

⁴⁶ So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." ⁴⁹ The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. ⁵¹ And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!" ⁵² Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³ So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household. ⁵⁴ This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

Text: John 4:46-54 A 10-20-24 Genesis 1:31-2:3 Ephesians 6:10-17 Psalm 103 Resp. Ps.: 40
Hymns: 537, 742, 26, 47

JESUS HELPS US AND HEALS US

Ev'ry morning mercies new Fall as fresh as morning dew;
Ev'ry morning let us pay Tribute with the early day;
For Thy mercies, Lord, are sure; Thy compassion doth endure.

Still the greatness of Thy love Daily doth our sins remove;
Daily, far as east from west, Lifts the burden from the breast;
Gives unbought to those who pray Strength to stand in evil day. (TLH #537:1-2)

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

The Bible tells us that Jesus' first miracle was changing water into wine in Cana of Galilee. Word spread about Jesus and His amazing miracles. Now He was back in the area. A Jewish royal official came looking for Him. The man's son was dying, and he was desperate for Jesus to heal him.

Sometimes our need is so great that we know only God can help us. He tells us, "*Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me*" (Ps. 50:15). God wants us to come to Him for every need, big or small. Every time we pray, "*Give us this day our daily bread,*" we're acknowledging that we depend on God for everything.

We're told the man "*implored*" Jesus to heal his son. In the original this was on-going. The man "*kept asking*" / "*kept begging*" / "*kept imploring*" Jesus to heal his son. He wouldn't give up until Jesus helped him.

James says, "*You do not have because you do not ask*" (Jms. 4:2). Praying to God isn't an afterthought, 'when all else fails.' Praying to God is the first thing we need to do. Jesus tells us that we "*ought always to pray and not lose heart*" (Lk. 18:1). "*Keep asking, and it will be given to you; keep seeking, and you will find; keep knocking, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*" (Mt. 7:7-8)

Jesus said to the man, *“Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”* In the original Jesus used the plural when He said, *“You people.”* Jesus wasn’t simply singling out the man. He was commenting on the attitude of many of the people. If all they thought of Jesus was that He was a great healer, that wouldn’t save them. Jesus had come to give them healing, yes, for their bodies, but most importantly, for their souls. If they looked to Jesus to heal their bodies they would live longer, but eventually die. But if they looked to Jesus to heal their souls, they would live forever.

“The nobleman said to [Jesus], ‘Sir, come down before my child dies!’” The man’s son was dying, and he wouldn’t give up until Jesus healed him.

“Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way; your son lives.’” Jesus granted the man’s request and healed his son, who wasn’t even there! When Jesus said He had healed his son, the man believed Jesus and headed for home. That’s faith! To believe means to take God at His Word. Faith isn’t a vague hope: “I hope there’s a God.” “I hope God is listening to me.” “I hope God answers prayer.” “I hope things will work out well.” Faith is believing what God says in the Bible. *“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”* – Hebrews 11:1. (ESV)

Jesus told the man, *“Your son lives”* – which in the original is also, *“Your son is living,” “Your son is alive.”* There are those who try to explain away Jesus’ miracles in the Bible by saying they were only peoples’ temporary, emotional reactions, but Jesus didn’t really heal people. When Jesus healed the man’s son the idea from the original is that Jesus had healed the boy who was dying, that the boy was alive, and that the boy would continue to be alive and well.

“And as [the man] was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, ‘Your son lives!’” Before the man got home, his servants met him and told him that his son was well. They used the same phrase Jesus did: *“Your son lives.”* Jesus had truly healed the boy. He was a healthy, living boy. The man and his servants were overjoyed.

“Then [the man] inquired of [his servants] the hour when [the boy] got better. And they said to him, ‘Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.’ So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, ‘Your son lives.’ And he himself believed, and his whole household.” The man found out that his son got better at the exact time Jesus said He had healed him. The man told his servants and family about Jesus and what He had done. The result was that they didn’t just believe in Jesus as a great healer. They believed in Jesus as the Son of God and their Savior!

We depend on God for everything. Facing financial struggles, losing our job, having serious health problems, someone we love having serious problems – these types of things teach us how much we depend on God. Going through such troubles can be difficult and painful, but what God teaches us in the process is good.

I once saw a cartoon that stated that it’s OK to ask God even for little things because everything is little to God. God cares about us. He wants to help us with our problems and needs. Scripture encourages us, *“[Cast] all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”* (1 Pet. 5:7)

The same Jesus who healed everyone who came to Him for healing is with us. He gave us bodies that heal themselves: cuts, bruises, broken bones, colds, flus, and so many other ways we've been healed, and continue to be healed. If it is His will Jesus heals cancer, heart problems, and any and every other sickness, injury, and disease. The psalmist says, "*Bless the LORD ... Who heals all your diseases*" (Ps. 103:1-2). God either takes away what hurts us, or if not, gives us what we need to accept His will and be at peace with it and be happy and content in Him. God lets us struggle with some things in life to teach us patience, humility, trust in Him and His Word, and other good things. As He told Paul, "*My grace is [enough] for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness*" (2 Cor. 12:9a). We learn to say with Paul, "*Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*" (2 Cor. 12:9b-10)

Jesus always heals us from our sins. When we come to Jesus with our sins and tell Him we're sorry, He forgives us. Jesus took upon Himself all of the sin and guilt of every person who will ever live. Jesus bore His Father's righteous anger over our sins in our place. Jesus was forsaken by His Father because of our sins. As He died on the cross Jesus said, "*It is finished!*" showing that He had paid for every one of our sins (Jn 19:30). Sometimes even after we've told God we're sorry for our sins and know He has forgiven us, we still feel bad. Our sins are still bothering us. We're having trouble feeling we're forgiven. We need to keep turning to God's Word for the assurance that we are forgiven. Like the man who took Jesus at His Word that his son was healed, we need to take God at His Word that He has forgiven us. "*Be of good cheer,*" Jesus tells us, "*your sins are forgiven*" (Mt. 9:2). As we keep turning to His Word, God lets us know we're forgiven. "*If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" – 1 John 1:9. "*As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us*" – Psalm 103:12. "*I will forgive [your] iniquity, and [your] sin I will remember no more*" – Jeremiah 31:34.

Certainly all the people Jesus healed were grateful for it. But unless they believed in Jesus as their Savior, they didn't go to heaven. Thank God that, in Jesus, He has healed us from our sins. God has given us faith in Jesus, and we're forgiven and saved. We're going to heaven. In heaven we won't sin anymore. In heaven we won't suffer from the results of sin anymore. In heaven whatever was wrong with our bodies on earth will be gone. In heaven our bodies will be perfect. In heaven we will have perfect health and happiness forever. Thinking about heaven we say with Job, "*How my heart yearns within me!*" to be there (Job 19:27)

After Jesus healed the man's son, the man talked to his servants and family about Jesus, and they all ended up believing in Jesus as their Savior. You and I need to be talking to people about Jesus so they can believe in Him as their Savior, too. If they need it, Jesus can heal their bodies. Jesus will heal their souls. And we will thank and praise Him together one day in heaven.

Let our prayers each morn prevail, That these gifts may never fail;
And, as we confess the sin And the tempter's pow'r within,
Feed us with the Bread of Life, Fit us for our daily strife.

As the morning light returns, As the sun with splendor burns,
Teach us still to turn to Thee, Ever blessed Trinity,
With our hands our hearts to raise In unfailling prayer and praise. Amen. (TLH #537:3-4)