

## Keys to the Lord's Healing Power

by Bayless Conley

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If you have your Bible, won't you please open to Luke's Gospel 5.

Heavenly Father, we ask You for a spirit of wisdom and illumination as we study Your Word, and we take it as the final authority of our life in Jesus' name.

Now, the story we're about to read centers around, or it begins with a man that was healed. His body was full of leprosy, Luke, the beloved physician, tells us. And Jesus healed this leper. It was an instant beautiful healing. And then we pick it up in Luke 5:14,

<sup>14</sup> And He charged him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded." <sup>15</sup> However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities.

Now, the other gospel writers tell us that instead of obeying Jesus, this leper that was healed went out and told everyone what had happened. And as a result of him doing that, Jesus' ministry and what He was doing, the news of healing virtue flowing out of Him spread like wildfire everywhere, and because of that, the crowds came out in mass. Multitudes began to come to hear and to be healed. Jesus is now sought after, He's famous, and because of that, there was much debate, speculation, and jealousy among the Pharisees and the teachers of the law.

We come down to Luke 5:17. It says,

<sup>17</sup> Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

Now, they had come to scrutinize Jesus and His teaching, not to learn from Him. By this point, the Gospels tell us that they were already finding fault with almost everything that Jesus did. And some had already begun to accuse Him of being in league with the devil. In fact, it began with them when they wouldn't receive John or his ministry. It was all rooted in jealousy, but the Scriptures tell us in Luke 7:30, the Pharisees and lawyers had already rejected the will of God for themselves because they had refused John's baptism. The jealousy in their hearts and their rejection of the truth had grown exponentially from John to Jesus.

And now they come. They've heard about the healing of the leper. They've heard about His ministry. They come from every town of Judea, Jerusalem, and Galilee. That's basically all of Israel. All the Pharisees, all the doctors of the law, had come together.

Now, the Jewish leaders of Jerusalem and Judea were actually at odds with their counterparts from Galilee. They looked at the Pharisees and the Jewish leaders in Galilee as sort of their

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country cousins that have been corrupted due to their openness to certain Hellenistic influences. But they've decided to lay down their differences for the time being so that they can unite together to capture Jesus in His words and to attack Him. And yet the power of the Lord was present to heal them. The healing anointing of the Spirit was upon Jesus to bring healing to them.

Oh, the mercy and the loving kindness of God. And obviously, some of them were sick, and God's great heart wanted to bring healing to them. But as we read, sadly, we will find out that none of them were healed.

I think there are people today, some because of the disobedient posture of their hearts and the hardness of their hearts, they are keeping God's hand of blessing and healing at bay in their lives. And until that hardness is repented of, it's like calling for the paramedics and emergency, and when they arrive, you refuse to unlock the door to let them in.

And so now, in the story, we come to a great contrast of heart if you would. In verse 18, it says,

<sup>18</sup> Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. <sup>19</sup> And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.

So, these friends either go to their paralyzed friend's house or maybe the place on the street where he was begging. And they said, "Look, we've heard about this Jesus of Nazareth. We've heard about healing. There was this guy that was full of leprosy, completely healed. Come, we believe He can help you." And it says, "They sought to bring him in to lay before Jesus."

The Greek word translated *sought*, there's nothing casual about it. It literally means to strive, to diligently seek, to inquire. It can even be translated as *to demand*.

Imagine here they come to the front door. "Please let us in. Our friend needs help. We've got to get him to Jesus." And they're saying, "No. Man, if we get pushed back any further, we're not going to be able to hear at all. We can't even get in the house, and we're not letting you through. No. Go away." "Please, our friend, he needs help. We've got to get him in there." "What part of no do you not understand? Get out of here." And so they go around to the back door. There's a crowd several deep out of the back door as well. They say, "Let us through." And they say, "No. If you wanted a good seat, you should've got here earlier." "We demand that you let us in." "No. Go away."

It's like when you're getting on the freeway on-ramp, you got the two lanes comes down to one lane. You got a light. It says two cars to every green light. And so all the cars have come, you've formed into one line, and some joker comes down on the side, and he's passing six or seven or eight cars, he's going to try and cut into the front, and you're going, "No way."

I'm staying as close as I can to the bumper in front of me. No eye contact. No eye contact. "No way, sucker, wait your turn."

These guys are trying to get in. They looked for a way to get in, and they could not because of the crowd, mainly because of the size of the crowd, but the way the crowd responded to their request and their demands and their efforts to come in, they could not get into the house. But you know, faith always finds a way.

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And what they did next was faith on display. They climbed up on the roof, tore the tiles off the roof, and let him down. And the very next verse says,

<sup>20</sup> When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

Imagine the scene. The house is packed. There are people packed outside every window, several deep, several deep, in the front door, several deep, in the back door. It's elbow to elbow, mostly Pharisees; doctors of the law. They've come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. The house is packed, and all of a sudden, there's a banging noise up on the roof. And then dust and debris begin to fall down, and a little hole opens up. It gets bigger and bigger. Some guy sticks his head through. I'm sure the owner of the house was quite upset, but Jesus was not. The hole gets bigger and bigger. There's debris falling down. Finally, it's big enough they can let this guy down on ropes on his bed before a dust-covered, smiling Jesus. And it says that Jesus saw their faith. My friend, faith is an act.

The book of James says, "Faith without corresponding actions is dead."

Now, these men had heard about Jesus just like the Pharisees and the teachers had. They had all come, but for very different reasons. So Jesus sees their faith, and He says to the man, "Your sins are forgiven you." And we pick it up in verse 21,

<sup>21</sup> And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

<sup>22</sup> But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? <sup>24</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

<sup>25</sup> Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. <sup>26</sup> And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"

Now let me share some thoughts with you about this story. The first thought is this, the paralyzed man was healed, and the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were not healed. And yet the power of the Lord was present to heal them. Both groups had heard about Jesus healing the sick. Both groups came but with very different heart postures.

The paralyzed man and his friends came with believing hearts, while the Pharisees and the teachers reasoned in their hearts. On one side, you have action. On the other side is just scrutiny and debate.

Think of this for a moment. The religious leaders who refused to believe were taking up every inch of room in that house so that the truly spiritually hungry and those that had genuine needs could not make it to the healing presence of Jesus. These leaders were literally barring the way to Jesus. And to a degree, I believe the same thing is true today.

There are a number of religious leaders and scholars whose hearts are full of human reasoning and debate rather than simple faith. And like the Pharisees of old, they may go over someone's

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sermon on healing, not to learn, they'll go over it with a fine-tooth comb to find some long statement or some soundbite that they can use to accuse the person that they are jealous of. And they're quite literally, through what they're doing, keeping those in need from reaching the healing presence of Jesus.

Somebody says, "Well, what do you do?" Well, friend, you need to do the same thing that the paralyzed man and his friends did. You got to go over their heads. They went over their heads to a Higher Authority. They went over the heads of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, and they went directly to Jesus.

My friend, you need to go over their heads and go directly to the highest authority. Go to Jesus yourself. No preacher, no pastor, no priest has the right to bar your way from the healing presence of Jesus.

And I know some are thinking, "But, how can you tell what's really real?" You think about healing, and it's like this river, and the Baptist's have dumped all their doctrine in, and the Lutheran's have dumped their doctrine in, and the Pentecostal's have dumped their doctrine in, and the Catholic's have poured their doctrine in and the Episcopalian's have poured their doctrine in. How can you even tell? It's so muddy and confused. You can't even tell what's what. One of them says healing's in the atonement. The other one says, "No, it passed away with the last apostle." The other one says, "Well, Jesus doesn't heal anymore." Someone else says, "Well, He heals occasionally, but you can never be sure who it is." And all this stuff has been poured in, and some people are saying, "How do I know?"

The San Gabriel River runs right out into the ocean here between Seal Beach and Long Beach. And you look at that water as it comes through the low lands here, this coastal region, and it is dirty. It is sluggish. It's polluted. You certainly wouldn't drink it. You can't see through it. It's just yuck. But if you march back to the headwaters of the San Gabriel River, and I've done it. I've hiked back to the headwaters as a boy, I've hiked back to the headwaters as a teenager, and the waters are cool, and they're clear, and you can drink them without even thinking twice, and they're filled with rainbow trout. Absolutely beautiful and pristine back at the headwaters.

And I'm telling you, you just need to march back to the headwaters. March back through Matthew, Mark, Luke. March back through John. Watch Jesus healing the woman with the issue of blood, watch Him raise up Jairus' daughter from the dead, watch Him heal the man with a withered hand, watch Him heal the ten lepers, see Him with the multitudes that come that He heals all that came to Him and He never turned one away.

March back into the book of Acts and see the man at the beautiful gate healed in the name of Jesus. Watch the shadow of Peter falling upon people and bringing healing to them. Watch the cripple at Lystra being healed. See everyone on the island of Malta healed in the name of Jesus. March back and look into the eyes of Jesus Christ, who's the same yesterday, today, and forever.

My friend, you can go back to the source. You can march back to the headwaters and find out what's real. You don't have to let anybody bar you from His presence. You can go yourself.

Here's another thought. These men faced obstacles in getting to Jesus, but the fact that they faced obstacles was not an indication that it was not the Lord's will to heal the paralyzed man. These men did not interpret the barriers that they faced as some kind of a sign that God was not in what they were doing.

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Some people, "Well, if it were the Lord's will, the door would have been opened. We would have had a seat right up front. I guess we better go home. It was a closed door."

No, they didn't interpret it that way at all. Real faith is tenacious. If obstacles were God's way to tell us that we were out of His will, then the apostle Paul never found the will of God for his life.

Just a partial list. Second Corinthians 11, Paul says, "I was whipped times without number. I was thrown into prison often. I was beaten with rods. I was stoned. I was shipwrecked. I was adrift at sea for a day and a night. I've gone without food. I've gone without sleep. I faced robbers. I faced angry Jews. I faced angry Gentiles." And on and on and on. Barrier after barrier, obstacle after obstacle.

Friend, if obstacles were some kind of a sign from God that you're out of His will, you wouldn't be sitting in this building today. It never would have been built. The property never would have been obtained. We wouldn't have built our last building. We wouldn't have rented our first building. If God's way to show us that we've fallen out of favor were the fact that we've got difficulties, we never would have sent out a missionary. We never would have gotten on television. We never would have preached one ounce of truth from this pulpit.

These men did not consider all of those obstacles they ran into as some sign from God that they were off track. Real faith is tenacious.

And then here's another thought. A clean conscience is vital to faith. Think of it. This man is lowered down into the midst. There's dust and debris everywhere. Jesus looked at this man who's obviously in need of healing, and He says, "Your sins are forgiven you."

First John 3:21 says,

<sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

It's quite obvious that this man needed to understand that he was forgiven before he could be healed.

I've shared this story before. I was a brand-new Christian. I didn't know what was going on. I knew I'd been changed. I hadn't really been reading the Bible too much. In fact, I'd just gotten one in a yard sale for 35 cents. And nobody told me, but I started in Genesis. It was pretty exciting. Exodus was pretty good. Leviticus, I got bogged down. But I'm thrilled. I know something's happening. I was at a park one day with a friend of mine, and I'm trying to tell her what's happened to me. I said, "There's really something to this Jesus. I'm changed." And she starts to cry. I said, "What's wrong?" She said, "Bayless, God hates me." I said, "God doesn't hate you. Why would God hate you?" She said, "Well, you don't know this, but before we met, I had two abortions. I've killed two of my children. I'm certain God must hate me."

Now, I do believe that killing a child outside of the womb is murder, and I believe killing a child inside the womb is murder. And honestly, I didn't know what to tell her other than, "I don't think God hates you." I wish I would've known that the Scripture said as far as the east is from the west so far He removes our transgressions from us. I wish I would have known to tell her that God says, "Your sins and iniquities, I'll remember them no more." I wish I would have known to tell her that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. But she had this guilt on her



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conscience that was absolutely barring her way from having any trust in God. She didn't believe God could be good to her like He had been to me because of what she'd done.

And this man, Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven you." I'm quite sure he needed to hear that.

And I know you think, "How much sin could a paralyzed guy commit? He's obviously not going to go out and murder someone. Pretty unlikely that he'd commit adultery. Even theft, just not likely." But there are inward sins as well as outward sins like lust, greed, anger, bitterness. Those inward sins can affect your confidence in God as much as outward transgressions can.

I remember I read a story once; the guy actually had written his own story. His daughter married a young man that he didn't approve of, but hey, she's a big girl got to make wrong decisions. Well, it turned out to be a very bad decision. The guy she married was abusive. Had explosive fits of anger, continually demeaned her, and abused her verbally, and sometimes it would escalate to physical violence, and he would knock her around.

One day, things got really bad. He took out a pistol, aimed it at her, and pulled the trigger. It would have killed her, but the gun misfired. She ran out of the house, got a restraining order. She divorced him just to save her life, got away from him. Her daddy, when he found out everything that had been going on, and that this guy tried to kill his daughter. Oh, man. You want to get on a man's bad side; you mistreat his little girl.

And it grew into this deep root of bitterness, anger, and deep, deep bitterness. And he got sick. All of his joints ached, and his body had swollen up like a balloon. He was in constant pain could no longer even put his shoes on. He said in the article, and I remember it distinctly, he said, "Even if I try and sleep, I couldn't have a sheet touch my skin because my skin was so inflamed, and it was just painful to even have a sheet touch my skin."

He said, "I could barely function." He said, "My hands and arms were so swollen my fingers were like sausages." And he said, "My wedding ring was basically swallowed up by my sausage thick finger, and I was thinking about trying to get my wedding band cut off because it was painful. My fingers were so swollen."

But he got saved. Someone shared the gospel with him, I believe a friend at work, and he got saved. He started going to the Bible study that this guy from work went to. And they were praying for the sick at this Bible study. Somebody was sharing, and they were laying hands, and they laid hands on him and prayed, and nothing happened. But he said God began to deal with him about his inward attitude towards his ex-son-in-law. The Lord said, "You need to forgive him like I've forgiven you." He said, "Lord, I know it's true." And he got on his knees, and he forgave that ex-son-in-law. He said God said that's not enough. I want you to go tell him that you've forgiven him. It's like, "Lord, really?" The Lord said, "Yes, you need to do it."

So, he looked up the guy, found where he was living, knocked at the door. There was his ex-son-in-law's voice, "Yes, who is it?" He identifies himself. The ex-son-in-law refuses to open the door. He says, "Look, I'm not here to hurt you." He says through the closed door, "I've become a Christian. I've experienced God's mercy, and His grace and I came here today to tell you that I forgive you for what you did to my daughter." The door opens a crack. He said, "Really?" He said, "Yes." The door opens the rest of the way. The ex-son-in-law says, "I've become a Christian too, and I'm so sorry for the way I treated your daughter, and I'm so thankful that you are willing to forgive me." And they weren't best buddies. That was sort of the end of it. The guy went his way.

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It happens that night; it's another Bible study. So, he goes, and they're praying for sick people again. There are like three people in line. When he gets up there, his body is aching; his joints are sore, swollen. He stands there, and he says, "I closed my eyes and the person praying for me the moment their finger touched my head, my wedding band fell off my finger and hit the floor and rolled across the floor. It was like someone put a pin in a balloon, and my body—all the swelling left, all of the pain left, and I was healed."

Now, friend, his sin was not something outward. It was something inward.

Jesus said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven you."

Here's another thought. The paralyzed man had friends. Without them, this story wouldn't be in the Bible. We can bring others to Jesus. And certainly, we can bring them in our prayers, and we should, but I think even physically, we can bring a friend to church, we can bring a friend to a small group. We can bring a friend to a Bible study. And there are probably some people in your world that I believe the Lord would like you, first of all, to bring them to Him in prayer, but then to invite them. "Hey, come to church with me. We'll get some lunch afterward. It won't kill you. Might be surprised, but it won't kill you." You'd be surprised how many people might answer that invitation in an affirmative manner. We can bring our friends.

I remember, in fact, it was here on Katella Avenue, our little rented building we had right down the street. We rented it out for five years before we finished our first facility. And these two gals brought a co-worker of theirs, a friend of theirs from work. Her name was Sheila. I still remember the evening very specifically. Every Sunday night for 25 years, I preached on divine healing, every Sunday night. And so they brought Sheila out because Sheila was sick. And they brought her up afterward, and her two friends, her co-workers are just grinning from ear to ear. And I look at Sheila's face, and it's etched with pain. I said, "Hi." I found out her name. I said, "What can I do for you?" She said, "I don't know." She said, "I have a migraine headache." She said, "I have them every day. I can barely function, and I have a terrible one when right now."

I said, "Do you believe the things I shared in the message you just heard?" She says, "I do." I said, "Can I put my hand on you and pray for you?" She said, "Yes, please." And she's standing there. I laid my hand on her head, and she burst into tears. She said, "The pain, it suddenly left. It's gone." And she starts to cry harder and harder. I said, "Sheila, would you like to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior?" She was not a Christian. She says, "Oh, yes." So, when she stopped crying, I prayed with her, and she accepted Christ. And now she starts crying all over again. I said, "Sheila, Jesus has something else for you. Would you like to be filled with the Holy Spirit?" She said, "I want everything."

I shared with her for a few minutes about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, prayed for her. She lifted both hands and started speaking in other tongues. So here, five minutes, she's healed, she's saved, and she's baptized in the Holy Spirit. What a story of God's grace, but you wouldn't even be hearing it today if not for her friends. She had a couple of co-workers that brought her to a place where they believed that she could find help.

This paralyzed man thanked God for his friends. You need friends like that, but friend, you need to be a friend like that. The Bible says, "He that has friends must show himself friendly." And I just want to challenge you earnestly, maybe get quiet sometime today and say, "God, is there someone in my world, someone I work with, someone on my street, someone—a parent of one

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of the kids my son plays soccer with or plays baseball with that I can bring to You?" There might be a miracle at the end of that prayer if you dare to pray it.

A final thought for you. The same power that forgives sins heals disease. Pharisees and the teachers of the law say, "Who can forgive sins but God alone? This is blasphemy." Jesus said, "I'm going to prove to you that I have power on earth to forgive sins. Here's the proof." He turns to the man and says, "Get up. You're healed."

The Bible says in Psalm 103:1–3,

<sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

<sup>2</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

<sup>3</sup> Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.

If you believe He's willing to forgive, you should believe that He's willing to heal. And here is this man, forgiven and healed, and he begins to glorify God. And when the people see it, they begin to glorify God, and they say, "We've seen strange things today." May God give us some days of strange things. May God give us a season of strange things. May some of your friends and family, when they see you healed and living a changed life, say, "Man, I never saw that coming. That's strange."

When I got saved, I was all-in. The night I gave my life to Jesus, a group of people in a street mission laid their hands on me, and years of drug addiction was broken from my life instantly. Now, I know sometimes things are a process with people, but for me, it was instantaneous. And some of my friends, when they saw the change in my life and knew I wasn't using drugs anymore, they looked at me like I fell off the ground up into a tree. They said, "You're kidding." In fact, some of my friends didn't believe it. They came by to see me just to see if it was true. One of my friends, we had been pretty close, he was mad. He said, "It had to be you, didn't it? It had to be you." I said, "What do you mean." He said, "If it was anybody else, I could have blown it off, but I know you; you wouldn't do this thing if something hadn't happened to you." I think he cursed maybe and said, "It had to be you. Now I've got to really think about it."

Jesus is a healer. Jesus is a forgiver.

And whether you've come today, whether you're sitting out on the plaza or in here in the auditorium, or whether you're watching in Auckland, New Zealand or in Myanmar or in India or somewhere in Europe or in Africa, wherever you're watching, it's not a coincidence that you hear my voice right now, He sees you. And I want to tell you, those of you here God is after you. He's after your whole heart. He's after a full commitment of your life to Him. It's what He wants, all-in.

I remember hearing the story once about this guy, he was a tight rope artist, and he'd strung this cable across this canyon. It's like a mile down to the bottom of the canyon. There's a huge crowd they're watching. He says, "Do you believe I can go across that cable?" They said, "Yes." And they cheered. He says, "Do you believe I can go across with this wheelbarrow?" They said, "Yes." He said, "If I put my son in the wheelbarrow, do you believe we can go across?" They said, "Yes." He gets his young son to climb in the wheelbarrow goes out on that cable. People watch with bated breath. Eventually, he gets to the other side. The crowd goes wild. The son gets out of the wheelbarrow, and they both take a dramatic bow. The boy climbs back in. They come back across on the cable on that wheelbarrow. They get off on the other side, and the crowd goes wild. He says to them, "Wait, do you believe I can do it again?" They said, "Yes."



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Yes." He says, "All right. I need a volunteer to get in the wheelbarrow." Silence. My friend, Jesus wants you to get in the wheelbarrow.

He wants the full commitment of your heart. He wants you to be all-in. That's what calling Jesus, Lord is all about. Lord means boss, it means master, it means all-in, it means I die to my rights of independent living. It just doesn't work any other way. You can't live with one foot in the world and one foot in God's kingdom. You can't live with one foot on the dock and one foot in the rowboat. You need to launch out.

If you're here today, if you're listening to me wherever you might be, and you're not all in, I want to invite you to make that decision to make that commitment today to go all-in for Christ. The Bible does say it's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. It is amazing, but there's a holy fear that comes with it because this is the real deal, my friend. He will begin to deal with you about your life and about some of the specifics about your life.

He may deal with you about some of your choices, about the way you talk, about the way you treat your spouse, about your ideas on sexuality. I always figure, "Man, let's catch the fish and let God clean them." God will deal with you, so you need to realize it. This isn't like, "Okay, God. All right. I'm going to do this, and I'll give You like an hour and 15 minutes on Sundays, but the rest of the time, that's mine. And don't talk to me about my money, don't talk to me about my life, don't talk to me about my body, but I do expect You to let me into heaven when I die, and if I'm ever in trouble on earth, I expect You to help me, but I'm giving You an hour and 15 minutes on Sunday." No. It won't work that way. It won't work. I'm telling you, it won't work.

Calling Him Lord is a total commitment, and if you're willing to do that from a sincere heart, the Holy Spirit will change you. It's not something that you muster up and live out through your own power, thank God. Never could. But the Holy Spirit will empower you. First, He'll change you inwardly. It's so radical Jesus called it being born again. The apostle Paul called it becoming a new creation in Christ. Literally in your Spirit, the Holy Spirit does the work and transforms you. And then He will empower you and guide you day by day to live the way that God wants you to live.

And it is an exciting life. It is a life filled with joy. It is a life with challenges. But oh, my friend, it is worth it. I've walked with Him for more than 45 years, and I love Him more today than I ever have. He's more real to me today than He has ever been. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross to take away your sins. He was raised from the dead so that you might have a life with God.

And here's what the Bible says if you believe that He died for your sins and was raised from the dead and if you're willing to confess Him as Lord, make that decision to come under His authority, to go all-in, the Holy Spirit will change you. God embraces you and makes you part of His family. It's called salvation. It's not about rules and regulations. It's not about rituals. It's about relationship. It's what your heart cries out for. Listen, go get you a new girlfriend, go get you two, you're still going to have that empty place in your heart. Go make yourselves another \$10 million. It's great. Money is a good thing. You can do a lot of good stuff with it, but it'll never fill the empty place in your heart. It will never give you a good night's sleep.

You can go pursue an extreme sport, you can put a new drug in your body, you can go party till you pass out, but you're still going to have that empty place inside. It's a God-shaped hole in your heart, my friend. I want to invite you to pray with me right now. All that I can do, however, is

## Keys to the Lord's Healing Power

give you the words, but if you'll tie a sincere heart around those words and speak them to God, I believe that He will meet you.

I just want to ask—in fact, maybe every head bowed, every eye closed just for a moment. Let's just have a little moment searching the heart. You may be that prodigal son or prodigal daughter that's away from God, and you'd say, "You know I've had a genuine experience with Jesus, but honestly, if He came back right now, I'd be ashamed." The great news is God's not mad at you, but it's time for you to come home, prodigal son. Time for you to come home, prodigal daughter. I want to include you in this invitation. But if you'd say, "I want to accept Jesus. I want this salvation, this life that Jesus offers." Or you're that prodigal coming home. I'm just going to count to three, and if you'd say, "Yes, I want in on this prayer. I want to accept what God has for me." When I get to number three, just lift your hand. I'll acknowledge any hands that are up, you can put them down, and then we'll pray.

One, again, not coincidental we're here together today. I believe it's a matter of divine design. Two, yes, God knows your name. He knows your struggles. He loves you, and He wants to help you. Before I go further, there's someone here you've got some deep questions, deep hurts, and you've blamed God for things that have happened. All right, if God's real, if God's good, why? Why did this happen to me? Why did this thing happen? I don't have an answer for you, but I'm telling you, God does, and He will get across to you that answer that you need, but He wants you to take that step of faith right now because you know He's knocking at the door of your heart. You want to pray this prayer, just put your hand up. Three, all across the auditorium, just put them up high, the upper sections as well. Oh, I see a lot of hands. It's good. Out on the plaza, go ahead and lift your hand. If you're sitting in a bar in an airport right now and this is on the TV you're watching, put your hand up, just do it. It's an outward expression of the inward state of your heart. All right. That's wonderful. Go ahead and put your hands down. Everybody, look up this way. We're going to pray, but I want everyone to stand to your feet if you would. I can give you the words to this prayer, but only you can tie your heart around them. And I believe that if you speak these words to God, He'll hear you.

If it helps you, maybe put a hand on your heart, let's talk to God. Just say it out loud.

Oh God, I come to You. I believe with all of my heart that Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe He died on the cross to take away my sins. I believe He was raised from the dead. Jesus, come into my life. I confess You as my Lord. I accept You as my Savior. It's in Your name I pray, Amen.

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