

'NEW LIFE HEALING CENTRE'

(The Bethel)

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*Breaking into God's Plan
& Purpose for your life*

RELEASE *from* **SLAVERY** *to* **FREEDOM**
The Sacrifice of Christ Bondage New life/healing/Deliverance

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAYMOND

Faith is measured! At times we may think that the problem we face or the ailment that we have to fight is bigger and stronger than the faith of God in us. So instead of allowing our faith to grow to become bigger and stronger than the problem, we give in to it. Turn with me to Mark's Gospel Chapter 8 verses 22 -25. We read that Jesus came to Bethsaida, with a multitude of people with Him and they brought a blind man to Him so that Jesus might lay His hands upon him and heal him. However, instead of Jesus simply laying His hands on the blind man and speaking the word of healing, Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. Jesus took the blind man away from the crowd. Jesus took him away from noise and any other distraction. Jesus led the man away in order for this man to focus all his attention upon Christ. So often many distractions come in taking our attention away from Jesus, medical reports, examinations, the challenges and duties of our responsibilities in life, the language the world uses, doubt and unbelief, self awareness, inward strength to overcome and deal with things. You see the crowd presses in around you confusing your vision of Christ, making you unable to see Him clearly as you ought to. Jesus led this blind man outside the town away from people, away from distractions, so he could centre his whole being upon Christ, this man Jesus who would minister specifically to his individual need. The Bible tells us that when they were outside Bethsaida Jesus spat on the blind man's eyes and laid His hands upon him. Jesus asks him "Do you see anything?", the blind man replies, "I see people, they look like trees walking around" verse 24.

Today, we are looking at how faith is often needed to be increased. How do we allow this to happen? This healing of the blind man is a great teaching miracle for this to be understood and to allow the increase of faith to happen in our lives. The blind man's eyesight had been restored, but he still could not see clearly. This was not about that Christ's healing power was inadequate or deficient or that the healing required was too hard or difficult, it wasn't that Jesus could not have instantly healed the blind man's eyes, Jesus chose to heal the man gradually for one purpose, to increase and to strengthen this man's faith. Are you understanding the picture? Do you hear the word? Jesus was, during this man's healing, increasing and strengthening his faith. So often we need to allow the Christ, the Living and the Written Word, to increase and strengthen our faith in order for us to receive the things we are asking God for. Jesus laid His hands upon the man a second time and made him look up. As he did (response made by the man, a visible act of doing, in response to the Word of Jesus) as he did, his eyes were totally restored and he could see clearly. The man had to respond to Jesus' Word by doing something. We cannot just sit back and do nothing when we ask God for healing or for any intervention within our lives. When we ask God for help we have to make an effort in response to what we ask for. Jesus made the man look up – v 25 KJV – 'and as he did his sight was restored.' What have you got to do in response to the prayers you have offered to God? In Jesus Name – AMEN