

Training: The Life of Discipleship

We Progress In Our Faith To Operate In What We Have Been Given!

By B. D. Tate

Jesus said in Luke 6: 40 “A disciple is not above his teacher, **but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.**”

Misconceptions

We have a misconception about this Christian walk when it comes to the supernatural power of God working in us. **We think that since God is almighty and unlimited in power that when the Spirit moves to redeem, heal, deliver, restore, that nothing will hinder its flow.** We expect immediate results, instantaneous manifestation of deliverance just as we read in scripture with Jesus and the apostles. We expect this so much that if we don't see it immediately we think it doesn't work. **God's supernatural power obviously didn't manifest because nothing apparently happened!**

After all we know that if God's power was released on the scene whatever was wrong, whatever sickness or disease would be instantly healed. **God is sovereign and nothing can hinder God's Spirit and since the sickness or disease, the deformity or physical condition still exists God didn't move.** The result of nothing changing means it didn't work, God didn't do anything, and His power was not accessed.

From a natural point of view we can all understand this thinking but it is **very misguided.** God is sovereign but He has

subjected His power and grace to us. This verse speaks volumes to this point:

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

We've got to grasp this truth that although God is almighty He has to work through what we do or do not believe. Our hearts determine the amount of power of God that is released upon any situation. Consider what **John G. Lake** wrote (On Healing page 158):

In the life of Jesus, people were instantly healed. I believe Jesus has such a supreme measure of the Spirit that when He put His hands on a man, he was filled and submerged in the Holy Ghost, and the disease withered out and vanished.

But, beloved, you and I use the measure of the Spirit that we possess. (You can, as a member of His body, possess the Spirit in the same measure as He; God does not expect us to fulfill John 14:12 with less equipment than Jesus had.) And if we haven't got as much of God as Jesus had, **then you pray for a man today,** and you get a certain measure of healing, but he is not entirely well. **The only thing to do is to pray for him tomorrow,** and let him get some more, and keep on until he is well.

That is where people blunder. They will pray for a day or two, and then they quit. You pray and keep on day by day and minister to your sick until they are well.

We possess the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead so we reason that if we don't get the same results that Jesus got then it doesn't work the same for us (Rom. 8:11). We also explain it all away saying that the time of miracles is past or

that God's will to heal has changed. **What if the explanation is as simple as disciples growing in training?**

This is what the scripture testifies about Jesus:

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

God has poured out His Spirit in full and given us full grace; however, **it is according to the power that works in us** (Eph. 3:20)! As **John G. Lake** is trying to explain, we, because of our sin nature, distractions, misguided dependence upon sense knowledge, **hinder and limit that grace from manifesting through us.** We can change this but it requires the transforming and renewing of our heart and mind—which takes time and training!

No Instant Training!

No one who takes on training becomes instantly like their teacher but over time becomes proficient. For example, as a salesman I went to two weeks of teaching and training in preparation. When I returned from their corporate training facility I was not considered ready. I was given to an experienced salesman to travel with and observe for a week. Then I went out with my boss and listen to him present and answer questions about the products we sold. Finally after some time I was sent out on my own; yet, I was not considered a seasoned salesman. I was told to do the best I can but to learn on the job and in time I would become more experienced, more confident, and more effective. I was told to answer all the questions as best that I could but not to lie or make anything up. If I didn't know the

answers say so but also tell them that I would find out the answer and get back to them. Training continued for months if not years as new circumstances and situations presented themselves. It has been said that it may take ten years before someone becomes an expert at what they do.

The point is obvious that as Christians we are in training to become like our teacher. There is no way that the transforming of our mind is going to happen overnight. There is no way that we are going to experience mature faith overnight. We are born again, we do have the same Spirit but our heart **needs time to transform from a worldly composition to a godly one.** Jesus taught this in the parable of the sower and the seed. The Word of God is good seed and like any seed it takes seed, time, and harvest if we don't un-plant the seed!

The Many Factors Involved

Along with our own training there are other factors involved such as the condition of the heart of the one we are praying for. As with salvation there must be preparation time, questions must be answered, and the person we are praying for must be receptive, earnestly want God's intervention, and come with their whole heart. There are degrees of receptivity that must be considered such as what will the person we are praying actually believe God for? What can they believe God for? We can't override a person's own heart or will God does not practice witchcraft.

There are other areas that come into play such as unforgiveness, judgmental attitudes, condemnation, unbelief, and doubt, fear that will hinder from within our own heart the flow of

God's Spirit to deliver or heal. James chapter four verses 3-10 teach on reasons why we don't receive including praying with wrong motives, pride, selfish ambitions, love of the world, friendship with the world, adulterous beliefs and attitudes, unwillingness to humble ourselves before God or submit to God, not resisting the devil, not drawing near to God, not lamenting, mourning, or weeping realizing our need for God to lift us up in order to receive and walk in faith before Him.

There is far more involved in our training to become mature and skillful in ministering healing than we at first will see. There is the whole area of peace that is powerful in changing hearts and manifesting God's will. We are to walk in peace, live in it, let it rule our hearts; never let it go, be established in His peace, let it guard our hearts and minds. We are to be guided by peace in our prayers and ministering to others instead of just a general sense of laying on hands and/or stating standard scriptures.

Training to Be Like Jesus!

Training involves trial and error, learning and growing, and most importantly becoming like the master in heart. God is after our hearts to be transformed and renewed as we are conformed into Jesus' image. This process takes time because our hearts do not change overnight. As we re-direct our hearts as its gatekeeper we must wait for the new seed to grow. **God's word is planted in our heart when we are convinced without doubt what God's will is.** This alone can take time because of what we have believed, or what others tell us to believe. Every question we have must be answered completely or it will only come up again. Once the word is planted we can't go back and re-examine the truth of

it (un-plant it), we must let it grow and that takes time, watering, staying true, remaining faithful with it. We water the word by meditating upon it, reviewing it, by imagining it coming to pass, and by thanking God and praising Him for it. This verse speaks to our need to stay with it despite what we see, feel, hear, or contrary results tempt us to believe otherwise:

Ga 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, **for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.**

Spiritual life takes time to develop in as we learn to discern God's voice, recognize the Spirit's leading, and grow confident in the things of grace and faith. Revelation knowledge is a Spirit thing that bears witness with our spirit making the Word of God personally real to us. We can't live by someone else's revelations neither can we live by head knowledge about God's Word; we must know that we know God's Word and this is a work of the Spirit in us. This verse speaks to the need to progress:

Heb 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, **those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

Authority and power are not of the flesh, determined by feelings, resting in the physical senses, but reside in faith that is convinced in what grace has done. God is waiting on us to believe Him, to act in confidence of His Word, to be bold to trust His Spirit and this comes by practice (training).

Major Issues of the Flesh Take Time to Overcome

Some of us have not overcome our fear of what people think. We have not diminished the power and influence of

people's opinions, approvals, or praises in our heart. We care too much what loved ones think, what friends might think, and what others may judge. Jesus said, (John 5:44)

"How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?"

Or as Proverbs 29:25 says:

"The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe."

By training we begin to overcome our natural tendencies to honor man over God, to love the world more than God, to love family more than God's word, to love even our own life more than pleasing God. These are *major areas* of roadblocks to faith in God's grace; by being bound to these hindrances we are weakened in receiving from God. Fasting and prayer are often the only way to break the bondage of the flesh over our heart—that too takes training.

Jesus said in the Great Commission to go into all the world and make DISCIPLES! Disciples are learners of Jesus who are being trained to be just like their teacher (1 John 4:7). This training involves us learning that our born again spirit is just like Jesus **but the manifestation of being just like Him in this world** requires our hearts being changed into his image.

It is the heart transformation that takes time.

It is measured by what we put into it!

Like with any training we become more proficient as we go. Also, **it is often what we put into it that determines what we get out of it. According to the power that works in us means the proportion of effort, energy, and engagement we measure to it, it will be measured back to us.** We are in a spiritual war but if we engage that war with a police effort, or a weekend warrior mentality, we will see results but they will be limited by the measure or value we placed upon it. It is like someone working out at the gym, if they go once in a while with little effort the results will be little in comparison to going frequently, regularly, and with steady and intense effort. **Our walk with God is determined by our effort not God's will.** God commanded us to draw near to Him because He's already decided to draw near to us. According to our effort, our priority, our willingness to deny ourselves, pick up our cross, walk in the Spirit verses the flesh, all of this determines our results. We need to fight war with war efforts and the more we do the greater our results will manifest because our training will be faster and more complete.

Mixed Results to Greater Results

With training in mind, then consider that our results will be mixed at first, become greater, and then increase as it continues! We should not become discouraged because we are not seeing mature faith results when our faith is in training. We should realize that we will have success and failure at the same time. When I was a salesman I made some sales and missed many others at first (failures & mistakes), then I got better and my ratio improved, even after years of experience my ratio never reached perfection. There were times when my presentation was poor but the result was a sale and the opposite happened too. There will

be times when we pray and see great results and then others respond not so quickly. There will be times when we have done all that we know and the results will not be forth coming. We don't quit, we don't give up, or give in, and we press on and trust that the Holy Spirit will teach us what we don't know or understand. Read what John G. Lake continued to say on page 158:

One of the things that has discredited healing is that evangelists will hold meetings, and hundreds of sick will come and be prayed for. In a great meeting like that, you get a chance to pray once and do not see them again. You pray for ten people, and as a rule, you will find that one or two or three are absolutely healed, but the others are only half-healed or quarter-healed or have only a little touch of healing.

It is just the same with salvation. You bring them to the altar. One is saved and is clear in his soul. Another may come for a week and another for a month, before they are clear in their souls. **The difference is not with God** (emphasis mine). The difference is inside the man. His consciousness has not opened up to God.

Every law of the Spirit that applies to salvation applies to healing likewise.

When we consider witnessing there is no one size fits all in winning souls. We can't say the same things to everyone and have everyone receive salvation—it doesn't work. Everyone is unique and has their own questions, issues, hurts, doubts, fears, etc. so we must have openness to God's Spirit to direct our conversations. We all get saved through the same atonement and

basic principles of the gospel, **but we all don't get to those same principles the same way**. The same is true with healing, the healing is already done, the power is the same, the same name, grace, and Spirit of God, but not everyone is in the same place to receive it. We need to learn by training to be flexible, open, and discern, what the Spirit wants us to do to reach the person in front of us. This takes training, practice, and experience to trust, rest, and follow peace in order to reach each one.

Conclusion: Being Convinced is a Foundation for Training

Being convinced that Salvation is for everyone having been accomplished in the Cross is absolutely vital in leading others to Christ. We don't come away after someone has not responded by thinking, "Well I guess Jesus' didn't die for that one." Or, "It is not God's will for this one to be saved right now." We know it is God's will to save now, for today is the day of salvation and God is waiting for each one to respond and come. The same is true for healing, when we don't see immediate results is it not because God didn't heal them, He already did in the cross two thousand years ago, the difference is in the one before us. God hasn't changed His mind or withheld his power, the hindrance is in this realm, in us, in the man, we need to keep proceeding in faith and overcome the need with God's grace. **Training and practice will help us overcome the obstacles, roadblocks, hindrances, that this world is presenting as long as we remain steadfast in the truth that God's will is healing because He's already done it. The answer isn't that God didn't!** The answer lies somewhere in this realm and as we continue to practice and train ourselves in grace and faith we will become more accurate, effective, and successful

at overcoming and turning negative results into positive ones.
Amen.

P.S. What About the Results?

The results manifest in our life as we train. We must be convinced and start practicing. If we believe what Jesus said in John 14:12-14,

2 “Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also**; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

13 “**And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

14 “**If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**

Then we will begin to think, act, pray, and imagine doing what Jesus did.

Many claim to love God, be faithful, be mature in faith, but the results **show the truth**. The indictment is this: Those who believe in Jesus will do what He did. If we are not doing what Jesus did, **then we are not fulfilling the truth**. There is a saying, “The proof is in the pudding.” This means it doesn’t matter what we say or look like, **it’s the results that count**. God commanded us to go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...and with that to do all that He commanded the apostles to do which was to heal the sick (Matt. 28:20).

If we claim to know Jesus, be a disciple, **then we should be in training conforming to His image**. This includes healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out demons, and delivering those in bondage, while preaching the gospel to the poor in spirit...

If we are not operating in the supernatural power of Jesus' name it ***is not God's fault***, we are supposed to be in training to do supernatural things by **His commission**. Therefore, until we humble ourselves, cry out to God, come into obedience of the faith and become trained, we are not where God wants us.

Until we are trained doing the same things He did we stand in ***reproach*** because grace has been poured out to us to do these things. Our faith is His Faith, our peace is His peace, our power is His power, and the only thing stopping it is our heart. We can change our heart by knowing God's will and obeying... **this is our response to his ability in us—that is faith!**

Some Booklets that further address this:

Vague Christianity

Indicators & Location (Locating what is in our heart)

Understanding Unbelief

Understanding Doubt

Training (We will experience success and failure but press on!)

Hardness of Heart

You Have the Faith of Christ

Think, Act, and Speak Faith

Authority and Faith

Faith Issues

Why Signs (13 Biblical reasons)

Jesus Attitude towards Sickness & Disease

Casting Down all Imaginations & thoughts

A Power We Know Not of... (We are Prophets to Speak His Word)

We Ask But Don't Receive... (How we respond to set-backs is critical)