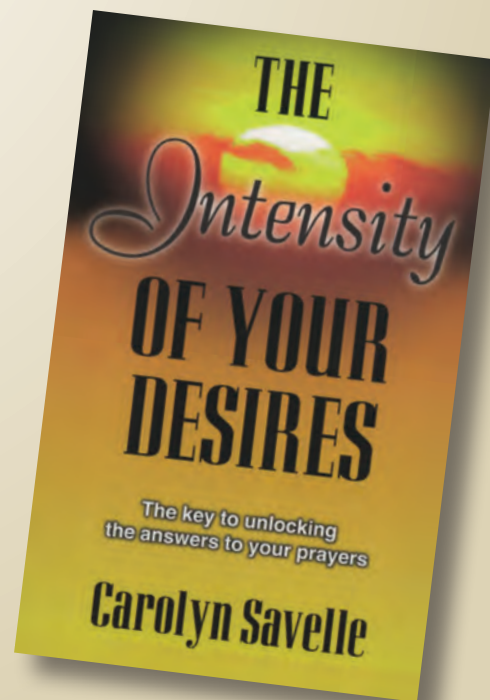
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Faith Takes *Flight!*



“You won’t be able to do what you’re called to do without airplanes.”

BACK IN MARCH of this year, I was speaking in Baltimore, Maryland, talking about the early days of my walk with God. I shared how Carolyn and I had first stepped out in faith and were learning to trust God as our total source of supply.

At the time, I’d shut down my automotive paint and body business and had begun accepting places to speak, mostly at home Bible studies and in youth meetings. I remember how excited we’d been about what God was doing in our lives. The fact that others wanted to hear what we had to say was overwhelming.

The Lord had spoken to me during those early days and said, “There will come a time when you will not be able to fulfill what I’ve called you to do without airplanes in your ministry, so start believing for them now.” But what He’d said next had shocked me: “And I don’t want you flying airplanes with debt on them, so believe to own them debt-free.”

That was in 1969, and until that time I’d never owned a car that was without debt, yet God was talking to me about debt-free airplanes. I knew the manifestation of a debt-free airplane was going to require unwavering faith on my part. Week after week, month after month, I continued to believe and confess that God was going to provide our ministry with an airplane—free of debt!

Well, that debt-free airplane manifested in 1976, just seven years after I entered full-time ministry. And I might add, *that* plane was the first of nine debt-free planes God has blessed this ministry with over the past forty-six years. What a faithful God!

A couple of years ago, the Lord impressed me to sow my Citation 500 into Kenneth Copeland Ministries, which I did with great joy. I felt the season for owning ministry aircraft had come to an end, so I was not believing for the next one as I’d always done in the past.

Until the night I was speaking in Baltimore.

When I returned to my hotel room after sharing the story about our airplanes at the service, the Lord said to me, “And at what time did I tell you that you can now fulfill what you’re called to do without an airplane?”

“You didn’t,” I said.

“Then whose idea was that?” He asked.


“Mine,” I answered.

“Are you done in ministry?”

“Of course not,” I said.

He then closed the conversation with, “Then get back on your faith for your next airplane.”

I am back on my faith as the Lord instructed, this time for a Citation Mustang that will enable us to minister to more people, more quickly and efficiently than ever before. This ministry has sown much seed, and God is already blessing us with the harvest so that we can soon testify about our tenth debt-free airplane—to the glory of God!

As friends and partners of Jerry Savelle Ministries International, we wanted you to know about this exciting project. Please join your faith with ours, and together we will see God do what only He can do: make what seems impossible, possible! 

The Three *Levels* of Faith

Carolyn Savelle



ACCORDING TO the Word of God, we have all been given *the measure of faith*. None of us are given more faith than others; we all start with the same measure. However, it is up to each of us as to what we do with the faith we've been given. We can choose to do absolutely nothing with it, or we can choose to increase our faith by the Word we hear.

Jesus talked about three different levels of faith and two ways of measuring each level. He always measured an individual's faith by judging the person's *words* and *actions*. We know our words are powerful for bringing about either good or bad, blessing or cursing. Let's see what God's Word has to say about the words we speak: Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit (Proverbs 18:21); A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit (Proverbs 15:4); Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles (Proverbs 21:23).

Jesus said, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34). I like the way the Amplified Bible presents this scripture: "For out of the fullness (the overflow, the superabundance) of the heart the mouth speaks." Within minutes of being around a person, we can locate where they are and measure their faith by the words coming out of their mouths—just as Jesus did.

As we read the accounts of Jesus' interactions with people, the Word reveals the following three specific levels of faith: no faith, little faith, and great faith. Let's take a look at the biblical account of each level and see the results of each encounter with Jesus.

No Faith

Prior to the following incident, Jesus had spent countless hours with His disciples. They had seen the miracles of faith, and yet in this familiar scene, the Lord reprimanded them for having no faith:

On the same day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" (Mark 4:35–40).

If Jesus had been holding a measuring stick, perhaps He would have said, "I'm going to measure your faith by your words and actions. Your words were 'Do you not care that we are perishing?' Your actions show that you were frightened. I measure that you have no faith."

Little Faith

Let's look at a time when Jesus measured the disciple Peter's faith by his words and actions:

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus (Matthew 14:22–29).

What happened here? Peter heard the word *come*, and it caused faith to increase in his heart. He stepped out of the boat and went to Jesus. But on the way he got distracted from the word *come*, and he focused instead on the winds and the waves. Peter was actually walking on the water to Jesus, but then something came to steal the word.

When you're looking at circumstances and you can't see God's Word, you'll sink every time—as we see in verses 30 and 31 of the same account: "But when [Peter] saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!' And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'"

Let's compare Peter's words and actions in this account to the previous story in which Jesus declared that he and the other disciples had no faith. This time, instead of cowering in the boat, Peter actually stepped out on the water as soon as he heard the word *come*.

His faith had increased, and his actions were the measure.

Great Faith

It is interesting that Bible uses the words and actions of those who were closest to Jesus as examples of little or no faith, yet the example of great faith comes from a centurion (a senior officer in the Roman army):

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed."

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" (Matthew 8:5–8, 10).

We can only imagine what Jesus' followers thought when Jesus cited this Roman citizen as having great faith. Here the disciples were, having sat under Jesus' teachings for some time and having seen Him demonstrate faith firsthand—yet they only had, at best, "little faith"?

I believe the incident with the centurion was just another way our loving Lord chose to encourage His followers to move from one level of faith to another, as He did with His disciple Thomas following the resurrection:

So [Thomas] said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came,

the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, Reach your finger in here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:25–26).

If we have to see or feel something to believe it, then according to Jesus, we are faithless—we have no faith. I don't know about you, but I want to be like the centurion who, with great faith, said to Jesus, "Speak only a word."

I invite you to take a moment to measure your own faith. The best way to do so is by judging what is coming out of your mouth. Are you speaking words of doubt, failure, and defeat, or are you speaking words of life, power, and faith? Remember, the power of life and death is in the tongue. Regardless of your level of faith—whether it is no faith, little faith, or great faith—your present measure of faith can always grow as you hear more of the Word of God.

I know that my measure of faith is growing and that my faith can overcome the world. And the good news is, so can yours! **AFB**

**"I want to
be like the
centurion who,
with great
faith, said to
Jesus, 'Speak
only a word.'"**

From Our *Family* to Yours

God bless you, and may Jesus Christ, the light of the world, continue to illuminate your world so that you'll shine bright for Him to others. Joy to the world—our Savior has come! Have a very merry and bright Christmas. Much love from the Chariots of Light ...

Bill and Ginger
Chariots of Light Directors

Celebrate the reason for the season—Jesus! A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. And in honor of our newly available Spanish materials: Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!

Patty
The Curriculum Department

May peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!

Richard, Ken, and Preston
Production Department

Dear Partners and Friends,
We pray the Savior's *love* and *favor* surround you every day and keep you whole as you walk in His way!

Love and prayers,
Brother Jerry and Carolyn

III John 2

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Scott and Wesley
Maintenance

A very blessed Christmas and a greater than ever New Year to you all. We love and appreciate you!

Linda-Sue, Brenda, Nancy & Enid
JSMI Canadian Office

To you and your house: have a Merry Christmas and a blessed and prosperous New Year! We stand with you in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Tom, Luke, and Bosa
The Media Department

Thanksgiving and Christmas are times to reflect and be thankful for all we have. And you are always on our list of blessings. Our prayer is that your days will be filled with peace and joy.

Rolando, Gozzette, Dolores, and Gilbert
Partner Relations and Prayer

I pray all your days are merry and bright and full of light. May your time with family and friends be filled with God's love. Thank you for being the most wonderful partners. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Joyce
President's Cabinet Coordinator

Merry Christmas and a blessed and Happy New Year. We pray for continued victory in every area of your life. Love in Jesus ...

Carolynn & Terri
Executive Offices

Merry Christmas, Partners! May joy and blessings fill your lives this season of celebrating and throughout the year. We love you!

Carol, Vicki, and Gloria
The JSMI Accounting Department

Happy Christmas and every blessing!

Geoff, Sharon, Rebekah, Gary, and Ruth
JSMI European Office

G'day from the land down under. Wishing you the most wonderful Christmas as we celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ, and praying that you will be blessed abundantly in 2016.

Tan, Diane, and Vicki
JSMI Australia

May you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I pray that your year will be full of visitations, manifestations, and demonstrations of the glory of our God. And from our Kiswahili friends in Africa (in honor of our missions work): Merry Christmas na heri kwa mwaka mpya!

Brother Joe
JSMI International Department

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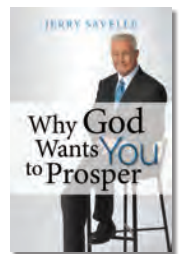
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