

## **THE REALLY GOOD LIFE**

*(Life of Christ Series)*

**The Gospel of Luke**

### **God's Health Plan**

A national health care plan for America is front-page news these days. Trying to bring down health care costs and making medical care accessible to all is complicated, expensive and politically influenced. Trying to have all of our physical needs taken care of is a huge issue to our aging and ailing society. Greed and corruption with some providers (insurance companies, pharmaceutical corporations and medical practitioners) and degenerate, unhealthy lifestyles of so many consumers makes the problem seem quite formidable. Thankfully, God's health plan is much simpler, cheaper and equitable.

Someday when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to set up the Millennial Kingdom there will be no need for a *national health plan* because nobody will be sick or die for 1,000 years (**Rev.20:4-6 & 21:4**). Until then God has a *health care plan* and a *life insurance policy* for every person who has trusted in His Son, Jesus, as their personal Savior and Lord. This is one of the awesome perks of becoming a child of God and follower of the Lord Jesus. It is 100% coverage forever for all believers who are expected to pay the *premiums* of a totally dedicated Christ-like life (**Romans 12:1-2 & 1 Thess.5:21-24**). The only maladies not covered are those incurred through disobedience to God's Word and failure to live a separated godly lifestyle (**1 Cor. 3:16-17, 6:18 20; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1**). Injuries, illness and death of prodigals are just the natural result of disobedience (even believers will reap what they sow – **Hebrews 12:4-11, James 5:15-16, 1 John 5:16-17**). Because of the resident mortality in our flesh and the fallen world in which we live, even believers' bodies age, fail and die in order to set free their souls for heaven (**2 Cor. 5:8, Philippians 1:23, etc.**). A great hope and joy of believers is knowing that God has a new resurrection body for them to spend eternity with the Lord that is fashioned after the Christ's own resurrection body (**2 Cor. 5:1-8, 1 Cor. 15:50-55, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, 1 John 3:2-3, etc.**).

While we live in this flesh many physical difficulties may come as a Christian follows and serves Jesus (**John 16: 33, Acts 14:22, Romans 8:16-18, 1 Peter 4:12-16, etc.**). Suffering in the life of a true believer is for a very specific purpose when it happens – chastisement / correction, to develop Christian character, to be a witness to non-believers or to suffer for the glory of God. When physical sickness comes upon one of God's children, it is important for them to ascertain whether or not it is because of disobedience (**James 5:13-16**). If it is correction from the Lord, repentance and rededication to the Lord will result in healing. If the ailment remains after prayer and treatment, it may be presumed God is using it for some or all of the other positive reasons above. Believers who are called to suffer for the Lord's sake are assured of great spiritual blessings now (**Romans 5:1-5**) and eternal rewards in heaven (**James 1:12, Revelation 3:10, etc.**). God still performs miraculous healings when it suits His divine purposes for us and His glory. All believers are covered; all non-believers are 'uncovered'. The only way to get this excellent policy is to sign-up in the Lamb's *Book of Life* by registering in faith with Christ as Savior and Lord (**Revelation 2:5, 20:15**).

### **The Faith in Jesus Movement**

*(The Healing of the Sick Lady & Dead Girl)*

**Luke 8:41-56:** *Synoptic accounts in Matthew 9:18-26 & Mark 5:21-43*

**Jesus' first two miracles in Luke chapter 8** visibly proved His power and authority over the natural realm (*calming the sea*) and the spiritual realm (*cleansing and calming the demon-possessed man*). **The remaining two miracles in Luke chapter 8** reveal what it is that moves the Lord to exert His power in this fallen world in which we live – **FAITH**. In these two miracles, Luke under the influence of the Holy Spirit, shows what happens in a life where salvation and the grace of God comes– (*the woman with a blood disease/ vs. 43-48 = the grace of God cleanses those who come to Jesus by faith & the deceased little girl/ vs. 49-56 = the grace of God imparts new life, health and vigor to those who were spiritually dead but heard His voice and felt His touch to be 'born-again' spiritually*). The combined desperation of these two (one old and one young) picture the depraved condition of all people before they come to know Christ. Their combined miracles picture the cleansing of all sin and the fresh new life God gives those who come to Jesus individually and personally for mercy, forgiveness and everlasting life.

**The other theological picture throughout these two miracles is the FAITH of Jairus**, whose name means 'HE enlightens' (Hebrew /YHWH gives light). Throughout both miracles, faith of this man is seen as spiritual light in the soul, or 'a ray of hope' in the Lord Jesus that is nurtured and strengthened and rewarded. This is the supernatural faith that must come as a gift of God in order to believe and be saved (*Ephesians 2:8-9*). It is also the only kind of faith that can grow and mature and maintain the abundant Christian life (*Romans 1:16-17*). This faith must be fueled by the Word of God (*Romans 10:17, 1 Peter 2:2-3*) and by a highly dedicated relationship to God (*2 Peter 1:5-11*). This day of double miracles for Jairus no doubt boosted his faith in Jesus so much that he was never the same again. God is still looking for men and women, boys and girls who have such faith to do awesome things in, for and through them in our day (*2 Chronicles 16:9a*). As His eyes scan the earth today, does He detect your heart as earnestly desiring to be 'perfect' in faith? (*Hebrews 11:1 & 6*)

### **Just 'A Faith' in the Crowd**

*(The Old Lady with a Bad Blood Condition)*

*How God touches and heals the sin problem circulating within every one of us.*

*"And behold, there was a man named **Jairus** and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And **he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him** to come to His house for he had **an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying...**" 8:41-42a*

*"...but as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now **a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years**, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and **touch the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.** And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' But Jesus said, "**Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.**" Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, **she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people** the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, "**Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.**" 8:42b-48*

**All human beings have a terminal sickness called sin that contaminates all we do.**

**This 'bad blood' in us (the sin nature) needs to be stopped, cleansed and transfused by the Savior.**

**When someone reaches out and touches Jesus by faith and prayer for cleansing, His grace flows to us.**

If Jesus has touched you with salvation and changed your life, He expects you to show your thanks and tell others how He has changed your life forever. Have you done this through baptism and witnessing?

### **Just Believe & Come Alive!**

*(The Young Lady in a Clinically Dead Condition)*

*How God touches and overcomes the depravity (spiritual deadness) of every one's soul.*

*"While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "**Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.**" When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "**Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping.**" And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. 8:49-53*

*"But He (Jesus) put them all outside, **took her by the hand** and called, saying, "**Little girl, arise.**" Then her spirit returned, and **she arose immediately.** And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened." 8:54-56*

**Every human being comes into this life 'dead in trespasses and sins' at birth (*Ephesians 2:1-3*)**

**Spiritual life happens in us after our physical birth when Jesus comes into our life (*John 3:16-18*)**

**When God touches someone and makes them spiritually alive, they instantly change (*2 Cor. 5:17*)**

If Jesus Christ has truly come into your heart and made you alive spiritually, there is an immediate hunger to know Him Who has saved you. There is an immediate and growing appetite for spiritual food (the Word of God) and there is immediate notice by others of the change Jesus has made in you.