

A Teen Calling for the Elders

James 5:14

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.

I had the issue of healing come to me rather abruptly when I was a teenager. I had gone to the doctor for a physical. She found strong evidence of diabetes and said, "It appears you have diabetes and that is going to hinder you from being an overseas missionary." I went back home and I talked to my mom and dad about it. At that time my dad was really walking with the Lord, and he said, "Dick, if you really want to be healed, if you really think God has called you to be a missionary, maybe you should call for the elders and have them anoint and pray for you."

I was a 16 year old. I was extremely shy. I had never spoken to an elder in my life. They were scary old guys. I said, "Dad, would you call them for me?" My dad wisely said, "Dick, what does the Scripture say? It says, '*if you are sick, you call for the elders.*'"

I thought, "No way!" I really began to wonder whether it was better to stay sick than to call on the elders. I continued to read the Scriptures. The Lord prompted me again. I felt him say, "You are sick. You have a need, and man doesn't have the solution for your need. Call the elders." So, mustering all my courage I called one of the elders. With my hesitancy and nervous voice I said, "This is Dick LaFountain." – "Who?" – "Norman's son. Dick LaFountain." – "Oh yeah, what can I do for you Dick?" "I would like the elders to anoint and pray for me after church on Sunday." Our elders didn't always gather at the front to pray for people. It was only by special appointment. That Sunday came and the elders heard my diagnosis and my sense of being called to be a missionary. They laid hands on me, anointed me with oil, and trusted the Lord with me for my healing.

A week later, the final test came back on the diabetes The doctor said, "I don't know where the diagnosis came from before, but you don't have any evidence of diabetes in your system. You've been completely healed." Isn't that great?! God does wonderful things when we listen to him.