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He has never left himself without clear evidence of his goodness. For he blesses us with rain from heaven and seasons of fruitful harvests. Acts 14:17 tpt

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BELIEVE THE WORD

Becky Combee

When I study the healing ministry of Jesus, I see four manifestations of God's healing hand. The first and most essential is Words of Faith, but also very important are the Touch of faith, the Prayer of Faith, and the Gifts of Healings. All of these can be revealed to our mind as we study the Scriptures.

Words of Faith are clearly seen in Matthew 8 when we read the healing of the centurion's servant. The centurion approached Jesus because his servant was grievously ill. Jesus quickly responded saying, "I will come and heal him." (Mt 8:7) But the centurion countered with great faith saying, "Speak the word only."

What a marvelous manifestation of the power of words! In essence, the centurion said, "You just say so and it is done." Jesus responded with the declaration, "So be it done." (Mt 8:13) The servant was healed that very hour because the centurion had faith in Jesus' word.

Another tremendous example of the spoken word is found in John 4. In this passage a nobleman came to Jesus on behalf of his dying son. The nobleman pleaded with Jesus to come to his house and help his son. It is good to note that the nobleman was approximately 16 miles from home. That's a long walk!

Jesus told the man to go home that his son was alive. Here is the most overwhelming response of this father. John 4:50 declares that the man "believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way." On the way home, he met his servants who told him his son was alive.

Just for fun, I must remind you that he could

NO, HE DIDN'T

Suzanne D. Williams

If someone told me my parents were selling their land and moving to a condominium. I wouldn't believe you. There is no way on God's green earth this will ever happen. If you told me my daughter was training to become a lifeguard, I would laugh hysterically. This also will not happen.

If you hear I am heading to the watermelon festival. Bwahahahaha. Yeah, no. T'ain't 'appenin' guvnuh.

So when I hear it was "God's will" for someone to die at an early age, I don't believe it. When I am told it is His will for someone to suffer any physical or mental illness. No, no it isn't. It goes way outside of His character. He is love. God sent His only Son so that anyone (whosoever) **COULD BE SAVED.**

Jesus' death and Resurrection defeated the devil for good, stripping him of all his authority. He exposed him as a murderer and the father of lies. He said he was a thief who came to steal, kill, and destroy. He then made a fool of him, in the greatest rescue plan ever.

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." (Acts 10:38)

Acts 10:38 tells us what He came to earth for. He came to DO GOOD. To HEAL ALL who were OPPRESSED OF THE DEVIL. And it explains why. BECAUSE GOD WAS WITH HIM. God the Holy Spirit worked miracles through Him, healing the deaf,

(Continued from "Believe the Word")

not text, phone, or e-mail for a report of his son's condition. He walked every mile believing Jesus' word!

There is one more example of the power of words that we must mention. In Luke 17, ten lepers cried out to Jesus for mercy. Jesus did not touch them or pray for them. He said, 'Go shew yourselves unto the priests.' (Lk 17:14) Here is the scriptural report: "As they went, they were cleansed." They believed Jesus' word. They acted on Jesus' word, and they were freed of leprosy.

Without studying the Touch of Faith and the Prayer of Faith, which are certainly viable avenues of healing, I want to camp here on Words of Faith. Do we believe Jesus' Word? Do we hold fast to what is written? The Word of God is true, forever settled, and immutable. If I asked my mother for something and she said, "No," then pleading my case would be in vain. Her word "No" had settled it. It was over. No meant "no."

My mother's word was also immutable or unchanging. Unless she realized she was in error, her decision was final. Our great and mighty God is NEVER wrong. His Word is always true. According to the apostle John, through the truth of God's Word, we will be free. (Jn 8:32)



(Continued from "No, He Didn't")

the blind, the leper. He raised the dead. Because God the Father loved mankind so much, He sent His only Son to bring salvation. Complete salvation.

The word "salvation" means more than just saving from sin. It includes deliverance, health, preservation, and rescue both physically and morally. It is comprehensive, including everything the devil, our enemy, would ever try to do to us. God is the God of peace. The God of righteousness. He is the merciful God. From Him, our salvation causes our soul to prosper, our needs to be met, and our lives to be full of everlasting joy.

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, was sent to bring us wisdom, to remind us of the truth in the Word of God, and to never, ever leave us. He's our help when we lose our job, when we don't feel well, when our children are not living for God. He is

Often, we lean on our circumstances instead of God's Word. Our mind is clouded by a doctor's report, great pain, loss of finances, and disagreeable people. The Word of God does not dominate our thinking, and we begin to waver. We MUST allow the promises of God to rule our lives. God must rule our ears! Our voice must reflect our trust in Him.

Sometimes people come to me with a question, and after I answer, they refuse my answer. Politely, I read the Scripture to them and talk about the power of God's Word and its great truth. Then I hear those dreaded words: "That's not what So-and-so said." They reject the Word of God and embrace the word of a friend. Oh, how sad!

When I go to a doctor, I always remind the Lord that He is my Physician. Yes, I am listening to the words of the doctor, but I am ruled by God's Spirit. I am led by the Spirit of God who guides my decision and reminds me of God's Word.

When we honor the truth of God's Word, we will overcome every difficulty. Just as Jesus spoke to the centurion, the nobleman, and the lepers, His written Word will speak to our heart and lead us to victory. In Romans 3:4 the apostle Paul writes, "Let God be true." SO, LET GOD BE TRUE. Honor His Word every day! Live in the Word and rejoice.

God's Resurrection power within. He is our sound mind. His fruit grows in us. Because of Him we have love, joy, peace, patience, faith, goodness, meekness, and self-control.

There isn't anything God has not done and will not do for us.

Settle it in your thinking. If it's bad, it's from the devil. If it brings discouragement, hopelessness, fear, or anxiety, it's from Satan's kingdom. If the difficulty you face seems to say God caused it, know that you know that you know that He didn't. Be convinced of it and undeterred by negative voices. Because just like I know what my husband and my daughter, my parents, and my aunt, would or wouldn't do, I know my Savior, and He is so gentle and kind and compassionate.

He would never hurt the people He died for. You simply can't convince me otherwise.