

Saved and Healed by Grace through Faith

From: Overcoming the Overwhelming:
A 40-Day Journey toward Rediscovering Faith in God

Taken from Day 8: Finding Faith
by C. D. Hildebrand

Just as faith comes to us for salvation by hearing about God's offer of salvation, so faith comes to us to receive other things from God. Let us first look at one example of how faith to be healed came to someone who heard the good news that Jesus would heal her.

Mark 5:25

Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years.

Consider this Jewish woman's social condition. First of all, she was considered unclean according to the law (Lev. 15:25, 20:18). Anyone who touched her or anyone whom she touched would also be unclean. Friends and family had to steer clear of her. Not even her husband could be with her without being unclean, and would have to go through ceremonial cleansing if he even touched her—that is, if she was even married. Who would want to marry or stay married to a woman with such an intimate problem? She was likely lonely and undesirable.

Since this problem had gone on for twelve years, it is probable that everyone in the community knew about her health. Privacy was limited; embarrassment was abundant. Imagine the amount of unsolicited health advice and home remedies this engendered.

Then of course, as "good" friends sometimes do, she was surely encouraged to repent of whatever sin she'd committed that had brought on this curse so that she could be healed. She likely searched her heart repeatedly to see if she could pinpoint what was causing this. Long-term overwhelming situations have a way of bringing about unwanted advice and accusations.

Mark 5:26

She had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

The fact that she had “suffered *many* things from many physicians” is a testimony to the fact that she wanted to be healed and was doing everything she could to get well. (Notice also that “she” spent all she had—another possible indicator that she was not married.) I don’t even want to imagine what these treatments might have been, and whatever they were, it was costing her “all she had” and to no avail.

Can you relate to this? My experience is that doctors can be of great help to us—until they just aren’t. Have you ever stopped getting care because you just couldn’t afford it or because you got weary of test after test with no diagnosis, or a diagnosis with no helpful treatment? Did you ever have to face the fact that instead of getting better after all of your efforts, time, and money, you were actually getting worse? This woman was overwhelmed by her health. Surely such a condition resulted in serious weakness. She doubtless had little time for anything else. Her senses reminded her continuously that she was not well.

Mark 5:27

When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.

She heard about Jesus, and what she heard was good news. Jesus was healing all who came to Him—completely and instantly healing them. The blind were seeing. The lame were walking. The deaf were hearing. Leprosy, another disease resulting in one being unclean, was removed. Surely He would heal her condition. Faith came to her by hearing of His grace, and that faith propelled her to reach out to Jesus. She, even in her current frailty, pressed through the crowd, casting aside her shame until she touched the hem of His garment.

Mark 5:28-29

For she said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.”

²⁹ Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.

She heard good news, and faith came to her which led her to confess what she believed, even though it was only to herself (Mt. 9:21). She didn't just believe Jesus *could* heal her but that He *would*. Her healing was so thorough that she could tell immediately that she was whole. How different her story would have been if she hadn't heard that Jesus was healing, if faith hadn't come, if she hadn't confessed what she believed, and if she hadn't determined to reach out to touch His garment.

Perhaps you are thinking, "I'm happy for her and for everyone else who has been healed, but I've tried all those healing teachings, and they didn't work for me." May I ask you, with all due compassion, how you would respond to someone who said, "I tried to get saved, but it didn't work for me"? Surely you would know that the person was missing something. Maybe he never heard the true gospel. Maybe he thought salvation comes to those who go to church each week, or who attend classes, or who are deemed saved by someone else, or those who are baptized, or those who confess they are a sinner and ask for forgiveness, or to the ones who live a holy life. One way or another, you would seek to help the person see that the promise of salvation is for all who believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and who confess that He is the Lord. I hope you would never say, "Yeah, maybe God doesn't want to save you personally. Maybe He didn't die for you."

Perhaps you have many conflicting thoughts on this topic, but at least be open to what we can see in this woman's story. She heard about His willingness to heal, faith came to her, and she let nothing get in her way of receiving the miracle she needed.

Mark 5:33-34

But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. ³⁴ And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

Jesus tells us exactly how this woman was healed when He said, "Your faith has made you well." Faith in what? In Him—in the

good news she'd heard about Him—faith which motivated her to confess what she believed and then to take action based on her belief in His grace. So, at the risk of being too repetitive, let me present again the Biblical principle of grace and faith this time as demonstrated in her story.

God's healing grace existed.
Someone told her about His healing grace.
She heard it.
Faith/belief for her healing came to her.
She confessed that she would be healed.
She took action.
She was healed.

What I am hoping to communicate is that when we hear the good news of God's grace, faith comes to us. We don't have to work it up, pretend we have it, or take some risky action to prove we have faith in an attempt to force God's hand. It isn't about us. It is about what God has done through His Son.

I hope you are beginning to hear the good news that I am preaching right now. It is this: Just as faith to be saved came to my husband by hearing the good news of Jesus' offer of salvation preached to him; and just as faith to be healed came to the woman with the flow of blood when she heard that Jesus offered healing to the masses, **faith will also come to us for our specific overwhelming situations when we hear the good news pertaining to our own particular problems.**

Faith is not an area of our lives in which we strive. It is meant as a place of rest for us. Think about it. Read through the gospels and the book of Acts. You will see this principle in action again and again. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the preaching of glad tidings of good things.

