

WHY WE NEED A SAVIOR

MAN

GOD

IN THE BEGINNING . . . The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were created by God and enjoyed perfect fellowship with Him. They were without sin and lived peacefully in a beautiful garden that supplied all their needs. God gave them only one rule, which was not to eat the fruit of a particular tree. However, Satan tempted them to eat the forbidden fruit by saying it would benefit them. They ate it, and that act of disobedience against God was the first sin. It severed Adam's and Eve's relationships with God because He is holy and cannot have fellowship with evil.

MAN

SIN

GOD

OUR CONDITION TODAY . . . Since we are all Adam's descendants, every child in the world has been born with his fallen nature. Instead of coming into the world desiring to do right, we are all born with an inclination toward sin and evil. Proof of this natural downward tendency is abundantly evident anywhere human beings are found. Our sin results in tremendous pain, sorrow, and suffering. The consequences of sin reach far beyond this life because those who reject God and die in a sinful state will go to Hell and be separated from God eternally.

MAN

JESUS

GOD

GOD'S PLAN . . . God wants to remove sin from our lives so that we can have a relationship with Him and spend eternity in Heaven. However, the penalty for sin is death, and that penalty must be paid. Out of His great love for us, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus lived as a man and died in our place for our sins. Because of that, if we follow the steps that God has laid out in the Bible, our sins can be forgiven. God will change our desires and give us power to live without sin so we can enjoy eternal life with Him in Heaven one day.

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DIAGNOSIS: CANCER



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Doctors said Bonnie would not survive without surgery, but God proved them wrong.

By Bonnie Davis



What could be wrong with me? That thought came to me again and again as I drove the school bus one spring day in 1970. The weather was beautiful and my route at that time was scenic and enjoyable. It would have been a perfect day except for the way I felt: exceptionally tired.

I was a young mother then, apparently in good health, with a teenage son. That day, I had three separate trips scheduled for both the morning and the afternoon. The bus I drove was thirty-five feet long and seated over thirty children. They were all well behaved, but I was so exhausted that I wondered if I would be able to hold out to the end of my last run.

A short time later, physical symptoms that alarmed me began to appear. I started having pains in my chest and my left arm. I discovered there was a lump on my breast and another in my armpit, both very sore and tender. Then I began to suffer from terrible pressure pains in my head. I realized something was seriously wrong with me.

School bus drivers had to meet certain regulations for physical fitness, so I went to the doctor for a checkup. The doctor wanted me to go to the hospital for a biopsy. From the time I was a child, I had known of God's power to heal the sick, so I began to pray and ask the Lord to show me what to do.

SOMEONE I COULD TRUST TO TAKE CARE OF ME

Some years before this, I could not have prayed with any confidence because I had turned away from God and my Christian upbringing. Leaving the Lord out of my plans, I had married while still in my teens. I thought I could marry someone who was not a Christian and then bring him into the church. It did not work out that way. I found out that a home without God can be a very miserable place. Even when my baby boy was born, happiness was not there.

I desperately felt my need of the Lord and began to pray from the depths of my heart, asking God to forgive me. He answered, saved my soul, and gave me the joy I had known as a child. It was then that the Lord became my Guide and Counselor. And now, in time of great crisis, I knew I could trust Him to take care of me.

After the biopsy was done, the doctor told me that I was full of a very serious type of cancer. He wanted to

operate immediately and remove the cancer in the spot where it had originated, but I knew that one operation would not rid me of cancer. I did not want to have the operation; I could not

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afford it financially or spiritually. I did not know if God would heal me, but I knew He could, and I felt I should look to Him in faith for my healing.

I said to the doctor, “I am sorry, but I do not feel led to have this operation. If it is God’s will, I will live; if not, then it will be my time to go.” He warned me not to wait more than two or three weeks because my case was serious, and I might not live without the operation.

A PROMISE TO HOLD ON TO

After the tissue had been cut into for the biopsy test, the cancer spread like wildfire throughout my body. The pain grew more intense, and I became weaker and weaker. It seemed my life was ebbing away.

The enemy of my soul kept telling me, “If you do not have that operation, you will die.” But the Lord would speak to my heart, saying, “Have faith! Keep holding on! Keep believing.” That is just what I did. As I continued to fight against the doubts and fears that came to me, the Lord strengthened me in my soul.

One day, I felt as though I were choking to death and could hardly swallow. I was almost overcome with pain, but I cried out, “Lord, I am dying. If it is Your will, heal me, so I can take care of my loved ones.” Then came that discouraging thought: *You cannot live; you are full of cancer.* I kept right on pleading for my life, making deeper and deeper consecrations to the Lord. Once again I prayed, “O Lord, please heal me for Thy honor and glory.” Back came the answer, “I am the Lord that healeth thee.” I knew those words came from Heaven, and I grabbed hold of that promise and held to it.

I promised the Lord that if He would help me, I would go to church and ask the ministers to pray for me, as the Bible instructs. That night, though in much pain and very weak, I went to church. After the service, the ministers anointed my head with oil and prayed for me. And the Lord instantly healed me! Not only that, He blessed me in a most marvelous way.

MY ASSIGNMENT FROM GOD

When God healed me, He gave me a glorious vision. It seemed that Jesus took me into His arms and carried me. There were fields before me—vast fields of people stretching for miles and miles in every direction. I did not understand the vision then, but I do now. The people I saw were lost and dying souls who needed to be told about Jesus. I was to tell them not only of God’s power to heal, but also of what it means to be a born-again Christian—to have a spiritual experience that takes a person out of sin and makes him a “new creature” in Christ Jesus. When the vision of the fields of people passed from my view, I saw an hourglass. It appeared to be running out, and the Lord kept saying to me, “The time is very, very short.”

During this time of communing with God, I was so engulfed in the Spirit that I did not realize where I was. When I opened my eyes, I said, “Oh, I am in church!” Around me were Christian friends who had seen me in my state of weakness and knew how I had suffered. Now, though, things were different. I felt new strength in my body. I had no pain, and the lumps were gone. I hadn’t had any appetite for days and was very thin, but now I wanted something to eat.

He is everything to me and I cannot thank Him enough for all the ways He has blessed me.

The next day, the cancer began passing, a little at a time, from my body. It continued doing so for several weeks, and during that time I felt stronger and stronger.

I continued driving the school bus after my healing, and when the time came for another checkup, four of the best specialists in the city carefully analyzed my case and found no trace of cancer. Today, many decades later, I am still free of that disease.

Over the years, the Lord has continued to be my Healer, Provider, Comforter, and Friend. He is everything to me and I cannot thank Him enough for all the ways He has blessed me. The Lord gave me a new start in life when He healed me of cancer, and I want to spend the rest of my days fulfilling the commission given to me. ■

STEPS TO DELIVERANCE

ACKNOWLEDGE

Admit that you have sinned and need God’s help.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

CONFESS AND REPENT

Be genuinely sorry for the sins you have committed and ask God to forgive you.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. (Luke 13:3)

FORSAKE

Determine that with God’s help you are going to turn away from all sin in your life.

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him . . . for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:7)

BELIEVE

When you have honestly and sincerely taken the steps above, then believe that God will hear your prayer and save you.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

RECEIVE

God will let you know that the work is done in your heart.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. (Romans 8:16)