

There must be a point of contact before we have electricity. There must be a circuit; there must be a point of contact before it takes effect. So with our faith in God, there must be a point of contact — there must be a time when we believe the thing takes place."

# Faith

## and the Point of Contact



By Tommy Hicks

REGARDLESS of what you want from God, you need a point of contact. To illustrate this truth, I want to read a passage from the fifth chapter of Mark.

*"And when Jesus had passed over again by the ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto Him, and he was nigh unto the sea."*

*"And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him he fell at his feet and besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death. I pray thee come and lay Thy hands on her that she may live."—Mark 5:21-23.*

And Jesus said, "I will come and heal her." Thank God for His will to come and heal. Notice also what Jairus said, "Come and lay thy hands on her and she shall live."

Jesus Christ went on His way to do as Jairus wanted him to do: that is, lay his hands on the girl that she might be healed, and much people followed Him and thronged Him. The crowds were tremendous. Let me read what happened as Jesus went on that errand of mercy.

*"And a certain woman which had an issue of blood twelve years and had suffered many things from many physicians and had spent all that she had and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse. And when she heard of Jesus, came in the press behind and touched His garments for she said, 'If I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole.'—Mark 5:25-28.*

### The Woman Who Touched Him

One had said, "Come lay Thy hands on her" and while Jesus was in the act of going to heal the daughter, this woman who was suffering with the issue of blood of twelve years, said, "If I can just touch the hem of His garment." Now there is something I want you to notice. This must become real to you, before you can receive anything from God. Faith must have a point of contact before it is real

faith. Notice one said, "Lay Thy hands on her"; the other said, "If I can just touch the hem of His garment." The woman did not ask the Lord to lay hands on her, but see what happened. "And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up" and she felt in her body that she was healed, and Jesus, immediately knowing within Himself that virtue had gone out of Him, turned Him about in the press and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And His disciples said unto Him, "Thou seest the multitude thronging Thee and sayest Thou 'Who touched Me' and He looked about to see her that had done this thing, but the woman trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the truth.

Now look at this thought. Jesus was in that press, in that crowd, in that jostling throng. If she had just hit Him or bumped Him extra hard, there would have been every reason why He would have noticed her, but He turned around and said, "Who touched my clothes?" The disciples in effect said, "Look at all this crowd, jostling and crowding around. Then you ask who touched Me?" But Jesus said, "Somebody touched me." Many people are jostling in the crowd and just a few are coming by faith and touching Jesus. After I go away from this revival meeting somebody will say, "How many people were healed?" I can tell you exactly. As many as really touch God are made whole. Some are reaching out by faith and touching Him. He said to the woman, "It was not His faith—the faith of the Son of God—it was her faith." "Thy faith hath made thee whole. Go in peace and be whole."

### Laying On of Hands Point of Contact

I want you to read the rest of this. Notice the compassion, the love, and the feeling that Jesus now manifests to the ruler of the synagogue. While He yet spake, "There came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, 'Thy daughter is dead, why troublest

thou the Master any further?"

As soon as Jesus heard the words spoken, He said unto the ruler of the synagogue, "Be not afraid, only believe!" We find this ruler of the synagogue said unto Jesus, "Come and lay Thy hands on my daughter and she shall live." His faith would never have operated until Jesus came and laid His hands on her. His faith would not have taken hold because there was no point of contact, until he saw Jesus lay His hands on his daughter. Then, and only then, would his faith take hold, and while he was on the way to do this for the ruler, this woman who had the issue of blood said, "I will just touch the hem of His garment." Now, have you seen the difference in the faith of the two? This woman had far more faith than Jairus did, but there is one point that is just the same: the touch of Jesus. Oh, if she had missed the clothes or the hem of His garment, she would have missed her healing! Because her faith operated from this point of contact, if she would have missed it the first time perhaps she would have tried again. No doubt she had to press hard to get to Christ, to get through the throng; she might have had to push Peter out of the way, or John the beloved.

Sometimes you have to push through the crowd; sometimes you have to push your relatives aside; sometimes your preacher has to be pushed out of the way to get something from the Lord. You touch Jesus and you will be all right. Both of them had a point of contact. One said, "Lay your hands," the other said, "If I can touch."

### I Will Come

Now, before we look at our last point of contact, I want you to notice something wonderful about Jesus. WHILE HE WAS HERE ON EARTH HE MADE HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO ALL HUMANITY. Did it ever occur to you that while He was here He answered every request that was ever given Him, regardless of who they were or what they wanted. If we could only get people to realize that this is true, that even in this day Jesus makes Himself available to suffering humanity. When He was on earth, one said, "Come" and He came; another said "Go" and He went. Regardless of who called, He answered that request. IF YOU WILL CALL, regardless of what your need may be, remember these words, He has made Himself available to you and to all humanity.

### The Centurian's Faith

Turn with me to the eighth chapter of Matthew, beginning with the fifth verse. "And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto Him a Centurian beseeching Him and saying, 'Lord, my servant lieth at home, sick of the palsy, grievously tormented,' and Jesus said unto him, 'I will come and heal him.'"

I love that statement. I have it underscored. The Will of God. Isn't that wonderful? Jesus never turned anyone away. He will meet every need, every time, and all the time. "The Centurian answered Him, saying, 'Lord, I am not worthy that Thou should come under my roof, but speak the word only and my servant shall be healed!'" That fellow had more faith than all the rest. He gave the statement "I am a man under authority, hav-

...in this man. Go and say to the other 'Do this' and he will be healed." When Jesus heard him, he marvelled and said to them that followed, "Verily I say unto you I have not found so great faith; no, not in Israel."

#### Different Points of Contact

There was one thing in all three of these cases that is the same. One had more faith than the other; the first had the least; the second had more; the third had more than the other two combined. It was not necessary for Christ to lay His hands on him—not necessary to touch him. He said, "Lord, you just say the word, and my servant shall be healed." Jesus said, "I have not found so great faith; no, not in Israel." This is the point I want to you see. There must be a point of contact before we have electricity. There must be a circuit; there must be a point of contact before it takes effect. So with our faith in coming to God, there must be a point of contact. There must be a time when we believe the thing takes place.

You who come to God, believe now. You say that is wrong. That is believing you have it when you do not have it. And so it sounds. The Bible to man's wisdom is foolishness; it does not seem right. When you read that verse, "What things soever ye desire, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them"—(not that you are going to receive them) but YE SHALL HAVE THEM. When you believe, it is no longer the horse ahead of the cart. You always have it when you believe. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. The man who has perfect faith, has the goods at hand whether it looks like it or not. The act of faith is the point of contact.

#### God Honors His Word

Once I prayed for a man who was afflicted with rheumatism. He was crippled up pretty badly. He had a time getting up on the platform. After praying for him I said, "Stamp your feet down and see how you feel." He looked at me and smiling he said, "Brother, it doesn't make any difference how it feels. God's word said 'they shall recover.' God's word is

good enough for me and was I be afraid of preaching His own Word. God will bless and honor His own Word.

One night in our meetings, there was an old man sitting in a wheel chair, who for over 17 years could not get out of it by himself. The night before, I had preached on this subject, *A Point of Contact*. He made up his mind that he was going to establish a point of contact. He did. It was this. When he felt the quickening power of God touch his body, he was going to move out of that wheel chair. It happened in the middle of my message. He threw up both hands, straightened that body, began moving out of the chair. He made it, staggering at first, almost stumbling. Then perfect balance came. That great congregation stood to their feet and wept for joy.

Establish now within you a point of contact and follow through. Do not look back but close your case for victory—Now—it is now and as you believe, God causes the old to go and the new to come. Are you ready?



## Startling Incidents and Amazing Answers to Prayer

#### The Dead Raised Up

WHEN I was a little lad there was a very notorious place in the town where I lived in South Wales, which was noted for Sin and evil of every kind. The police would never go there singly but in pairs and whenever I had to pass the place I was always afraid.

After my salvation, God laid this part of the town on my heart to visit it with the Gospel and after much prayer with two others I went there but not without fear and trembling. We took banners with Gospel texts on, and were very coldly received, but eventually it became one of our regular open-air meeting places. During the meetings I used to go into the homes (if they could be called such, conditions were so bad). I praise God, however, that I was enabled to have the joy of leading a good number to the Lord. Praise His Name!

One Saturday evening we were holding our usual meeting when a man, whose wife I had led to the Lord on her death-bed, came up and spoke to me. He said, "Pastor George, there is a young man dying in that house there." I thought that our singing was disturbing him and he said, "No, I only wanted you to know." I then asked him to go and see if I could go in and visit him and seeing that the answer was, "Yes," I went in and took another sister with me.

When we entered the room (a living room) we found that there were two elderly people sitting by a fire grate with

room, which was lit only by candles, there was a bed and upon it was a young man 23 years of age covered over with a white sheet having been left for dead by two doctors.

I asked them if I could pray and they just nodded, so I prayed that God would reveal himself to the young man in saving his soul. There was no sign of movement. The sister I had brought with me then followed me in prayer and directly after she had prayed, there was a movement and the young man took the sheet off his face himself. There was no life in his eyes however; they were heavy and dull as lead.

I went near him and spoke about the love of God and Jesus dying on the Cross of Calvary for him. After this I quoted a prayer for him to repeat but there was no sound. As I was praying, however, a light came back to his eyes (praise God) and then he gripped me by the hand and there was a smile.

The next day being Sunday, I asked the sister to call in on the way to church in order to find out how he was. That morning after our Breaking of Bread service we had a time for testimonies and the sister was the first to give a testimony. She had called at the house that morning and was told that within half an hour of our leaving the previous night he was up at the table eating an egg. Praise God.

The young man came to our church and testified of what the Lord had done. This young man is alive today, is married, and

has a family.

Yours in the Master's Service,  
—W. George, Pastor.

#### God Heard and Answered My Prayer

IN my twenties, while in college, I suffered a serious breakdown in health. This left me with very little money. I decided to go west, take a homestead claim, and live an outdoor life. I taught a small country school, and walking six miles did me good. I married a wonderful Kansas girl, and leaving Colorado, we took a larger claim with more advantages in Northeastern Wyoming. Through some years of hard work and careful planning we developed this into something of a "ranch." We had several reverses and not being a real rancher, we decided to sell out. We had three growing children whom we wanted to give better opportunities than this range country offered. They grew up and went their way. My wife taught in the high schools of surrounding towns, and I spent most of my time alone looking after the chickens, farm upkeep, and so on, but little extra help. Land was rather slow selling and for several years I tried my best to find a buyer but "No." With all of this over-work I again felt the danger of a complete breakdown. I was a believer, and daily read my Bible. Finally in desperation, I decided to test God's Word to the test. At this time, this morning after the chores were done

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