

Your Faith Has Made You Well

***Devotions of Faith and Healing
from the Gospel of Luke***

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This book is dedicated to fathers, sons, grandfathers, grandsons, stepfathers, stepsons, fathers-in-law, sons-in-law, uncles, and nephews everywhere. May you always be moving closer to God and each other.

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. “
Romans 8:14 (ESV)

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Introduction

As a Christian, what do you think is the biggest thing required of you? Reading the bible? Praying? Repenting? Serving others? Although all of these are very important, I believe that the biggest thing required of us (not the *only* thing) is that we BELIEVE; that we have FAITH in Jesus, and in His Father and the Holy Spirit, as the one and only triune God of our life.

This devotional series focuses on stories of faith and healing found in the Gospel of Luke. But before we dive in, consider the following teachings of Jesus, in His own words (underline added on forms of “believe”):

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Then they said to Him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” (John 6:28-29)

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35)

Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 21:29)

It is very clear that Jesus wants us to believe in Him; to have faith in Him and in His Father who sent Him. Jesus is teaching all who will listen, including us, that this faith and belief not only lead to eternal life, but also to sustenance, spiritual fruit, and deep peace and joy which only come from an active relationship with Him.

Finally, when Jesus is praying an intimate prayer to the Father, called the High Priestly prayer, it is clear that this belief should grow into *knowing* Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in an intimate way. This is what He desires for us in his prayer for us to His heavenly Father:

“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” (John 17:3)

Ways to Use This Plan

This devotional plan is based on stories of faith from the book of Luke in the bible. You can use it as a 9-day plan, 27-day plan, or a 9-week plan. Each theme has a scripture reference, suggested prayers, and faith action steps.

Here are some suggestions of ways to use the plan:

- Spend three days in a row on each passage (27 days)
- Spend one week on each devotional passage, then move on to the next one (9 weeks)
- Study a new passage each day for 9 days, then optionally repeat the whole cycle two or three times (9 to 27 days)

I suggest that you consider the 27-day or 9-week plan. I have found that reading the same scripture passage for several days in a row helps it “sink in” and allows time for more things to be revealed through each passage. There is also a helpful print-out at the end of the book with all nine passage references listed. This is suitable for posting up on a fridge or bulletin board.

Theme 1: *Your faith has made you well*

Jesus heals a sick woman

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. “Who touched me?” Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.” But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.” Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

Luke 8:42-48 (NIV)

Jesus tells the woman in this story that her faith has healed her. He did not say her good deeds healed her. He did not say that her physical contact with His cloak healed her. He said, “Your faith has healed you.” The woman had such faith that she knew if she could just get to Him she could be healed. Don’t miss what happens next, she tells everyone there what had happened and why she did it. She shared her testimony, or her story, “on the spot.” I believe

that is significant because we will see in many of these stories how the sharing of the healing story points many people to God.

Prayer time: Spend time trying to “get to Jesus” this week, like the woman did. Do you go after Jesus like she did? Reach out for Him. More specifically, pray for guidance on ways that He wants you to reach out to Him. For example, it may be through things like personal prayer, forgiving someone, serving, or attending a church service or event.

Faith action step: Share an encouraging story about your faith journey with someone else who needs to hear it. It could be as simple as sharing about a great church service or a men’s group you attended, or a book that you read. It could be something more personal, like a way that God used you or healed you or someone that you know. Be sensitive to the promptings of God and His timing as to whom you should share with.

Theme 2: *Your faith has made you well*

Jesus heals the lepers

On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show

yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Luke 17:11-19

Again in this story, Jesus tells the person that was healed that it was their faith that made them well; their faith in Him and His healing power. This man praises God with a loud voice and falls at Jesus' feet. Jesus was pleased with this response of praise.

I believe two things are key here: *response* and *praise*. Jesus recognizes the response, just like he does with us. We are supposed to respond to His sacrifice for our sins. We are supposed to respond to the great gifts that God gives us to enjoy here on this earth. Not a response out of obligation, but a response out of a truly thankful heart that seeks to honor Him. Our response, like the healed leper, should be one of praise and surrender, falling at the feet of Jesus.

Prayer time: Spend time being still and thanking God for ten specific things in your life this week. These things could be people, circumstances, health, actual things, it is up to you. Get in touch with a genuine sense of gratitude in your heart.

Faith action step: Now that you have thanked God, like our healed man in story, pray about your response to God for these things. How does He want you to *respond*? (Note: This is different than, “How do *you want* to respond?”). Prayerfully act on this *response*, in His timing.

Theme 3: *Your faith has saved you* **Jesus forgives a sinful woman**

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." [Jesus said] "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."

Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven--for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Luke 7:36-50

To have faith in Jesus, means having faith in something besides you. Believing in God means admitting you need help. Putting your trust in Jesus, means reaching outside of

yourself and outside of your comfort zone. The woman in the story did these things. She showed love to Jesus and put herself outside of her comfort zone.

Sometimes, to feel like we are getting to Jesus, we have to humble ourselves. We have to “get over ourselves” and our problems that we want God to see from our perspective, instead of seeing them from God’s perspective. Serving God and serving others can often lead to faith and repentance that saves us from our own sin and problems.

Prayer time: Spend time in God’s presence truly repenting of sin in your heart. God does not like sin because it separates us from the ability to walk fully with Him in His plan for us.

Faith action step: Put yourself outside of your comfort zone in the way that you serve someone else this week. While you are serving them, pray for them without telling them about it.

Theme 4: *Your faith has healed you*

Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

Luke 18:35-43 (NIV)

Luke describes this man as a “blind man.” Mark, in his gospel account, identifies him by name as Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46 NIV). You have to love Bartimaeus! After they try to “shush” him, he yells out all the louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

In many of the stories cited throughout this devotional book, we see people crying out to Jesus, often literally. We

see people frequently breaking cultural norms and not caring what others think---their mindset seems to be “I AM GOING TO GET TO JESUS AT ALL COSTS.” It reminds me of those sayings many people write on their van or SUV windows for sports travel tournaments with their kids. They paint things like “Nashville Finals or Bust!” Do you live like your personal sign says “Jesus or Bust!”? The people we are reading about lived like that, and Jesus said their faith healed them, saved them, and made them well. It was this kind of deep and active faith that impressed Jesus and brought about healing. This kind of faith blinded these people to other cultural things that were less important, like caring what others thought of them.

For us, it is much easier to get to Jesus. We just need to ask Him. For those of us who have accepted Jesus as our savior, his Holy Spirit is in us and Jesus is with us all the time. Jesus said, “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20 ESV). We simply need to acknowledge Him, pray to Him, and actively invite Him to participate with us in every aspect of our lives.

If you do not call yourself a follower of Jesus, but you would like to, there are some steps you can take. First, if you have not already done so, you can admit you need a savior because your sin has caused you to fall short and

you know you cannot save yourself. Second, believe that God sent Jesus as your only way to salvation.

Third, choose to receive Jesus into your life as your God and place your trust in Him as your Savior for the rest of your life. If you have just made that prayer and decision for the first time, I congratulate you! I encourage you to reach out soon to a friend who is a Christian, to your Christian church, or to us at changedthroughfaith.com, so we can connect and pray for you!

Prayer time: Imitate the simplicity of Jesus' question and Bartimaeus' response in this story. Jesus asked "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus responded, "Lord, I want to see." There is nothing fancy from either of them here. It is just straight and to the point. In your prayer time this week, consider that Jesus is asking you, "What do you want me to do for you?" and answer Him. Be honest and open with Him. He knows your heart and your situation, just open up to Him.

Faith action step: Pray for God to reveal to you barriers that are keeping you from taking a "Jesus or Bust!" approach to life and your faith journey. Act to remove this barrier, or put it in its proper place of priority.

Theme 5: *O faithless and twisted generation*

Jesus heals a boy with unclean spirit

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

Luke 9:37-43

There are many things to take from this passage, but I would like to focus on three. First, we again see a person crying out loudly above the crowd to get to Jesus. Are we willing to be louder than the crowd to get to Jesus?

Second, Jesus expresses some discontent with the level of faith of some of those in his presence. Jesus says, “O faithless and twisted generation.” When we examine our own level of faith, both inwardly and as seen outwardly in our actions, how would we be seen? Do you consider

yourself more as faithless and twisted, or more as faithful and true?

Third, take note of what happens to the boy when he was making his “final approach” to Jesus: *While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him.* Do you ever feel like that? Sometimes, when we are getting closer and closer to Jesus the enemy seems to try to convulse us, distract us, and throw us down and off track. But here is the great news; Jesus overcomes! Just read the next verse: *But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.* Put yourself in the place of the boy in this story. As you come to Jesus with your whole heart, even if the enemy takes a swipe at you and knocks you down, Jesus overcomes, heals, and gives you back to your heavenly Father. That is great news, indeed!

Prayer time: Pray about an area where you feel “knocked down.” Ask Jesus to overcome and heal this difficulty in your life as He did with this boy. Pray with expectant faith. Be bold, thankful and honest in your prayers.

Faith action step: Take note of your level of faith in God this week. In general, do you trust God to lead you or are you trying to tell God how *you want* Him to run your life? Give one area over to God that you have been trying to exclude from Him and control all by yourself.

Theme 6: *Not even in Israel have I found such faith*
Jesus heals a centurion's servant

After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

Luke 7:1-10

How great and wonderful is God! He heals yet again. Jesus again mentions the great level of faith this centurion had. This centurion had a position of cultural power, but clearly humbled himself to ask Jesus for help. We need to put our personal egos and occupational status aside when it comes to our faith. God is not concerned with our job title, He is concerned with our level of faith and the condition and direction of our heart!

Prayer time: Ask God to help you remain humble and to keep seeking Him with your whole heart. Ask Him to reveal to you areas where you need to work on humility and areas of your heart that you are not willing to give over to Him.

Faith action step: Work on humility this week by serving and praying for someone who you have authority over, according to cultural norms. It may be someone who works for you or your own child. In serving them and praying for them, you increase your level of faith and humility like the centurion in this passage did.

Theme 7: *Do not fear, only believe*
Jesus heals Jairus' daughter

Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Luke 8:40-42, 49-56

Here we have another example of someone who has authority and power in his culture submitting and having faith in Jesus. This ruler fell at Jesus feet. Are you beginning to see some patterns?

- People crying out above crowds or fighting through crowds to get to Jesus
- People humbling themselves
- People exhibiting unwavering faith in Jesus

The next time you are becoming overwhelmed by a difficult situation, just imagine Jesus right there with you saying: “Do not fear; only believe.”

Prayer time: Pray for God to help you evict fear from your thought patterns and replace it with faith.

Faith action step: Simply remind yourself over and over this week what Jesus wants us to know: *Do not fear; only believe.*

Theme 8: *Let down your nets*

Jesus calls his first disciples

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:1-11

In this story, Simon and the fisherman were extremely tired and not eager to follow the instructions of Jesus. As with many people in the last few passages, however, they submitted and followed what Jesus said. The fisherman acted in faith, even when it didn't make sense to them. They did it because Jesus said so.

As a parent, have you ever told your child to do something because "You said so?" You do not expect them to need another reason or to know why. You just expect them to obey, and so it is with Jesus and us. If you obey Him consistently for the long term, you will not be disappointed. You will begin to "fill your nets" with the blessings from God.

Prayer time: As you approach the final session of this devotional series, this is a great time to rest and listen to God. Instead of praying for specific areas of your life to fix or address, just spend time in God's presence.

Faith action step: At the end of this story, the fisherman dropped their nets, left everything and followed Jesus. Identify an area of where you spend a lot of your free time. For one week, are you willing to drop it and follow Jesus during that time by praying, serving others, or reading your bible?

Theme 9: This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 John 5:4

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

We cannot overcome this world all by ourselves. I know that as men we are taught to be tough, to persevere, to overcome, and to not show weakness or vulnerability. We are taught to rely on ourselves. But I think we can follow the example of Jesus, he was tough and vulnerable and relied on God, all at the same time.

I do not know anyone tougher than Jesus, He had a crown of thorns driven into His head and nails driven through His hands and feet, yet He did not give up on His calling. He could have quit and taken Himself off of that cross. But He persevered and finished the job. He died for us and rose in triumphant glory to overcome this world and the power of death. He did that for me and for you!

If Jesus can surrender, follow His Father, and persevere in toughness all at the same time, so can we!

Prayer time: Jesus says that we will have trouble in this world, but He will help you overcome. He wants you to find peace in Him. Spend some time during your prayer sessions resting in His peace. Practice experiencing and remembering this peace throughout your day.

Faith action step: Think about an area of your life where you want to experience a victory. Trust in God to show you where He wants you to have victory. Is it a career goal? Is it victory over a nagging area of sin? Is it victory over a problem with your kids? Put your faith to achieve this victory in God and not in yourself. Do you have to do work? Yes. Can God help you overcome? Absolutely!

Wrap Up

Congratulations on growing in your faith through this devotional series. Our faith in God helps us heal and be well. Our faith saves us from fear, reliance on solely our own abilities, and putting stock in what our culture teaches us about fulfillment and success. I pray that you are learning to put your faith in Jesus and believe in His promises.

For more devotional plans and resources, our free *Changed Through Faith* app is available in the Apple Store and on Google Play. You can also find our blog, testimonials, and more at **Changedthroughfaith.com**.

I hope you continue to enjoy this plan and experience God's blessings in your life!

-Brian



“Your Faith Has Made You Well”

Stories of faith and healing

Theme 1 *Your faith has made you well: Jesus heals a sick woman*

Luke 8:40-48 (ESV)

Theme 2 *Your faith has made you well: Jesus heals the lepers*

Luke 17:11-19 (ESV)

Theme 3 *Your faith has saved you: Jesus forgives a sinful woman*

Luke 7:36-50 (ESV)

Theme 4 *Your faith has healed you: Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus*

Luke 18:35-43(NIV)

Theme 5 *O faithless and twisted generation: Jesus heals a boy with unclean spirit*

Luke 9:37-43 (ESV)

Theme 6 *Not even in Israel have I found such faith: Jesus heals a centurion’s servant*

Luke 7:1-10 (ESV)

Theme 7 *Do not fear, only believe: Jesus heals Jairus’ daughter*

Luke 8:49-56 (ESV)

Theme 8 *Let down your nets: Jesus calls his first disciples*

Luke 5:1-11 (ESV)

Theme 9 *This is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith*

1 John 5:4 (ESV)