



## "The Sparrow and the King of Kings - A Testimony of God's Love"

by Catherine Brown

Over the last couple of months I have felt a tremendous burden to re-visit Jesus' healing ministry and to that end I have spent quite a bit of time in prayer and in study, meditating on Scripture and preparing new teaching notes to share with you over the coming months. Whilst in California in June the Lord spoke to me about starting a praise and healing meeting and from 1st October we will hold a monthly miracle meeting for three consecutive months in the village where I live. I would cherish your prayers for a glory outpouring as we seek the face of our wonder-working God. We are believing for an explosion of salvations, healing and creative miracles as we praise the Lord.

I prayed for one man whilst visiting a friend recently and his foot was immediately healed. He was a non-believer and it was wonderful to see God touch the man so gently and yet so powerfully. Laterally, I had a lump develop in my neck and I laid hands on my neck and commanded it to be healed in Jesus' name. The lump has now gone and the pain has left. I think it may have been a swollen gland brought on by a sinus infection I had been battling.

As most of you will be aware our worship leader Francis had to have his left leg amputated at the beginning of July. He continues to recover at a supernatural speed and we thank God for ongoing answers to prayer for healing Francis' diabetes. During the last few weeks we have received news of friends and family who are suffering from serious illnesses and sickness such as breast cancer, MRSA virus, brain tumour, kidney disease, Alzheimer to name a few. Last week-end my step father was rushed into hospital last with a minor heart attack. We thank God for preserving his life; he is now back home and recovering well. All of this to say I am so glad that we may call out by persistent faith and with expectation of receiving healing in the name of Jehovah Rapha, "*the Lord who heals you*" (Exodus 15:26), the God "*who forgives all our sins and heals us from all our diseases.*" (Psalm 102:3).

### THE SPARROW AND THE KING OF KINGS

Towards the end of last week we had an incident at our home involving a small sparrow, which spoke profoundly to me of God's heart for each one of His children. The sparrow was flying around outside and mistook our window for a clear air path and sadly it crash-landed against our living room window at high speed. Dazed and confused, it fell downwards into our empty rabbit hutch, where it lay trapped in the wire. We ran outside as fast as we could to see how we could comfort the tiny creature. The poor bird sat trembling with shock and fear, its eyes closed and its breathing laboured. Initially, it looked as though it was trapped in the wire mesh, however after some gentle persuasion I managed to lift the bird free of the wire and set it down on the grass. It was unable to walk or fly. The children ran to find a worm to feed the bird and we also put out water and bread crumbs. We then wrapped the bird in an old school sweatshirt to afford it some shelter from the biting wind.

When sickness comes to oppress us we too are often stunned and dazed just like the little bird; we fall down in the confusion of emotions and questions and need to be lifted up in the tender hands of our mighty God who created us in His image to be nurtured and protected within covenant relationship with Him. As I gazed at this tiny scrap of creation, my heart was filled with compassion for its condition. I reflected on the people we love and care for who each are in need of healing. As I held the shivering creature in my hands, I knew God was reminding me of His goodness to all creation. He created us to be whole, to be free, to be healed and to be loved. In the beginning God spoke and at His command the Universe was created. God still speaks and moves in creative miracle-working power today. The writer of Hebrews states that "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*" (Hebrews 13:8) We can believe for miracles TODAY because Jesus doesn't change. He has always been and will always be the Healer. His pierced hands are the reason why we have faith and hope in God to heal.

The Bible tells us that "*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went about doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*" (Acts 10:38) Jesus healed ALL! God is not the author of sickness; He is the answer to it! Jesus devoted much of His ministry to healing the sick. "*Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.*" Matthew 4:23

I felt God's love saturate my being as I held the bird in my hands and I spoke out in faith and commanded the bird to be healed in Jesus' name. There was no immediate response and we left the bird to recover. I stepped back inside our house and in a brief interchange with the Lord, I told Him how I just couldn't bear it if the little bird died. Turning to the book of Luke I found fresh inspiration in the Lord's word, "Then Jesus said to his disciples: "*Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or about your body what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life. Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest.*" Verses 22-26

In that moment the magnitude of God's love washed over me in continuous waves of blessing. Worry and doubt receded and my faith level for healing and creative miracles soared - both for the injured bird and for all those with whom we contend in prayer for healing. Jesus went on to say to His disciples, "*Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.*" verse 32 God is delighted to give us the kingdom and Jesus clearly demonstrated by his ministry that the kingdom of God manifests with salvations, signs, wonders, miracles and healings of all our sickness and diseases.

Five minutes, perhaps ten passed by and then our youngest son Samuel rushed to tell me excitedly that the bird had flown away! My heart was filled with joy. The prophet Malachi writes, "*But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness*

*will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall." Malachi 4:2*

I pray today that your heart will leap with joy as you reach out in prayer and receive a fresh wave of miracle-working healing blessing from the Lord. Father, I ask you to anoint every person with healing power who is reaching out to you right now in Jesus name. We rebuke every spirit of infirmity and speak forth commanded healing in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Amen.

With love in the Lord,

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