

## THE CALL OF GOD

I was born 17th January, 1942, at Palmerston North, New Zealand, and was brought up on a farm milking cows, raising sheep, pigs and turkeys. At 17 years of age I was saved in an Independent Pentecostal Church, after being brought up a very nominal Presbyterian.

After a short time I backslid for about 6 months and that was the most miserable time of my life! Then, at 18 years of age, God spoke to me (when still backslidden) and called me to serve Him. It happened the same day that the preacher I was saved under (Mr. Albert Hague) died. I clearly heard these words impressed into my spirit: "Somebody has to take his place." In a moment of time I knew that "somebody" was me! The power of that word turned me back to God.

I got baptized in water by full immersion, and then sought the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The fear of man, plus other inferiorities and insecurities, hindered me from receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in the presence of other Christians. A month or two later I was sovereignly filled with the Holy Spirit at 5:30 a.m. one morning while rounding up the cows for milking. I began speaking with other tongues as fluently and clearly as though I had been speaking them all my life.

That morning God spoke to me the second time and told me He "was raising me up to be a minister of the Gospel, and that His sign to me was that He would open doors for me to preach right away." That is what happened, and I have been preaching ever since.

In my first year of being a Holy Spirit-filled Christian, the Lord spoke to me and gave me what I call the "Prophetic Foundation for my life and ministry." He said this to me: "If you will get

to know My voice, and will do what I ask you, there is nowhere in this world where you and I cannot go together, and we not be successful." From that day to this, getting to know God's voice in my life has been top priority. God wants to display His power and majesty amongst us, and He does it through our obedience to what He asks of us.

## LEARNING TO LOVE ALL PEOPLE WITH THE LOVE OF GOD

To be a Christian means to be a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. That means we adhere to His teachings and seek to please Him in whatever He asks of us.

In John 13:34-35 Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Here we see one of the most important statements of all Christianity. Jesus said it is a new commandment. That means it supersedes all previous commandments. All other commandments are fulfilled in the keeping of this new one. Living right before God means loving right!

My testimony is that I had been a preacher for 16 years when God "stopped me in my tracks" one day when He spoke these words to me: "I am going to teach you how to love people." I was shocked and reacted to God by telling Him I did love people.

In the next few moments the faces of five or six Christians that I did not like passed clearly through my mind. Following those faces were the words: "How can a man say he loves God whom he has not seen, if he does not love his brothers and sisters whom he has seen? I want

you to know that your love for God is only as great as your love for people!"

In a few moments I was brought to a place where I realized how I had wrongly been developing my Christian walk. I had spent hours and hours seeking the face of God, pouring over the Scriptures, never missing church meetings, etc. I had separated my relationship with God as being different to my relationship with people. It so impacted me that it seemed my Christian life was about to start all over again.

I had no idea how I could learn to love people. But I was soon to find out. God started sending to me the unlovely people of this world, criminals, etc., who were asking for my help. I heard many confessions of things that people had done, and how they could not continue to live with themselves. They cried out to me for help. Little by little the Lord helped me to identify with them, and to help them. It changed my heart and my life.

As a result of three death contracts coming on my life (I got to know a lot of what was going on in the underworld, which threatened the "Mr. Big's" and they tried to silence me). I proved the power of the love of Jesus was real.

The Bible says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). God made Jean, my wife, and I unafraid of the threats and contracts of evil people against us. Hallelujah!

## THE LOVE OF GOD MUST BE IN YOU!

I remember speaking at a Bible School and asking a young man what he felt his calling in God was. He replied that he was called to be a pastor. I then asked him if he loved people. His

reply was "No." I then told him he would not make a good pastor unless he loved people. He was not very impressed at what I said. But the fact is it is true! It is tragic when Christianity becomes more professional than real!

I had to learn to love people and so do you. It was not a gift that I suddenly knew how to love everyone. If I am really honest, I think God took the next 10 years of my life to readjust and change me, change my attitudes, change my criticisms of those who lived different lives to me, etc. It then changed my ministry to a much more impacting and real one to touch people right in their hearts in a positive way. The result is that today we are ministering to multiplied thousands around the world, motivated by that love of Jesus that He commanded us to have.

Jesus said it is by our love for one another that all men will know we are His disciples! Think about this! LOVE is the only identifying thing in Christianity that speaks to all men everywhere. People have no conviction about us being followers of Jesus until they can see, feel and experience that love of Jesus coming from us ~ you and me! Surely, if we genuinely want to see our generation come to Jesus Christ, then the key to it is in the Christians' ability to love one another!

#### PRAYER OF SALVATION

If you have not received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, please do so now:

***"Dear God, I come to You in the name of Jesus Christ Your only begotten Son. I ask You to forgive me of all my sins and ignorance of Your ways. Come into my life, reveal Yourself to me so that I will know without any doubt at all that You love me unconditionally and sent Jesus Christ into***

***this world to save and change me into a child of God. Cleanse me with Your Precious Blood, Lord Jesus, so that I can stand clean and whole in Your presence. Thank You for hearing my prayer and coming into my life. Fill me with the power of Your Holy Spirit so that I may live for You and be Your witness to bring the answer to others. In Jesus' name I pray this, Amen."***

#### MINISTRY RESOURCES

My ministry strengths are in the area of encouragement, imparting Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Prophetic Ministry, inspiring others to know who they are in Jesus Christ, and to fulfil their destiny through knowing who they are in God, and who God is in them. "Equipping for Leadership into the Nations through the Power of the Holy Spirit" is our Ministry motto.

Rodney W. Francis founded "The Gospel Faith Messenger" Ministry in April, 1964. He has produced a wide range of Holy Spirit anointed Christian material over the years. This material has helped thousands of people around the world to "Grow in the Word of God." You can access this ministry through the internet.

**[www.gospel.org.nz](http://www.gospel.org.nz)**

For our free Bible Correspondence Courses, please contact:

**The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry  
PO Box 5601, Frankton, Hamilton 3242  
New Zealand**

E-mail: [gfbiblecourses@gospel.org.nz](mailto:gfbiblecourses@gospel.org.nz)

**LOVE**

**ONE ANOTHER**



**The ministry of  
RODNEY FRANCIS**