

## **“All Hands On Deck”**

(part two - interrupted)

This week I was going to add a couple of points I didn't have room for last week, but something happened last night I feel I need to share with you instead. For quite a few years, I have had problems with, well, I'm not sure what. It's like I have a little "ball of energy" roaming around inside of me - usually in my stomach or "gut" area, especially when I am doing a lot of physical work or when I'm (once again) trying to get too much done with too little time to do it.

Recently, I had my gallbladder looked at, and because the surgeon thought it's part of my problem, it's probably going to be removed in the very near future. I was doing really well for several weeks, then a couple of days ago started having problems again, and last evening, I thought if it kept getting progressively worse, I was going to have to go to the ER. One of the biggest burdens in my prayer life is praying for those who need healing, but I rarely pray for myself. I think many of us have faith to believe for healing in others, but sadly, not so much for ourselves.

The day after He cursed the fig tree and it died, Jesus replied to an astonished Peter: *Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer (whatever!!), believe you have received it, and it will be yours.* Let me tell you - last night, I was ready to pray and BELIEVE! So, I actually shut off the TV, put my reading material aside, and here's (as I remember) what I prayed - I laid my hand on the area of distress and asked Jesus to cover my hand with His - just as if He were laying His hands on me!

I asked "Would You replace my affliction with Your healing power? Would You replace my discomfort with Your Comfort? Would You replace my fears and uncertainties with Your faith? Would You replace my anxieties with Your peace? Would You replace my weariness with Your strength, and my weakness with Your power? Just a few minutes after I prayed, I could actually feel the difference! He literally touched me and answered my prayers - because I **believed!**

My hope in sharing this is that if you, like me, sometimes struggle to believe that God will really hear you and come through for you, especially if you're praying for yourself, remember what Jesus said and exercise your "mustard seed" grain of faith, expecting Him to answer, and like I was, I hope you're pleasantly surprised, however, and whenever your answer arrives! Believe and receive! Amen!

Jesus wasn't what the Jews expected - expand on them wanting a warrior

Jesus' responses weren't what Satan expected - expand on what Jesus went through (weakness) but he stood on the word

Satan doesn't expect much from us since he has deceived the majority

We need to defeat him with an unexpected surprise attack with the sword of the Spirit