

THE NARROW ROAD

Volume 9

Questions and Answers



RAF SHAW

The Narrow Road Series

Salvation

Hear and Obey

The Power in the Word

Becoming Useful Vessels

The Pillars of Cloud and Fire

The Weapons of Our Warfare

Faith

Bearing Fruit

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Fore-Word

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But **small is the gate, and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.**

John 15:7,8

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Revelation 12:10

For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down – he who accuses them day and night before our God. They have conquered them by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

I would like to thank my wife and children for their support in the living out of these testimonies, and to my dear sisters in Christ Pauline and Caitlin for collating and editing these testimonies into book form.

I have decided to bring these to print as a legacy for my children, grandchildren and brothers and sisters in the Lord as a map of God's principles and testimonies of our journey here on earth.

I believe that in years to come as my relatives hear of our exploits in the Holy Spirit, and their hunger in God is sparked, they will want to know what secrets of God we discovered.

I believe that these testimonies will cause them to search for the truth.

- Raf

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Why is it that when we lead someone to the Lord and there are sincere conversions and sincere prayer on our part and we pray for healing that we don't see miracles?

Sometimes we won't see the physical healing. It doesn't mean that it hasn't happened. Every time we pray, something happens.

The other thing that I've found over the time that I've been ministering is that there's a price to pay for the anointing. The price generally is a given-over life. A lifestyle of giving over our life. I started to find this out a few years ago when I was fasting.

I started fasting and I would see the power of God flow through me. Not that fasting twisted God's arm but it changed me and allowed my spirit man to rise up.

The Lord put in my heart that it's not the length of the fast but it's fasting to let our spirit man grow. Fasting purges us. So three day fasts are as effective as twenty one day fasts but some people have difficulty doing a twenty one day fast.

If we're genuine and take it before God and do a three day fast, it's going to generate as much power in us and we can do it more regularly.

We can do seven lots of three days over a period of six weeks. If we get into a continual lifestyle of allowing our spirit man to rise up past our flesh we'll find that it releases power when we most need it.

It might mean losing sleep, getting up to spend time before God – it's just putting our flesh out of the way and spending the time with the Lord saying, "Lord, I'm going to set this time aside for You." That's our living sacrifice (Romans 12:1). I find that that releases the power of God. It kills the unbelief in us so that when we do pray, we believe.

We don't see things because it's basically unbelief in our hearts but God does still do things. He can bypass our unbelief. I've seen Him do things that I couldn't believe for and thought were impossible because of my natural eyes.

When I was praying for an elephant face to shrink and was looking at it, I was praying because I knew that He said He could. I know that He can do things

supernaturally. I also know that if we prepare ourselves the chances are that God will use us more often.

Years ago I was finding it difficult to fast for twenty one days. Fourteen days was difficult. But short bursts were ok. I found that if I did them often enough it was cumulative in the Spirit.

I don't know why it's cumulative but if we put our flesh out of the way we're building up a credit. Our spirit is growing and it keeps on growing. The more we do, our spirit grows past our flesh because our flesh is being suppressed and dying.

I realised that if I could fast every second day for six months, or even twelve months, I would have done half a year's fast which would really benefit me. So I actually did that for three or four months and I ended up in Melbourne at a meeting.

Everybody that we prayed for was healed. So there's a key there.

Q: When I got saved in the early 70's tongues and also tongues and interpretation were quite common, as was prophecy in the church but I've found over the years that they've actually dwindled away and there wasn't any power.

Why it's not in the church today, I believe is because people haven't done it often enough to see the benefit. Some people just don't see the benefit of tongues.

They pray and they find it tough. They don't understand what's happening to them but they're actually generating the power that they need.

They will get to the place where their spirit man is going past their flesh but if they don't understand that, they give up.

If they think that this doesn't work, they shelve it. But if ever we get past that barrier, we'll know.

We must realise that we cannot switch the other gifts on – it has to be the Holy Spirit leading us.

A lot of people aren't sensitive to that. They don't speak in tongues. We were in a church on Sunday where a lady broke out in tongues and interpreted her own tongue.

That edifies the church. That's the gift that brings edification to the church and brings correction. So it's necessary. We can't turn the other gifts on.

Speaking in tongues edifies us but we can't switch the other gifts on. We can switch tongues for edification on and off.

The Holy Spirit can take us into intercession. Intercession is standing in the gap for someone who's on their way to hell. It's a different level of tongues. It's a privilege that the Holy Spirit would pick us up and put us in that. We're actually fighting for someone's life. But we can't switch it on – it's the Holy Spirit.

The burden is there and we can't get rid of it until the intercession is done.

My wife has a passion and compassion for people. She's quiet but she's the steadying influence in our lives.

When we were working on our worksites my wife was home praying. She didn't understand what she was doing but she was praying for what was

happening on the worksites. She would come on the sites and would just start weeping.

I asked her what would bring that on and she said that it would happen whenever she started praying in tongues. She said, "I can't not do it. I have to."

That was for a time and it was all the time that we were on that site. Her prayers brought so many people through: we may have been doing the work but she was praying.

When He puts it on us to intercede there is nothing we can do but pray. There's no prayer that's so powerful but the prayer of the Spirit.

Our 'normal worldly' prayers work – we get answers for them but the prayer in the spirit is God praying on our behalf. He knows exactly what it is that is needed. He's been given to us for that purpose, as a comforter and a helper to bring us through. He knows exactly what it is that we need to deal with.

The two keys that God has given us are prayer and fasting. Everything we've done is based on that.

Including the work we've started. We wouldn't move until God said to do something. He said to buy the land so we bought the land. Whatever He says, we'll do. If we do it in our own strength it just doesn't seem to work.

Q: With a decision like that – buy or sell the land – do you get confirmation from other leaders before you do?

I get all of our guys together and we all pray. I have some strong men. They'll argue if they think we're wrong but they're strong.

If it's the Holy Spirit they're all in unity. The guys are diligent – they'll fast and pray and spend the time to get the answers.

We have a solid base. I needed help and God brought the people to me.

Q: On the subject of healing, what about all the babies who are born with disabilities?

I don't know the answer to that. Some of those things are generational and some aren't. Every case is different.

I look at Jesus and what He said to the blind man – His disciples were accustomed to things being blamed on sin and when they saw the blind man they asked Jesus who had sinned – the father or the mother. Jesus said that neither of them had sinned but this was left for the glory of the Lord.

So there are different reasons. I don't believe that there's anything that's impossible for God.

Remember Smith Wigglesworth who prayed for someone with no legs. Smith sent him to the shoe shop to buy a pair of shoes as his act of faith. The sales assistant asked him what size and colour he wanted and he said, "Size 8. Black." He didn't really care. The minute that he put his knees into the shoes his legs grew.

We limit God by our thinking. I've prayed for kids with Down's Syndrome and they've improved.

Q: What about people with disabilities who've really, really believed for healing and haven't been healed yet they have a strong faith?

I can't say why. When I'm facing someone who has a problem I ask the Lord to show me the root cause and He does show me.

He shows me the root cause or He shows me the reason why. I can't give you a formula for that but I can say to ask God every time and wait on Him to show you.

That's why we need to sharpen our hearing. Every case is different. My father was a typical case. He had unforgiveness. The guy before him had a religious spirit that was holding him in bondage: that may not have been the root cause but that was what was stopping him from receiving.

God knows what's stopping the healing. So we need to hone up our skills of hearing from God so that we're ready in season and out of season.

If we don't know the reason, have confidence in Jesus in us and go and lay hands on the person anyway. It's Him doing it, not us. We just need to be a vessel that He can pour Himself through.

When all else fails and we aren't getting anything, pray because the Bible says to do it anyway. But don't let them go without prayer. Once we pray for someone, we've done our part.

God challenged us to go to Minda in Adelaide. Minda was a rehabilitation place for people who were retarded physically and mentally. We got invited to do meetings there.

We would go every Wednesday for a time to minister to the residents. There was an architect who was running the meetings and he would preach something that would go over the heads of these people. They needed simple teaching. They needed Jesus.

They needed basics – to give their hearts to Jesus and give thanks to Him. After about three or four weeks I said to the guy, "Will you give me a go for two seconds? I just want to teach them a song." (*Something that would leave a deposit*).

I taught them the song – "Higher, higher lift Jesus higher." All of a sudden I had a manifestation – a lot of the time some, not all, are oppressed by a spirit.

A girl was manifesting and as I walked towards her it was like someone was shooting her with a rifle. She was moving back ten feet at a time, chair and all: the spirit was running away. She got set totally free. Totally made whole. After that, we weren't allowed to work there anymore.

They closed us down. Every case is different.

I don't know why but I know that most of the time when there are oppressions like that, generally there are spirits behind it, and that's the reason they are like that.

Maybe there is sin in the family. There are curses, things that happen that invoke curses that come down the generational line.

Some kids pay the price for things their grandparents have done. It says that they're cursed for four generations. If they're living under the curse then they're still living under the curse if they haven't come into the New Covenant.

All I know is that if I see them I'm going to pray for them anyway. If I pray for them I'm going to see some of them come good. If I pray a hundred times and it fails but we get one who gets set free it's worth it - pray anyway.

Be bold. Don't let the condition that we see stop us. I've prayed for people with no arms. If the arm grows God is going to be glorified. People will know that only God could grow an arm and they'll give Him the glory.

At the time when I was fasting every second day for a number of months, I did some meetings in Melbourne. I was sharing that God is the God of the impossible.

They wheeled in a girl in a chair. She sat and they were all listening. It was a little house meeting. At the end I said that I wanted to pray for the sick and I would start with the girl in the chair.

I noticed that she had callipers. I could see the leg braces. I said to her, "Today you're going to walk sister because God's put on my heart that I have to pray for your leg." When I looked at her leg, one leg was much shorter than the other. She had a built up shoe on the leg with the calliper.

When we took the shoe off I was in a bit of shock to see the length of the legs – one leg much shorter. I thought, "I'm not going to look at that Lord. If I look at that I'll never have faith." If we don't have faith to pray, we need to turn our backs on the condition so we aren't looking at the problem.

Looking at the problem will rob our faith. I took one look and I determined in my heart – I had learned to purpose my heart that when He says to do something, not to look at the circumstances.

I laid my hands on the leg and it shot down (it grew). A gasp went up in the room. This girl was so happy. She got up and walked for the first time on two legs that were the same length. She was crying her eyes out.

She had her arm under her jumper (it was freezing weather). I moved on and kept ministering to other people. Then I heard her screaming so I turned around and asked what the matter was. The girl was waving her arm in the air. The arm under the jumper had been frozen to her body since she was a child.

All of a sudden she had both arms in the air and was thanking God. I was praying for her leg but she got set totally free. Thank God I didn't know about the arm because that would have soaked up my faith.

Because she got set totally free Melbourne opened up and people wanted me to preach for them. All because a girl got up out of a wheelchair.

We need to prepare ourselves; be ready in season and out of season and don't be frightened. There's nothing impossible for God. It's impossible for us but not for Him.

Q: Where does the gift of healing play into what you've been teaching here at the training school?

For me, I think it's one of the most important gifts one can walk in. When I look at Jesus I see that He drew the crowds and brought them to see the Kingdom of Heaven every time He healed someone.

Every time we open the Bible God said He would give us the gifts. What I'm hearing is that if we purpose our hearts to seek Him, He'll give us the gifts. He'll give us everything.

For too long the church has been teaching that one will be given this gift, another will be given another gift and so on.

I had an old prophet from Brisbane speak to me. I was away in Europe and I got him to take over the church while I was away.

He was a wise old AOG man and he said to me that I had a true healing gift. I told him that it was just the Holy Spirit. That healing happened to be the gift that manifested at that time because that was the need.

I wanted to see that. I've seen that that was Jesus' gift and I've asked for that. I thought that that was one of the main ways of reaching people.

I saw the Master doing that and thought that no one can better that. It's the Holy Spirit. Just let Him take over – that's the key.

Q: If you're praying for someone for healing and you have all the faith in the world but the person you are praying for doesn't have any faith or belief, does that hinder?

No, it doesn't hinder. When I was a builder we would press all of our own flashings. We would go down to the local sheet metal place.

We got to know the guys in one of the biggest sheet metal places in Adelaide. We would buy the material from them and use their press to press the flashings.

As we were doing this, they would be watching us because we were forever mucking around and having fun. We would play jokes with these guys. When they'd go and buy their lunch they would come to us and ask if we wanted them to get any lunch for us.

I was cheeky then and I said, "We've got food to eat that you don't know about."

The Manager said, "Don't tell me – you're a Bible basher."

I said, "No, I'm not actually. Far from it. We've been working with you guys for a long time and we've never bashed you over the head with a Bible once. But we will share Jesus with you."

He said, "No. You shouldn't ram religion down people's throats."

I said, "I don't want to do that. I want to show you how real He is. Is there anybody sick in the place?"

There were half a dozen of them out in the front office and one of them said, "Yea, me."

And the boss said, "Yes! We haven't been able to get a bit of work out of this guy for the last few days. We're all carrying his load because he's got a bad back. He can hardly move."

I said, "Mate, do you want me to pray for your back?"

He looked at me. I said, "Have you got faith that Jesus can heal your back?"

He said, "No. Not at all."

I said, "It doesn't matter. I have."

We were at the front of the counter and there were customers there and they were watching. We ended up praying for this man. No faith was necessary from his side.

I said, "All I need you to do is just ask – ask the Lord to heal you."

He said, "I feel stupid doing it."

I said, "Just do it mate. You're going to get healed. I'm agreeing with you."

The Bible says that if two are in agreement on anything here on earth it will be done in heaven. It's all scriptural.

He asked, like a geek. Instant healing. He said, "This is real."

I said, "Bend over. Show them it's real." He was totally healed.

What came of that was that the Manager of that place is a pastor today. He saw this and apologised for having a go at us. He asked us to come home with him.

He was babysitting his 18 month old grandchild. From the day she was born she had been catatonic, staring into space. Her parents fed her, cleaned her, everything. She had never smiled. There was no life in her – like no one was home.

The doctors couldn't do anything for her. He asked if we would come and pray for her.

Then he said that his wife was Catholic so he didn't want us to tell her that we were coming to pray. He asked us to tell her that we were coming to measure the laundry. I prayed and fasted for five days.

This was all I knew to do because I was a young Christian. My building partner did the same. We went on a Sunday and the minute we walked in the door, the Spirit of God spoke to us.

My partner said to me, "It's witchcraft." I agreed.

I said, "The mother's doing tarot cards in the baby's room." She was invoking the spirit of witchcraft and it was affecting the child.

We prayed. The man's wife came into the room. The man tried to shut us up but I said that we were there on more important business than a laundry, and I wasn't going to lie to his wife.

She was looking at him wondering what was happening. I wanted the baby set free. I said that we were there to pray for the baby and he should tell his wife because she would see it soon enough.

I asked, "How long has the baby been like this?"

They said, "From birth."

I said, "Witchcraft, get off now in Jesus' name." The baby came to life. She looked up and smiled for the first time. She made a noise.

Her grandfather started crying – he was undone. He came to the Lord. Then he brought in his blind daughter: she got her sight. Eight or nine people in that family came to the Lord.

All from one miracle, just from our mucking around – "we have food to eat that you know not of."

We don't need to have formulas. We need to have Him walking with us. That's the whole key. I fully believe that it's more Holy Spirit.

He is the gift to us. They're His gifts and He knows how to administrate them. But we have to get hungry.

We don't have because we don't ask. We don't think it's possible. We've been taught wrongly in regard to 'you have this and you can have that' – ask for the lot. Why not be fully equipped! Why be known as a healer or a deliverer when we can be walking in the ministry of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit gives the gifts willingly, as He wills. We grow into it. Practice. We still need to be anointed. He knows what we can handle but we can ask for it all.

By the time we get to the level of pastoring or evangelising, we should be fully qualified by miracles and healings. It's a growth process – we don't get it all at once.

I hold the office of evangelist, and pastor. I've had the teaching gift come on me at times. I'm not a teacher but when I've needed to teach, that mantle came down.

I believe that all the mantles that we need come down as we need them. If He puts us in a position to do something, we will have the mantle to do it. I can move in the prophetic but I'm not a prophet.

Q: So, you're telling us that we're heading down the road to be just like Jesus was when He was in His years of ministry? So all we experience is part of us getting there?

Yes. We must all emulate the ministry of Jesus Christ. Or try to get to that point. Do what we can and He will add to us.

Our connection is prayer, communion one-on-one with Him. Pray in tongues. The Body of Christ is lacking in communing one-on-one with Him, talking to Him.

All of us have been called for something so we need to walk with Him. He's gracious, He loves us. We're all at different levels and all grow at different paces but He has something for everyone.

Encourage each other. We all have the same Spirit working in us. If we don't have the faith for something, grab someone else who does and come into agreement with them.

Q: There was a conflict on an outreach when we went into a house with idols everywhere. How do we handle that?

I would tell them straight away before I prayed for them that all the idols they have in their house are their undoing. I would give them a short gospel on why they were under a curse.

Give people a chance. The choice becomes theirs and if they say "Yes" then we have carte blanche.

Pray, and God will back us because we're teaching them about Him. Don't worry if we don't see it.

When we first started we'd go away really disappointed because we wouldn't see things happening but years later we'd hear. We won't always see it. We don't know what's happening on the inside of people.

Just pray for them. Just because we don't see doesn't mean it's not happening. God says He answers our prayer.

Q: What about an appointed time to die? eg. young mums dying of cancer, leaving behind a young family?

I've prayed for people who have then died and I questioned that. I don't know all the answers.

A young girl asked me one time to come and pray for her Mum who was dying.

I asked her, "Does your Mum want to live?"

That's a good question.

She said, "Yes."

I said, "Does your Dad want your Mum to live?"

A better question.

She said, "Why do you ask that?"

I said, "Well is he supporting you when you pray for her to live?"

She said, "No, he's not. She hasn't got long to live. The doctors have only given her 24 hours. Would you come tomorrow?"

I said I'd go.

Immediately that she told me that her dad wasn't supportive I got before God and asked if this was the problem. Was it the father?

God said, "Yes. He can't forgive something she did twenty years ago."

For married couples - what one does affects the other because the two become one.

This man had unforgiveness and hatred for his wife for what she did; he couldn't forgive her.

I asked my mate to meet me at the house because I had a hard task.

I was going to have a 'go' at a man whose wife was dying and I needed some support.

I told him to ask God and see what the problem was. We didn't discuss it on the phone. He said he had an appointment but he'd get there as soon as he could.

I walked into the house and said that I wanted to talk to the husband before I prayed for the wife.

All of the relatives were coming in to say goodbye. Faith was not in that house.

I asked the Lord what I should do and He said, "Confront the man."

So I sat down with the man and said, "Look, I have to ask you a question, sir, before I can pray for your wife. Do you want your wife to live? The Holy Spirit put that in my heart."

He looked at me pretty blankly and took his time to answer. His sister was sitting in the room and she said, "Of course he doesn't want her to live. She's suffered too much."

I said, "Lady, I didn't ask you the question. I asked him and I need the answer from him."

He grabbed hold of what his sister had voiced and said, "No, she's suffered too much."

I said, "That's not the reason."

This woman stood up in his defence and said, "You're blaming him."

I said, "Lady, do you know God's will for that lady dying in that room?"

She said, "She's suffered too much. He'll take her."

I said, "You don't know the Lord at all. You call yourself a Christian but you don't know Jesus Christ."

She got up in a huff and left. I turned around to him and said, "I'm sorry about that but I know the reason why."

I'm talking about men's hearts being revealed here.

He said, "No, she's suffered too much."

I said, "That's not the reason." Suddenly my mate came in the door. That broke through the tension.

I introduced him and he said, "Sir, I only have one question to ask you. Do you want your wife to live?"

It's the same Holy Spirit.

He looked at us both and said, "Why?"

I said, "I'll tell you why. Twenty years ago something happened and you can't forgive her."

This man just broke. He said, "I know you two are led by the Holy Spirit but I can't forgive."

I said, "You're killing your wife with unforgiveness. I'm going to beg you – please forgive her. She'll live. We can pray and she'll live."

He said, "No." He started manifesting and that instant his wife died.

The hypocrite went in there and started kissing her, saying, "I love you, my dear."

I felt like grabbing him and throwing him out of his own house. I was 'cheesed off.' He had the ability for his wife to live.

We don't know the reasons why. We need to know the mind of Christ for these situations.

I went home totally 'cheesed off' and asked the Lord why He let me go there because He knew what would happen.

He said, "I'll give you another job to do," so He gave me a job to do down the road which cheered me up no end. We really need to hear Him. If we make a lifestyle of spending time with Him we'll walk more powerfully with Him.

We don't understand what it does when we spend time with Him. If we don't have time with Him we're robbing ourselves.

Final-Word

If the testimonies in this booklet have impacted you, it's never too late to begin your own journey down the Narrow Road with Jesus.

Please feel free to read this simple prayer aloud:

Lord Jesus,

I believe that You died on the Cross for all my sin. I believe that You rose from the dead.

*Please forgive me for all my sins. Make me clean.
Please come into my heart, save me, heal me and set me free.*

*Write my name in Your Book of Life.
Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Be my personal Lord and Saviour.*

Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, welcome to the family of God and a new life walking every day with Jesus.