

New Year 2014! The Work of Christmas!"

Find the lost! Heal the broken! Feed the hungry! Release the prisoner! Rebuild the nations! Bring peace to mankind! Make music in our hearts!

But all our success in the New Year will come from a new grasp on the Word and Spirit!

The presence of the Holy Spirit has to mean more than speaking in tongues and dramatic gifts! The Word of God has to be more than a "floatie" for the deep end of life! ***Have to see both as lifelong companions that you simply cannot live without!***

The Stories of Three... Ann's sickness... At dinner one night, Ann asked me to take her home, immediately... Within weeks of coming to Angleton she became very ill... Did everything we knew to do – no better/worse/78 pounds... "Say goodbye..."

But we were standing on God's words! Ann was taping verses to mirror/fridge! Handy having a Bible to reference... And warring in the Spirit!

Alexis birth... Miracle pregnancy/Ann's sickness/earlier miscarriage/repressed desire... Complications led to premature birth... Doctors/nurses gave her no hope. 30 people in the waiting room praying. ICU for two weeks. Home on a monitor/138 alarms 1st mo.

Standing on the WORD of God... handy! Man gave us a word of the SPIRIT! Healed from that day on!

Dimitri's Story... Dimitri lived in a small Russian village... And he had the interviewer sitting in the chair he was sitting in when he was first arrested. Afraid that his children would grow up not knowing Jesus because the "real churches" had all been shut down by the government, he began reading Bible stories to them, though he had "no training to teach the Bible." When his children asked if they could sing "the songs they sang when they went to real church" it seemed like a good idea. Because the village was small, people heard and they came... and they asked if they could listen to the stories and sing the old songs too. When the group grew to 25 the authorities stepped in to shut down the church. "How can you say that? I am not a pastor. This is not a church. We are just family and friends reading the bible together, singing, praying and helping people when we can!" "We don't care, it looks like a church to us and if you don't stop bad things are going to happen to you!" And they did, Dimitri and his wife lost their jobs, the kids were expelled from school, the group kept growing... and he was arrested. They moved him hundreds of miles away from home and placed him in a prison with 1500 hardened criminals, the place he would spend 17 years of his life away from his beloved wife and children. There were two habits that got him thru the ordeal. One was getting up each morning, facing the east, and singing the praise song that was on his heart. The other prisoners would laugh and curse and bang their cups on the bars to interrupt, sometimes throwing their waste at him to make him stop. The other habit was writing down every story and scripture he could remember any time he found a scrap of paper and a piece of pencil. The guards would come into his cell, take the paper scraps and beat him for his actions. One day he found an entire sheet of paper and a pencil and he wrote down every scripture and song he could remember, filling both sides of the paper. Of course, the guards saw it and as he was dragged out of his cell, supposedly to be executed, 1500 hardened criminals stood at attention, faced the east and began singing his songs. The guards instantly let him go... "Who are you they asked?" He replied, "I am a son of the living God and His name is Jesus!" **Not long afterward he was released.**

Three stories of deliverance based on the Word and Spirit! But what if we didn't have a Bible in hand, handy, or anywhere to be found? How much Bible would you have if it had to come from memory?

Demonstration...

So, no Bible, but you or a loved one have a need for healing/hearing... How many scriptures do you know/could you write down/rehearse? "the beatings of our wholeness were given to Him and with

those bruising we were healed!" **Is 53.5** "By His stripes, we were healed!" **1P2.24** "I am the Lord who healeth thee!" "Healing is the children's bread!" (not) Good commentary, but not scripture!

So, no Bible, but you or a loved one have a need for healing/hearing... 22 different stories in the gospels alone!

Snapshot: Gospel Healing Stories!

John 4.46-54

Mt 8.14,15

Mk 1.40-45

Mt 9.2-8

John 5.1-16

Mk3.1-6

Mt 8.5-13

Lk 7.11-17

Mt 12.22

Lk 8.40-56

Mk 5.25-34

Mt 9.27-34

Mt 15.21-28

Mk 7.31-37

Mk 8.22-26

John 9.1-41

Lk 13.10-21

Lk 14.1-6

John 11.1-46

Lk 17.11-19

Mk 10.46-52

Mt 26.50,51

22 different stories in the gospels alone! Not including demon stories, power miracles, food/money provisions! Then there's the Book of the Acts of the Apostles! How many of the healing stories do you know/can write down/rehearse? How many OT healing events could you share to build faith?

What will you stand on in the face of doubt if a Bible isn't handy?

No Bible... how would you know how... To overcome doubt? How many "only believe's" do you know? **To resist fear?** How many "fear not's?" **To endure persecution?** How many "stand," "deny not's" Nothing can separate us?" **To fill your belly and quench your thirst?** How many food verses/miracles/supernatural fastings can you recount?

Snapshot: Miraculous Food Stories!

Feeding of the five thousand...

Feeding four thousand more...

Water in the desert from a rock...

Bitter pool of water made drinkable...

Quail from the sea...

Manna on the ground...

Oil (to sell) to meet your needs...

Grain/oil on auto-fill...

Fish dying to be caught...

Angel cakes on an open fire...

2nd helpings that last forty days...

Dinner dates with Jesus!

How many Christian songs or hymns do you know? Without the words on the screen? How much exercise time are you giving to psalms, hymns and spiritual songs and making melodies in your heart?

Eph 5.19 "being refreshed, giving thanks" **Col 3.16** "teaching/admonishing!" What would your heart songs be? *Sound like David, Paul and Silas... or ELF?*

The point is simple: Bibles handy or not, we have to do better knowing the Word... To give the Holy Spirit something to bring to our remembrance... (John 14.26) Or at least have a context for the things He will tell us that we didn't know before! (John 16.13)

New Beginnings... How about a new commitment to reading the word daily? How about splitting up the stories among the family... Have different members read out loud... Rehearse them from memory on a special night/dinner/on a road trip... Teach your children, by example, to sing, freestyle, to the Lord in times of stress, loneliness, happiness... Prepare to have your mind blown/tears!

Because Full of Faith... No weapons formed against you/them will prosper... Will do many great wonders and miracles among the people... Be able to preach Christ boldly, so many will see and hear His miracles... Faith will sound out from you/them and many will believe and be turned to God from idols and vanity of life!

Let's begin the New Year with a fresh determination and new motivation to fill up on the word and Spirit!