

REVIVALIST MINISTRIES

FAITH, MIRACLES & HEALING

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CULTIVATE REVIVAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

A Bible study series designed
to cultivate revival
and to grow stronger, together.



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WEEK 1

BELIEVING BEYOND WHAT YOU SEE

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.

HEBREWS 11:1

What is faith, and what does it mean? Are there different types of faith? The dictionary meaning is: complete trust or confidence in someone or something. Let's take a look at the story in Matthew 8 where Jesus heals the centurion's servant.

The Faith of the Centurion; Matthew 5:5-8, *"When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, asking for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly." Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?" The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed."* The first thing we see in this passage is that the centurion came to Jesus asking for help. Jesus responded to him with a question: "Shall I come heal him?"

In my mind, the answer is clear—of course I want you to come heal him! Why else would I have approached you in the first place? But Jesus was asking for an invitation into this man's situation. The centurion replied, *"Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed."*

This centurion demonstrates what Hebrews 11 talks about. He believed Jesus could heal his servant without needing to be present. This type of faith is called **Expectant Faith**. The centurion expected God to move, even though he had no evidence in front of him that Jesus could heal his servant. He just believed that it could be done: *"Just say the word, and my servant will be healed."*

When Jesus saw this man's incredible faith and that the centurion expected "results," He healed his servant immediately.

Jesus' response amazes me: Then Jesus said to the centurion, "*Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.*" And his servant was healed at that moment. When Jesus saw this man's incredible faith and that the centurion expected "results," He healed his servant immediately.

Let's take a look at a very familiar story in the book of Genesis. Genesis 6:9-13, "*Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out."* We know that in this account, Noah heard a word from God, and he faithfully obeyed and built the ark, even though he had no evidence that rain would come. Yet he was persuaded to obey—even when human reasoning and logic would have said to do otherwise.

This **Divine Faith** we see Noah had, moved him to act. From my understanding of the Bible, it had never rained on the earth before the flood. Imagine trying to convince others of something they've never seen or heard of. You're telling them this "flood" will come and destroy everything not on the boat you're building. This kind of faith is characterized by a deep conviction of truth that aligns your will with the will of our Father in Heaven. Without divine faith from God that actually persuades us to act upon it, we will have nothing but a dead faith, one that produces belief in God (head knowledge), but is not accompanied by actions, making it useless or ineffective.

Recently, my in-laws went on a trip to Switzerland with another couple. During their visit, they had the opportunity to take a walk on a suspended path. The walkway was bolted to the rock along a vertical cliff and had a section with a glass floor that gives the feeling of walking on air. As you can imagine, some people walked on the steel part of the pathway, while others dared to walk across the glass that was suspended a couple hundred feet above the rocks. One of the travelers walked out on this path but stayed only on the steel portion. Once he saw that the glass was holding my father-in-law as he walked on the glass section, he bravely walked back on the glass.

Divine Faith is characterized by a deep conviction of truth that aligns your will with the will of our Father in Heaven.

So what changed? Did the glass suddenly become stronger because he believed it would hold him? Not at all. Your belief or unbelief doesn't change anything regarding faith and its power. When you step into alignment and agree with what God says, you will see mountains move in your life.

When you step into alignment and agree with what God says, you will see mountains move in your life.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

What role does faith play in how you make decisions when the outcome is uncertain? _____

How do you distinguish between faith and simply having hope or optimism?

Can faith grow stronger through doubt and challenges, or does it only weaken when tested? Why? _____



WEEK 2

THE POWER OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

JOHN 9:2-3

Miracles are a subject many people try to avoid for various reasons. I would like to take a look at this subject through the lens of Scripture. What does the Bible say about miracles? Should we still be seeing miracles today like they saw in biblical times, or was that only for a specific season or era? Have you ever asked yourself this question: What was the purpose of miracles in the New Testament? I believe Jesus performed miracles for different reasons. At times, He saw people's faith, other times, He performed miracles for someone because of the faith of those who brought them to Him.

Many years ago, I was working the night shift, flying cargo to multiple cities each night. One evening, the driver at my first pickup location seemed a little distressed and concerned about something. I asked her what was bothering her. She told me that her doctor had just informed her she had cancer. I asked her if my wife and I could pray for her, and she gladly accepted. During the prayer, I sensed in my spirit: "This cancer will not lead to death." So we prayed against it in Jesus' name. Approximately one week later, when I saw her again, I asked how her next appointment went. With much joy on her face, she said, "The cancer is gone!" That experience made me wonder: what actually happened?

I believed that God healed her. But she strongly believed that the medicine she had just started taking worked wonders for her. So I asked myself: Did the doctors misdiagnose her, and she never had cancer? Did God heal her? Or did the medicine actually work? I chose to believe that a miracle happened to this woman, so that He would receive all the glory.

Let's look at this story where Jesus restores a blind man's sight: John 9:1–11, *“As He went along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ After saying this, He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ‘Go,” He told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, ‘Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?’ Some claimed that he was. Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ But he himself insisted, ‘I am the man.’ ‘How then were your eyes opened?’ they asked. He replied, ‘The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.’”*

Sometimes God allows brokenness so that, when He performs a miracle His Father receives the glory.

So often we assume there's a specific reason why someone is sick or has a physical issue. Is it because of their unbelief? Is God punishing them for something they did? Or maybe they sinned, and that's why they are not being made whole? Instead of jumping to conclusions, we should consider that sometimes God allows brokenness so that, when He performs a miracle, His Father receives the glory. I believe one

reason we don't see as many miracles today is because too many people want the glory and recognition for themselves.

But our God is a jealous God, and He does not—and will not—share His glory with anyone! Yet, with all that said, we are commanded in Scripture to pray for the sick. So we must be obedient, even if we don't see results on this side of eternity.

Another truth we need to understand is that Jesus performed many miracles to prove that He was who He said He was. So, if you're asking: Are miracles still happening today? The answer is yes. But don't think you can demand miracles just because Jesus tells us to pray for the sick. He is sovereign, and He knows the intentions of our hearts.

When we believe we've finally figured out a formula, that's the moment we stop trusting in the hand of Jesus to perform the miracle. Instead, we begin trusting our own strength and that is why so many are powerless today.

Trust that God has your best interest in mind. He will heal whom He wills, whether through you or through any vessel that is broken before Him and does not seek glory for themselves.

When we believe we've finally figured out a formula, that's the moment we stop trusting in the hand of Jesus to perform the miracle. Instead, we begin trusting our own strength and that is why so many are powerless today.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

Is it always God's will that a miracle should happen, and how should we respond when it doesn't happen?_____

What was the purpose of miracles in the Bible—was it mainly for compassion, proof of divine power, or something else?_____

How should Christians today approach miracles? Through prayer and fasting, commanding it to happen?_____





WEEK 3

MADE WHOLE AGAIN

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

JAMES 3:14-15

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a healing and a miracle? The main difference is that healing is often gradual, while a miracle is an instantaneous, supernatural event that overrides the laws of nature. Throughout Scripture, we see that Jesus performed many miracles. He healed the sick, raised the dead, and gave sight to the blind.

When I think of healing, my mind often goes not only to physical restoration but also to spiritual and emotional healing. Many of us, at one point or another in our lives, have experienced physical injuries; needing stitches, breaking a bone, or recovering from surgery. These things take time to heal. But there's also emotional pain. Maybe someone said or did something that cut deeply. Even if there was no outward evidence, you felt the pain internally. Over time, if you pursue wholeness, those wounds tend to heal, even if a scar remains, reminding you of what took place.

My dear sister-in-law began experiencing significant health issues around the age of 13, and those issues continued throughout much of her teenage years. During that time, she was anointed and prayed for more than once, yet saw no results. To be clear, she hadn't asked for prayer herself; others had offered, and she gladly agreed.

The Bible says in James 5:13–15: *“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.*

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.” So why wasn’t my sister-in-law healed?

I’m not going to build a doctrine around the fact that she didn’t request the prayer herself. But there’s something important I do know: she didn’t believe she would be healed. Fast forward several years; she was now married and still struggling with what doctors suspected might be Lyme disease or juvenile arthritis. She had chronic fatigue and many other symptoms. On top of that, she and her husband were unable to conceive for several years. One day, she personally asked the church leadership to anoint her and pray over her. This time, she fully believed she would be healed and after they prayed, most of her symptoms disappeared.

You might ask, “Most of them?” Yes; most, but not all. This time, though, her faith was active. She believed God would heal her and He did. Yet, at that point, God still hadn’t blessed them with any children. About two years later, they asked to be anointed and prayed for accompanied with the faith that God would heal her once again. Less than a year after that, they welcomed their first baby boy into this world.

God is in control, and He operates on a timeline that often doesn’t make sense to us.

So why didn’t God heal her the first time? And why wasn’t she healed completely the second time? Was it a lack of faith on her part or on the part of those praying? I don’t claim to have all the answers, but I do know this: God is in control, and He operates on a timeline that often doesn’t make sense to us. Our responsibility is to be obedient, to pray, to ask for healing, just as the Bible instructs us to.

Some people might say that what we call “healing” is simply the “placebo effect” or “con-

firmation bias,” that when we believe we’re healed, our brain releases endorphins or other neurochemicals that have pain-relieving and mood boosting effects. And yes, God did create our minds to be incredibly powerful. But when healing takes place on a level where there is no explanation, I choose to give God the glory. Since 2021, my sister-in-law has not experienced any further health issues, and she and her husband have now welcomed two beautiful children into their home.

Let’s take a look back at the woman I mentioned in the last chapter, the one who had cancer that we prayed for. I don’t recall the exact timeline—whether it was a month or six months later, but she became convinced that modern medicine had healed her. I absolutely believe modern medicine has its place, and I’m incredibly thankful for the advancements in our medical world. However, her cancer returned. I’ve often wondered why? Did God allow it to come back? Did I not have enough faith to believe for lasting healing? Or was it because she didn’t give God the glory the first time?

Honestly, I don’t know the answers to these questions. I don’t fully understand the heart of God. He sees the big picture, we don’t. He is sovereign and righteous. His ways are above our ways, and His thoughts are higher than ours. I do know this: not everyone was healed when Jesus walked the earth. Not everyone was healed by the apostles, though at times their very shadows caused people to be healed. So, let’s not fix our eyes solely on the healing, let’s focus on the Healer.

As it says in John 15:7–8: *“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”* If we remain in God and His words remain in us, then when we ask for things, we’re speaking His very words, asking for His will to be done. But when we let our own desires and emotions take over, even if they seem right in our eyes, we may be operating outside of His will.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

Why did miraculous healings seem so frequent in the Bible, especially during Jesus' ministry and the early church, but appear so rare in modern times? Has God changed, or have we?_____

Could the apparent decline in divine healing today be more about our lack of faith and expectation, or has our understanding of healing shifted with modern medicine?_____

Is it possible that God still heals as powerfully as in the Bible, but we're too distracted, skeptical, or spiritually disconnected to recognize or receive it?_____



WEEK 4

GOD WANTS YOUR HEART

Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

JOHN 6:26-27

There are times when we get wrapped up in pursuing healing and miracles, and we forget that even if we never see or experience a miracle in our lives while on this earth, God does not see us as "less than" in the Kingdom of God. In fact, there are people who become so focused on pursuing the gifts that God has given, or pursuing the healings and miracles that they end up missing God Himself. More than the gifts and the miracles, Jesus wants your heart!

In John 6, we see people beginning to follow Jesus, not even because of the signs He performed, but because they ate and were filled. John 6:25–29, *"When they found Him on the other side of the lake, they asked Him, 'Rabbi, when did You get here?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, you are looking for Me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not*

work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on Him God the Father has placed His seal of approval.' Then they asked Him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent.' Had they become so accustomed to seeing miraculous things that, by this point, they were just interested in what they could get out of the situation for themselves?

More than the gifts
and the miracles,
Jesus wants your
heart!

Let me ask you a question: Is believing in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, enough? Would you be satisfied if God never used you to heal someone or raise the dead? Is Jesus and nothing else enough for you?

I remember many years ago, a friend of mine was tragically shot during a home invasion. He lived for a couple of weeks afterward, and during that time, the number of people who prayed for complete healing over his body was incredible. I had faith that God would heal him completely, and by all reports from the doctors, he was on track to recover. But unfortunately, he succumbed to his injuries a couple of weeks later and passed away. So why wasn't he healed? Did we not have enough faith? Or maybe someone didn't believe he would be healed, and that prevented God from doing the miraculous?

I don't understand the mind of God, or why He allowed that situation to happen but here's what I do know: God is sovereign, and He knows what is best for His children. I don't believe God caused that to happen, but He allowed it, and ultimately, He received glory through the situation. If it was God's will for my friend to be healed, then no matter the doubt in other people's hearts, God is all-powerful and He could have done it.

We often say, "God is sovereign," especially when we don't understand why He allows certain things to happen. But what does that actually mean? The sovereignty of God can be defined as God's right to exercise His ruling power over all His creation. There are many times, as I've said before, that I don't understand why God allows certain things. But if everything made perfect logical sense to us, if we could explain it all, why would He tell us to live by faith?

Faith causes us as Christians, to say: "This doesn't make sense. I can't explain the reason why but I'm going to believe anyway." It's having complete trust and confidence, knowing that the Creator of the universe knows what is best for His creation. And ultimately, re-

ardless of what happens on this earth, we're on the winning side!

This doesn't mean we don't ask God to move on our behalf, He understands the way we think. I believe God wants us to ask Him for things; He desires that daily connection with you. Learn to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit, and He will guide you into all truth. But be careful: there are times when people are led astray by their own emotions, thinking, "This must be the Holy Spirit." The voice of the Holy Spirit will always align with His Word. If what you're sensing doesn't line up with Scripture, it's not God.

If we desire to walk in power and authority in our Christian lives, we must learn to discern the voice of the Good Shepherd. Let's not get so caught up in doing good things that we miss the mark and never become who God has truly called us to be. Sometimes, "good things" can distract us from the best thing, which is to continually abide in His presence.

Luke 6:46; 13:26–27, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"* It's not about prophesying, casting out demons, or performing wonders in the name of Jesus. We are called to do the will of our Father in heaven. We cannot walk in unauthorized territory and expect God's blessings and favor on our lives.

- Get to know the Father and His will.
- Walk by faith, not by sight.
- Allow His words to change, heal, and bring life to brokenness, pain, and sickness.
- Let Him direct your every step.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

Are we more drawn to God's hand than His heart? What are some signs that we might be seeking what God can do for us (miracles, healing, provision) more than seeking a relationship with Him?_____

Can you recall a time when you sought God's presence more than His power?_____

What would it look like to love God even if He didn't answer your prayers the way you hoped? _____



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