

# A Paralyzed Man Is Healed

## Isaiah 53:5

*But he was pierced through for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace  
was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.*

A few weeks later I received a phone call from a family in the church that had not attended our church for years. They'd been away from the church for about ten years, long before I ever came there. They got mad at somebody in the church, so they quit coming. I had visited them on many occasions trying to encourage them to come back to church.

I remember what they said to me on that first visit. They looked at me and said, "Pastor LaFountain, we don't need to come to church. We have Rex Humbard on the TV and he preaches a lot better than you do." (How would they know? They had never heard me preach.) I said to them, "I don't doubt that he preaches well. But God didn't say listen to good preachers. He said, *“Gather yourselves together and do not forsake it as the manner of some is and do it even more when you see the day of the Lord approaching.”* They were stubborn and disobedient people.

That morning I received a phone call from the wife. She was frantic. She said, "Pastor LaFountain, you need to come right now. My husband has had a stroke. He's paralyzed from his neck down and he won't let me call for an ambulance. He said call the preacher."

I wanted to say, "Do you have Rex Humbard's phone number? Call him." But I didn't. I wondered in my mind why they were you calling me. They weren't my parishioners. They were mean spirited people. They were not walking with God. They were disobedient to the Holy Spirit. My daughter hadn't been healed of her disease and loves Jesus with all her heart. What right did they have to ask me to come and pray for them?

I buttoned my lip and didn't say it, but I thought it. She pleaded but I argued, "You need to call an ambulance and get him to the hospital immediately." She countered, "I can't, my husband won't let me. He's paralyzed. He's lying on the floor and he says you've got to call Pastor LaFountain. God said 'Call Pastor La Fountain.'"

I rolled my eyes and I said, "I'll be right over." On the way over to their house I was struggling. I didn't want to pray for this guy. I didn't believe for a moment that God was going to heal him. I really questioned whether God was going to heal anybody and certainly not through me.

I drove to the house but I was struggling with my own lack of faith. As I approached the house the Holy Spirit whispered to me, "Speak to him about his spiritual condition." Then the Lord gave me Hebrews 10:25, "*Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the matter of some is.*"

I walked in the front door and there he was on the floor. He hadn't moved. He couldn't move, except to turn his neck. He could talk, but he was completely paralyzed. He told me how desperate he was and that he didn't know what to do. Then he explained, "Pastor, God told me to call Pastor LaFountain and have him pray for you. Then the Lord said, 'Pastor LaFountain has a word for you. Do you have a word for me?'"

I thought, "Do I ever have a word for you!" I knew that God was in this. Boldly I told him about his sin. I was blunt and I was direct. I told him the word that the Lord spoke to me on the way over to see him. I said, "You are disobedient to the Holy Spirit. You know the word of God. You've disobeyed for ten years. You haven't gathered together with other believers. You're angry at a brother in Christ. You are unforgiving and you are bitter and God is holding that against you. This has been God's judgment on you for your sin." Sometimes I just lose patience with people. I was not merciful with that man. I had no pity for him. I told him what God put on my heart.

The guy was still laying on the floor as I said these things. He started to cry. He was under conviction. He said, "You are right. God spoke to my heart about that. That's exactly what God's been saying to me and I'm wrong. I am bitter and angry and I have forsaken the Lord in His house. I need God's forgiveness. Pastor, please pray with me."

So, I prayed with him. He confessed his sins and asked the Lord to forgive him and wash away those sins. When he finished praying he said, "Okay. Pastor, now you can anoint and pray for my healing. Now you can pray for my body."

I wanted to say, "I'm not going to pray for you. You don't deserve it." But the Lord didn't say, "If you deserve it, call for the elders of the church and ask them to pray over you and anoint you with oil." He says do it in the name of the Lord. So, in those moments, I knelt down next to him on the floor, anointed him with oil, and prayed, "Lord Jesus, you are stronger than any disease. You are the God of all of our health and our strength and I ask that if it be your will that you would touch this man and heal his body in Jesus' name. Amen."

My intent was to finish the prayer and then tell the woman to call an ambulance. No sooner had I finished praying when he said, "Wow. Something just happened." Then he moved his arms.

Surprisingly he moved his body. He sat up. From there he got to his knees, then he stood up. He started moving around the room. He did exercises. He got on the floor. This 80 year old guy started doing pushups on the floor! By the time he'd finished, he jumped up and started running around the room shouting, "Hallelujah. Praise the Lord. I am healed."

I was shocked. I thought, "This is not right. My poor little daughter is at home with asthma, with attack after attack. She loves the Lord, pure in heart, simple in faith, not disobedient to God, and here was this son of a gun who in a moment of conviction confesses his sins and the Lord forgives him and the Lord heals him. It's not fair."

Of course I rejoiced with him. It was a miracle. But before I left I told him what he needed to do to complete his repentance, and that was to start going back to church. Well, that brother and his wife showed up for church the next Sunday morning. They were faithful to the forgiveness that God gave them. They followed through and they came to church. But when they saw the other family they had been angry with for ten years all the bitterness came back and they never returned to the church, still he remained healed.

I look at that and I have a thousand questions. I struggled with that for many years. As I preach the word of God it is not with some name it and claim it pie-in-the-sky faith. I do not understand the ways of the Lord, why he heals some and leaves others on their sick beds. I have seen strange things. I have seen wondrous things. I have seen things that just don't make sense to me. I don't want anyone to be discouraged from trusting the Lord for healing. But God is God and does what he pleases in heaven and on earth.

The Lord says, *"Not by might nor by power  
but by my Spirit says the Lord."* (Zechariah 4:6)