



“Faith for the Helpless”

Rev. David J. Bauer

Several years ago, Dolores became a caregiver for a quadriplegic young man. He had never walked nor moved his arms or legs by his own power in his lifetime of 23 years. But over the course of time his legs, arms and back had become gnarled and grotesque in form, eventually twisted like a pretzel. A special wheelchair had to be manufactured for this young man to accommodate his irregular form. He was helpless, totally dependent on those who cared for him each day. He could only move when others moved him, and eat only when they fed him.

When we hear the old adage: “All you have to do is have faith,” it would all depend on just what we might have faith in. A hopeless faith is a faith that is not in the right object. We need faith in Christ, our Savior plus nothing else. This is the faith that can make us whole. Let us look at a good example of faith which made a helpless man whole...

Only God’s power can heal when we are absolutely helpless and in need of restoration –John 5:1-7. Jesus finds a group of people gathered near the pool of Bethesda –V. 3. They were quite a helpless lot: There were blind folks, lame ones, paralyzed ones too, a great multitude, all gathered near the pool... waiting! Yes, waiting; for what? All waiting for a mysterious moving of the waters in which one might be healed; that is, if one could get himself/herself into the waters at just the right time.

What a great picture of helpless, lost humanity! Folks hoping to be healed of sin’s great disease and consequences are waiting without strength. “When we were yet without strength in due time Christ died for the ungodly” –Romans 5:6. We all are dead in trespasses and sins, walking on earth in the devil’s playground –Ephesians 2:1-3. And there is a great multitude waiting. Most place their trust for salvation in a lot of worthless things: Christian friends, baptism, false religious systems, etc. This particular man had spent his entire 38 year life in a helpless condition, unable to even roll over into the water; totally disabled!

When Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed, his complaint was that no one would put him into the water. Others, not so disabled would rush to get in first. Isn’t that just like the efforts of humankind? If salvation were according to our spiritual disability, the sinner with small sins could get saved easily. It would not be possible for the one totally incapacitated by sin’s deadly sway to be healed or saved. Others, more righteous than us might be able to achieve heaven’s shores before us. By human reasoning, this would be perfectly fair. But God’s grace is available to all who believe! Aren’t we glad that Jesus died for helpless people; little sinners and big ones? –Romans 5:8. The man was helpless, but wanted to be healed. Like him, we must want to be healed in order to be saved.



Rev. David J. Bauer
Director Emeritus

Only God’s power can grant real healing from sin’s deadly disease – John 5:8-9. Jesus then gives this man (and us) the command to “Arise!” “Arise!” This is a command for a new life; Jesus calls us to a brand new life in Him. One can only imagine the atrophy of this man’s bones and muscles after 38 years of helplessness; walking was not even a possibility. “Take up your bed and walk!” Jesus’ command did not allow even the possibility of a relapse. It is indicated that the man did not really know who Jesus was at the time. How strong could his faith have been in the command of this unknown man? And yet he obeyed Jesus, arose, took up his bed and walked. One totally paralyzed can walk only after he has been made whole. We have the strength to walk with the Lord only after we have been made whole from the effect of sin’s great devastation. Only Jesus can do this! He did, and he does it today too!

Only God’s power can give us works of righteousness –John 5:13-14. After being interrogated by religious leaders more interested in why this man was carrying a bed on the Sabbath day, the man returned to the temple where he found Jesus again. Jesus’ command to him is a stark reminder of what is required of us all: “Behold, you have been made whole; sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee” –V. 14. “You have been made whole...” When we are whole in Him we are complete; nothing can be added to completeness! “And you are complete in Him who is the head of all principalities and power” –Colossians 2:10.

Yet we must heed God’s call to righteousness. Jesus reminded the restored man of his obligation to “sin no more...” When the Scriptures talk of God’s free grace and mercy toward us in our helplessness, they further remind us that we are “His workmanship created in good works...” –Ephesians 2:10. We need to be “careful to maintain good works...” –Titus 2:8. We are to “awake to righteousness and sin no more...” –1 Corinthians 15:34. We are now “redeemed from iniquity” and are a “...purified, special people zealous of good works” –Titus 2:14.

Healed from hopelessness; Let us walk with our Lord and be a blessing!

Mark Twain once said: “A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.” Someone else said that Adam and Eve must have had a hard time making conversation since they had no one to talk about. The tongue has killed more people than all the cars on our highways. “And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell...⁸ But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

A word to the wise – Dr. Chuck Svoboda

RECIPES

“Old Fashioned” Peach Cobbler

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease an 8x8 pan. Use 6 to 8 fresh peaches or an equal amount of drained canned peaches, filling the bottom with fruit.

In a bowl, combine

½ cup sugar

¾ cup flour

½ tsp. baking powder

½ stick butter (softened)

¼ cup milk

Dash of salt

Dab evenly over the peaches (the batter is very thick, but will spread out when baked).

For the glaze, combine ½ cup of water, ½ cup of sugar, and ½ tbs of corn starch in a small saucepan, and stir until combined. Bring to a boil, then pour over the batter. Bake 1 hour. Let cool & serve with ice cream. It’s best when eaten on the 1st day, so enjoy!

--Recipe by Amy Nelson--



Helpful Hints

Clean Your Cutting Board With a Lemon - To avoid mold, don't put your wooden cutting board in the dishwasher. Instead, clean it by sprinkling kosher salt and scrubbing with half a lemon to remove debris. Afterward, clean it again with dish soap and hot water, then let it air dry upright.

Clean Your Vacuum With a Seam-Ripper - Hair is a formidable force. Whether it comes from a human or your pets, this is especially the case for those who like to keep a neat and tidy home. So, a seam ripper is the best solution to get the hair out of the vacuum.

Corn Starch to Clean Windows - Mix two cups of hot water, two tablespoons of cornstarch, and one-quarter cup of vinegar. This solution will create the ultimate window cleaner. It is both eco-friendly and highly effective! (thepremierdaily.com/50-home-hacks/)

Leave a legacy for your family & favorite ministries. When planning a legacy, give Terry L. Balko a call at 404-229-1645 or email Mr. Balko for forms and details at terrylbalko@gmail.com. **Don't let your hard earned life-savings go into a probate bureaucracy! NOT PLANNING is a plan, but it is NOT a very good plan!**

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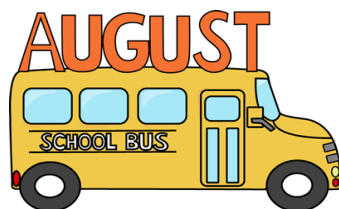
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P. O. Box 272 - Hinsdale, Illinois 60522
708-579-3800/3801 djbauer101@gmail.com



Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Fernando Garza, Interim President



2025

"The Lord's mercies never cease, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: Great is Thy faithfulness."

—Lamentations 3:22-23

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Hinsdale, IL 60522**

The BRM Board of Directors has appointed Fernando Garza as the Interim President

BRM Interims and Associates Engaged in Ministry:

>Rev. Steve Barack, BRM Associate – Filling the next BRM assignment. Ready to go!

>Dr. Al Carson, Sr. BRM Associate – Sr. Pastor of Edwards Corners Bible Church, Marcellus, MI

>Dr. Joe Stewart, BRM Associate – Sr. Pastor of Grace Bible Church, Dallas City, IL

>Rev. Darwyn Hassert, BRM Associate - Smyrna Bible Church (and vicinity), MI, preaches and assists as needed in nearby areas

>Rev. Don Zimmerman, Interim Pastor of Western Springs Baptist Church, IL

>Rev. Jim Vyleta, Interim Pastor West Madison Bible Church, Verona (Madison), WI

This month's newsletter was produced by Tracy McConnell using copied materials from previous issues.

The Lighter Side –

A grandfather in a hurry, taking his eight year old grandson to school, made a turn at a red light where it wasn't allowed.

"Oh-oh. I just made an illegal turn!" the man said.

"That's okay grandpa," the boy replied. "The police car right behind us did the same thing."



BRM Field Report #Eight

Along with its other services, BRM provides pulpit supply to area churches in need of a speaker. One of our retired pastors spoke twice at Lombard Grace Community Church in July. Another retired Pastor Steve Barack is going to Prairie Bible church in Delavan IL, on August 3rd. Thank you, men of God, for filling the gap!

Pathway Church in Southern Wisconsin has experienced God's working since merging with another nearby church that had a great building, but no pastor. They had 14 people sign up for the membership class.

There are churches in the area with pastor's that have either retired or will be retiring soon, and who are looking for new pastors. Please pray for these churches, and BRM as we seek to help connect churches with pastors and pastors with churches.

There's a church in the southwest suburbs who has been looking for an associate pastor for two years. Please pray for God to supply!

Interim pastor Jim Vyleta is wrapping up his interim position at West Madison Bible Church in Verona Wisconsin. They have selected their new pastor, and he will be arriving in the next few months. Pray for West Madison and their new pastor to blend well together. And pray for Pastor Jim as he seeks his next assignment.

Continue to pray with BRM for God's leading for a new director. We're back in the office and taking calls again!