

WEEK 4: MIRACLES OF HEALING

I married into a family where faith isn't just something we talk about—it's something we do. When someone's sick, we don't just send thoughts and prayers; we actually stop what we're doing and pray. When life doesn't make sense, we open our Bibles and ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom. There's a kind of rootedness in this family—a deep conviction that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is still moving, still healing, still speaking.

It's a gift to be part of something like that.

Over time, I learned from the matriarchs and patriarchs of this family what it means to stand in faith. They didn't just believe in miracles—they lived like they expected them. I watched them pray with boldness, speak with authority, and call on God not as a distant deity, but as a Father who knows how to care for His children.

So when our cousin Gabriel battled with brain cancer, we did what we knew how to do: we gathered. We laid hands on him. We fasted. We believed with everything we had that God would heal him. We had seen it before. We expected to see it again.

But this time, it didn't happen the way we hoped.

Gabriel passed. Young. Too young.

And as much as we said things like, "He's healed in heaven," I'll be honest—part of me wrestled with that. It felt like a spiritual consolation prize, something we say to make sense of the ache. I believed God could heal. I still do. But I had to confront the dissonance: *What do you do when you believe God is a healer... and yet the healing doesn't come?*

The weeks after his death were filled with more questions than answers. But then the stories started to surface—little fragments of Gabriel's life that revealed something bigger than we had seen before. People we didn't even know began reaching out to say how he had touched them. Online friends.. Friends of friends.

There was a young woman who told us she had been walking through depression and had started reading Scripture again because of his encouragement. Another shared how he had prayed with them during a time of crisis.

Story after story, person after person... and suddenly, the weight started to shift.

It wasn't the miracle we prayed for.

But it was a miracle nonetheless.

Theologically, I began to see something I hadn't fully understood before: sometimes healing is not just about restoring the body—it's about restoring *glory to God*. Every healing in the Gospels was a signpost, pointing back to the authority and mercy of Jesus. Healing wasn't the end goal; intimacy with the Healer was. And for many who knew Gabriel, that's exactly what happened.

His life bore witness to something eternal. And even in his death, that witness continued.

So yes, we still pray for healing. And yes, we still believe that God can restore the sick and raise the broken. But we've also learned to hold our faith in tension. Healing isn't always about what we see on this side of eternity. Sometimes it's about what's happening just beneath the surface—how hearts are softening, how lives are shifting, how faith is forming.

And in that light, I see it clearly:

Gabriel's life was the miracle.

Day 1 — Healing and Authority: Who Is This Man?

READ: Luke 5:17–26

When the paralyzed man was lowered through the roof, everyone expected a physical miracle. But Jesus looked at the man and said, “Your sins are forgiven.” Cue the confusion. That's *not* what the friends had fought through the crowd for. But what Jesus was doing was far bigger than they realized.

Before Jesus healed the man's body, He addressed something deeper: the man's heart. Then—to silence the doubters—He healed his body too.

Why? Because physical healing in the Gospels always serves a bigger theological purpose. Miracles point us to the *identity* of Jesus. They are signs that affirm His **authority** to forgive sin, restore creation, and demonstrate the kingdom of God breaking in.

In Jewish culture, only God could forgive sins. By doing this first, Jesus is revealing His divinity. And the physical healing becomes the proof that Jesus has the right to make such a claim. In other words, *if He can heal, then maybe He really can save.*

Jesus doesn't perform miracles to show off. He does it to reveal who He is—and to invite us to deeper trust.

REFLECT:

- What do you typically pray for first—healing or help? Why?
- In what ways might Jesus be working in your life that go deeper than your immediate need?

JOURNAL:

Take time to journal about a moment where you were hoping for one kind of healing, but God gave you another. What did that teach you about His authority or your trust?

Day 2 — Healing and Identity: Daughter, Your Faith Has Healed You

READ: Luke 8:40–48

This woman had been bleeding for twelve years. She shouldn't have even been in that crowd—by law she was considered unclean. But she reached out anyway. She didn't ask for attention. She didn't demand a spotlight. She just touched the edge of Jesus' cloak.

And she was healed.

But Jesus stops the whole parade. He won't let her slip away unnoticed. Why? Because Jesus didn't want to just heal her body. He wanted to restore her identity.

He calls her *Daughter*.

Healing in Scripture is almost never just physical - healing was holistic—body, mind, soul, and community. This woman wasn't just bleeding. She was isolated. Ashamed. Forgotten. Jesus healed *all* of her.

In calling her “daughter,” Jesus gives her a new identity, a new place in the community, and a new confidence in her faith. That's how Jesus heals us—fully and personally.

REFLECT:

- Where do you need to be reminded of your identity in Christ?
- What part of your story have you hidden because of shame or past pain?

JOURNAL:

What might Jesus want to speak over you today—“Daughter,” “Son,” “Your faith has healed you”? Write a letter from Jesus to you, based on this story.

Day 3 — Healing and Belief: Just Believe

READ: Luke 8:49–56

The bad news came fast: Jairus' daughter had died. It was too late. But Jesus looked Jairus in the eyes and said, “Don't be afraid. Just believe.”

Those words are still the crux of every miracle. We want the miracle *before* the belief. But Jesus says, “Believe first.” Even when it seems impossible. Even when death is at the door.

Miracles in Scripture are never guarantees—they are invitations. God is not a vending machine. He is a Father. In Exodus 15:26, God declares Himself as Jehovah Rapha—“The Lord who heals.” Healing is not just something He *does*; it's part of who He *is*. This includes physical, emotional, mental, relational, and spiritual healing.

But healing flows out of His will, not our wish list. Make no mistake: belief is a doorway. Faith is the posture that prepares the soil for miracles to grow.

The crowd laughed at Jesus. But he still reached down, took the girl's hand, and brought her back to life. Because belief always invites resurrection—even when it doesn't come how or when we expect it.

REFLECT:

- Are there areas in your life where you've stopped believing in healing? Why?
- What would it look like to trust God, even when healing doesn't come?

JOURNAL:

Write about a place in your life that feels “dead” right now. How might Jesus be asking you to “just believe”? What would it take for you to open that part of you to Him again?

Day 4 — Healing and the Heart: What If the Miracle Isn't What I Asked For?

READ: Mark 16:15–18, 1 John 3:1

By the end of Jesus' ministry, He commissions His followers with boldness: “Lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” Healing was part of the mission of the early church. And it still is. But what happens when healing doesn't come?

This is the tension many of us live in. We know God can heal. We believe He wants to. But we've also prayed for healing that never came. What do we do with that?

Scripture teaches that ultimate healing is eternal. Revelation 21 tells us there will be a day when every tear is wiped away, every sickness gone, every sorrow healed. For the believer, *death is not the end—it's the beginning of forever healing.*

So when healing doesn't come on this side of heaven, we don't lose hope. We trust that God's definition of healing is bigger than ours. Sometimes the miracle is the *life* someone lived. Sometimes it's the peace we carry even when the pain stays. And sometimes it's the resurrection we haven't seen yet.

REFLECT:

- What “miracles” in your life have looked different than what you originally hoped for?
- How does the promise of eternal healing change how you walk through present pain?

JOURNAL:

What would you say to God about what healing means to you now?