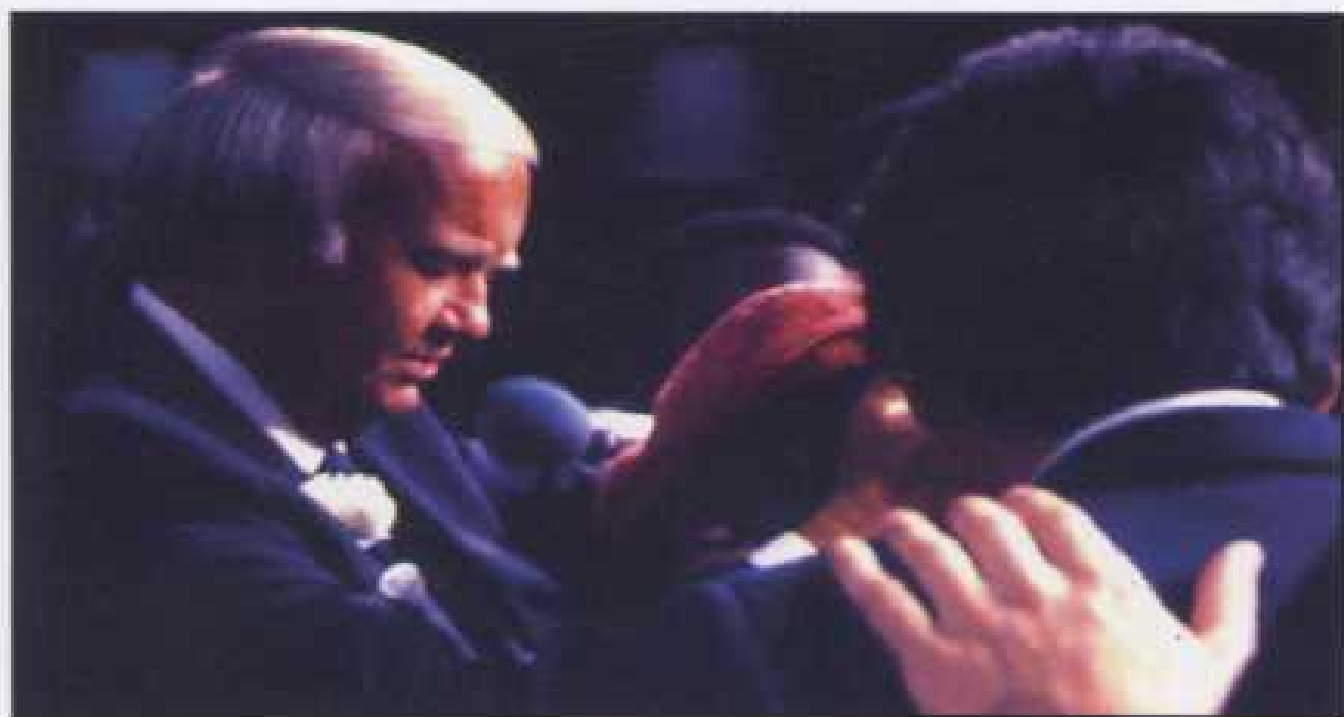


GOD'S POWER:

A WAY OF LIVING
EVERY DAY



NORVEL HAYES

God's Power: A Way of Living Every Day The Importance of Gifts

I was recently reminded by the Holy Spirit of the importance of people bringing gifts to God. It's so important for you to share with God—every week or every month—of your earnings or what you have been given. The reason is that you need it. God needs it to win souls with, but you need it more than God needs it. Where God lives, everybody's already rich. But you need to give for *you*.

One Way To Show Love

God has the power to release blessings upon you; or just close the door. When you bring your gifts to God, it shows your love to Him. You don't necessarily love somebody because you say, "I love you." Words are cheap. You love somebody because you *show* them that you love them. You don't have to show me anything, but you have to show God.

Of course, if you don't show me you love me, I don't believe you love me. And God doesn't believe you love Him either. You could tell Him until your teeth fall out, but if you don't *show* God that you love Him, it doesn't mean much. So remember, as long as you live, always bring your gifts to God, and He'll bless you mightily for it.

John the Baptist

The gospel was preached by John the Baptist. Jesus said of John, "no greater man has ever come out of the womb of a woman than John."

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

Matthew 3:1-4

A Record Set

A while back, I sent down my Bible school chaplain from Cleveland, Tennessee, and he conducted a mission meeting in the school auditorium like we've been holding here for about nine years. We got over 130 people saved that week—the most that has ever been saved in one week's meeting.

What Is This?

We took a gang of people that wanted to be baptized out to the beach, and we began to baptize them. People began to get up in their bathing suits and bikinis and go down and watch. "What is this?" You know most human beings have never been to a baptismal service conducted outside. We had sixteen workers from my Bible school in Tennessee with him and they were giving out tracts.

Here Come the Police!

Just as we baptized the last one, the cops pulled up. Some people on the beaches don't like to have baptismal services. They disturb the peace and sunshine, and things like that, you know.

The policeman said, "Somebody called in and I had to come out here. I feel like an idiot for even being here. I'm a Christian myself." He said, "I'll just act like I'm reading the riot act to you.

"Now, you understand me young man? The next time you want to have a baptismal service, come by the police department, and I'll give you a permit. Do you understand that?"

What Must I Do?

A crowd of around 200 gathered and they began to ask, "I've never seen anything like this before. You know, this is beautiful. I'd like to go through that. What do I have to do to get baptized?"

And the sixteen workers began to say, "It is very simple: just tell Jesus you're sorry for your sins and ask Him to come into your heart. And He will, and He'll cleanse your spirit and give your spirit a rebirth, and you can be born anew, born again. And then be baptized in water."

"Well, I want to do that."

Right there on the beach, they led 56 people to the Lord.

'Please, God, Turn It Off!'

After the baptismal service, they were having a meeting up here in a little room up front—not a public meeting, just the sixteen Bible school

students and our Bible school chaplain. I'd flown in from somewhere and had just walked in the door, and saw one of my black students standing there, and the word of the Lord came unto me saying, "You're just in time, son, to wash his feet."

So I got some water and a rag and went over to him and knelt down and I began to wash his feet. I just looked up at him and I said, "Jesus wants me to wash your feet."

The moment I began to wash his feet, the Spirit of the Lord came up on him and he began to sob.

And the Spirit of the Lord came up on us. And God began to bless him so much he couldn't stand it. He just blew up on the inside and he screamed with a loud, yelling scream.

His hands flew up and he said, "Oh God, help me, I can't stand any more! Please God, turn it off."

The Spirit of the Lord was on him so strong and blessing him so much that he asked God not to bless him any more.

Oh, yeah, you can receive a blessing like that with, sixteen students and one wild chaplain. It's amazing the kind of blessings you can receive. Just follow the Lord. Just obey God.

Just Start Doing the Things of God

You start doing the things of God and people just come out to hear you, at the beach or wherever; they just show up to see what's going on.

Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan.

And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Matthew 3:5-6

Oh, when you confess your sins, it's time to be baptized. Glory to God. But you've got to be sincere. You've got to come confessing your sins. Then you can be baptized by the man of God. And it's a pleasure. But you can't pull any games on God, you can't con God, no religious games. It's got to be the pure, clean gospel if you want the Spirit of God to bless you.

A Generation of Vipers

Notice verse 7:

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned

you to flee from the wrath to come?

Matthew 3:7

That means, "Oh, you flaky people, what are you doing here? This is the work of God. You've come without repenting. You have already got your testimony. It's not right, But you've got one *anyway*." Everybody has a testimony, even if it's messed up.

But John the Baptist knew that he was sent from God. To preach like him, you'd have to be sent from God. John says, "Oh, you vipers. What have you come for? You have no fruit for God. And don't say to me, that we're the sons of Abraham because God can raise up sons from these stones, if He chooses to. Don't give me religious traditions. Where are your gifts to God? You've come empty handed. The rest of these people have come repenting of sin, wanting to be baptized."

Look at verse 8 and 9. John said,

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Matthew 3:8,9

"And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees..." Trees? It means us—believers. Trees means you. God's axe stays sharpened all the time.

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Matthew 3:10

You have to get that. There is no good fruit unless it's sweet. Foul preachers are not worth fifteen cents. A lot of churches are bearing fruit for God, but it's not sweet fruit or good fruit.

Working for God Twenty-eight Years

I met a woman in New York City who had been working for God for twenty-eight years, and she'd never been saved. I said, "Lady, do you know for sure that the person of the Spirit of God, the Holy Ghost, sent from heaven, lives inside of you?"

She said, "I don't know." I said, "Your problem is you've never been

saved, born again. The Spirit of God is not in you."

She said, "I've been working for the church twenty-eight years."

I said, "That doesn't have anything to do with it."

Her husband and her pastor were standing there. It was a great big church.

You Must Be Born Again

I said, "I can't help you until you give your life to Jesus. You need to be saved."

She'd just been working, working as a duty, not even saved, just a nice lady. It would be awful to work in the church twenty-eight years and die, come before God, and He says, "I don't know you."

"But I've been working for the church twenty-eight years."

"My Word says there's no way to get to heaven except for the name of Jesus and being born again. When were you born again?"

And she'll go, "Well, I wasn't."

"Well, I'm sorry, honey, you can't stay here because only the redeemed, only the born again shall stay here. This place is prepared for those who have accepted Jesus. I'm sorry, but you'll have to depart from Ms."

"But I worked twenty-eight years in the church."

"But I never knew you. You worked under some kind of religious ideas. My idea for you was Jesus and Him crucified. And His blood shed for you, wash you clean, white as snow. And those led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. But you were never led by the Spirit of God; He was never in you."

I said, "Your pastor and your husband are asking for the blessings of God for you, but I can't, you're not even saved."

The pastor said, "Mr. Hayes, she's the wife of this man who is one of the leaders of our church. They are real good people."

One Way to Heaven

I said, "She can't go to heaven on what you boys think about her." I said, "I'm not stupid. I can tell she's a nice lady. Hell is full of nice people. You don't go to heaven because you're nice or not nice. You go to heaven one way only because you bow down before God, and you're willing to accept His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the free pardon of sin. And you're willing to walk away from your sins and try to follow God the best you can. None of us

are perfect, but don't worry about that, Jesus is and He is leading. Blessed be God forever.

Every time you make a mistake, fall in the ditch, just say, "I'm sorry, Jesus, please forgive me." He'll say, "You are forgiven."

People tell me all over the country, "I get so disgusted with myself, I keep doing the same thing over and over again. How many times will God forgive me?"

It all depends on how many years you live. Go to Bible seminars, study the Bible, listen to good, solid teachers, and ask God to make you strong. Jesus told His disciples on the top of the mountain, "Feed this multitude."

They said, "Oh, well, there's so many of them on the hillside here."

"Well," Jesus said, "how much food do you have?"

Peter said, "This little boy's got his lunch, and we've got only four or five little fishes and four or five loaves of bread. That's all."

And Jesus said, "Well, you give them to eat."

"But, Jesus..."

And Jesus said to His disciples, "Bring it to me."

He wanted them to have enough faith to obey Him, but they didn't have it.

He told them, "You give them to eat."

God Knows What He Is Doing

If God ever tells you something and you say, "But, God; let me give You *my* ideas, let me tell You about *my* circumstances." Those don't mean anything to God. Believe me, He knows what He's doing.

"Bring it to me," and so they brought the loaves and fishes to Him. He took them and walked away. Why? Because if you're ever going to get God to work for you, you've got to get away from unbelief. You have to get away from people who have unbelief.

So He turned around, took the fishes and the loaves, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks unto God and blessed it.

The God-Kind of Faith

Then He turned around—putting some action to His faith. Always remember this as long as you live. You're only "*one look up*," and "*one short prayer*," and "*one action of faith*" away from any miracle that you'll ever need. Those three simple things, and God will give you a miracle like this.

Your miracle will just appear.

Show God reverence, talk to Him like He's the Father and you're the child. **"You have not because you ask not,"** Jesus said. And then when you walk away, and take your head down from reverence and close your prayer, from that moment on you have to act like you've got it. That's faith.

With Thanksgiving

Act like you got it and talk like you got it, WITH THANKSGIVING. Surely, you're not trying to get healed without giving God thanks in advance, are you? "Well, I'm a good Christian and I love the Lord, and I pray a lot. And I believe that if the Lord wants me to have it, He'll give it to me."

No, He won't give it to you. He will give you what you can thank Him for *before* you ever see it. But if you can't thank God for it before you see it, you're not going to see it. You're going to be wondering why you don't have it. And I'll ask you the same thing. Why didn't you thank God in advance?

"Well, I was hurting so bad. I can't help it. I can't do everything you know. Have mercy on me. I'm trying to do the best I can."

When you get through with that, I'm going to go over it one more time. Everything you fail to give God thanks for before you see it, you're not going to get.

Doubt Equals Defeat

The book of James says in the first chapter, "Don't let that man think he's going to receive anything from God if he doubts me." I can't afford as a representative of God for the gospel and the truth, to listen to your whimpers and cries and let your doubt come out.

When you get to heaven, you're going to start seeing what was provided for you and what you could have had. Do you know the kingdom of heaven is in your belly right now? "Well, I know when we get to heaven, Brother Norvel, there will be no sickness and there will be no heartaches and there will be no sadness. We'll have everything when we get to heaven, oh by and by."

God Wants to Bless You

Well, you'd better get started, you old lazy thing. God wants to bless you big. And the more you do for Him, the more He blesses you all the time.

There are two things in your life you can't give away to God. You'd

better know this, learn this from experience. You can't give your life away to God, and you can't give your money away to God. Try tithing to your church sometime. You'll find out. It won't be very long, your boss will give you a raise. It just happens that way. You'll get new positions, there will be all kinds of strange things happen, but they'll have a blessing tied to them, like dollar marks. But not just dollar marks, other kinds of blessings will come, too. Blessed be His holy name.

Now, look at verse 11. John's talking to you.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Matthew 3:11

Glory to God! That's what we need to be baptized with after the baptism of water—baptized in the Holy Ghost and fire! You and I both need some fire of God under our feet. Get the fire of God in your spirit.

But you're not going to have very much fire in your gut, in your spirit, as long as all that other junk is down there, like habits and religious ideas that some goofed-up person told you.

Choose the Right Church

I hope you go to a church that teaches you to worship God and teaches the Bible. But if you hang around some old, cold church all of your life, you'll get so many goofed-up habits, and your ideas about God will be just like theirs. They've been sick for forty years in the same corner, and you're going there. What are you going there for?

"Oh, it was close to my house, Brother Norvel." I hear that all over the country.

"But you're dying with cancer.

Do they have any healing lines?"

"No, I don't think they believe in that kind of stuff. That's the reason I came to you."

"I just got in town." I said, "Do you think I'm going to pop you on top of the head and you're going to get everything and you're going to float in that victory for the rest of your life? That's not the way it works."

Paul said that God's power is not something you just play with on Sunday or every once in a while when you want something. He said, "God's

power is a way of living every day, *every day, EVERY DAY.*"

I don't have any sad days. Have you ever seen me have a day when I didn't want to work for God?

You say, "I have lots of them, Brother Norvel."

Well, why don't you get saved?

"Saved? I'm already saved."

Make Yourself Work for God

Well, I mean saved from yourself. If you don't work for God, you're doing your own thing. You've either got to do one of two things: You work for God, or do what you want to do. If you do what you want to do all the time, then you're not going to work for God.

You have to make yourself work for God. You have to get grounded in God's Word and get grounded in the love of God.

Now this is what you need to work for God. Look at the 11th verse:

I [John] indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he [Jesus] that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire....

Matthew 3:11

That's what you need; you need to be baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire. Remember, when you get lazy, you don't have any fire. You've lost the fire of God. You need to get the fire of God in you. "Sometimes when I get up, I'm kind of lazy, and I just want to get up and I just don't want to do anything for God."

That's all right. I'm not knocking that.

"I want to go to the pool."

I don't blame you. I like to go swimming myself. Just go to the pool and lie down, put your hands up and start worshipping Jesus. It's not very long until something on the inside of you starts stirring. And you'll hear a little voice say, "Give me some tracts. I want to pray for somebody. Glory to God, I hope there's a service tonight. I want to do something for the Lord."

No Discouraging Days

If you worship Jesus very long, I can tell you right now there's a Spirit of God on the inside of you that is going to start rising up, *rising up, rising up*, and you'll fall in love with Jesus all over again. Paul said it's a way of living.

Not just on Sunday, but *every* day. Do it *every* day and you won't have any discouraging days.

I don't have any. If I don't have any, why should you have any? I don't have any discouraging days. And I work for God every day. I like to work for the Lord. I have to rest my body sometimes so I can start again. I wish I had a glorified body so I never would get tired. Just keep on going. I'd go from evening service to midnight service to morning service to afternoon. I'm always doing some kind of work, not necessarily a public type of service but doing *anything* for God.

A Way of Living

If God tells you what you need to do, just go ahead and do it and watch God. And you do it every day, *every day, EVERY DAY*. You do it **every** day. And offer up your thanksgiving to God. You just obey God and worship Him, and He will bring what you need.

Do what God tells you to do, and as long as you do it, the Holy Spirit will work in His own way, in a way that you don't know about, to make that thing you need in your life come to pass because of the thanksgiving you're offering up to heaven.

The Holy Spirit will bring that thing *you* need, not to somebody else in your town, not to somebody else in your state, but to *you*. The Holy Spirit will do it for *you*.

'And Then I Got Busy'

And this is the story of human beings in a nutshell. "I did that, Brother Norvel, after I came to hear you, and I bought some of your tapes. And when I went home, I played your tapes, oh, for two or three months. And I would laugh and cry and get blessed, and I would do what you said. But, then, I got busy. I heard Jerry Savelle on television, and I started listening to him some. And then I listened to So-and-so, and then I just got away from it."

Practice the Bible Daily

When you get away from the Bible, it doesn't work for you anymore. The only part of the Bible that ever works for you is the part that you get hold of yourself and get on the inside of your spirit and make it a part of you. You must practice it *daily*, and it will work for you. It will come to pass for you all the time.

The same principle I used for this building and the building in Cleveland, or anything else, is exactly the same principle I use for healing.

Jesus only has healing lines and laying on of hands to help you under an anointing. Get this straight, my brother and sister. If you'll obey the scriptures, you don't need a healing line. They're the same thing.

Jesus, You Are My Healer

"Jesus, You are my healer. And I want to thank you, Jesus, for healing me. *Jesus, I want to thank You for healing me!*" Do that about twenty-five times a day, and do it *every* day. And you'll even get more power if you sing it out to Him. Present God's Word to Him with joy—the joy of the Lord is your strength.

"Jesus, You are my Healer; no disease will ever kill me. You are healing me now." I'll guarantee that every affliction that's tried to fasten itself upon your body will totally disappear.

Sacrifice yourself and your ideas and give thanksgiving up to God. And I guarantee that God will work for you like a giant. Because He loves you and it's been provided for you.

You say, "Well, what if I do it for two or three months and then I forget."

Remember Scripture

Don't forget! The part of the Bible you forget is the part that God can't give to you. You can't forget. I started to leave the house, and I'm going to take an apple with me in my car to eat it. Should I go up the road, acting like I have one? But I forgot the apple.

Don't forget verses of scripture. You just walk around wishing you had them all the time, but they don't work for you, if you forget them.

God said in the Bible that the devil will come and steal that Word away from your mind, totally. Don't let the devil steal the Word away from you.

Give Thanks for His Word

Thank God for His Word. Say out loud, "From this day forward, I'm going to shake myself, I'm going to start confessing, I'm going to start believing, and I'm going to start thanking God for the things I want. Jesus has provided them for me. The price has already been paid. I don't have to pay it. I just have to thank God for Jesus and tell Him what I want and thank Him for .it. He will give it to me every time because He loves me."

Continue to give God praise and thanksgiving and He will be right there to see that you have what you ask for.

About the Author

Norvel Hayes shares God's Word boldly and simply, with an enthusiasm that captures the heart of the hearer. He has learned through personal experience that God's Word can be effective in every area of life and that it will work for anyone who will believe it and apply it.

Norvel owns several businesses which function successfully despite the fact that he spends more than half his time away from the office, ministering the Gospel throughout the country. His obedience to God and his willingness to share his faith have taken him to a variety of places. He ministers in churches, seminars, conventions, colleges, prisons—anywhere the Spirit of God leads.

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To be blessed, bring your gifts to God with thanksgiving, for this is one way we show God we love Him.

The gospel challenges us as John the Baptist warned "the axe is laid unto the root of the trees...which bringeth not forth good fruit." Norvel Hayes reassures "We're just one look up, one short prayer, and one action of faith away from a miracle."

NORVEL HAYES, a successful businessman, has learned through personal experience that God's Word works for anyone who will believe and apply it. He shares with a bold simplicity that captures the heart of the reader and shines new light on hidden treasures.

