

My husband, JB, and I have served in the prayer ministry at St. John the Divine for over twenty years. Throughout these years we have seen the Lord greatly bless many of those we and others have prayed with. We have seen marriages saved, physical and emotional healings, financial blessings, and on and on. In fact, I know God's healing firsthand. The Lord supernaturally heal me of a brain aneurism in the early 1990's. We have seen that God is good and answers the prayers of His people.

However, ten or more years ago, I had a revelation that I continue to believe was a direct instruction to me from the Lord. I heard in my spirit that I was to begin praying for people in a different way—or at least to add to how I was praying. I believe that the Lord was helping me to see how to pray for what people needed the most. I was to pray that people be blessed with a new or greater understanding of who they are in Christ, and that they begin to experience life with the reliable Jesus that we see in the Gospels. I also knew that the revelation was not just prayer training for me, but for my personal preparation for prayer times. I knew that I needed to spend more time in the Gospels discovering in a greater and more profound way what it means to be in Christ Jesus. I began to realize that as we grow to know the authentic Jesus, we can live authentic Christian lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It seems that Christians, for the most part, believe that Jesus is the son of God and that He was resurrected from the grave for our salvation. Too often, however, we fail to rely on the Lord and instead rely upon ourselves or others as we navigate through life. I began to realize on a deeper level that God sent His Son to earth not only to save us but for so much more, giving us all that we need to follow Him. I now know that in Christ we are not only saved and redeemed, but that we are already healed and made whole in body, mind, and spirit through His sacrifice on the cross. We are provided for in all manner of speaking. We are protected from evil. We are forgiven daily. We are loved unconditionally. We cannot be separated from the Love of the Father, who will never forsake us or leave us. We have access to the wisdom of God. We have the peace of Jesus himself. We can hear the voice of God. We can experience the palpable sense of the presence of God by the Spirit, receive His joy and provision, and so much more. I understand now that these blessings are for today, not just some time in the future. Be encouraged, because this is how much God loves each one of us.

Sometimes I think I sound like a broken record. When praying for people I always try to pray that they have a new and deeper revelation of who they are in Christ. I pray that each one will be blessed with belief in and understanding of the Word of God. I have a long way to go in stepping into my full inheritance as a child of God, knowing it is a process that won't be completed for any of us until we are in heaven. In the meantime, having one foot in the Kingdom living in a personal relationship with Jesus is an exciting place to be.

Be encouraged. As JB and I have prayed these blessings for people we are regularly seeing greater hope in the promises of the Lord. We are seeing the manifestation of supernatural healings and blessings. We are seeing the Holy Spirit authenticate people as children of God. Thanks be to God!