

YOUTH messenger

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A Miracle-Working God



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We often find ourselves meditating on how Jesus was rejected by the very ones He loved and came to save just because He was born in humble conditions to a poor family and lived in a place with a bad reputation. As soon as He began His ministry and it became evident that He was going to become a popular figure in society, people of different backgrounds felt honored to be considered for a position in His immediate entourage. One educated and capable young man even volunteered to become a disciple, ignoring the plain warning Jesus gave to illustrate how extremely limited were the material assets He possessed.

As Jesus and His disciples “went about doing good,” multitudes gathered around Him, and some were impatiently pushing themselves through the crowd to make sure they would not miss the opportunity to benefit from His rare visit to their neighborhood.

MORE THAN JUST A HERO

By Adrian Finaru

Even people with special needs traveled or were carried long distances by friends and family to get to where Jesus was because His reputation was that of a miracle-working man.

I can only imagine how a woman reached out to touch Jesus' garment, how a man was crying for help from a distance as the crowd tried to quiet him down, how friends lowered a sick man through a roof, and how a short fellow climbed a tree to at least get a glimpse of Jesus, all because His reputation was that of a miracle-working man.

It must have felt good to be known, appreciated and popular. But Jesus knew that this was not a popularity contest. It wasn't only about getting people to live better and longer, or about the dead living again. This was a matter of eternal life or eternal death. As the time of His mission on earth was coming to an end, Jesus began revealing the inevitable future

awaiting Him, to which Peter reacted saying, "Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee" (Matthew 16:22).

The popular miracle-working man was now in the garden of Gethsemane, confronting the reality alone. The One who went about doing good had no one to turn to in the most terrifying moments of His life. Even His closest disciples fell asleep when asked to watch and pray with Him. He was arrested, beaten, and mocked by the very ones He had helped. His popularity decreased the more He suffered until He found Himself hanging on the cross between two thieves. One was mocking Him just like everybody else while the other one said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" (Luke 23:42). The believing thief was the only one who accepted Jesus—not merely as a miracle-working man, but as a **MIRACLE-WORKING GOD!**

Who is God for you, my friend?

I WAS Sick, BUT NOW

By Stephen
Andrew Jacobs

I'm Healed



To this day I can vividly recall the agony my mother endured each year during winter. As temperatures decreased and the joints in her hands and feet would start to cause her discomfort—and later pain,—at times she had very little use of her hands or even have the courage to do anything but rest in bed with a hot-water bottle. I also remember how often she had to visit the doctor only to return with a bag filled with medication which didn't provide a cure but only some relief.

As winter would pass and summer drew closer, you could see a sense of relief on her face, perhaps with the thought; “I have made it once

again through another winter; summer brings the promise of warmer weather and less pain.” This cycle went on for several years until one Sabbath, she miraculously found a cure.

In the Bible there is the experience of a woman, and the Spirit of Prophecy describes her as: “a poor woman who for twelve years had suffered from a disease that made her life a burden.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 343.

We can read about her in the Gospel according to Mark, chapter 5.

“And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing

bettered, but rather grew worse, when she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole" (Mark 5:25-28).

Let us pause here for a moment. Verse 26 records that she "suffered many things of many physicians." One would expect that she had suffered much from the disease alone; however, we are made aware of the reality that she had an "incurable" disease. Test after test, remedy after remedy, she was only left feeling worse, with less financial means and no hope to find a cure.

"But her hopes revived when she heard of the cures that Christ performed. She felt assured that if she could only go to Him, she would be healed. In weakness and suffering she came to the seaside where He was teaching, and tried to press through the crowd, but in vain. Again, she followed Him from the house of Levi-Matthew, but was still unable to reach Him. She had begun to despair, when, in making His way through the multitude, He came near where she was.

"The golden opportunity had come. She was in the presence of the Great Physician! But amid the confusion she could not speak to Him, nor catch more than a passing glimpse of His figure. Fearful of losing her one chance of relief, she pressed forward, saying to herself, 'If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole.' As He was passing, she reached forward,

and succeeded in barely touching the border of His garment. But in that moment she knew that she was healed. In that one touch was concentrated the faith of her life, and instantly her pain and feebleness gave place to the vigor of perfect health."—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 343, 344.

ONE MORE ATTEMPT

What an amazing moment that must have been—for her to feel the "perfect health" she had so long forgotten! In the Bible, the story can so easily be overlooked as it alludes to her only making one successful attempt to touch the hem of Christ's garment. I, however, appreciate the detail of the story that is expressed in the Spirit of Prophecy that she had two failed attempts before receiving the healing she needed from Christ. What joy it brings to us as we read that as she was about to give up, Christ Himself moved to where she was, so that she could act upon her faith and be healed.

This certainly should make us pause to think: Have I done all I can to touch the hem of Christ's garment? Have I fallen on my knees enough times to now give up? Perhaps there is just one more attempt I should make so that even though I may barely reach the "hem" of Christ, I believe that I will be made whole from whatever my struggle is?

The reason we should be asking ourselves these questions is because of what happened next:

“DO NOT WAIT TO FEEL THAT YOU ARE MADE WHOLE, BUT SAY, ‘I BELIEVE IT; IT IS SO, NOT BECAUSE I FEEL IT, BUT BECAUSE GOD HAS PROMISED.’”

“And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague” (Mark 5:30–34).

IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

I believe that the reason for Christ “exposing” this woman was to leave us with a lesson to show that even though the people in the crowd were touching Him, they were not made whole because of the intent with which they had come to see Jesus. None of them felt the need for a Saviour. Neither did they identify any problem within them that needed fixing.

What, then, is our intent when we meet with Christ?

“Do not wait to feel that you are made whole, but say, ‘I believe it; it is so, not because I feel it, but because God has promised.’”

“Henceforth you are not your own; you are bought with a price. ‘Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold; . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.’ 1 Peter 1:18, 19. Through this simple act of believing God, the Holy Spirit has begotten a new life in your heart. You are as a child born into the family of God, and He loves you as He loves His Son.

“If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ’s character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned.

“Put away the suspicion that God’s promises are not meant for you. They are for every repentant transgressor. Strength and grace have been provided through Christ to be brought by ministering angels to every believing soul. None are so sinful that they cannot find strength, purity, and righteousness in Jesus, who died for them.”—*A Call to Stand Apart*, p. 30.

A TOUCH OF FAITH

“It was not through the outward contact with Him, but through the faith which took hold on His

divine power, that the cure was wrought.

“The wondering crowd that pressed close about Christ realized no accession of vital power. But when the suffering woman put forth her hand to touch Him, believing that she would be made whole, she felt the healing virtue. So in spiritual things. To talk of religion in a casual way, to pray without soul hunger and living faith, avails nothing. A nominal faith in Christ, which accepts Him merely as the Saviour of the world, can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere intellectual assent to the truth. He who waits for entire knowledge before he will exercise faith, cannot receive blessing from God. It is not enough to believe about Christ; we must believe *in* Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347. [Author’s italics for emphasis.]

What a wonderful point this quotation makes! Christ should be our personal Saviour first, before anything else.



THE REASON WHY GOD WANTS US TO BE HEALED

You may be wondering what the miraculous cure was that my mother found that Sabbath: By God’s guidance, while visiting a nature reserve on the Sabbath afternoon, we met fellow Sabbathkeepers and my mother was introduced to a book titled, *Ek leef van Vrugte* (“I Live on Fruit”) by Essie Honiball. In her attempt to get a copy of the book the following week, my mother visited our community library and, believe it or not, it was there but unfortunately checked out. After a couple of days, she returned to the library, but the book was once again not available. Only on her fourth attempt and after much prayer was the book finally available.

She started to read it and soon implemented a strict detox diet with fruit and water so that after some months her rheumatoid arthritis was healed to the point that winters were no longer a burden—she was able to walk and enjoy life again. One day she visited the doctor who, to his surprise, was shocked at her recovery. Immedi-

ately the doctor gave credit to the medication saying that it was the reason for her cure, but my Mom immediately told her doctor that it was God, who through natural remedies, gave her healing. What a testimony that must have been! This is why I believe God wants to heal us—physically and spiritually—so that praise, glory and honor may be given to Him through Jesus, Christ. “It is a light thing that Thou shouldest be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give Thee for a light to the Gentiles, that Thou mayest be My salvation unto the end of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6).

“The physical restoration of every soul that came to Christ to be healed is an assurance that he is fully able to take away sin, and to heal the diseased soul. He is ‘the Lamb of God, which taketh away

the sin of the world.’ ”—*The Signs of the Times*, August 5, 1897.

“Through the grace of Christ every provision has been made for the perfecting of Christlike characters; and God is honored when His people, in all their social and business dealings, reveal the principles of heaven.”—*In Heavenly Places*, p. 154.

I would like to conclude by leaving you with this thought: As God’s people, we need more faith, “... faith that will take hold and will not let go.”—*Ibid.*, p. 88. A “faith that will endure the test. Oh, how often we yield to temptation because we do not keep our eye upon Jesus!”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 652.

“We need faith in God, that under the sanctifying power of God’s Word, the principles of human brotherhood may be manifested. We need the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Its power upon mind and heart will enable us to present the truths of God’s Holy Word. Sound doctrines brought into actual contact with human souls will result in sound and elevating practices. The truth as it is in Jesus must be cherished. Then Christians will not be Christians in name only. The love of Christ will pervade their lives.”—*Reflecting Christ*, p. 113.

May God help us as we continue to be healed until He returns, so that we may never feel diseased again! 🙏

I WAS

Lost

BUT NOW

I'm Found

By Cacious Malambo



PRIVILEGES SLIGHTED

“We can say with grateful hearts, the Lord is with us. We have had an unusual degree of freedom in the Lord.”—*An Appeal to the Youth*, p. 76.

There’s liberty in rightdoing. Before getting into vices—enjoying the privileges of real freedom in childhood innocence—there are times when we are older youth that we tend to get deluded into the enticement of evil things. We suddenly imagine and assume that we are somehow deprived and need more exposure and freedom from parental control.

The prodigal son of Luke 15:11–32 was drawn into indulgence in what he heard and saw around him. “This younger son had become weary of the restraint of his father’s house.

He thought that his liberty was restricted. His father’s love and care for him were misinterpreted, and he determined to follow the dictates of his own inclination.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 198. Coming to his father he said, “Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me” (Luke 15:12, first part).

EXPERIENCING THE PERCEIVED FREEDOM—YET LOST AND CAPTIVATED

We read how the father responded to the younger son’s request: “And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living” (Luke 15:12, 13).

THE GLITTER AND TINSEL THAT ENTICED HIM HAVE DISAPPEARED, AND HE FEELS THE BURDEN OF HIS CHAIN.

The youth, “having obtained his patrimony, he goes into ‘a far country;’ away from his father’s home. With money in plenty, and liberty to do as he likes, he flatters himself that the desire of his heart is reached. There is no one to say, Do not do this, for it will be an injury to yourself; or, Do this, because it is right.”—Ibid., p. 199. Fiendish forces rejoice as the blinded young fellow descends down the path that leads into the wilderness!

Solomon depicts such like him with the following description: “For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, and beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy

face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life” (Proverbs 7:6–23).

“The Bible tells of men who ‘professing themselves to be wise’ ‘became fools’ (Romans 1:22); and this is the history of the young man of the parable. The wealth which he has selfishly claimed from his father he squanders upon harlots. The treasure of his young manhood is wasted.”—Ibid., p. 199.

“Evil companions help him to plunge ever deeper into sin, and he wastes his ‘substance with riotous living.’ ”—Ibid.

SOBERING SITUATIONS ... AND AWAKENED TO REALITY!

“And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants” (Luke 15:14-19).

“The glitter and tinsel that enticed him have disappeared, and he feels the burden of his chain. Sitting upon the ground in that desolate and famine-stricken land, with no companions but the swine, he is fain to fill himself with the husks on which the beasts are fed. Of the gay companions who flocked about him in his prosperous days and ate and drank at his expense, there is not one left to befriend him. Where now is his riotous joy? Stilling his conscience, benumbing his sensibilities, he thought himself happy; but now, with money spent, with hunger unsatisfied, with pride humbled, with his moral nature dwarfed, with his will weak and untrustworthy, with his finer feelings seemingly dead, he is





the most wretched of mortals.”—*Ibid.*, p. 200.

The solution to all this misery is the father’s love. The position of a servant is preferred when compared to the current situation.

“MY SON WAS DEAD, AND IS ALIVE AGAIN; HE WAS LOST, AND IS FOUND”

“The love of God still yearns over the one who has chosen to separate from Him, and He sets in operation influences to bring him back to the Father’s house. The prodigal son in his wretchedness

‘came to himself.’ The deceptive power that Satan had exercised over him was broken. He saw that his suffering was the result of his own folly, and he said, ‘How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father.’ Miserable as he was, the prodigal found hope in the conviction of his father’s love. It was that love which was drawing him toward home. So it is the assurance of God’s love that constrains the sinner to return to God. ‘The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.’ Romans 2:4. A golden chain, the mercy and compassion of divine love, is passed around every imperiled soul. The Lord declares, ‘I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.’ Jeremiah 31:3.”—*Ibid.*, p. 201.

“Little did the gay, thoughtless youth, as he went out from his father’s gate, dream of the ache and longing left in that father’s heart. When he danced and feasted with his wild companions, little did he think of the shadow that had fallen on his home. And now as with weary and painful steps he pursues the homeward way, he knows not that one is watching for his return. But while he is yet ‘a great way off’ the father discerns his form. Love is of quick sight. Not even the degradation of the years of sin can conceal the son from the father’s eyes. He ‘had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck in a

RENOUNCING ALL SELF-DEPENDENCE, WE MAY LOOK TO THE CROSS OF CALVARY AND SAY,— “IN MY HAND NO PRICE I BRING; SIMPLY TO THY CROSS I CLING.”

long, clinging, tender embrace.”—
ibid., p. 203.

JOY REACHING HEAVEN

“Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found” (Luke 15:25-32).

The elder brother was offended. In his view, the “now found” is no longer considered a brother to

him because of the amazing grace of the Father.

TO US ALREADY IN THE FAITH (ELDER BROTHER)

“Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9).

TO ME WHO IS FOUND

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance” (Luke 15:7). (More joy over one added because he/she was lost. The ninety and nine need not to be angry because they are saved already.)

“When Satan tells you that you are a sinner, and cannot hope to receive blessing from God, tell him that Christ came into the world to save sinners. We have nothing to recommend us to God; but the plea that we may urge now and ever is our utterly helpless condition that makes His redeeming power a necessity. Renouncing all self-dependence, we may look to the cross of Calvary and say,—

“ ‘In my hand no price I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.’ ”—*The
Desire of Ages*, p. 317. 

I WAS

By Robert Chiunji

Blind, **BUT NOW** *I See*

In life there are certain times we think we're on the right track . . . and we avoid all who seem to be giving guidance and counsel which may seem to oppose our decided ways. At times we can see and become aware that the path we've chosen is not the right path—yet other times we may be blindfolded to the end results of the downhill path chosen. This occurs especially to youth when they don't look to see the destination where they are heading.

When I was in tenth grade, I involved myself in a worldly gang. The place where our family had moved had various gangs of boys, so I went ahead and joined a gang myself.

My parents never knew about this, but Dad noticed a change in my attitude. I started coming in late at night and gave all sorts of excuses to prevent being put under discipline.



Warnings were given to me by parents and also my siblings, but I never yielded up my attitude because I thought that in order for me to be “civilized” and be considered a smart kid in that area, I needed to belong to the gang and participate in all the bad behavior associated with it. During this period, I was not a baptized church member, so I just thought my path was fine.

Later, after some months passed, I started having a certain dream at night. This dream came to me several times when sleeping. In the dream, I could see two men—one in black and the other in white, both inviting me each one to his side. But the one in black was too persistent. I never took this dream very seriously no matter how many times it appeared and I always found myself held by the one in black.

One day I was with my gang—and by this time I was actually the leader of the gang. It was around 7 or 8 p.m. when only the three of us were present. We never noticed there was a gang of older boys waiting to attack us on our way that evening—and when we were attacked, my friends ran away and I was caught and beaten until finally the way was clear for me to run for my life. Only at this point did I notice and realize I was going down a wrong path and that my dream had been warning me. This was the incident that changed me to become zealous to serve the Lord

after so many warnings. I had not been able to stop this lifestyle until the hard way came, but my life had been preserved for a purpose.

BLINDNESS— LOSING YOUR VISION

When a person is suffering from losing one leg he/she will easily find a better alternative or rather be given an artificial leg made by a specialist. Now let us look at the effects of being blind:

- You can't enjoy the wonderful view of the Lord's creation and the buildings around that were made by other people.
- You'd have limited mobility and have to be assisted even with basic everyday needs.
- You'd never have the chance as to see how fearfully and wonderfully you've been created in the image of Almighty.

There are so many more effects.

For this reason, some blind people become feeble, having few happy moments and some even become beggars in the streets. Notice an interesting experience in Scripture:

“[Jesus and His disciples] came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And **when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out,** and

say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. **And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal,** Thou Son of David, have mercy on me” (Mark 10:46–48).

Let us now take a look at the attributes of the blind man that helped him regain his sight:

- He heard
- He cried out loud shouting His name (“Jesus, thou son of David!”)
- He pled for mercy to be forgiven
- He then cried out more

BARTIMAEUS HAD INFORMATION THAT JESUS WAS PASSING BY

“. . . When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth. . . .”

Bartimaeus might have been blind, but he could hear. And he used his sense of hearing very well. He had correct and timely information that Jesus was coming around.

In whatever situation you find yourself, you need the right information to bring about the change you desire. For Bartimaeus, all he needed to hear was that Jesus was passing through his territory—and he knew what to do with that information...

Do you have timely and accurate information at your disposal?

Do you have the kind of information that will positively impact your life?

Bartimaeus heard about Jesus of Nazareth—His healing fame was all over the city, so all that the blind man needed was to hear and have faith that he’d be healed. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

“Faith in Christ as the world’s Redeemer calls for an acknowledgment of the enlightened intellect controlled by a heart that can discern and appreciate the heavenly treasure. This faith is inseparable from repentance and transformation of character. To have faith means to find and accept the gospel treasure, with all the obligations which it imposes.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 112.

While in our state of spiritual blindness when we cannot discern the critical condition of our spiritual stature, what is it that we’re hearing that will make us take hold of the gift of faith given by our Lord?

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

Bartimaeus had faith in Jesus but he had never seen Him before. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

The blind man gained his faith by hearing about Christ. This sounds an alarm to those who have heard—to take a step in spreading the good tidings about Christ: “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14).

BARTIMAEUS USED THE INFORMATION ABOUT CHRIST’S PRESENCE TO HIS ADVANTAGE

“He began to cry out.”

As we learn about faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, what is our duty? What do we learn in Scripture?

“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know,

O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?” (James 2:14–22).

When Bartimaeus heard and received the information about Christ, he proceeded to have faith that Christ would indeed help him, so he held onto his faith and waited to hear more of how close Christ was so that he could act upon his faith.

And when he heard that Christ was near, he was able to show his faith by his works—which was now for him to cry out and shout out the name of the Lord so that he could be heard. “He cried out loud.”

“Righteousness is right doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine.



“It is not enough for us to believe that Jesus is not an impostor, and that the religion of the Bible is no cunningly devised fable. We may believe that the name of Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby man may be saved, and yet we may not through faith make Him our personal Saviour. It is not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ and have our names registered on the church roll. [1 John 3:24; 2:3 quoted.] This is the genuine evidence of conversion. Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 312, 313.

HE PLEADED FOR MERCY

Blind Bartimaeus not only recognized Jesus as the Son of David, he also knew that the mercies of God were with Him. Hundreds of years before that time, God had promised David that He would never withdraw His mercies from him. Jesus was the custodian of all grace . . . and Bartimaeus knew it!

The blind man knew Christ as his personal Saviour, a Healer who by His mercies had restored his sight.

We need to cry out to the Lord as blind Bartimaeus did for Him to hear us and show us mercy just as

did the psalmist: “Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies’ sake” (Psalm 6:4).

“Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me” (Psalm 40:11).

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ” (2 Corinthians 1:3–5).

Let us call upon the Lord and ask for His mercy to be upon us, that He may give us the sight of discernment.

HE CRIED OUT MORE

Bartimaeus was a very courageous man. How else can you explain the fact that he refused to be intimidated by the many people who tried to silence him?

Strong, able-bodied men who had their sense of sight intact wanted to stop this blind man from asking Jesus for help. But, thankfully, he proved to be unstoppable; the more they tried to silence him, the



more he shouted out loud, “Son of David, have mercy on me.”

Satan will always try to shut us down from calling upon our Lord for His intervention, making us feel more guilty, telling us that we’re unworthy of Christ’s love, and making us blind to His mercy upon sinful souls.

“You who feel the most unworthy, fear not to commit your case to God. When He gave Himself in Christ for the sin of the world, He undertook the case of every soul. ‘He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Romans 8:32. Will He not fulfill the gracious word given for our encouragement and strength?

“Christ desires nothing so much as to redeem His heritage from the dominion of Satan. But before we are delivered from Satan’s power without, we must be delivered from his power within. The Lord permits trials in order that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harsh, unchristlike traits of character. He suffers the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls in order that we may know Him and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, in order that we may have deep heart longings to be cleansed from defilement, and may come forth from the trial purer, holier, happier.

Often we enter the furnace of trial with our souls darkened with selfishness; but if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character. When His purpose in the affliction is accomplished, ‘He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.’ Psalm 37:6.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 174, 175.

The story of Bartimaeus was one of a beggarly blind man who could hear, who had faith, had courage, had focus, had a voice, who proved to be unstoppable, and who got his desired miracle: restoration of sight when he encountered Jesus Christ.

It is high time that we awake from our spiritual blindness and ask for the spirit of discernment that we can restore our spiritual sight.

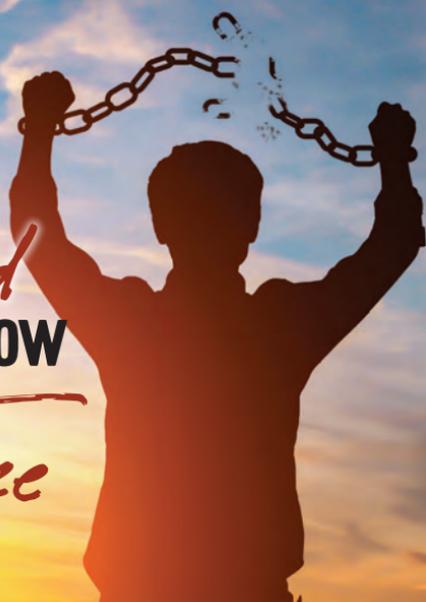
“God pities men struggling in the blindness of perversity; He seeks to enlighten the darkened understanding by sending reproofs and threatenings designed to cause the most exalted to feel their ignorance and to deplore their errors. He endeavors to help the self-complacent to become dissatisfied with their vain attainments and to seek for spiritual blessing through a close connection with heaven.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 435.

May we thus be led by His Spirit! 

By Barbara Montrose

I WAS *Bound*
BUT NOW

I'm Free



A MIRACLE IN GADARA

One day, Jesus and His disciples went by boat to the opposite end of the Sea of Galilee to a land called Gadara (aka Gergesa). This was a country inhabited mostly by non-Jews—and there they found something rather frightening:

“When [Jesus] was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones” (Mark 5:2–5).

Can you imagine meeting someone like this? It would be

pretty scary, for sure! This man was living around the tombs—but let’s face reality: It’s not normal to want to dwell around dead people. This man was like a wild animal that couldn’t be tamed. No one felt safe around him and he was not happy at all; he was crying nonstop and was actually trying to injure himself on purpose. That’s sick. What a horrible life to be living!

“But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, and cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many” (Mark 5:6–9).

This man was full of evil spirits—so many that his name had become

“Legion”, a word for thousands of soldiers, typically around 3,000–6,000. That’s a lot of demons.

The history continues: “And he besought [Jesus] much that he would not send them away out of the country. Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea” (Mark 5:10–13).

Here is clearly shown what the devil’s plan is for every living creature. Can you picture pigs rushing to commit mass suicide by deliberately drowning themselves? Pigs are not that stupid! This is strange indeed. It’s not normal and it’s very destructive. But that’s the plan of Satan and his evil angels—to drive everyone to misery and ruin everyone’s life.

“And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid” (Mark 5:14, 15).

Interesting! In the presence of Jesus, the man was delivered!

He was no longer crazy; he was no longer going around naked. He was now “clothed, and in his right mind.” Satan gets people to uncover themselves and be confused and not be able to think straight. But Jesus wants us to be clothed modestly and He gives us a clear, sober mind.

How about the Jewish pig farmers? They were “afraid.” Why afraid? This had been a miracle! Shouldn’t they be glad that the creepy man had been delivered from demon possession, and that he was no longer hanging around scaring people?

“And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine. And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts” (Mark 5:16, 17).

How sad! Perhaps these Jewish pig farmers were living away in the far end of Judea because, according to their religion, they were not supposed to have swine anyway. But now they saw the man restored and the swine gone. This was not what they had wanted. They had wanted to make lots of money in the pork business and they didn’t care at all about the unfortunate man. So, they asked Jesus to go away. They didn’t want to be delivered from their love of money and they didn’t care about the spiritual restoration He had to offer. How tragic! We don’t see anywhere in the Bible that these people ever got another chance to

accept Jesus. What a dangerous way to live! They didn't realize God's tremendous goodness and mercy toward them:

“Had not Christ restrained the demons, they would have plunged into the sea, not only the swine, but also their keepers and owners. The preservation of both the keepers and the owners was due alone to His power, mercifully exercised for their deliverance.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 515. Amazing! God treats us much better than we deserve.

But by rejecting Christ, their loss was much more than just losing some pigs. Those who don't want to be bothered with Jesus and tell Him just to go away will lose eternity—they'll totally miss out on enjoying eternal life in Heaven!

CHERISHING DELIVERANCE

Jesus is a Gentleman. He does not force His presence upon anyone who doesn't want Him around. But thankfully, there at Gadara there was someone who did want Him around:

“And when [Jesus] was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him” (Mark 5:18).

Jesus had heard the inner cry of the pitiful man—not by what the demons had said through the man, but by seeing the secret longing of his heart, what he had really felt inside. Something only God would be able to know. Jesus could read

it, just like He can read your inner heart and mine. Now that the man had been freed from bondage, wouldn't it have been nice for him to have gotten a chance to join up with Christ and the circle of disciples? Wouldn't that be a great new calling for this transformed man?

“Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee” (Mark 5:19).

So, this man was sent as a missionary in Gadara, where his friends were. Was he disappointed with that calling and tempted to complain about it? Not at all! Was he an effective missionary? Absolutely! In fact, he went beyond Gadara throughout the ten-city region of Decapolis as a powerful evangelist. Did he have results? Let's see:

“And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel” (Mark 5:20). What awesome freedom he now enjoyed! Praise God!



WHAT KIND OF BONDAGE IS OPPRESSING YOU?

Nobody wants to be a slave. This man had been such a slave to sin that it had completely overpowered him. By God's grace and mercy, we may or may not have gone as far into sin as this man, but Jesus warns all of us plainly, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" (John 8:34). If we're stuck in sin, we're already in slavery!

There are 3 areas that trap all of us:

- Appetite
- Presumption
- Love of the world

Matthew 4:1-11 tells the amazing history of how Jesus was victorious over the temptations that seize upon us all. His victory can be ours through His strength.

HOW DO WE RESIST THESE TEMPTATIONS?

We've all got bad habits; some have worse ones than others—but it's all sin, whether big or little. What's the solution? Claiming the promises of God: "This I say then, Walk in the

Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the last of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16). "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1-4). Take the hand of Jesus that is outstretched toward you and let Him choose where you walk!

DEALING WITH TEMPTATION

There are lots of traps involving all kinds of appetite issues. We read in the book of Genesis that Joseph literally ran away when a lustful woman came to try to seduce him (Genesis 39:10-12). That's why we are told, "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Romans 13:14). Do not let sin be



convenient. Stay away from places that are tempting. Otherwise, it's way too easy to fall into the sin of presumption.

Love of the world is another big temptation. Pride, vanity, envy, greed, and selfish ambition all bind us to this sin-fallen world and keep us in chains of bondage. But we're told, "All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:16).

This is why Jesus came to earth—it was to deliver us! He "gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Galatians 1:4, 5).

Trust the promise of Him who was tempted like as we are but overcame in our behalf: "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1).

Yes, the creative power of the Creator is able to make each one of us into a new creation if we invite Him to do so! "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). Amen! 🙏

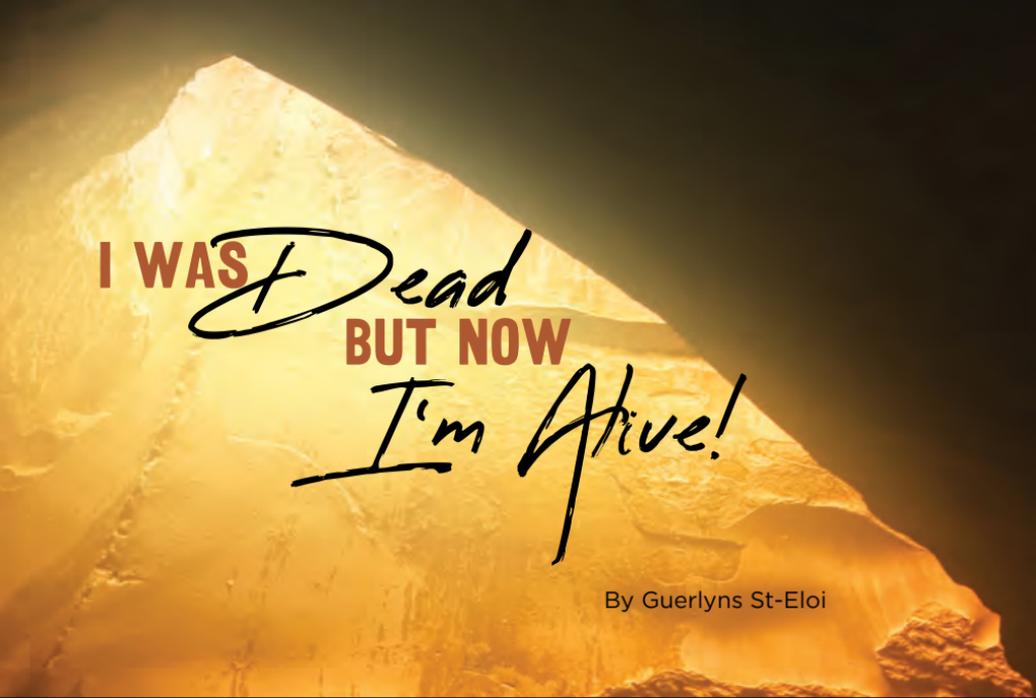
THE MIRACLE OF TRANSFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

What a great and wonderful transformational blessing, it is when someone has gone from death to life.

Christ declares: "I am he that liveth, and was dead" (Revelation 1:18, first part).

As for me, when I was entrenched in the world, I wrote a song that said, "I was dead and I am alive." It was the cry of my heart. I said "dead" because of my worldliness, but now I am "alive" because of what God has done for my life. The transformation that people can see after my conversion has been a big miracle. From looking like a gangster, I became a preacher of righteousness.



I WAS *Dead*
BUT NOW
I'm Alive!

By Guerlyns St-Eloi

What a great and wonderfully transformational blessing it is to understand this subject! Let us consider death and life in various dimensions:

THE MEANING OF DEATH

There are two typical definitions for the word “death”:

1. Helplessness in life; the state of a being, animal or vegetable, in which the organs of movement and life have ceased to perform their functions and have become unable to operate.
2. Lifeless; inanimate.

PHYSICAL DEATH

In the Bible, there are various examples of people who died and then lived again.

Let us consider the death of Moses:

“Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even on them who had not sinned after the similarity of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him who was to come” (Romans 5:14).

Because of the power of Christ, death need not have power over men. This is illustrated in the resurrection of Moses.

We read in the book of Jude 1:9, “Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee” even though Moses had been buried.

As we can see in the book of Matthew chapter 17, an amazing

miracle had taken place: “And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only” (Matthew 17:1-8).

“During His ministry Jesus raised the dead to life. He raised the son of the widow of Nain and Jairus’ daughter and Lazarus. But these were not clothed with immortality. After they were raised they continued to be subject to death and decay. But those who came forth from the grave at Christ’s resurrection were raised to everlasting life. They were the multitude of captives who ascended with Him as trophies of His victory over death and the grave. . . .

“These went into the city, and appeared unto many, declaring, ‘Christ has risen from the dead, and we be risen with him.’ Some were terrified at the sight. They bore the most undeniable evidence not only of their own resurrection, but of the resurrection of the crucified Redeemer. After His resurrection, Christ did not show Himself to any save His followers, but testimony in regard to His resurrection was not wanting. It came from various sources, [including] from the five hundred who assembled in Galilee to see their risen Lord. This testimony could not be quenched. The sacred facts of Christ’s resurrection were immortalized.”—*Christ Triumphant*, p. 286.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM CHRIST’S CROWNING MIRACLE?

“Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) . . . After that [Jesus] saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. . . . Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. . . . Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh:

for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go" (John 11:1, 2, 11, 14, 38-44).

"Christ's crowning miracle—the raising of Lazarus—had sealed the determination of the priests to rid the world of Jesus and His wonderful works, which were fast destroying their influence over the people. They had crucified Him; but here was a convincing proof that they had not put a stop to the working of miracles in His name, nor to the proclamation of the truth He taught. Already the healing of the cripple and the preaching of the apostles had filled Jerusalem with excitement."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 661.

"The time of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem was the most beautiful season of the year. The Mount of Olives was carpeted

with green, and the groves were beautiful with varied foliage. Very many had come to the feast from the regions round about Jerusalem with an earnest desire to see Jesus. The crowning miracle of the Saviour in raising Lazarus from the dead had a wonderful effect upon minds, and a large and enthusiastic multitude was drawn to the place where Jesus was tarrying."—*Christ Triumphant*, p. 253.

SPIRITUAL DEATH

The experience of spiritual death was understood in the history of our parents as soon as they sinned in the Garden of Eden. Even before physical death, Adam and Eve had already begun the process of decay and degeneracy in the sight of God—leading, of course, to death. Because of sin, they were estranged from their Maker, and their works were not perfect before Him. The Lord describes an interesting situation:

"And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God" (Revelation 3:1, 2).

"But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (1 Timothy 5:6).

THE MIRACLE REMEDY FOR SPIRITUAL DEATH

As we saw earlier the miracle of reversing physical death in the case of Lazarus, the same goes for the spiritual.

In the book of Ezekiel chapter 37, God shows us the marvelous transformation that we can experience when the Spirit of God comes upon us:

“The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel” (Ezekiel 37:1-12).

This great miracle occurs every day. When someone in a weak spiritual condition begins to receive the light and power of the Holy Spirit, we soon see the transformation that follows as a result.

David had this experience. He was dying spiritually—then when he became aware of his situation, he asked God:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit” (Psalm 51:10-12).

“Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved” (Psalm 80:7).

"BLESSED AND HOLY IS HE THAT HATH PART IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION: ON SUCH THE SECOND DEATH HATH NO POWER..." (REVELATION 20:6).



Turn us back, O God of the hosts and make your face shine; And we will be saved.

ETERNAL DEATH

In 1 Corinthians chapter 15, we are reminded that we are all subject to death—but not everyone knows that some of us will undergo a second death.

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. . . . And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:6, 14, 15).

Just as we can be restored both to physical and spiritual life, so can we be delivered from the second death if we follow the only way to have victory.

In order for our name to be written in the Lamb’s book of life, we must be in the hand of the Lamb. “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I

give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand” (John 10:27-29).

Referring to the New Jerusalem that comes down from heaven we read: “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Revelation 21:27).

This is what we need to avoid the second death. When you accept Jesus as your personal Saviour, your name is written in the Lamb’s book of life. It is essential to continue to walk with Him that it may be retained there. “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel” (Colossians 1:21-23, first part).

WHO IS LIFE?

Christ explains: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). And in prayer to His Father, He declared: "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. . . . I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word" (John 17:3, 6).

My dear brethren, we are close to the end of the history of the world and one of two ways await us: Eternal death and eternal life. Which will be yours?

In receiving Jesus, we can have eternal life. Therefore we must believe.

As "Jesus saith unto [Martha], Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest

see the glory of God?" "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:40, 25, 26, first part).

"We are assured that the greatest gift that can be given to us will not be withheld. Christ says, 'If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?' But ask in faith, nothing doubting. It is because of unbelief that so many of our church members are weak. Christ said to Martha at the grave of Lazarus, 'If thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God.' "—*Christ Triumphant*, p. 54.

My prayer is that each of us reading this article will decide to see this great miracle of transformation! 🌟

ACROSS

3. The power of spiritual resurrection was revealed in a vision shown to the prophet _____.
5. The crowning miracle of Jesus was when He raised _____ from the dead.
6. _____ warns about the young man who was ruined by the woman dressed like a harlot.
7. On the far end of the Sea of Galilee was a demonic in _____.
10. When we are converted to Christ, there is a _____ in us.
13. When we are stuck in sin, we are basically in _____.
14. The son who had wasted his substance soon faced _____ in the land.
15. The woman with the issue of blood had been suffering for _____ years.

DOWN

1. We need a faith that will not let go—a faith that will _____ the test.
2. Blessed be the God of all comfort who comforts us in all our _____.
4. When the prodigal son returned home, his father had _____ on him.
8. Sometimes we as youth may be _____ to the result of going down a wrong path.
9. _____ persisted in crying out to Jesus even when others told him to stop.
11. A fruit diet brought great relief to a mother with a certain type of _____.
12. Jesus is ready and willing to _____ us from sin.

DID YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD'S MIRACLES?

DOWN

1. ENDURE
2. TRIBULATION
4. COMPASSION
8. UNFOLDING
9. BARTHELEMY
11. ARTHUR
12. DELIVER

ACROSS

3. EZEKIEL
5. LAZARUS
6. SOLOMON
7. GADARA
10. TRANSFORMATION
13. SLAVERY
14. FAMINE
15. TWELVE



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THE SECRET AND TEST OF FAITH

BASED ON PSALM 34:1

“I will bless the Lord at all times!”

’Tis difficult to say

When heavy clouds are overhead,
And not one cheering ray.
It’s easier to bless the Lord
In bright and happy hours,
When the sunshine is all golden,
And paths are strewn with flowers.

“I will bless the Lord at all times!”

Bless Him for every thing;

Some choicest gifts are wrapped in clouds,
With a message from the King;
There must be shadows here below,
All sunshine would not do;
It could not make the landscape
So beautiful and true.

“I will bless the Lord at all times!”

Oh, this indeed is rest;

Here we find faith’s deepest secret,
Its surest, constant test—
To prove that it is really strong,
If it will bear the strain
Of constant, weary pressure,
Or sorrow, grief, and pain.

“I will bless the Lord at all times!”

This sounds so very clear;

The ring of truest metal
Is heard through ages here.
The exercise of faith is good,
More precious far than gold;
Not counted much here on the earth,
In Heav’n it can be told.

“I will bless the Lord at all times!”

Through every cloudy day,

When earthly schemes are blown upon,
And lonely seems the way.
My Lord will never make mistakes,
At all times He is right;
It is my blessed privilege
To “walk by faith” not sight.

—BRITISH EVANGELIST, ADAPTED