



## Limited by Unbelief

*Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family." And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any mighty miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.*

*Mark 6:4-5 (NLT)*

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**Prayer Focus:** Large crowds were following Jesus, desperate for His healing touch. They had seen His amazing works and believed in His ability to heal the demonized or bring people back to life. In fact, one woman was so sure of Jesus' power to heal that she knew she only needed to reach out and touch his clothing (Mark 5:28). But when Jesus returned to His hometown of Nazareth, the reception was cold and disbelieving. Because the people knew His family and His profession as a "simple carpenter," they were offended at His teaching—and refused to believe. Pride is a destroyer of faith in the miraculous! The town preferred to live with limited healing and restoration rather than admit their desperate need for Christ. Is it possible that we would see greater healing and restoration in our churches today if we were truly desperate for Jesus to present Himself to us? May we not be like the "hometown folk" who limit Jesus' healing power! Instead, let us abandon ourselves to the belief that Jesus truly is our only hope for restoration.

**Day 1:** Welcome Jesus into your midst with an open heart!

**Day 2:** Confess the ways you have limited Jesus' healing power because you just didn't have the faith to believe.

**Day 3:** Repent of times you have discouraged others from simply believing in Jesus' power to truly heal them.

**Day 4:** Ask the Lord to restore your belief in His power.

**Day 5:** Pray that believers will welcome Jesus in His manifest presence and receive His healing and restoring power.

**Day 6:** Pray that your church will not limit the miraculous works of Jesus because of pride, unbelief, or doubt.

**Day 7:** Pray that your community will warmly receive Jesus Christ as the only One who can heal and restore society.

*Taken from the book "Come, Lord Jesus: transformation prayer guide"*

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## Jesus Christ as Our Healer

**J**esus stunned the world with His healing power. Granted, people were amazed by His teaching and intrigued by His claims to be the Son of God. They watched with curiosity when He challenged the religious system of the day. But they were absolutely awestruck and changed forever by His compassionate healing touch.

Many times in the Gospels, it is recorded that Jesus healed *every* person, *every* disease, and *every* demonic stranglehold that was presented to Him. Matthew relates that as Jesus traveled throughout Galilee teaching and preaching about the Good News of the Kingdom, He authenticated His claims through the power of healing:

*...And he healed people who had every kind of sickness and disease. News about him spread far beyond the borders of Galilee so that the sick were soon coming to be healed from as far away as Syria. And whatever their illness and pain, or if they were possessed by demons, or were epileptics, or were paralyzed—he healed them all. Large crowds followed him wherever he went...* (Matthew 4:23-25, NLT).

The Gospels do not record times when Jesus looked upon the sick and told them that they should live with their illnesses. His heart of compassion always overtook Him, and the result was that multitudes of people were set free and restored in an instant.

The only time it seems that Jesus was hindered in His healing was in his hometown of Nazareth. Those who knew Him were offended by Him, and as a result He healed only a few of the sick. Their unbelief restricted the unleashing of mighty miracles (Mark 6:1-6).

It is obvious in reading through Scripture that Jesus' heart was for all people to be healed. Jesus' authority and power to heal went unchallenged by even the most dramatic and seemingly hopeless situations. If a leper needed to have his skin and body completely restored—no problem. The fact that Lazarus had been dead for several days was not an issue for Jesus when it came time to call him forth from the dead. Even those tormented by demons, with supernatural strength to break chains and terrify people, found instant freedom through Jesus' healing touch.

As you pray through *Jesus Christ as Our Healer*, invite the Lord to instill in you a renewed faith that fully embraces His power to heal and restore. Perhaps we need a refreshing of our belief!

## Transformation: Jesus in Our Midst

As we pray about transformation; we need a common definition of what a truly transformed community might look like:

### **A transformed community is:**

- A neighbourhood, city, or nation whose values and institutions have been overrun by the grace and presence of God.
- A place where divine fire has not merely been summoned, but has fallen.
- A society in which natural change has been disrupted by invasive supernatural power.
- A culture that has been impacted comprehensively and undeniably by the Kingdom of God.
- A location where Kingdom values are celebrated publicly and passed on to future generations.

### **Community transformation is indicated when:**

- Political leaders publicly acknowledge their sin and dependence on God. (2 Kings 11:17-18; 23:1-3; Jonah 3:6-9).
- New laws, curricula, and business practices are put into effect (2 Chronicles 19:4-10; Nehemiah 10:31).
- The natural environment is restored to its original life-nurturing state (Leviticus 26:4-5; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 34:27-31).
- Economic conditions improve and lead to a discernible lessening of poverty. (2 Chronicles 17:3-5; Psalm 144:13-14; Isaiah 60:5-7; Amos 9:13).
- There is a marked change in social entertainment and vices as Kingdom values are integrated into the rhythm of daily life (Ezra 10:1-4; Nehemiah 8:10, 16-17; Acts 19:17-20).
- Crime and corruption diminish throughout the community
- (2 Kings 12:13-15; Nehemiah 5:6-12; Isaiah 60:17-18).
- Volunteerism increases as Christians recognize their responsibility to heal and undergird the community (Isaiah 58:10-12; 61:1-4).
- Restored hope and joy leads to a decline in divorce, bankruptcy, and suicide (Nehemiah 12:27-28, 43; Isaiah 54:11-14; 61:3-7; Jeremiah 30:17-19; 31:11-13; Hosea 2:15).
- The spiritual nature of the growing socio-political renewal becomes a hot topic in secular media (2 Chronicles 20:29; Nehemiah 6:16; Isaiah 55:5; Ezekiel 36:36; Acts 19:17).
- Overwhelmed by the goodness of God, grateful Christians take the embers of revival into surrounding communities and nations (2 Chronicles 17:9; Isaiah 61:6; Acts 11:20-26).

*(Source: The Sentinel Group)*

## About Prayer Transformation Ministries

This prayer guide is written and published by Prayer Transformation Ministries, a ministry located in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Since 1993, Prayer Transformation Ministries (PTM) has worked with the prayer movement in the Twin Cities, the state of Minnesota, and the nation.

Prayer Transformation Ministries *provides Christ-centered awareness, training, and equipping for personal and societal transformation.*

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### Prayer Transformation Ministries serves by:

- Teaching/writing on principles of revival and transformation.
- Encouraging local churches to develop "cultures of prayer."
- Publishing prayer guides devoted to united prayer.
- Networking intercessors and prayer movements.
- Giving leadership to citywide catalytic prayer events.
- Producing *Call to Prayer* radio spots.
- Encouraging a children's prayer movement.
- Training and networking local church prayer leaders.

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