

As You Have Received, Freely Give

**Keys to Receiving and
Ministering Healing**

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Bible quotations are from the King James Version.

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*Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers,
raise the dead, cast out devils:
freely ye have received, freely
give.*

Matthew 10:8

Healing is God's Goodness

Healing has nothing to do with our goodness, but God's goodness. It is from His goodness that He has given everything. From the Earth He gave us in the beginning, to the Son He gave to bring us back to Him, all He has is good and it has been made available to us through grace.

It is frustrating, then, that anyone would be deceived into believing that God would send sickness or, worse, withhold healing from His children. How many times have we

heard in a conversation that a sickness was a “blessing in disguise” or that it was intended to teach us something? If that were true, hospitals would be full of Rhodes Scholars and cemeteries full of experts in their field.

In Acts, we learn that the ministry of healing was a good thing. It was a fruit of the abundant life Jesus promised in John 10:10.

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

Acts 10:38

If we are to understand that Jesus did good things, including healing, then sickness must be the opposite of good. We read that Jesus' healing ministry was for the benefit of those oppressed by the devil, which means that sickness can only be a tool of the enemy. There is no way sickness is a blessing of any kind. It is only bad, and the end result is death, for the thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

Healing is the restoration of man to his normal, healthy state. It is wholeness in every physical, emotional, and mental area of a person's life.

The Hebrew word for wholeness and peace, *shalom*, may be interpreted as a state of being with nothing missing, broken, or out of

order. In other words, when we minister healing, we are setting things right, just as God always intended.

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Genesis 1:31

Healing is important in the ministry of the Church as we share the Gospel with the world. It is a core element of Jesus' message.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach

*deliverance to the captives, and
recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty them that are
bruised.*

Luke 4:18

There is no good reason, then,
that anyone would want to be sick.
There are many reasons people
don't receive healing, but the
fundamental reason is a
misunderstanding of God's
goodness. The devil is a loser, liar,
and father of lies. The enemy strives
to smear the good name of our God,
and all his weapons are marshaled
against the Lord's reputation.

We are not subject to his lies any
longer. The deception is over, and
God has already won the war. When
Jesus came in the flesh, the enemy's

days were numbered. We were set free from his oppression. Now that healing and all other miracles are ours, there is nothing keeping us from experiencing the good life except our own minds. It is up to us to receive and give from God's goodness.

When we lay hands on those who suffer sickness, we know that they shall recover because Jesus said they would (Mark 16:18). Healing is a good thing that is part of salvation, and not just an add-on. As we go forth, fulfilling the Great Commission, going about doing good, and healing all who are oppressed of the devil, we can trust that we are fulfilling God's will.

Jesus said His father feeds the birds even though they do not reap

or sow, and He thinks far higher of us (Matt. 6:26). If healing really is the children's bread (Matt. 15:26), shouldn't we pull up to the table and eat?

Our Father is good, and He wants good things for us—including healing. And in that, we can trust.

Healing Is in Our Hands

The primary Bible way to minister healing to others is the one people seem to regularly avoid, and the results speak for themselves.

According to Mark 16:17–18, certain signs will follow those who believe in Jesus. One of those is that they “*shall lay hands on the sick, and [the sick] shall recover.*”

However, when someone sees

prayer ministry, the simple laying on of hands is usually missing.

There are all sorts of ways people “pray” for healing. They ask God to heal the person, they ask the Spirit to “guide the surgeon’s hands,” they ask for a “fresh touch from heaven,” and any number of other things. If any healing does take place, based on how it’s currently practiced, it’s certainly a miracle.

First, according to Mark’s account of the Great Commission (which he wrote based upon the teachings of Peter), Jesus didn’t instruct us to pray for healing. He clearly told us to lay hands on the sick. This assumes that some responsibility rests on the believer.

In Matthew’s account of the same meeting, Jesus told the disciples,

“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matt. 28:18). Most believers are willing to accept that, but based on the next two verses, that power (or authority) was delegated to us.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19–20

It's Mark's account that tells us what we are to teach and have others to observe:

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:15–18

This shows us that healing ministry is not as mysterious or complicated as we sometimes make it. The very best results we experience in healing ministry

comes from the direct laying on of hands upon people who are sick. Even if people who receive ministry do not experience long-term results (because they don't follow up by sowing God's Word in their hearts), we know that God's healing power is flowing when we engage in Bible-based, hands-on ministry.

Over the years, we have been involved in a number of supernatural healings from the laying on of hands. Once, we ministered to a woman who was diagnosed with an unknown mass growing in the sinus cavity of her head. She feared it was cancer. We asked the woman to sit and relax because we would be in no hurry to minister. We would take our time

until she received what she came for.

We used scriptures to take authority over the sickness and commanded it to go as we placed our hands on the area of her body (with her permission) that was afflicted. We told the woman to draw upon God's healing power, as if she were pulling soda through a straw.

When we asked the woman what she was experiencing, she reported a strong warmth at the point of contact. We stayed in that position for several minutes until we determined she was no longer drawing on the power. All of us involved in ministering (giving and receiving) testified that the presence

of the Lord's power was strong, and healing was ministered.

Two weeks later, the woman visited the doctor and, after she was examined, no evidence of the condition could be found. Praise the Lord!

We don't need to ask God to do the healing, or for Him to "guide the hands of the surgeon" (who may not even believe in Jesus), or for a "fresh touch from heaven," because we are the hands of the Body of Christ and His power is at our fingertips. If we confirm God's love in us by keeping His commands (1 John 2:3), then healing is a ministry we have been called to and are sufficiently equipped for. The world is waiting for healing, and it's in our hands!

Healing Is Already Here

One of the challenges of healing ministry is laying hands on a person who is trying to get healed.

That may sound like an obvious issue—a sick person wants to be well. Why else would someone seek out healing ministry? But that kind of mindset actually stops healing ministry from working.

You see, we often act as though Jesus is healing people every time we lay hands on them. And, yes, we have caught ourselves speaking in that way in the past. But Jesus has already done all the healing He will ever do.

Wait, you may be thinking to yourself, I thought Jesus is risen and that He is alive.

That's true, Jesus is at the right hand of His Father. But He is seated, which means His work is done (Heb. 10:12).

According to the apostle Paul:
*Now if we be dead with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live
with him: Knowing that Christ
being raised from the dead dieth
no more; death hath no more
dominion over him. For in that
he died, he died unto sin once:
but in that he liveth, he liveth
unto God. Likewise reckon ye
also yourselves to be dead indeed
unto sin, but alive unto God
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Romans 6:8–11

People often apply these verses to holy living, but if we are willing to view “sin” as anything contrary to God’s designated order, then it applies to sickness as well. Jesus made it clear that healing and forgiveness of sins (what is traditionally taught as a benefit of salvation) go hand-in-hand.

And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For

whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

Matthew 9:2–8

We receive all benefits from salvation—forgiveness of sin, healing of sickness, deliverance from bondage, authority over spiritual forces, and the power to overcome death—when we make

Jesus Lord. And they become available the moment we make the decision. If healing is not a part of our lives in the present, it's not because God didn't make it available or that He is withholding until we ask—it's that we are not taking advantage of what already belongs to us through Jesus. The gift has already been sent and we just need to receive the delivery.

Let's say you reserved a stay at an all-inclusive resort, meaning your room, meals, and other services would be included in the price of your purchase. If your family arrived, checked into the room and just sat there and watched TV through the dinner hour, you would miss out on a meal that was already provided.

It's not the resort's fault if you don't have dinner—it's their pleasure to serve you—but if you and your loved ones don't sit down and eat, you'll go hungry.

In the Old Testament, hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah prophesied what the Messiah would do for mankind:

He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

Looking back, just a few years after Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, Peter wrote,

*[Jesus] his own self bare our sins
in his own body on the tree, that
we, being dead to sins, should
live unto righteousness: by
whose stripes ye were healed.*

1 Peter 2:24

Did you notice the change in tense? Peter wrote about something that was already accomplished. Jesus healed us, carrying our sins, sicknesses, and addictions in His physical body. What we want you to see is that any sickness or other physical, mental, or emotional condition was already taken—claimed—by Jesus. It no longer belongs to us, nor is it within our rights to keep it when Jesus has made healing available in exchange.

When a person takes scrap metal to a facility that will buy it, an exchange is made. The buyer takes the trashed metal and gives the seller cash. It would be foolish for a man to drop off that metal, hop back in his truck, and wave at the operators as he left the facility without taking payment. They would think there was something wrong with him—and be left to reconcile their books at the end of the day, counting the unclaimed payment.

I wonder if the tears God will wipe from our eyes in the New Heaven and Earth (Rev. 21:4) will be from us recognizing all we could have had in the here and now.

When we seek healing, it should not be asking God to release something, but rather taking

something that is already ours. If people would receive healing ministry as cashing in their benefits rather than begging for spare change, we would experience more of the supernatural power of God (Heb. 4:16).

Once, I laid hands on a man who was suffering back pain for a year and a half. The power flowed and healing was at work. He was even mindful to ask me to move my hands to an area that was in worse pain. But when I finished, I discerned through conversation that he believed healing was something that was not easily accessible. He did not have full confidence that what was ministered was freely his, and that it was permanent. He was concerned it could come and go.

After offering some encouragement about what we already have as believers and offering to minister to him again, we parted ways. I later heard the healing fully manifested the next morning after a good night's rest (something back pain often prevents). Praise the Lord!

Sometimes, what we need is a change in perspective to see ourselves as sons and daughters of a loving Father who has already provided everything we need. Then, when the time comes to lay on hands, those we minister to will be receivers who will freely take what is already theirs in Jesus Christ.

Do Not Fear, Only Believe

When I was growing up, I had a healthy respect for my father. Thankfully, our relationship was not a difficult one. But he was a man trying to parent for the first time and I was child—like many children—who didn't always obey.

When I got out of line, I was disciplined. Often, my dad would calmly explain things to me and help me understand what I had done wrong. But there were times when the discipline went beyond words. When I told a lie, I received a spanking. When I chose to play outside in my new satin jacket, against my dad's wishes, I had to live with the consequences of falling in dog poop (which is another story

for another time). In all cases, I learned to show fear toward my father, but not how you might think.

I don't mean I would cower whenever he spoke—though, he would occasionally raise his voice. My obedience would demonstrate that I knew he meant business. Overall, I tried to show both of my parents I recognized they were in charge of our home and that the rules would be followed.

When I was away from home, however, things got murky. One day, when one of my friends and I were at a vacant school playground, he said a curse word. At 8 years old, I was shocked he would say such a thing. I reminded him that such language wasn't allowed in my home, but he responded, "Well, your

mom and dad aren't here, are they?" A new thought entered my mind—when away from home, I could follow someone else's rules.

The devil placed an original thought in the minds of the first people when he asked, "*Hath God said?*" (Gen. 3:1) From then on, we've been living on a battlefield between warring forces—God, who only has good things for us, and the devil, who wants to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). The side we choose determines who rules over us and whose words we will obey.

This is where we should take a moment and talk more about fear. Fear is not an emotional reaction, but rather a decision. *Fear* is related to the antiquated English word, *fealty*. When someone pledges

loyalty to a person in authority, it is considered an oath of allegiance or fealty. It's an idea taken from the days of lords and tenant servants. When a person joined a lord, he swore a fealty oath. By doing so, the person became a servant of a lord and tenant of the land.

Landowners sought people to work their property and produce agriculturally. Handling the day-to-day operations of a parcel of land was labor intensive. Sowing, cultivating, pest control, and harvesting acres of land required more help than one family could provide. Bringing on farmhands boosted production. Because the yield of a harvest had the potential for exponential profits, landowners had an incentive to hire laborers. In

exchange for their work, tenants were provided food, housing, clothing, tools, training, and seed—everything needed to be successful. The understanding was that tenants would be loyal to their lord only and make his success their primary objective.

The lord asked that the tenants do as they were shown, agree with what they were told, and give the best portion of the harvest—seeding seed—back to the lord. The lord would then sell some of the harvest at market and keep some on reserve for distribution to his tenants the following spring.

Often, the lord was a conquering king. After a battle, land was gained with tenants already on it. The king sent envoys to declare victory and

liberate the people, giving them a choice to swear allegiance to him, accept a new list of rules, and receive a new slate of benefits. In the Greek world, this was known as proclaiming *euangelion*, or good news. (The good news was, if the people accepted the king's offer, they would be allowed to keep on living!)

To accept a lord, act upon his commands, and expect a reward in return, was an expression of the fealty oath, also known as fear. It was a decision to confess, or agree, that one party was in charge over another, typically at the expense of a former ruling party.

An illustration of this idea in the Bible is in the story of Jairus, the ruler of a synagogue. All his life,

Jairus was subject to the Law of Moses, which identified sin behavior, dispensed death as the consequence, and prescribed sacrifice (the death of something else) as the solution (Gal. 3:10). In the teachings of Jesus, he found the antidote to the curse—the Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2). When his daughter fell deathly ill, Jairus found no hope in the law. Instead, the minister of the law in that community turned toward Jesus.

“My little daughter lies at the point of death,” Jairus said to Jesus. “I pray, come and lay your hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live”

Mark 5:23

Jairus declared in the marketplace where Jesus was teaching, in front of everyone he knew, that the old ways—the law of sin and death abused by the prince of this world (John 14:30) and spirit of the accuser (Rev. 12:10)—would no longer rule over his household. He was making an oath of fealty to his new Lord, Jesus Christ.

As they were on their way, bad news came—an attack from Jairus's former master.

There came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, "Your daughter is dead: why trouble the Master any further?"

Mark 5:35

Jairus had some decisions to make in that moment. Which way would he turn? Who was going to be his lord? What would be his reward—the devil, sin, and death, or the abundant life in Jesus Christ?

Jesus' response set the course for Jairus, and us.

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he said unto the ruler of the synagogue, 'Be not afraid, only believe.'

Mark 5:36

Jesus wasn't telling Jairus not to just stand there, shake in his boots, and start crying like a big baby. He was telling his newest subject not to go back on his oath of fealty to his

new Master by expressing fear toward an old, powerless master.

Jairus stepped into a new kingdom that day and, by allowing Jesus in his home to minister healing, expressed fealty in the right way—by faith. He made a decision to make Jesus his Lord, believing with his heart and confessing with his mouth. Jairus chose to not agree with the declaration of the curse of the law (“*your daughter is dead*”) and instead stood with his original statement of faith (“*come and lay your hands on her, that she may be healed*”).

And [Jesus] took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, “Talitha cumi,” which is, being interpreted, “Damsel, I say unto

you, arise.” And straightway the damsel arose, and walked.

Mark 5:41-42

When we are seeking the healing power God has already made available to us through Jesus Christ, are we going to continue saying that Jesus is our Lord, and maintain allegiance to Him, or are we going to get in fear of our old lord, the devil? Fear is not an emotion that should sway us like the waves of a stormy sea. We can stand on the solid ground of faith knowing that Jesus already defeated the one who held the power of death over us (Heb. 2:14-15). Sickness is no big thing to Jesus, who holds the keys of death and hell (Rev. 1:18).

The devil is a liar. He no longer has any power over us. That loser has been stripped and put on parade for the whole world to see (Col. 2:15). When he comes crawling back with idle threats, snuff him out with your heel like an old cigarette butt.

There's a new sheriff in town, and His Name is Jesus. We don't have to cower when our Heavenly Father speaks, but we can be corrected and set right. Our faith is in Him, and the victory is already won in Jesus. From that place, we can be confident that our needs are met, and our healing provided. Then, it's just a matter of receiving the benefits we were promised.

If we just agree with our Lord's words and follow His direction, our health will improve, and we will

start seeing the abundance He promised. Fear of the devil no longer has any place in our lives. Perfected love—doing as our Lord commands (1 John 5:3)—casts out fear of death (1 John 4:18).

Trusting in the Word

Several years ago, we went through a life-changing event that demonstrated the power of the Word to heal. In 2013, we went to the hospital to give birth to our second child, Alexandra.

As we prepared to welcome our little girl into the world, Rachael and I wanted to make sure we were prepared physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually for our family's big day. We had been

studying scriptures about healthy pregnancy and childbirth. We knew the power that God's Word had to give us peace (Is. 26:3) and wanted to be able to rest in Him.

When we entered the hospital, everything seemed to be normal. Rachael began to labor, and we anticipated giving birth within just a few hours. I continued reading those same scriptures to her out loud, and the room filled with the peaceful presence of God.

As time went on, though, our baby began to struggle. There were no complications throughout the pregnancy and Rachael was perfectly healthy. But as she labored, the baby's heart rate slowed down. At some point, her little heart stopped beating and—for all intents

and purposes—she was dead. We were at risk of losing our little girl to a stillbirth.

Obviously, the nurses became concerned, and doctors were called. The baby's heart stopped a few more times, and we were told that Rachael would have to be rushed into surgery for a Caesarian section. Even though everyone else panicked, Rachael and I knew that our baby would survive, the surgery would go well, and our family would leave the hospital whole—with nothing missing or broken.

The surgery went quickly, and the baby was removed—but she did not cry. After a few moments of uncertainty, the doctor assured us that Alexandra was alive, but barely.

As they stitched Rachael back together, I was sent with the baby.

When I first saw Alexandra, she was weak and ashen colored. Her breathing was shallow and heart rate slow. She looked exhausted. Her little feet were curled under, like the petals of a withered flower. In the physical, things didn't look good for her.

The nurses encouraged me to take photos of her right after the birth, but I told them there would be plenty of time for pictures later. Two of them gave each other a knowing glance, as if to say, "Does this guy know how serious the situation is? There might not be a later!"

They whisked Alexandra out of the room, and I followed. She was the only baby in the intensive care

unit that evening, and a doctor was assigned to watch her vital signals. I could not hold or comfort our baby. All I could do was sit next to her bassinet and confess more scriptures—this time, about how she would live a long life and declare the work of the Lord (Ps. 118:17). I also thanked our Father for His gift of a healthy child.

Alexandra's condition improved slowly but steadily over several hours. Later that night, she was released to a room with her mother in the maternity ward, with every other family that had a routine birth. To the shock of her doctors, Alexandra had gone from death to life! While we appreciated their fast actions and cooperation to aid our baby's birth, we knew she would not

be alive without God's miraculous healing intervention.

Not only did we have peace through the entire ordeal, we gave God access and permission to work through us by standing on His Word—the Bible. When doctors tried to warn us of the worst-case scenario—that our baby would die—we had comfort that God would see her through and, if necessary, raise her from the dead. We just calmly thanked them and told them we were ready for her to be born. They took care of their business while we took care of ours—we thanked God for His goodness, refused to reject His promises, and prayed our way through the surgery and recovery.

All these years later, Alexandra is a beautiful young lady who is full of

life and loves the Lord. We believe that without God's Word, none of this would have been possible. What the enemy meant for evil God has used for good! And God is no respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11). What He did for us, He will do for you! All you have to do is receive Jesus as Lord and put God's Word to work in your own life. Praise the Lord!

Healing Scriptures

*My son, attend to my words;
incline thine ear unto my
sayings. Let them not depart
from thine eyes; keep them in the
midst of thine heart. For they are
life unto those that find them,
and health to all their flesh.*

Proverbs 4:20–22

*Surely [Jesus] hath borne our
griefs, and carried our sorrows:
yet we did esteem him stricken,
smitten of God, and afflicted.*

Isaiah 53:4

When the even was come, they brought unto [Jesus] many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

Matthew 8:16–17

[Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

*[Jesus] his own self bare our sins
in his own body on the tree, that
we, being dead to sins, should
live unto righteousness: by
whose stripes ye were healed.*

1 Peter 2:24

*If thou wilt diligently hearken to
the voice of the Lord thy God,
and wilt do that which is right in
his sight, and wilt give ear to his
commandments, and keep all his
statutes, I will put none of these
diseases upon thee, which I have
brought upon the Egyptians: for
I am the Lord that healeth thee.*

Exodus 15:26

*I call heaven and earth to record
this day against you, that I have
set before you life and death,
blessing and cursing: therefore
choose life, that both thou and
thy seed may live: that thou
mayest love the Lord thy God,
and that thou mayest obey his
voice, and that thou mayest
cleave unto him: for he is thy life,
and the length of thy days: that
thou mayest dwell in the land
which the Lord sware unto thy
fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac,
and to Jacob, to give them.*

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

James 5:15

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Proverbs 17:22

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 John 2

And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.

Exodus 23:25

For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord.

Jeremiah 30:17a

I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners. I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him.

Isaiah 57:18-19

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

Acts 10:38

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 102:2–5

And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judæa and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; and they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

Luke 6:17–19

And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

Matthew 15:30-31

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Luke 9:1-2

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:15–18

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Psalms 118:17

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Acts 5:16

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid

*for the terror by night; nor for
the arrow that flieth by day; nor
for the pestilence that walketh in
darkness; nor for the destruction
that wasteth at noonday. A
thousand shall fall at thy side,
and ten thousand at thy right
hand; but it shall not come nigh
thee. Only with thine eyes shalt
thou behold and see the reward
of the wicked. Because thou hast
made the Lord, which is my
refuge, even the most High, thy
habitation; there shall no evil
befall thee, neither shall any
plague come nigh thy dwelling.*

Psalm 91:1–10

Receive Jesus as Your Lord and Savior

God demands righteousness from us, because He is righteous. We are born sinful, and all unrepentant sinners will receive judgment followed by condemnation to hell. We sin because we have a sin nature. But God does not want you to go to hell! He wants you to live forever with Him, beginning right now!

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

What a wonderful gift! When you are born-again, not only do you receive a get-out-of-hell-free card, you also enter into relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 17:3

All you have to do to receive Jesus—and receive all the benefits as an heir to the Kingdom of God—is to believe!

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that

God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:9–10

If you believe with your heart that God raised His Son from the dead and are willing to say Jesus is Lord, you have joined the family! Now, you are born again. The old you—with all its sins—is dead and gone. Your spirit has been made completely new!

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And

all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation ... For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2 Cor. 5:17–18 and 21

To grow as a new believer, read your Bible often to learn who you are in Jesus Christ (Rom. 12:2), join a Bible-teaching church (Heb. 10:24–25), and tell others about your Lord Jesus (Matt. 28:19–20)!