

The Healing Power of God's Word

by Bayless Conley

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Hello there. Bayless Conley here. I just want to invite you to spend a few minutes with me while we look at something that is incredibly important. And I'm going to start by just telling a little story of something that happened when I was with my dad many years ago. We were camping. I picked something up, and, boy, is there a lesson in it. It applies to me, and it will certainly apply to you. So let's get into the Word together.

In Mark's Gospel, the fourth chapter, Jesus tells a parable about a guy that's sowing seeds. He's casting seeds on the ground. Some of it gets in good soil, grows up, and produces a great harvest. Some of it, the birds come and steal it. Some of it falls among thorns. Some of it falls on rocky, shallow soil. He says this when He explains the parable in Mark 4:14. He said, "The sower sows the Word, so the seed is the Word of God." Verse 20 NKJV, He said,

²⁰ "But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

He goes on talking about this same subject. He says something that to me is so simple, but it's explosive with the truth that is in it. He goes on down. We find in verses 26-29 NKJV,

²⁶ And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground."

All right, we already know the seed is the Word of God.

²⁷ "And should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how."

In other words, the Word of God can work independent of our understanding. Then He said,

²⁸ "For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

The seed is God's Word, and Jesus said, "Look, the earth brings forth crops by itself." The guy goes to sleep, he gets up, he goes to sleep, he gets up, and the seed sprouts and grows. He doesn't understand how, but it does, and it eventually brings a harvest. We don't make the seed work. In fact, we can't. Our part is to get it in the ground and keep it there. There is life in the seed, and it will produce if we'll just put it in the ground. The ground brings forth fruit when the seed is there, brings forth fruit by itself. You don't have to understand how it works. It just works.

I was camping with my dad many years ago. He's been in heaven for about five years now. Probably 16 or 17 years ago, my dad and I were camping. There was a strand of oak trees there. I was doing a little day hike, and I picked up an acorn off the ground. Just a little acorn,

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I could hold it between two fingers. I pondered something that day that I thought about many times. There was life locked inside of that tiny acorn.

Once it got into the soil, it would do its work. From that acorn that I could hold between two fingers, a mammoth oak tree with spreading bows would grow from the tiny acorn. Think of a little flower seed. In its tiny heart abides the beautiful flower, the leaves, the stem, the amazing color, and the enhancing aroma. It's all locked in the seed. There's life in the seed. Plant it, and it will grow. So it is with the Word of God. There is life. There is divine life. There is supernatural life locked into the seeds of God's Word. Hebrews 4:12 NJKV says,

¹² For the word of God is living and powerful.

1 Peter 1:23 NJKV,

²³ The word of God which lives and abides forever.

John 6:63 NJKV,

⁶³ "The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."

Jesus said. How do we get the life and power that's locked in the Word of God to be released in our life? It's pretty simple. We just plant it. We get the seed of God's Word into the soil of our heart, and then we keep it there.

Remember, all seeds produce after their kind. Orange seeds will produce an orange tree full of oranges. Lemon seeds will produce a lemon tree. Watermelon seeds will produce a watermelon. Things produce after their kind. So it is with the Word of God. Promises on healing produce healing. Promises of peace produce peace. Scriptures of liberty produce liberty. Let's just quickly look at a few subjects. I want to start by talking about the subject of healing. Let me read to you from Proverbs 4:20-22. Proverbs 4:20-22 NJKV. He says,

²⁰ My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹ Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; ²² for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.

That word *health* literally means "medicine." God's Word works like medicine to all of our flesh. It brings health to all of our flesh. It's medicine for your eyes. It's medicine for your skin. It's medicine for your liver. It's medicine for your lungs. It's medicine for your bones. It's medicine for your blood. It's life. It's health. It's medicine. It's healing to all of our flesh. He shares here the ways that we plant the Word and we keep it in our heart. When we do have it in the midst of our heart, well, it'll sprout and grow. You don't even have to understand how.

Friend, there's life locked up in the seed, just like in that tiny acorn. There was a mammoth oak tree locked in that tiny acorn I was holding in my hand. I know right now; maybe you're racked with pain. Maybe you've been diagnosed with an incurable illness. Some people say, "Well, Bayless, that's just kind of mean for you to try and get people's hopes up." No. Friend, I want to get your hopes up. Hebrews 11:1 NJKV says,

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for.

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One translation says, "Faith gives substance to our hopes." If we don't have our hopes up, faith has nothing to give substance to. When our hope is built on the Word of God, it is a sure hope. When our faith is anchored in the Word of God, my friend, that is a sure anchor. Here's how we plant the Word in our heart. He began, and he said, "My son, give attention to my words." Give attention. Don't be distracted. Turn your mobile device off. Turn this off and that off. Give your attention to God's Word. Incline your ear to His sayings. Speak it aloud. Listen to it preached.

He said, "Don't let it depart from your eyes." Read His Word. Keep them in the midst of your heart. That's how we do it. We give His Word our attention. We read it. We listen to it. We give our undivided focus to the Word of God. That will cause it to enter our heart and to germinate and grow. For those that find it, those that do these things will find that it produces life and health, it works as medicine to all of their flesh.

Friend, the Word of God works. You may not understand how, but it will work. Listen to this from Psalm 107:17-20 NJKV. It says,

¹⁷ Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted. ¹⁸ Their soul abhorred all manner of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. ¹⁹ Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. ²⁰ He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

"He sent His Word and healed them." He sent His Word. When God heals, He does it by sending His Word. Always when He sends the Word, He sends it in seed form. For those that will give their attention to it, incline their ear, keep it in front of their eyes, it will work as medicine. It will bring healing. It will deliver from destruction. I have a friend. He's a pastor in New Zealand. His name is Don. Don was riding, I think, a four-wheeler or a three-wheeler along a secluded beach one day.

He flipped the thing, had a terrible accident, and broke his neck. He's there on the beach. It's a completely deserted beach, and he can't move. He's paralyzed from the neck down. He knows he's in trouble. He's lying there in the sand, and the tide starts to come. He got to the point where the water would partially cover his face. He realizes he's going to drown because he can't move. He's paralyzed. There were some fishermen walking way down the beach, saw him, came, and rescued him.

He ends up in the hospital, and they say, "All right, Don, you're paralyzed. You are not going to be able to walk again. This is life for you now." But God supernaturally raised him up from that hospital bed. He has full mobility and was supernaturally healed. Just an amazing story. I was talking to him one day. I said, "Don." I said, "All right, before the accident, after the accident, anything different?"

He says, "Three things, three things that are absolutely key in my life now. Three things that I've realized are absolutely essential. Number one is personal intimacy with Christ, developing that personal relationship with the Lord." He said, "That's never been more important to me than it is now. Second thing is priorities." He said, "By that, I mean family. You get busy with this, and that and you forget what a priority your wife and your children are, and your loved ones are. First, my intimacy with Christ. Secondly, to keep my family as a high, high priority. And not let other things, work or whatever, somehow take that next spot in my life."

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He said, "The third thing is the message of faith in God's Word." He said, "That is what got me off of that hospital bed. I was listening to"—back then, it was cassette tapes. "I was listening to tapes on the subject of healing. I was listening to God's Word. Constantly, constantly, constantly, I'm listening to His Word. I got it into my heart, and something just transpired inside of me, and I knew. God's healing power flowed through my body and brought a miraculous healing to me."

Friend, the seed, it sprouts, and it grows even independent of our understanding. There is power locked in the seed. There was a gentleman. His name was Edward. He and his wife, her name was Birdie Lee, they started coming to the church that I was an assistant pastor at. It was a small church. He lived across the street in a little house. We'd always see him out on his front porch. Always had a bottle of whiskey in his hand. He drank a fifth of whiskey every single day.

One day, he and his wife, Birdie Lee, showed up at the church. Edward and his wife got gloriously saved. He got delivered from drinking. He'd been an alcoholic for many, many years. He confided in me. He says, "Bayless, the reason that I drank so much," he said, "I used to work in the mines." He says, "I was on my knees." He was an old man at the time. This was, oh, sheesh, 42 years ago. He was old then.

He said, "I destroyed my knees. A lot of times, I'd be on hands and knees in the mines, and it messed up my lungs, et cetera." He pulled up his pant leg. In fact, he pulled up both of his pant legs. He had so many surgeries on his knees. They looked like railroad tracks just running, crisscrossed every way across his knees. He said, "I've had so many surgeries on these." He said, "I'm in constant pain every day. I can barely walk."

He said, "To deal with the pain, I started drinking. Every day, I drink a fifth of whiskey sitting on this porch. Thank God, I'm delivered from all those years of it, but still, my knees are killing me." I said, "Edward, with your permission, I'd like to come to your house. I will come every week, and I'd like to have a Bible study with you on the subject of healing." Edward said, "Come on." I would go, and he had this chair. He'd sit up and be able to prop his knees under pillows.

I'd sit there. I'd put a Bible in his lap, and we would go through it. I'd spend like an hour with him, and just preach little mini-sermons to him. We'd talk about the Scriptures. I went week after week after week after week after week. We poured over these Scriptures, and he would pour over these Scriptures. I'd give him homework, and he would read over those Scriptures. I said, "Edward, I'm going to pray for you when you're ready. I'm going to pray for you when you're ready."

But I knew he wasn't ready yet. It was weeks and weeks and weeks and weeks and weeks. One day, I'm there, and I just knew. I knew he had faith to be healed. Somebody says, "How'd you know?" I don't know. I just knew. The Apostle Paul, we read that he was preaching in Lystra. He saw this man that was crippled. Paul saw that the man had faith to be healed. He said, "Stand upright," and he leaped up, and he walked.

How do you see faith? It's invisible. It's an inward perception that the Holy Spirit gives you. I looked at Edward, and I knew he was ready. I said, "Edward, you're ready, aren't you?" He said, "I am ready." I laid hands on him. And I prayed for him, and then Edward scared me. He shouted at the top of his lungs, "Whoa!" He shouted, and he jumped up out of the chair, and he started marching around. He said, "I'm healed, I'm healed!" He started lifting his legs high. Marching around, he says, "Birdie Lee, Birdie Lee! Jesus has healed me. I'm healed by the power of God! Hallelujah!" He starts shouting again over and over. Shouting at the top of his

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lungs, marching around the house. His wife comes in, and she's crying. It was an amazing, miraculous, instant healing. But was it instant?

We spent weeks and weeks and weeks and weeks pouring over the Scriptures on healing. He spent time every day reading those verses. In giving the Word of God on that subject, his attention, inclining his ear, not letting it depart from his eyes. It ended up being medicine to his knees, supernatural medicine, good-working medicine. The manifestation, when it came, was instantaneous. It doesn't always have to be. We understand that. Sometimes it's a process that can happen. Hallelujah. Either way. Frankly, I don't care, but the fact is, is he got the Word of God in his heart first.

Now, what about when it comes to fear? A lot of people are riddled with fear. They're plagued by fear. Fear of lack, fear of the unknown, fear of the future, fear of world events, fear of violence, fear of disease, fear of not fitting in, fear of rejection, on and on and on. Listen to this. This is Psalm 56:3-4 NJKV,

³ Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. ⁴ In God (I will praise His word), in God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?

And then verses 10-11 NJKV,

¹⁰ In God (I will praise His word), in the Lord (I will praise His word), ¹¹ in God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

I'm going to put my trust in God. I will praise His Word. His Word can deliver us from fear. I was very, very afraid of the devil when I first became a Christian. I came out of a background of some pretty severe substance abuse, alcoholism, and the occult.

I had been involved in a lot of occultic things. And was hanging around people that, pretty regularly, would cast spells and were into witchcraft and all sorts of stuff. The truth is, I was certain the devil was real before I was ever a Christian. I knew that the devil was real because I had experienced certain things in my past life before I knew Jesus. Because some of the stuff I was doing and the people I was hanging around, I was in a lot of trouble spiritually.

I had this terrible fear of evil spirits and of the devil. I knew they were real. I did something right. I bought myself a Bible for 35¢ at a yard sale. Best investment I ever made. I started to read it incessantly. I read it, and I read it, and I read it, and I read it, and I read it. Hours and hours late into the wee hours of the morning, I read that Bible. I read that Bible. I'd been saved, I don't know, about two or three months, and I realized something had happened to me.

Prior to that, every single day throughout the day, I sensed that fear, fear of evil spirits, fear of the devil. It was like a little dog that just followed me around, yapping at my heels. It was the last thing I sensed every night before I went to sleep, fear. It was the first thing I sensed every morning when I awoke. It was there on the foot of my bed, fear. It was tangible to me. I was plagued by it.

After reading the Word and getting it into my heart, one day, I just realized, again, I've been saved two or three months; I thought, "It's gone." I almost looked around. It's gone. That fear's gone. Jesus said this in John 8:31-32 KJV. It says,

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³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word.
(That's an important word.) If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;
³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

My friend, the truth freed me from fear. It'll free you from your fears. Maybe I mentioned your fear. Maybe fear of world events. Fear of some other plague or disease that's going to come and invade the land again. Or fear of this or fear of that. Maybe an irrational fear. You don't even know why you're afraid, but you sense the presence of fear. Well, you know what? God's Word will set you free.

You say, "Bayless, how? How?" I don't understand how. It just does. When he gets the Word in his heart, he sleeps and rises and sleeps and rises, and it springs and grows up. He doesn't know how. It grows to the point where he actually can thrust in the sickle and have a harvest. I'm telling you, my friend, it will work for you as well. What about those that grapple with depression and have no peace? Let me read to you from Proverbs 3:1-2 NJKV. It says,

¹ My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; ² for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you.

Peace comes from the Word of God. It is one of the fruits of God's Word. If you will keep it— He said, "My son, let your heart," that's the soil, "let your heart keep My Word." That word keep means "to guard." It means "to protect." Don't let it be ripped out of the soil of your heart.

Peace is one of the fruits that God's Word produces when it is planted. Find promises about the peace of God. The Word says, "God will keep the one in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Him." In the book of Philippians, "Don't be anxious. Don't worry about anything. In every circumstance and situation, by prayer and supplication, let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus." You don't have to understand how it works, but I'm telling you, it will work. Embrace a promise. Psalm 119:165 NJKV,

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love Your law.

We had a lady in our church that I just loved. She was a walking Bible. Some people thought she was over the top because whatever question you had, basically, she had a scriptural answer for. Sometimes I'd be preaching, and I couldn't think of a verse. I'd kind of be on a roll preaching, and I'd look at her. Her name was Ila. I'd say, "Ila, what's that verse?" And she would quote it every time. She never missed.

It was a running joke with the church, "If Pastor can't remember the verse, Ila knows it." I said, "Ila, what's the verse?" She would quote it. Some people thought, "Oh, she's just over the top." But if you knew where she came from, you wouldn't think she was over the top. Because at one time in her life, she was riddled with depression. Fears and thoughts of ending her life, they just battered her mind constantly.

She lived in the dark in her home. She didn't go outside for a solid year. She literally pulled the curtains and lived in isolation, full of fear, filled with depression. Literally, her mind being constantly battered all day long, all night long, and lived in the literal dark for one year. But then she decided to do something. She says, "You know what? It certainly can't hurt me."—by the way, she was a Christian—she started reading the Bible.

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And she read it, and she read it. And she read it, and she read it, and she read it. Eventually, it set her free. She began to feed on God's Word. Got it into the soil of her heart. Those dark clouds of depression began to dispel. The seeds sprouted, and God gave her a harvest. The reason she was such a champion for the Word of God is because she knew what it had done for her. She knew it would do the same thing for anyone else that would receive it.

My friend, what I'm talking about will work for you. I realize that you may be watching me, and you genuinely wrestle with demons. You wrestle with dark thoughts. You say, "Bayless, if you only knew what a deep pit I'm in. Don't hold out this hope to me." No, I want to hold it out to you. His Word will work for you. If I could, I would come into your house right now. We'd put on a kettle of water, make a couple of cups of tea, sit down at your kitchen table, and I would share the Word of God with you because that is the answer.

Paul said, "Now, I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace. Which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among those that are sanctified." As we sat and sipped our cups of tea, I would share His Word with you. We might take hands and pray. Obviously, I can't do that, but this is the next best thing. Friend, what I'm giving you, I'm holding out to you the Word of life. His Word can change your circumstance. It can change your situation. When it comes to salvation, my friend, His Word is the answer. 1 Peter 1:23, "We're born again not of corruptible seed but incorruptible by the Word of God that lives and abides forever." It's when the message of salvation comes to us, and it finds a home in our heart.

We choose to believe it and not let the devil steal it out of our heart. That Word produces salvation in us. We're born again by the incorruptible seed of God's Word. And I just wanted to tell you, you are loved by God. You may have some pretty deep, dark sins in your life. God knows all about them, and He loves you still.

He wants you. He wants you to know Him. He wants to give you a new life. This is not fantasy. This is not a fairy tale. I know I'm talking to somebody right now. Yes, you. This is God trying to get your attention. He loves you, and He's knocking on the door of your heart. Embrace His Word. The Bible says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." The Bible says, "If you believe in your heart, God raised Jesus from the dead, and you confess Him with your mouth as Lord, you will be saved." God will bring you into His family. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the gospel." Be willing to turn away from your sinful life and come to the only one who can change you.

It is God alone that can do it. In fact, why don't you just pray with me right now? If you're willing to turn from your sin and let God change you. Let God do what you cannot do. Not in 1,000 years of trying could you do what He can do in an instant, my friend. He loves you. Just tie your heart around these words. Be sincere and speak them to God. Just say, "Oh, God," right there where you're sitting.

I had a guy call me one time. He was in an airport in New Zealand. He says, "Bayless, you wouldn't believe this. I'm outside of this airport pub. There's a bunch of guys in there. They're drinking beer, and they're watching you on television right now." Maybe you're in a pub. Maybe you're in your home. Maybe you're in a hotel room. I may not even be speaking English right now because I know this is translated into multiple languages around the world.

My mother tongue is English. I can speak a little bit of Spanish. I don't know what language I'm speaking to you right now. But listen, God is speaking to your heart. Just tie your heart around these words and pray. Say,

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“Oh, God, I believe in Your Son, Jesus Christ.” Say it out loud. “Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me.” Say it. “I believe in You, Jesus. Come into my life. Change me. I ask You to be my Lord. And it’s in Your name, I pray. Amen.”

God bless you.

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