

God supplies the Power

By
Jack G. Robbins

January 13, 1948



I PRAISE God for His wonderful Gospel — this Gospel! When we say ^a "this Gospel" many people are offended; they say that we have thrown up a little gospel of our own. But this is the Gospel that Jesus Christ started. He said, Himself, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." The Gospel of Jesus is a Gospel of power. When you take this on, you have something.

That is what is wrong with the so-called Christian world — they have rejected this Gospel. You can hardly find a person who will tell you that you can live without sin. You confront them saying, "Are you living without sin?" They say, "Why, nobody can live without sin." The devil does not want a testimony from you, or anyone *else*, that you can live without *sin*.

Jesus Christ did not die in vain; He did not shed His Blood on Calvary **for nought; He did not** come all the way from Glory to put a Gospel in this world that was so weak that it could not take the sin out of a human life and keep it out if a man or woman wants to get rid of it. We praise God for this glorious Gospel! It is surely a clean one. We can walk triumphantly in this life; and He gives us something that causes us to walk with God in this world and clear into the next. That is what we thank God for — the old-time religion.

"And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

"And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

"And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

"And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

"And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

"And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

"And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:35-41).

When they entered the ship that day after a hard day's work, as evening began to fall and the disciples were tired and weary, no doubt they thought they would go to an inlet somewhere and find rest until the morning; but Jesus had other plans. There was something that they did not know about, but Jesus did. Jesus knew there was a human soul **in** trouble on the other side of that sea — a demoniac. He was in sorrow, bound and shackled by Satan, and something in that soul was perhaps moaning as he walked along the stormy shore that dark night; and when his mind would come back for a moment he would cry, "O God, is there no help for me!"

But Jesus **is** the great High Priest of our profession, touched with all the feelings of our infirmities. His eye is never dim. He could see this man, and He could look out through the darkest night and see any trouble on the sea. He could see Nathanael away off there under a fig tree before Philip came to him, and He knew his heart and knew what kind of man he was. Jesus is looking right down here, into every human heart, today, and knows all about your trouble and the raging tempest that is in that breast of yours and

the uncertainty of your life and the hopelessness of it, or the courage of it.

Jesus looked out upon the waters that night and said to His disciples, "Let us pass over unto the other side." They started. But a great storm arose and the waves beat against the boat and filled it full of water, **and** they were afraid. They went back and awoke Him and said, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" He arose and rebuked the winds and there **was a** great calm.

There was another tempest raging on the other side of the sea; it **was** not in the water but in a human life. It was the demoniac, a man who had lost his reason, a man who was possessed by not only one devil but a legion of devils. He was controlled and mastered by this evil power. The officers would arrest him and put him in chains and he would pluck the chains asunder **and** break the fetters to pieces, and away he would go again out into the mountains and to the tombs night and day, cutting himself with stones and crying in his agony of soul. But Jesus saw him, and He crossed that sea for one man. For not only one man, for I believe that when Jesus is going after one man, He is going after more than one; for He knows that if He can get one man on the witness stand for the truth, that man is going to let his light shine and someone else is going to get the light.

Jesus went over there, delivered the demoniac and cast the devil out of him, and set him in his right mind, and gave him peace of mind. Then He started to get into the ship to go back, and the man wanted to follow Him, but Jesus said, "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." The man was obedient and he went back to his home town. I can see him back there getting out on the street corner and telling what Jesus did for him, publishing Jesus' salvation. People would look up to him, and perhaps he would say, "My friends of years ago, you knew my life when I was right and had my family around me. And you know the in that ruined me, that took my reason from me and kept me out in the mountains, crying night and day and tearing myself with stones. No one cared for me and everyone feared me. Look at me now! Something has happened to me! I met Jesus down there on the seashore, and He cast the devil out of me and cleaned up my life and sent me back to tell you the greatest Story that was ever told." And we are told that all men did marvel.

I marvel, and you can marvel, too, at some of the miracles before us. If you had seen some of the people here in this church before God so wonderfully transformed them, and could see and know them now, you would marvel also. I am thanking God that we can go back and tell what great things the Lord has done for us; tell of His power to transform our lives, to keep us, to take the darkness out and put a light in our soul, hang a star in our sky and put hope into our heart — give an anchor to our soul that is sure and steadfast.

I can say that for the last 45 years of my life I have had an anchor that has held me. God found me down here in an old shack stuck in the mud in the north end of this city, down and out, poor and helpless and homeless, full of sin, and discouraged, broke financially and every other way. I was down there alone looking up at the ceiling, with two sunken eyes and my life wasted. I sent up an S O S call, like the demoniac of old, "O God, is there no help for me!" I thank God that after three weeks of calling on this wonderful Jesus, this Mighty God, He heard me. I know that He heard me from the beginning, but He wanted to see if I meant business. I prayed more than once when I was in trouble; but I lied to God. But this time He held me to it. I thank God He did, and after three weeks went by, one night something happened. The chains were broken, the fetters were broken and snapped from my hell-bound soul. Joy filled my heart, and a whole symphony orchestra began to play.

Thank God, that is Jesus! He can see you if you are in an old shack, at the end of your rope, or across the sea, or wandering in the darkness no matter where you are — or if you are here, brokenhearted and discouraged, despondent in your soul.

Yes, and He went over to get that man, but I believe He got more than that one man. For that man became a witness, and all men did marvel. Some day when everything is over and we stand on the other Shore we will find that the witness of that one man has brought a great many souls to Christ and they have enjoyed the same salvation.

God said that He would give us power over all the power of the enemy. "Sinning Christians" could not give a testimony that would convince anyone. But when a testimony comes out straight from the shoulder, and every word is as a nail driven in a sure place, and you can just feel it coming out of their lives — victory and triumph over sin — you know they have met Jesus on the way. The mighty Christ has taken out

sin, and He has moved in where the devil had control, and Jesus lives within the heart. That is what He said He would do. He said, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." If God lives in you, you are going to live right; you are going to live straight; you are going to live clean; and you are going to get out of this world alive.

Don't you thank God for this Gospel that Christ preached — this Gospel about which Paul said, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." It is this Gospel or no gospel; it is this way or hell. That does not mean that it is only this Apostolic Faith, but it is the Gospel of Christ, the Gospel of holiness, the Gospel of Jesus, and the Gospel of a living, risen, conquering Christ that comes into your life and gives you power to live as a triumphant Christian.

If you have that, you will always have a testimony. When people are in trouble they will want you around them. They don't want one who is a tin soldier; they want a man who they know is in touch with God. A tin soldier has no heart. But I know one thing — God can take a tin soldier and take the dross out, take the tin out, and put the real gold in. What do you want to be — a tin soldier or an iron man for God with a golden heart?

Perhaps you are asking, "How do you contact Him?" We read, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Put your whole life into it; lay everything at His feet; and come clean. Call upon God with a broken and a contrite heart, and He will come into your life and give you peace and victory.