



WHAT IS REAL FAITH?

By Bill Subritzky

Over the years I have prayed for many people believing for their healing. Some have been believing for their own healing. Others have been believing that somehow the power of God operating through me would heal them.

I have examined my own faith many times. I have wondered why some people seem to get instantly healed and nothing seems to happen with others.

The Word of God says that, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible." (Hebrews 11:1 & 3.)

I realise that Scripture says faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17.) It also says, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6.)

Many times I have read the Book of Acts over the past 42 years. I have loved to read how Peter spoke to the crippled man who had expected some money from him and said to him, "Look at us."

So the man gave them his attention expecting to receive something from them.

Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them –walking, leaping and praising God." (Acts 3:4-8.)

So Peter healed him by faith in the name of Jesus Christ. The faith that came through Jesus accomplished the healing. This is the key.

Later on Peter says to the people, "And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." (Acts 3:16.)

Why did this healing happen so easily? Consider this, only a short time earlier Jesus Christ had died on the cross. Peter and the apostles had lived with Jesus for 3½ years and ministered alongside of Him. They had seen the great miracles He performed including walking on the water, raising the dead and healing the cripples as well as casting out demons.

They had watched him being scourged then going to the cross and dying a painful death over a six hour period.

When they had given up all hope, suddenly He appeared to them in His resurrection body and taught them for 40 days concerning the kingdom of God. He ate and drank with them in His resurrection body. They had lived with the risen Jesus Christ.

Before ascending into heaven He told them to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high. (Acts 1:2-5.)

Ten days later on the day of Pentecost the power of God fell on the 120 disciples in the upper room. They spoke in 15 different languages and the people around them could understand them. They appeared to be like drunken men as they fell under the power of God. (Acts 2:1-13.)

Peter and the other disciples had seen these great events happening. Everything was fresh in their mind. They knew in their hearts that there was power in the name of Jesus Christ.

Hence Peter, filled with faith said to the crippled man, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." The miracle happened.

Peter was still living the fact that he had seen the risen Jesus Christ and now he himself had the power of the Holy Spirit.

His faith to heal sprang from these facts. There was no doubt in his mind that Jesus Christ could perform a miracle through him, including healing a man who himself did not expect healing.

So strong was the faith of Peter and the disciples in the name of Jesus Christ that when the high priest asked by what power or by what name they had done this healing, Peter said, "By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole." (Acts 4:10.)

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12.)

When the disciples were gathered together they thanked God for the signs and wonders performed through the name of Jesus Christ. Then the place where they were assembled together was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 4:31.)

In another incident Peter went to a man who was bedridden for eight years and paralysed. He said to him, "Aenas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. (Acts 9:34.) Such is the power that is in the name of Jesus Christ.

What does this story teach me? It shows that my faith must always rest in Jesus Christ. As I contemplate Him beaten, mocked and lashed with 39 lashes to heal me. Then going to the cross and dying there to pay the penalty for my sins. He did this to grant me salvation and healing. As I think upon this then my faith rises in the same way as it did in the case of Peter.

I believe the key to our faith in Jesus and to healing is to relive in our minds the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At all times we should be aware of the fact that He died to heal us and give us the wonderful gift of salvation.

As we do this, seeing our own healing and those of others, then our faith will rest in Jesus Christ. He will then do miracles of healing and deliverance through us as He did through Peter and the apostles.

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-11.)

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