

THE HEALING

"Are you a religious man?"
Micah's answer:
"Yes, sir, I am."
"Well, I am too," the doctor said, "and from what I can understand, I am holding the evidence of a miracle in my hands."



By David W. Argue



Micah is our youngest son. He was playing in a summer softball league ... and broke a bone in his foot.

A trip to the doctor confirmed that it was broken — X-rays to substantiate.

And, then, the added worries.

In a week he would be facing the extensive final medical screening process that would clear him (or not) to enter the Army.

With a broken foot?

He came to see us for a final visit several days prior to the scheduled medical exam.

Limping.

Just before he was to leave, it "seemed like a good idea" that we pray over him.

He sat in the big easy chair in the living room and closed his eyes. Four of us knelt by him and began to pray softly. It seemed to me that there was not too much faith stirring in anyone. These few days had been a family time entirely, and now it was mostly a farewell moment.

What was going on was simply obedience — obedience to do what Jesus said to do when healing is needed.

As we prayed, invoking the name of Jesus over Micah, suddenly he came up out of the chair with a shriek.

I am embarrassed to admit it, but I thought I had done something wrong ... like "laying hands" (too firmly) on him!

THE HEALING

I thought, *We were just following the directive of Scripture: "Lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."* Lord, do I need to apologize to him?

The prayer ended shortly and with Micah in pain. In moments he was gone, returning to his residence many miles away.

Several days later he called us, having just seen an Army doctor and explained the situation to him.

simply the foot adjusting to the new wellness. In several days, as the doctor predicted, the pain disappeared.

Micah was cleared fully. He enlisted, shipped out, and this summer returned from a full tour of duty in Afghanistan.

No foot problems. I reflect often on what happened ... how easy it would have been to have not prayed, and instead told him we "would be

salvation, it is "not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:9, KJV).

In a fresh rereading of the Gospels and the Book of Acts, I have discovered that most (about 75 percent) of the healing/power moments in the New Testament are recorded as occurring in an informal setting — the store, the home, the place of business, the seaside, on the road, in the restaurant — rather than in

the presence of God into every situation of life.

4. To be as real and natural as possible — so that Jesus may be seen more clearly.

Jesus said:

"These are some of the signs that will accompany believers ... they will lay hands on the sick and make them well.' And the disciples went everywhere preaching, the Master working right with them, validating the message with indisputable evidence" (Mark 16:17-20, *The Message*). **e**

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Could it be that we would enhance the in-breaking of the life of God in healing all around us if we would get spiritually active in the settings that He most likes to show up in?

The doctor took fresh X-rays and in a few minutes came back into the room. He carried both the original set of X-rays and the ones he had just taken.

The physician began Micah's consultation with this question: "Are you a religious man?"

Micah's answer: "Yes, sir, I am."

"Well, I am too," the doctor said, "and from what I can understand, I am holding the evidence of a miracle in my hands. In this set of X-rays your foot is broken, and in this set, it is healed. Your foot is fine, and I have no problem clearing you to proceed with your plans to enlist."

The shriek from Micah as we were praying over him was the bone being reset: God's "hand" under ours. The pain he still felt in his foot after prayer was

praying" for him.

How often I have waited for a feeling inside of me — of inspiration or faith or energy — before actually praying. I can see now how often I have fallen into the trap of thinking that it is actually something in me that is the key to healing.

How often I have tried to measure my own faith or preparedness so as to merit what is actually and fully God's gracious action.

I so easily get it wrong.

Do you too?

More and more I realize that healing occurs because God loves us.

God knows the plans He has for us (Jeremiah 29:11), and He has an infinite measure of health to pour down upon us. He is full of grace and mercy ... and surprises. And, as in the process of

the more formal settings — the temple, the altar, the courts, the church.

So often I have limited my engaging in the healing process to the formal settings — the prepared, the controlled, the predictable, the bright-light events. Could it be that we would enhance the in-breaking of the life of God in healing all around us if we would get spiritually active in the settings that He most likes to show up in? Yes, yes, yes.

So, my objectives more and more are:

1. To cultivate an aggressive listening to the prompts of the Spirit 24/7.

2. To acknowledge continually that healing/power expressions are all of God ... and so little about me at all.

3. To watch for ways to release faith in places of need and to take

ABCs OF SALVATION

To know God and be ready for heaven, follow these steps:

A. Admit you are a sinner.

"There is no one righteous, not even one ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:10,23 (See Romans 5:8; 6:23.)

Ask God's forgiveness and repent of your sins.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13 (See Acts 3:19.)

B. Believe in Jesus (put your trust in Him) as your only hope of salvation.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (See John 14:6.)

Become a child of God by receiving Christ.

"To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 (See Revelation 3:20.)

C. Confess that Jesus is your Lord.

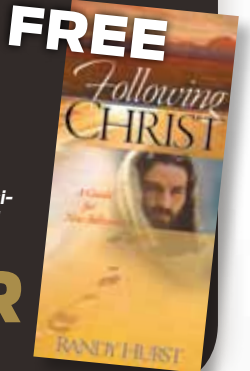
"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 (See verse 10.)

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