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HEALING

A touch of Heaven

TOMORROW'S WONDERFUL WORLD

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like after Jesus returns

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personally speaking



The need for healing—great or small, at some time or another—is universal. That's just a fact of life. And that's probably why Jesus spent so much of His time on earth healing the sick. The four Gospels are full of accounts of the many miracles of healing that Jesus performed—lepers were cleansed, the blind received sight, the lame were healed, and the dead were raised to life again. "Great multitudes followed Him," we are told, "and He healed them all" (Matthew 12:15).

No one can read those accounts of supernatural healings without consciously or unconsciously making a decision that puts them in one of three groups: those who don't believe the miracles ever happened, those who believe they happened then but could never happen today, and those who understand and embrace the wonderful truth that Jesus is just as ready, willing, and able to heal us as He was the multitudes long ago. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). I hope that by the time you finish reading this issue of *Activated* you'll be solidly in the third group, if you aren't already.

And don't stop there! Learn to put His promises of healing to work for you and others who need your help and prayers. No sickness or condition is beyond His power to heal, but neither is any ailment too small for Him to be concerned about. He loves you personally and dearly, and He can cause even your afflictions to work out for your good—but that depends in part on you. Learn to make the faith connection!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Phillips".

Keith Phillips
For the Activated family

Faith The Title Deed

IN THE KING JAMES VERSION of the Bible, Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The word translated as "substance" here is the Greek word *hypostasis*. When the New Testament was translated into English from Greek nearly 400 years ago, the translators were puzzled by this word *hypostasis*. It seemed to be some kind of business terminology not found in classical Greek literature, and all they could determine was that it meant something fairly substantial. So they translated it as "substance."

Hundreds of years later, archaeologists uncovered the charred ruins of an old inn in northern Israel. There they found a small iron chest apparently containing the valuable papers of some Roman noblewoman who had owned real estate in the area. Most of the papers in the chest had written in large Greek letters across the top: *hypostasis*. They were all title deeds to her properties! Before her apparent visit, this Roman woman had per-

haps never seen her properties, but she knew they were hers and could prove her ownership because she had the title deeds.

So what is faith? It's the title deed! Had those translators known what we know now, that verse might instead read, "Now faith is the title deed to things hoped for."

If you've asked the Lord for something but haven't seen the answer yet, don't worry. If you have real faith, then it's like having the title to it in your hands, with your name written on it. It's *yours* and you *will* see it eventually.

—David Brandt Berg

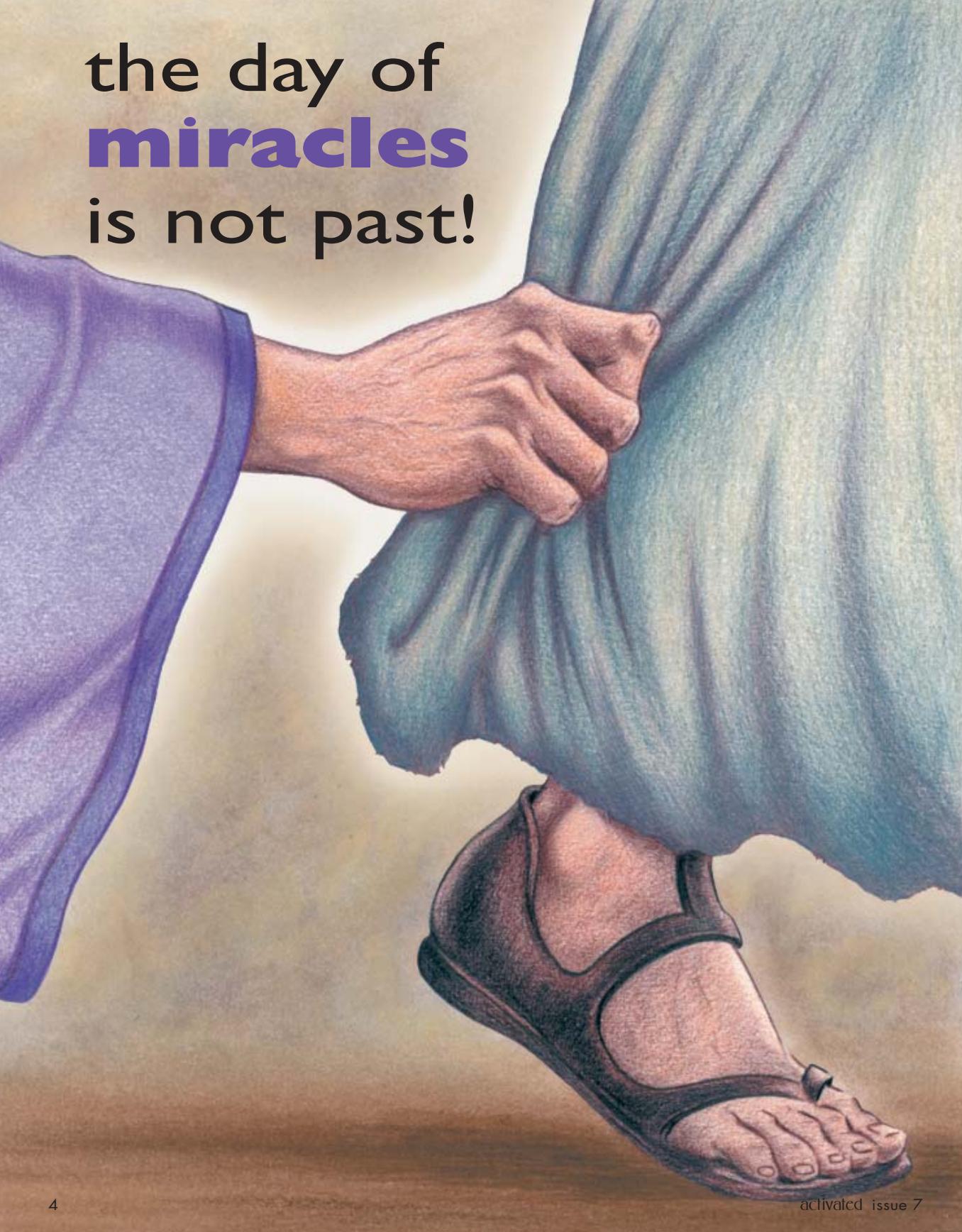
Faith
is the
title
deed
to
things
hoped
for.

Prayer for the day

Dear Jesus,

When I am sick, You are ever at my side, attending to my every need and whispering words of gentle reassurance: "The miracle which you call health is just around the corner. You'll hold it dearer after this." Together we'll hang on. When I am weary, You mop my brow and give me magical strength and courage. Together we'll go on.

the day of
miracles
is not past!



ONE DAY JESUS WAS ON HIS WAY to the house of a man whose daughter was gravely ill. A crowd followed and pressed around Him as usual. In the midst of the throng was a woman who had been sick for 12 years with a constant flow of blood. All that time she had gone from one doctor to another, but without success. She had spent every bit of her money on doctors and had suffered much from their treatments, yet the bleeding continued.

Desperate, the woman thought,
Oh, if I could only touch Jesus, I know I would be healed!

Then, seeing Jesus afar off, she anxiously made her way toward Him. It wasn't easy to get through the pushing, shoving mob of onlookers who were all trying to get as close to Jesus as they could, but she was driven by that thought. She just *had* to touch Him!

Finally she came within reach and, stretching out her hand, she was able to barely touch His robe with her fingertips. No sooner had she touched Him than the bleeding that had plagued her for so long stopped completely. A warm and wonderful feeling of health and well-being swept through her body. She knew that after all these years of pain and suffering, she was healed at last!

Jesus paused for a moment. He had felt that healing power emanate from Him. Turning to the crowd He asked, "Who touched Me?"

His disciples looked at Him with amazement, saying, "With all this great crowd pressing around You, You ask who touched You?"

But Jesus already knew who had touched Him. He turned to look upon the astonished woman.

Still trembling with the realization of what had happened, she fell at His feet and told Him her story.

Lovingly and tenderly, as a father would speak to his child, Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you whole. Go in peace and be healed of your disease." Jesus was making it clear to the entire crowd that touching His clothes had not made her whole—it had been her faith.

That woman had put her little bit of faith into action, and the result has echoed down through the centuries: "Your *faith* has made you whole!" (*This account is based on Luke 8:43–48.*)

The faith connection

There is a lesson to be learned from this story, which we can apply to our lives today. Though many people converged on Jesus—and surely some of them needed healing from one affliction or another—why was it that at that moment only one received that powerful healing touch from God? Many of the others may have merely been curious; they may have simply wanted to see Jesus and hear what He had to say. Others may have doubted the stories they had heard about Him. But this woman believed in her heart that He could help her when all else had failed. So she pressed toward Him, full of faith, refusing to give up until she had made that personal contact with Jesus.

What an illustration of how prayer works! It's not how long you

*If I could
only touch
Jesus, I
know I
would be
healed!*

pray or how much you pray that counts, but how much you believe. It's like tuning into a station on a radio: When you finally make the right contact, the signal booms in loud and clear. Prayer is making contact between our human needs and God's divine resources. All we're doing when we pray is presenting our need and believing that God will answer and meet that need.

Anything wonderful can happen in that little margin of time when you don't give up, but keep on believing and keep on praying! That frail, sickly woman had only enough strength to draw close to Jesus, but when she acted on her faith, she made contact with Him and received the answer to her prayer.

What a wonderful thing it is when we learn to contact God's power through prayer! It is a spiritual seeking of that contact with His Spirit through obedience to His Word that gets results.

God's healing is for you!

God is able to heal *anything*. He asks, "Is there anything too hard for Me, the God of all flesh?" (Jeremiah 32:27). Jesus said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7).

The One who made us can certainly fix us! After all, if He's God at all, He's a God of miracles. If He created the entire universe and keeps it running, He can certainly repair our bodies when they need it. He is the great Healer, the mighty Renewer, the all-powerful Restorer—and He can heal us when we are sick!

All of God's mighty power is just as real and present today as it was in the past. He will back up every promise He's made to us in His Word. "There has not failed one word of all His good promises" (1 Kings 8:56). All the resources of Heaven are at our disposal. So let's take God at His Word and believe that He will answer our prayers when we have a need!

Not all healings are instantaneous, of course, and sometimes He doesn't answer our prayers for healing just the way we expect Him to, but He always has a good and loving reason for doing what He does. Sometimes He wants to test our faith before He will heal us. Sometimes He wants to humble us or teach us patience or some other lesson. Sometimes He wants us to first correct certain things we're doing wrong. Whatever the reason, when it's God's time—when the conditions are ready to bring about the result He knows is best—He *will* answer.

Do you need healing? Have you been battling an illness, serious or otherwise? The Lord knows every part of your body—in fact, the Bible says that every hair of your head is numbered (Matthew 10:30)—and He wants to heal you. He *wants* to relieve your pain and suffering, and is just waiting for you to *ask* Him to!

When the poor leper came to Jesus and said, "Lord, if You are *will-ing*, You can make me clean," the Scripture says that Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed"—and immediately the man's leprosy was cleansed (Matthew 8:2–3).

Jesus loves you, too, and He wants to help and heal you! •

Anything wonderful can happen in that little margin of time when you don't give up.



Feeding reading

Examples of Jesus' power to heal



The nobleman's son

John 4:46–54

The man let down through the roof

Mark 2:1–12

The man at the pool of Bethesda

John 5:1–16

The man with the withered hand

Luke 6:6–11

The centurion's servant

Luke 7:1–10

Jairus's daughter

Mark 5:22–24, 35–43

The woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment

Mark 5:25–34

The ten lepers

Luke 17:11–19

The blind man

John chapter 9

Lazarus

John 11:1–46

Thoughts on healing

From David Brandt Berg

GOD IS STILL ALIVE, WELL AND WORKING just as powerfully as ever among those who trust in Him! God says, "I am the Lord, I do not change," and "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8).

JESUS PROMISED, "HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And these signs will follow those who believe ... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover" (John 14:12; Mark 16:17–18). God is still in the business of repairing bodies that need it, as well as transforming hearts, minds, and spirits.

SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE THE WRONG ATTITUDE. They say, "If God will heal me, then I will believe. Show me! I'll believe it when I see it." They're hinging their faith on the answer instead of on God's Word. That's not the way faith works. With faith, believing is seeing!

YOU GET HEALING THE SAME WAY YOU GET SALVATION: by grace through faith. You get healing by trusting God for it and not anything else—grace plus faith plus nothing! "It is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8–9).

PAIN IS A TOUCH OF HELL; HEALING IS A TOUCH OF HEAVEN. Healing is a sample of everlasting life, renewal of the body, cure of disease. It's a touch of resurrection. •

WHEN YOU PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER, have you ever really thought about the part, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven"? (Luke 11:2). We who know and love the Lord already have Heaven in our hearts, thank God, but is there really much Heaven on Earth today? No, there is mostly confusion and selfishness and unhappiness and war and fighting and hell on every hand!

But one day soon, the Lord is going to change all that when He sets up His own kingdom of peace and goodness and fairness and mercy and love. Then His kingdom won't only be in our hearts, it will be all around us. God's kingdom really is going to come in all of its power and glory, right here on Earth!

tomorrow's wonderful world

But before that can happen, some other things have to happen: The evil Antichrist world leader must come to power and rule for seven years, the second half of which will be a time of trouble called the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21; Revelation 7:14), when the Antichrist and his forces will persecute but not completely overcome God's children (Revelation 13:7; 11:3–5). Then Jesus will supernaturally gather all of His saved children, dead and alive, and instantly give them all powerful new resurrection bodies (Matthew 24:31; 1 Corinthians 15:51–52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). He will whisk them away to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

in Heaven (Revelation 19:7–9), while the wicked Antichrist and his followers back on Earth suffer the horrific Wrath of God (Revelation chapter 16). Bloodied but unbowed, the Antichrist and his forces will be poised to try to crush their opponents—all the people left on Earth who have refused to worship the Antichrist or receive his Mark of the Beast (Revelation 13:16–18)—when Jesus and His children return to defeat the Antichrist and his forces at the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:14,16; 17:14; 19:11–15).

Then at last Jesus will put an end to man's cruel and destructive rule and set up the kingdom of God on Earth for 1,000 years. Jesus will rule in person, and all of His saved children will rule with Him (Jeremiah 23:5–6; Revelation 19:5; 20:6).

The surviving peoples of Earth will then have the blessing of living under the most perfect, righteous and fair government the world has ever known (Isaiah 11:1–5).

All wars will finally cease. Men will "beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4). Man will live in peace and plenty, like God planned for him to live in the beginning, and nothing will hurt nor destroy in all of God's kingdom (Isaiah 11:9).

There will be no carnivorous beasts or poisonous insects or serpents, or any such pests. Man

and beast will no longer need to eat meat, and all will be at peace with each other. Even a little child will be able to lead the formerly wild beasts around, playing with the lions and tigers and leopards and elephants as pets! “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den” (Isaiah 11:6–8).

Neither will there be any more of the thorns, thistles, weeds or poisonous plants that came as part of

horses, camels, wagons, sailing ships, etc.

There will also be no more smoke-belching factories or destructive modern machinery. The world is going to go back to those beautiful days when people took the time to appreciate the beautiful creation of God around them and the wonderful creatures of God to help them plow and harvest their food and provide transportation. It won’t be a primitive society, but it will certainly be a peaceful one!

There will also be very little, if any, disease or sickness, because the Bible says that if somebody dies at the age of 100, he will still be considered a child (Isaiah 65:20). People may again live nearly a thousand years, as they did in the days before the Flood.

the Curse, because of the Fall of Man (Isaiah 55:13; Genesis 3:17–18).

Earth will be a beautiful, heavenly paradise—the restored Garden of Eden. In that day you’ll be able to enjoy all the pleasures of paradise to the full! What a wonderful place to live!

There will be no more gasoline-powered, pollution-spouting, environment-hurting and life-destroying transportation. We’ll be free from today’s rat race, where everything moves at such breakneck speed that there’s no time to even enjoy life anymore. Instead, the world will in large part return to God-created, God-ordained peaceful modes of transportation—

But remember that during this time, all of God’s saved children will already have received their new eternal super-bodies that will *never* die. And they will be helping Jesus teach God’s ways to the millions—perhaps even billions—of normal mortal, human beings during these 1,000 years. “Earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9).

If you’ve received Jesus as your Savior, you can look forward to the brightest and happiest future you could ever imagine—ruling and reigning with Jesus as one of His supernatural supermen or superwomen during this wonderful time! •

Healing Healing Healing

—A touch of heaven

If you have faith in the promises found in God's Word, you can pray and expect Him to heal you and others for whom you pray. It happened to these people and millions of others, and it can happen to you!

Will God help?

Pedro T.,
Argentina

They prayed for Jesus to heal me—and He answered!

Pedro is 31 years old. He is married and has one daughter. Although he had a happy home life and a good job as the security supervisor of a large company, the constant drain of an incurable illness marred his life. But that changed when two friends shared words of faith with him. Here is his story in his own words:

After two years of dizzy spells, always being tired, and having an insatiable appetite, my illness was finally diagnosed: I had hypoglycemia, a disorder of the pancreas. This sickness is considered incurable, and the patient must submit to a rigorous diet.

Periods of severe difficulty caused by my condition were long and wearing. Any and all activities were difficult to perform, but lying down to rest didn't help, as I would feel like I was suffocating. I had to take lots of medicine, and even then the attacks would always return.

I lived like this for five more years. Then one day I had a visit from Emilio and Silvana.

I had met these volunteers from The Family about a year earlier, when they had told me about Jesus in such a happy manner. They were always busy showing others how Christians should be happy and active, not sad or so wrapped up in their problems that they spent their lives just praying for themselves and doing little or nothing for others.

That day I told Emilio and Silvana about my illness. They prayed for Jesus to heal me—and He answered!

It's been ten months now since the Lord healed me, and I haven't had even one sign of hypoglycemia since then!

I am very thankful for what God has done in healing me after so many years of sickness. His love shown to me in this way makes me want to try to follow Him closer with every day that passes.

God can heal anything ... even cancer!

Sharon M.,
Singapore

To the amazement of his family and the doctors ... a new batch of medical tests showed no trace of cancer!

Mr. Ning was dying of cancer. Lying limply in his hospital bed, he listened intently as a friend and I talked of the love of Jesus and read him accounts of others' faith. He then asked Jesus to come into his heart, sobbing and pausing

between sentences as he prayed with us. Inspired by all that we had told him and read to him, he asked us to pray for his healing.

"Mr. Ning, we're so glad you want us to pray for you," I said, "because we believe the Lord wants to heal you!"

And so I prayed, "Dear Jesus, we know that You healed many people when You were on Earth, and that You are just the same today as You were then. Your Word says, 'I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds' (Jeremiah 30:17), so we believe Your Word and we ask You to touch dear Mr. Ning with Your healing power. Please heal him, Lord! We know You can do it and we believe You *want* to do it, so we thank You for answering our prayers. Amen."

To the amazement of his family and the doctors, the next day Mr. Ning was up and around! A new batch of medical examinations and tests showed no trace of cancer. Now he's back home—happy, healthy, and a living testimony of the power of prayer and God's healing hand!

God won't disappoint you!

Norma C., Brazil

The Lord delivered me when all odds were against me!

Nearly a year ago I underwent some medical tests, and the doctors diagnosed that I had breast cancer. Upon finding a tumor in one of my breasts, the doctors said they needed to operate and remove it—and they couldn't even guarantee that the operation would have a successful outcome. My mother had died of breast cancer, and all of my X-rays and the tests showed conclusively that my tumor was malignant.

When I heard the news, I felt concerned but not devastated, because ever since I had received Jesus I had been studying God's Word and knew what awaited me if I left this life. At the same time I had young children, and I felt that they still needed me here.

I talked with some dear friends from The Family who had taught me about faith in the Lord and instructed me in the Word, and we prayed for my healing. We prayed a wholehearted prayer that had an impact on all of us. Actually, I had never felt the need to pray such a desperate prayer before, and now as I tell this story I feel a little selfish because it was my own health that prompted me to get serious with the Lord, when I had had opportunities to be as fervent in my prayers for others. At any rate, we did unite in strong prayer together, and at that moment we were very moved!

After I prayed, I strengthened my faith through study of God's Word, especially by listening to cassette tapes with beautiful verses on healing, faith, and trusting the Lord. Also, when I went to the hospital for my operation, I took devotional material with me to study during this time of trial. I needed the Word to stay strong in spirit.

When the tumor was removed, to the astonishment of my doctors, it was *not* malignant! Even though all of the conditions and tests had shown that it was undoubtedly a malignant tumor, when it was removed, it was found to be benign.

I am convinced that this result was a wonderful answer to our heartfelt prayers. The Lord delivered me when all odds were against me! What a beautiful experience it was! •



Feet of Faith

By David Brandt Berg

(Written to a couple whose baby
was born with deformed feet.)

If He can
create
the baby,
He
certainly
can
straighten
his feet.

MY DEAR LOVED ONES,

Our prayers are with you for your baby's feet. The Lord has a promise for feet: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7).

Remember that nothing happens by accident! God has a purpose in everything, even if it is only to force us to exercise our faith for healing, and to demonstrate it for the encouragement of others. Maybe the Lord is going to give you such a ministry. He needs more Christians with gifts of healing, not only for our own sake, but to inspire the faith of unbelievers and to encourage them to trust in the Lord.

So "be not faithless, but believing!" (John 20:27 KJV). In prayer for you and your child just now, the Lord reminded me of the following Bible verse, taken from the story of the blind man in the Gospel of John: "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him" (John 9:3). Is anything too hard for the Lord? No, this is a small thing for the God of creation (Jeremiah 32:27). If He can create the baby, He certainly can straighten his feet. The One who made him can certainly fix him!

I suggest that you pray earnestly for your child to be healed, perhaps with others, and then expect a miracle! You do your part by praying, and the rest is up to God.

"With God nothing will be impossible," and "all things are possible to him who believes" (Luke 1:37; Mark 9:23). Trust in the Lord. He never fails. "There has not failed one word of all His good promise" (1 Kings 8:56).

My family and I have had many serious diseases and injuries, but God has never failed to heal them. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19). When I was three years old, an automobile ran over my foot and severely damaged it. The doctors said that many of the bones in my foot were crushed, and that I would never walk again. But my parents believed God and prayed, and I've been walking ever since! The Lord healed it completely, just as though it had never been broken!

I once worked for one of the greatest Christians I have ever known, Dr. A.U. Michelson. I never knew a humbler, sweeter, more compassionate, loving and hard-working man. He was a famous missionary to his fellow Jews in America. He founded the world's first Hebrew-Christian Synagogue, and produced a Gospel program that was heard on hundreds of radio stations around the world—a man who undoubtedly won thousands of people to the Lord, for which I'm sure he has been gloriously rewarded in Heaven!

Yet this dear man's foot was pitifully deformed so that he had to hobble around on crutches, in constant pain. Maybe this is one reason he had such compassion on others. We comfort others with the same comfort we find in the Lord (2 Corinthians 1:4). How can we be more than conquerors?—By being good losers, and even praising God in our affliction! Dr. Michelson had miraculous faith for souls and for the finances needed to support missionaries around the world, and he prayed for many others who were healed, but he never seemed to have the faith for his *own* healing.

So who knows the will of God? All we can do is believe His promises and pray, and expect some kind of answer. Sometimes these things happen to draw us much closer to the Lord, to keep us humble and more dependent on Him, and sometimes they are to help us learn and grow spiritually. In any case, God has a loving purpose, and when we have learned the lesson that He's trying to teach us or the conditions are ready for the result that He wants to bring, He says He would rather that we be healed (Hebrews 12:13). God prefers to heal. He *wants* to heal us, but He also wants us to learn through our afflictions, and He wants us to let them accomplish His purpose.

In some cases, it took years of patient waiting before Jesus or the disciples came along to bring people healing, but when the time was right, the Lord did the miracle—like the healing of the man who had been lame since birth, which resulted in the conversion of more than 5,000 in a single day and launched the Early Church on paths of glory (Acts 3:1–12; 4:4). So expect a miracle for the glory of God!

Search the Scriptures and see what these verses mean: “The lame take the prey” (Isaiah 33:23). “The lame shall leap like a deer” (Isaiah 35:6). “But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings” (Malachi 4:2). Jesus even said that He caused the lame to walk, as one of the proofs of His messiahship (Matthew 11:5). He also promises: “I am the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26), “who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases” (Psalm 103:3). There are no exceptions: God can heal *anything*!

The day of miracles is not past! Our God is still a God of miracles. In

our day-to-day ministry, we've usually emphasized the miracles of salvation and the spiritual transformation of people's lives, but God is still in the business of transforming the *bodies* that need it, as well as the hearts, minds and spirits.

I myself am a living witness to His healing power, having been given up for dead 30 years ago. At the age of 22, my heart was in such bad condition that the doctors said if I would stay in bed, I might live a year. However, I promised to serve the Lord if He healed me—and I've been busy for Him ever since. Now at the age of 52 [1971], I'm in better health than ever. Jesus never fails! God not only *can* do it, but He *wants* to do it! He's more willing to give than we are to receive.

“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise” (Hebrews 10:35–36). Believe God! He never fails—even when we are faithless! Hold Him to His word. He says, “Command Me” (Isaiah 45:11). Demand and expect an answer! God has promised it.

And remember that “all things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28), and that this, too, has befallen you for the glory of God. Love and trust and praise Him more than ever, and I know He'll not fail. He cannot deny Himself. He is bound by His Word. Remind Him of it, cling to His promises, memorize and quote them continually, and never doubt for a moment that God is going to answer—and He will! He has to! He wants to! Trust Him! And thank Him for the answer, even if you don't see it immediately! Your faith is much more precious than gold (1 Peter 1:7). God bless you! I'm praying for you. •

**Demand
and
expect an
answer!
God has
promised
it.**

Q: How do I get the faith that I need for healing?

You get faith for healing the same way you get faith for anything else: through reading and taking in God's Word. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). If you read the Word with an open, receptive heart—if you do as Jesus said and "let these sayings sink down into your ears" (Luke 9:44)—then your faith will automatically increase. That's a spiritual law of God, as sure as the law of gravity.

So if you feel like you don't have much faith for God to heal you, that's probably because you don't know His Word well enough. If you're weak in faith, it's because you're weak in the Word.

The Lord has made many great and precious promises to you in His Word (2 Peter 1:4), and some of those promises are specifically for healing. Read, study, memorize and absorb them into the very fiber of your being; then when you pray for healing for yourself or someone else, remind the Lord of His promises. He can heal you, but you have to do your part. You must take Him at His word. Believe His promises, hold Him to them, and *expect* Him to fulfill them!

The faith you need to receive miracles of healing, as well as answers to all your other prayers, comes from the Word. So read it prayerfully and ask God to strengthen your faith, and He will!

Here are a few of God's many promises to *you*:

Hebrews 13:8. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Exodus 15:26. I am the Lord who heals you.

Deuteronomy 7:15. The Lord will take away from you all sickness.

Psalm 34:19. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Jeremiah 30:17. I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds.

Jeremiah 32:27. Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?

Malachi 4:2. To you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings.

James 5:15. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

The Bible says, "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:24,25 NIV). It's human nature to think of self first, but God wants us to think of *others* first. He wants us to share what we have with others, and the more we share, the more He gives us in return. Try it and see! When you give, you're going to find out that you're not sacrificing at all. You're just investing, and the returns are going to be far beyond anything you have invested.

For more of God's thoughts on giving—how God's economic plan really works—don't miss the next issue of *Activated*.

Reach Out and Receive Healing

I have My arms outstretched, and in My hands are precious gifts for you—gifts of love, forgiveness, mercy and healing. All of these things are in My hands, and I will freely give them to you if you will only reach out and receive them by faith.

These gifts are not earned by your goodness. You could never be good enough to receive these precious gifts in My hands, but I give them to you freely.

Don't look on your afflictions as punishment for your sins, for they accomplish a great purpose. These light afflictions are but steppingstones, all working together for good to accomplish My will and My purpose. They lead to the higher ground of fuller faith and trust in Me.

As you pray and trust in Me for your light affliction, it will encourage and increase not only your faith, but the faith of others as they see your example of faith, trust, and dependence on Me in your affliction.

Ask for My healing, for I am the Great Physician and I long to make you whole.