

EVER
ever

INCREASING
increasing

FAITH
faith

EVER
ever

INCREASING
increasing

FAITH
faith

Smith Wigglesworth

 *Whitaker House*

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are taken from the *New King James Version* (NKJV), © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

Editor's note: This book has been edited for the modern reader. Words, expressions, and sentence structure have been updated for clarity and readability.

EVER INCREASING FAITH

ISBN: 0-88368-633-3

Printed in the United States of America

© 2000 by Whitaker House

Whitaker House
30 Hunt Valley Circle
New Kensington, PA 15068

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Wigglesworth, Smith, 1859–1947.

Ever increasing faith / by Smith Wigglesworth.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-88368-633-3 (alk. paper)

1. Spiritual life—Pentecostal churches. 2. Gifts,

Spiritual—Pentecostal churches. I. Title.

BV3797 .W45 2000

234'.13—dc21

00-011671

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 / 09 08 07 06 05 04 03 02

Contents

Introduction.....	7
1. Have Faith in God.....	13
2. Deliverance to the Captives	23
3. The Power of the Name.....	37
4. "Do You Want to Be Made Well?"	51
5. I Am the Lord Who Heals You.....	63
6. He Himself Took Our Infirmities.....	75
7. Our Risen Christ.....	87
8. Righteousness	97
9. The Words of This Life	107
10. Life in the Spirit.....	119
11. What It Means to Be Full of the Holy Spirit.....	131
12. Biblical Evidence of the Baptism	141
13. Concerning Spiritual Gifts.....	151
14. The Word of Knowledge and the Gift of Faith.....	171
15. Gifts of Healing and the Working of Miracles.....	183
16. The Gift of Prophecy	193
17. The Discerning of Spirits.....	201
18. The Gift of Tongues	209

Introduction

An encounter with Smith Wigglesworth was an unforgettable experience. This seems to be the universal reaction of all who knew him or heard him speak. Smith Wigglesworth was a simple yet remarkable man who was used in an extraordinary way by our extraordinary God. He had a contagious and inspiring faith. Under his ministry, thousands of people came to salvation, committed themselves to a deeper faith in Christ, received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and were miraculously healed. The power that brought these kinds of results was the presence of the Holy Spirit, who filled Smith Wigglesworth and used him in bringing the good news of the Gospel to people all over the world. Wigglesworth gave glory to God for everything that was accomplished through his ministry, and he wanted people to understand his work only in this context, because his sole desire was that people would see Jesus and not himself.

Smith Wigglesworth was born in England in 1859. Immediately after his conversion as a boy, he had a concern for the salvation of others and won people to Christ, including his mother. Even so, as a young man, he could

EVER INCREASING FAITH

not express himself well enough to give a short testimony in church, much less preach a sermon. Wigglesworth said that his mother had the same difficulty in expressing herself that he did. This family trait, coupled with the fact that he had no formal education because he began working twelve hours a day at the age of seven to help support the family, contributed to Wigglesworth's awkward speaking style. He became a plumber by trade, yet he continued to devote himself to winning many people to Christ on an individual basis.

In 1882, he married Polly Featherstone, a vivacious young woman who loved God and had a gift of preaching and evangelism. It was she who taught him to read and who became his closest confidant and strongest supporter. They both had compassion for the poor and needy in their community, and they opened a mission, at which Polly preached. Significantly, people were miraculously healed when Wigglesworth prayed for them.

In 1907, Wigglesworth's circumstances changed dramatically when, at the age of forty-eight, he was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Suddenly, he had a new power that enabled him to preach, and even his wife was amazed at the transformation. This was the beginning of what became a worldwide evangelistic and healing ministry that reached thousands. He eventually ministered in the United States, Australia, South Africa, and all over Europe. His ministry extended up to the time of his death in 1947.

Several emphases in Smith Wigglesworth's life and ministry characterize him: a genuine, deep compassion for the unsaved and sick; an unflinching belief in the Word of God; a desire that Christ should increase and he should decrease (John 3:30); a belief that he was called to exhort people to enlarge their faith and trust in God;

Introduction

an emphasis on the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit as in the early church; and a belief in complete healing for everyone of all sickness.

Smith Wigglesworth was called “The Apostle of Faith” because absolute trust in God was a constant theme of both his life and his messages. In his meetings, he would quote passages from the Word of God and lead lively singing to help build people’s faith and encourage them to act on it. He emphasized belief in the fact that God could do the impossible. He had great faith in what God could do, and God did great things through him.

Wigglesworth’s unorthodox methods were often questioned. As a person, Wigglesworth was reportedly courteous, kind, and gentle. However, he became forceful when dealing with the devil, whom he believed caused all sickness. Wigglesworth said the reason he spoke bluntly and acted forcefully with people was that he knew he needed to get their attention so they could focus on God. He also had such anger toward the devil and sickness that he acted in a seemingly rough way. When he prayed for people to be healed, he would often hit or punch them at the place of their problem or illness. Yet no one was hurt by this startling treatment. Instead, they were remarkably healed. When he was asked why he treated people in this manner, he said that he was not hitting the people but that he was hitting the devil. He believed that the devil should never be treated gently or allowed to get away with anything. About twenty people were reportedly raised from the dead after he prayed for them. Wigglesworth himself was healed of appendicitis and kidney stones, after which his brusque personality softened, and he was more gentle with those who came to him for prayer for healing. His abrupt manner as he

EVER INCREASING FAITH

ministered may be attributed to the fact that he was very serious about his calling and got down to business quickly.

Although Wigglesworth believed in complete healing, he encountered illnesses and deaths that were difficult to understand. These included the deaths of his wife and son, his daughter's lifelong deafness, and his own battles with kidney stones and sciatica.

He often seemed paradoxical: compassionate but forceful, blunt but gentle, a well-dressed gentleman whose speech was often ungrammatical or confusing. However, he loved God with everything he had, he was steadfastly committed to God and to His Word, and he didn't rest until he saw God move in the lives of those who needed Him.

In 1936, Smith Wigglesworth prophesied about what we now know as the charismatic movement. He accurately predicted that the established mainline denominations would experience revival and the gifts of the Spirit in a way that would surpass even the Pentecostal movement. Wigglesworth did not live to see the renewal, but as an evangelist and a prophet with a remarkable healing ministry, he had a tremendous influence on both the Pentecostal and charismatic movements, and his example and influence on believers is felt to this day.

Without the power of God that was so obviously present in his life and ministry, we might not be reading transcripts of his sermons, for his spoken messages were often disjointed and ungrammatical. However, true gems of spiritual insight shine through them because of the revelation he received through the Holy Spirit. It was his life of complete devotion and belief in God and his reliance on the Holy Spirit that brought the life-changing power of God into his messages.

Introduction

Because of Wigglesworth's unique style, the messages in this book have been edited for clarity, and archaic expressions that would be unfamiliar to modern readers have been updated. At his meetings, he would often speak in tongues and give the interpretation, and these interpretations have been included with his messages.

In conclusion, we hope that as you read these words of Smith Wigglesworth, you will truly sense his complete trust and unwavering faith in God and take to heart one of his favorite sayings: "Only believe!"

I

Have Faith in God

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. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

—Mark 11:23–24

These are days when we need to have our faith strengthened, when we need to know God. God has designed that the just will live by faith (Rom. 1:17). Any man can be changed by faith, no matter how he may be fettered. I know that God's Word is sufficient. One word from Him can change a nation. His Word is "*from everlasting to everlasting*" (Ps. 90:2). It is through the entrance of this everlasting Word, this incorruptible seed, that we are born again and come into this wonderful salvation. "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*" (Matt. 4:4). This is the food of faith. "*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*" (Rom. 10:17).

EVER INCREASING FAITH

God's Word Is Sure

Everywhere men are trying to discredit the Bible and take from it all that is miraculous in it. One preacher says, "Well, you know, Jesus arranged beforehand to have that colt tied where it was and for the men to say just what they did." (See Matthew 21:2-3.)

I tell you, God can arrange everything. He can plan for you, and when He plans for you, all is peace. All things are possible if you will believe (Mark 9:23).

Another preacher says, "It was an easy thing for Jesus to feed the people with five loaves. The loaves were so big in those days that it was a simple matter to cut them into a thousand pieces each." (See John 6:5-13.) But he forgets that one little boy brought those five loaves all the way in his lunch basket.

Nothing is impossible with God. All the impossibility is with us when we measure God by the limitations of our unbelief.

Reaching Out in Faith

We have a wonderful God, a God whose ways are past finding out and whose grace and power are limitless. I was in Belfast one day and saw one of the brothers of the assembly. He said to me, "Wigglesworth, I am troubled. I have had a good deal of sorrow during the past five months. I had a woman in my assembly who could always pray the blessing of heaven down on our meetings. She is an old woman, yet her presence is always an inspiration. Five months ago she fell and broke her leg. The doctors put her into a plaster cast, and after five months, they broke the cast off. However, the bones were not properly set, and so she fell and broke her thighbone again."

Have Faith in God

He took me to her house, and there was a woman lying in a bed on the right-hand side of the room. I said to her, "Well, what about it now?"

She said, "They have sent me home incurable. The doctors say that I am so old that my bones won't knit. They say there is no nutriment in my bones, and they will never be able to do anything for me. They say I will have to lie in bed for the rest of my life."

I said to her, "Can you believe God?"

She replied, "Yes, ever since I heard that you had come to Belfast my faith has been quickened. If you will pray, I will believe. I know there is no power on earth that can make the bones of my leg knit, but I know there is nothing impossible with God."

I said, "Do you believe He will meet you now?"

She answered, "I do."

It is grand to see people believe God. God knew all about this leg and that it was broken in two places. I said to the woman, "When I pray, something will happen."

Her husband was sitting there; he had been in his chair for four years and could not walk a step. He called out, "I don't believe. I won't believe. You will never get me to believe."

I said, "All right," and laid my hands on his wife in the name of the Lord Jesus.

The moment hands were laid upon her, the power of God went right through her, and she cried out, "I'm healed."

I said, "I'm not going to assist you to rise. God will do it all." She arose and walked up and down the room, praising God.

The old man was amazed at what had happened to his wife, and he cried out, "Make me walk; make me walk."

EVER INCREASING FAITH

I said to him, "You old sinner, repent."

He cried out, "Lord, you know I never meant what I said. Lord, You know I believe."

I don't think he meant what he said; the Lord was full of compassion anyway. If He marked our sins, where would any of us be? If we will meet the conditions, God will always meet us. If we believe, all things are possible.

I laid my hands on him, and the power went right through the old man's body. For the first time in four years, those legs received power to carry his body. He walked up and down and in and out of the room. He said, "Oh, what great things God has done for us tonight!"

"Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Desire God, and you will have desires from God. He will meet you on the line of those desires when you reach out in simple faith.

A man came to me in one of my meetings who had seen other people healed and wanted to be healed, too. He explained that his arm had been set in a certain position for many years, and he could not move it. "Got any faith?" I asked.

He said that he had a lot of faith. After prayer he was able to swing his arm round and round. But he was not satisfied and complained, "I feel a little bit of trouble just there," pointing to a certain place.

I said, "Do you know what the trouble is with you?"

He answered, "No."

I said, "Imperfect faith." *"Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."*

Did you believe before you were saved? So many people want to be saved, but they want to feel saved

Have Faith in God

first. There never was a man who felt saved before he believed. God's plan is always as follows: if you will believe, you will see the glory of God (John 11:40). I believe God wants to bring us all to a definite place of unswerving faith and confidence in Himself.

In our text from Mark, Jesus uses the illustration of a mountain. Why does He speak of a mountain? If faith can remove a mountain, it can remove anything. The plan of God is so marvelous that if you will only believe, all things are possible.

Love Has No Doubts

There is one special phrase from our text to which I want to call your attention: *"And does not doubt in his heart."* The heart is the mainspring. Imagine a young man and a young woman. They have fallen in love at first sight. In a short while there is a deep affection and a strong heart love, the one toward the other. What is a heart of love? It is a heart of faith. Faith and love are kin. In the measure that the young man and the young woman love one another, they are true. One may go to the North and the other to the South, but because of their love, they will be true to one another.

It is the same when there is a deep love in the heart toward the Lord Jesus Christ. In this new life into which God has brought us, Paul told us that we have become dead to the law by the body of Christ, so that we should be married to another, even to Him who is raised from the dead (Rom. 7:4). God brings us into a place of perfect love and perfect faith. A man who is born of God is brought into an inward affection, a loyalty to the Lord Jesus that shrinks from anything impure. You see the purity of a man and woman when there is a deep natural

EVER INCREASING FAITH

affection between them; they disdain the very thought of either of them being untrue. In the same way, in the measure that a man has faith in Jesus, he is pure. He who believes that Jesus is the Christ overcomes the world (1 John 5:5). It is a faith that works by love (Gal. 5:6).

Just as we have heart fellowship with our Lord, our faith cannot be daunted. We cannot doubt in our hearts. As we go on with God, there comes a wonderful association, an impartation of His very life and nature within. As we read His Word and believe the promises that He has so graciously given to us, we are made partakers of His very essence and life. The Lord is made a Bridegroom to us, and we are His bride. His words to us are spirit and life (John 6:63), transforming us and changing us, expelling what is natural and bringing in what is divine.

It is impossible to comprehend the love of God when we think along natural lines. We must have the revelation from the Spirit of God. God gives liberally. He who asks, receives (Matt. 7:8). God is willing to bestow on us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). Oh, it was the love of God that brought Jesus, and it is this same love that helps you and me to believe. God will be your strength in every weakness (2 Cor. 12:9–10). You who need His touch, remember that He loves you. If you are wretched, helpless, or sick, look to the God of all grace, whose very essence is love, who delights to give liberally all the inheritance of life and strength and power of which you are in need.

Be Cleansed Today

When I was in Switzerland, the Lord was graciously working and healing many of the people. I was staying

Have Faith in God

with Brother Reuss of Goldiwil, and two policemen were sent to his home to arrest me. The charge was that I was healing the people without a license. Mr. Reuss said to them, "I am sorry that he is not here just now; he is holding a meeting about two miles away. But before you arrest him, I would like to show you something."

Brother Reuss took these two policemen down to one of the rougher parts of that district, to a house with which they were familiar, for they had often gone to that place to arrest a certain woman who was repeatedly an inmate of the prison because of continually being engaged in drunken brawls. He took them to this woman and said to them, "This is one of the many cases of blessing that have come through the ministry of the man you have come to arrest. This woman came to our meeting in a drunken condition. Her body was broken, for she was ruptured in two places. While she was drunk, the evangelist laid his hands on her and asked God to heal her and deliver her."

The woman joined in, "Yes, and God saved me, and I have not tasted a drop of liquor since."

The policemen had a prepared warrant for my arrest, but they said with disgust, "Let the doctors do this kind of thing." They turned and went away, and that was the last we heard of them.

We have a Jesus who heals the brokenhearted, who lets the captives go free, who saves the very worst. Do you dare spurn this glorious Gospel of God for spirit, soul, and body? Do you dare spurn this grace? I realize that this full Gospel has in great measure been hidden, this Gospel that brings liberty, this Gospel that brings souls out of bondage, this Gospel that brings perfect health to the body, this Gospel of entire salvation. Listen again to the words of Him who left glory to bring us this

EVER INCREASING FAITH

great salvation: *"Assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed,'...he will have whatever he says."* Whatever!

I realize that God can never bless us when we are being hard-hearted, critical, or unforgiving. These things will hinder faith quicker than anything. I remember being at a meeting where there were some people waiting for the baptism and seeking for cleansing, for the moment a person is cleansed the Spirit will fall. There was one man who had red eyes from weeping bitterly. He said to me, "I will have to leave. It is no good my staying unless I change things. I have written a letter to my brother-in-law and filled it with hard words, and this thing must first be straightened out."

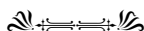
He went home and told his wife, "I'm going to write a letter to your brother and ask him to forgive me for writing to him the way I did."

"You fool!" she said.

"Never mind," he replied, "this thing is between God and me, and it has got to be cleared away." He wrote the letter and came again, and immediately God filled him with the Spirit.

I believe there are a great many people who want to be healed, but they are harboring things in their hearts that are like a blight. Let these things go. Forgive, and the Lord will forgive you. There are many good people, people who mean well, but they have no power to do anything for God. There is just some little thing that came in their hearts years ago, and their faith has been paralyzed ever since.

Bring everything to the light. God will sweep it all away if you will let Him. Let the precious blood of Christ cleanse you from all sin. If you will only believe, God will meet you and bring into your life the sunshine of His love.



Healings in New Zealand

We have received numerous testimonies of those healed in the meeting conducted by Brother Smith Wigglesworth at Wellington, New Zealand. Mrs. E. Curtis of Christchurch, New Zealand, was suffering with septic poisoning. She had become only a skeleton, and the doctors could do nothing for her. She had agonizing pains all day and all night. She was healed immediately when prayer was made for her. She states that for the past sixteen years, she has been a martyr to pain but is now wonderfully well.

Another testified to healing of deafness, goiter, adenoids, and bad eyesight. Another woman testified to healing of double curvature of the spine from infancy, hip disease, weak heart, and a leg lengthened three inches, which grew out normal like the other leg. It had been also three inches less in circumference. She had worn a large boot with a built-up sole, but now she walks on even-soled shoes, the large boot having been discarded. Another was healed of a goiter through an anointed handkerchief.

—from *The Pentecostal Evangel*