

Experience  
the  
Impossible

Simple Ways to  
*Unleash Heaven's Power on Earth*

BILL JOHNSON



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*I dedicate this book to Kris and Kathy Vallotton.*

*Your love, friendship and partnership  
in life and ministry  
have made an immeasurable difference  
in my life for these past 35+ years.  
With great love and affection, thanks.*

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# Introduction

God expects every believer to experience the impossible. Does that in itself sound impossible? Take heart! It is His presence upon us that makes the impossible possible. Our job is to realize, first, that God is truly with us, and, second, that He wants us to complete every assignment within the Great Commission for His name and His glory.

Where do we begin? Where is the garden in which we abide as we grow and bear this Kingdom fruit?

This book of short readings will, I pray, help answer that question. Based on one of the most well-known and well-loved verses in the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13:13, we will explore faith, hope and love. These three aspects of Jesus' grace upon us—and in us—are the rich earth and rain and sunshine that help us grow into His likeness and, like Him, unleash heaven's power on earth.

*Faith* connects us to the power issue. It is faith that enables the work of God to be done through us effectively. Everyone has been given a measure of faith. What we do with what we have determines the extent to which we move in power. *Without faith we cannot please God.*

*Hope* is the joyful anticipation of good. It is the place where faith grows. It is one of the most important attitudes and values—true Christlikeness. Hope comes from discovering Jesus' perfect

## INTRODUCTION

goodness, encountering Him and His perfect promises. *Without hope it is impossible to live life to its potential.*

*Love* changes everything. Without love we see only hopelessness. Without love we do not have the character to employ faith. Love finds God's promises. Love looks for solutions from a Father who loves perfectly. *Without love we see only law and miss His desire to grace us into victory.*

Each of the 79 entries in this book explores these pivotal topics and ends with a prayer and confession. If we can truly believe that God is with us, we will not only hear His call to walk in Kingdom power, but expect to do so.

Jesus commissioned us to heal the sick, raise the dead and much more. He said that nothing shall be impossible to us. It is time to take the Master at His word, and experience the impossible in His name, for His glory.

# 1



## Faith

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Faith does not come from striving;  
it comes from surrender.

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God is always looking for the sacrifice of the heart, for it is the yielded heart that believes. Faith comes from the heart, not the mind. Living a life of surrender to God can only result in ever-increasing faith. This place of surrender is an expression of dependence on God.

Such dependence comes from humility, which basically means “to see ourselves as He does.” Dependence is surrender made manifest. It is what true humility looks like. So, then, faith and humility are related.

Faith is not a product of human intelligence or endeavor. It is not the product of our labors, or it would be of human origin. Faith is otherworldly, firmly anchored in the nature, presence and promises of God. Learning to come before Him in awe, knowing we are accepted by Him, is vital to great faith. Faith is not a product separate from Him, but is instead *because* of Him. Faith is the result of His nature having an impact on the heart of the believer.

The priests of the Old Testament could not wear wool in God’s presence as wool might have made them sweat. They

were instructed to wear linen. The picture is fairly clear—we cannot come before God through our own labors (sweat). We must come before Him through His labors, which were designed to make us acceptable before Him.

Faith is called both a fruit and a gift of the Spirit. You have never heard a fruit tree groan and travail to produce fruit. Growing fruit is the evidence that the tree is holding its place (abiding) in the soil in order to receive nutrients, sunlight and moisture correctly. In the same way, those who abide in Christ cannot help but grow in faith as the result of being continually exposed to His nature through His Word and His manifest presence. It is as natural a result as it is for an apple tree to produce apples.

When I find that I am anxious, I ask myself the all-important question, Where did I lose my peace? If I can answer that one, I am usually able to spot the lie I believed that brought about such conflict in my soul. Confession and forsaking sin follow, which is what God uses to restore peace. And that place of peace is the place where faith matures.

### **Prayer**

*Father, I acknowledge that Jesus made it possible for me to come before You. This privilege was not something I could have earned. So I rest in the accomplishments of Jesus on my behalf. I also recognize that in my surrender to You, Your heart becomes manifest through me. And that is my great desire. Be glorified in and through me this day!*

### **Confession**

*I choose to live a surrendered life today, believing that God will be glorified in who I am and all I do. I live this way because I am highly favored of the Lord. His peace—the atmosphere of heaven—is my portion.*

# 2



## Hope

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### The presence of the Lord upon us positions us for miracles.

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Many times throughout the Bible, the Lord spoke to His servants saying He would be with them. Sometimes He even described it this way: “The Spirit of the Lord came upon them.” I once made a list of every such encounter recorded in Scripture. I found an interesting truth: Whenever the Lord said He would be with someone, it meant he had just been given an impossible assignment.

God gave such a promise to Moses. It was connected to his assignment to lead Israel out of Egypt and out of the cruel control of Pharaoh into the Promised Land. A similar word was given to Joshua, the one who took over when Moses was not allowed into the Promised Land. Joshua was assigned to lead them into their inheritance, in spite of giants and other fearful enemies. The same promise was given to Gideon, who was then to deliver a weak and humiliated Israel from the powerfully oppressive hand of the Midianites. And again the same was given to the eleven remaining disciples in the Great Commission in Matthew 28. It was tied to their assignment to *disciple*

*nations*. The implications of the promised presence are staggering. God’s presence requires something from us—the invasion into the impossible.

Something is always expected *from us* when God is revealed to be *with us*. It is a grave mistake to think the Holy Spirit is among us simply to comfort or encourage. That is a given. He is also present to make possible the impossible task in front of us! Perhaps this is part of what the apostle Paul wanted us to see when he asked God to show us the hope of our calling (see Ephesians 1:18–19).

One of my favorite verses, one that has had the most impact on me, has to do with Jesus, the eternal Son of God:

“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

Acts 10:38

This verse gives us a synopsis of what is already revealed throughout the gospels: Jesus healed and delivered all who came to Him. It also reveals that sickness is from the devil. But the Holy Spirit wanted to make sure we know what made healing and deliverance possible: “For God was with Him.” Although Jesus is eternally God, and never stopped being God, the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to pen this phrase, *for God was with Him*. This statement shows us that it was the same for Jesus as it was for our heroes in the Old Testament. When God is with someone, he is expected and enabled to invade the impossible. This helps us to connect with our God-given assignment by realizing and discovering His presence upon us, which makes the impossible possible.

Often when I see 10:38 on a clock, I stop and direct my heart to God and give Him thanks for the revelation of the nature and

## HOPE

promise of God found in the life of Jesus. Interestingly, while writing on this quote, I looked at the clock on my phone, and it is 10:38. I am thankful for this Scripture that will ignite the hearts of many to invade the impossible in His name and for His glory—for God is truly with us!

Jesus started His ministry with a bold confession: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to . . .” (Luke 4:18). The confession that started His ministry also revealed the nature of His ministry. It was to bring freedom to people, and it was because of the presence of the Spirit of God upon Him.

### **Prayer**

*Help me to become more aware of Your presence upon me as the hope of my calling into the impossible. Help me to see my assignment as being impossible, so that I do not become confident in my abilities instead of Yours. Let this be a day of great breakthrough as I discover the wonder of being the temple of the Holy Spirit.*

### **Confession**

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me for the same reason He rested upon Jesus. I embrace the call to the impossible, that God may be glorified in all the earth.*