

**MAY 22**

**Take up your bed and Walk!**

Reading: 2 Kings 20:1-11

***“Confess your faults to one another, and pray for one another,  
that you may be healed” (Js 5:16)***

Praise God for the gifts of healings available in the Church today through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:9,10,28). Request the prayers of ministers who are endowed with these gifts, wherever possible. Attend meetings where the sick are ministered to. People took advantage of the healing ministries of Peter, Philip and Paul when these men visited their cities and towns (Acts 5:15, 16; 8:5-8; 28:8,9). But quite unfortunately several healing ministries these days are merchandised. In your desperation to receive healing, beware lest you are manipulated. The plain directive given to the sick is to “call for the elders of the Church” to offer the prayer of faith (Js 5:14,15). They need not be spectacularly gifted. Because it is the Holy Spirit who has appointed them as overseers to shepherd the flock, He honours their prayer and heals the sick (Acts 20:17,28).

Not only Church leaders but also believers can minister healing to the sick. The resurrected Christ unequivocally said, “These signs will follow those who **believe**: in My name... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mk 16:17,18). Don’t despise any believer. God used just an ordinary disciple to minister healing to the would-be great apostle! (Acts 9:10,17,18).

No doubt God listens to the prayers of others made on your behalf. But He ultimately expects “you” to reach out to Him in faith. Eventhough prophet Isaiah was there with him, King Hezekiah did not solely depend upon the prophet but cried out to God personally with tears. And God answered him (2 Ki 20:1-5).

Negative confession kills faith. Keep confessing the promises of God. Don’t be thinking about the negative instances of the past, if any. So many preachers and people prayed for my mother to be cured of cancer. But she grew worse and died. My brother’s two little daughters had observed all these. One day the elder one accidentally cut her finger with a pen-knife. She got scared of the bleeding and started to pray. Immediately the younger one told her, “Nita, don’t pray. If you pray, you will also die like grandma!” Away with such childishness. Look to God afresh for your present need. He is not the God of the dead, but of the living!

Even if you are not able to believe enough, articulate your feelings like the boy’s father: “Lord, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” (Mk 9:24). God understands.

O God of Miracles,

We worship You as the Omnipotent God. Nothing is impossible for You. You created the world and all that is in it just by Your Word. Your Word still has the same power. You sent Your Word and healed Your people under the Old Covenant. Your Son healed people from their sicknesses and cast out evil spirits by His Word. We thank You for Your Word which is health to our body and soul. We worship You because You are unchanging as our Great Physician. There's no sickness or deformity that cannot be healed by Your power.

Father God, we thank You for the gifts of healing bestowed on the Church by Your Holy Spirit. But, Lord, we are not able to witness the miracles we read about in the Acts of the Apostles. Tell us, Lord, where we have deviated from Your ways. Convict us where we have erred. Forgive us our unbelief. Forgive us for not expecting the unexpected. Forgive us for limiting You because of our scientific and technological knowledge. Forgive us for not reflecting all glory and praise to You when folks applauded us for the healings and miracles which took place in our meetings. Forgive us our lack of prayer for the manifestation of Your power. Father God, forgive us for commercializing the healing ministries. Forgive us the love of money that has gripped our hearts. Forgive us for functioning independently instead of as teams like Peter and John, or Paul and Barnabas. Forgive us for exaggerating the reports of our programmes. Forgive us for forsaking simplicity and coveting pomp and show. Forgive us, O Lord, for seeking popularity and self-promotion. Make us clean vessels to manifest Your glory and power. May all that blocks Your blessing to flow from us to the suffering be removed.

Father God, we pray for those who are sick with incurable diseases. Have mercy on them, O Lord. Raise them up, O God, from their sickbed. We pray that You fill them with an inexplainable peace even if healing from You is delayed. We pray that our congregations would identify those bestowed with the gifts of healing and encourage and support them for effective operation. We pray for more and more miracles to happen in our evangelistic programmes to confirm Your Word.

We pray in the unchanging Name of Jesus, Amen!

*(Gen 17:1; Jer 32:17; Psa 107:20; Jn 1:1-3; Mt 8:16,17; 1 Cor 12:9,10,28;  
Acts 3:1; 4:29,30; 8:20,21; 13:46; 14:14; 1 Tim 6:10; 2 Tim 2:21; Js 5:14-16; Phil 4:7; Mk 16:20)*