

The Healing Touch

One of the favorite ways Christ healed was through a “touch.” Yet, often, His loving spirit and words brought healing, even to an aching heart!





A ***physical touch*** can be a powerful gesture. A couple holding hands can be electrifying. A hug is bonding and so comforting. Studies have shown that a baby who is often held, caressed, and kissed develops better emotionally.

We have a friend who has memorized large sections of the Desire of Ages. She often recites them in worship hours and seminars. Her ministry is called: *The Healing Touch*. Her work is very inspirational!

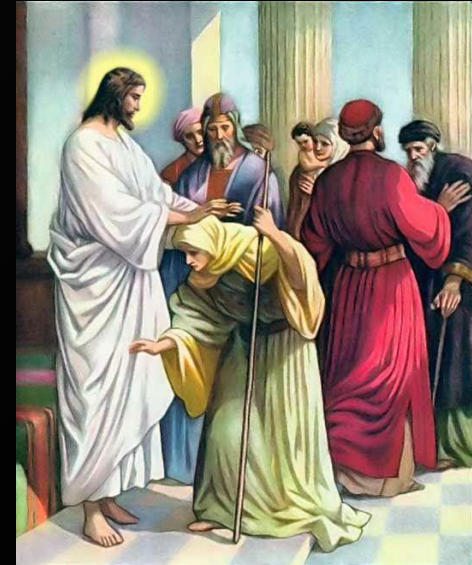
When she speaks one senses the moving of the Holy Spirit. It has moved our hearts!



That is a *spiritual touch*. It is deeper than an emotional or physical touch. God's Spirit is working on one's heart, elevating the thinking and desires.

- The Bible describes at least fourteen specific instances when Jesus touched someone's heart, emotions, and/or their body, all at one time! That's going to happen to each one of us when Jesus comes, in a "moment, in a twinkling of an eye"!
- There are amazing stories when people touched Him or His garment and were healed.

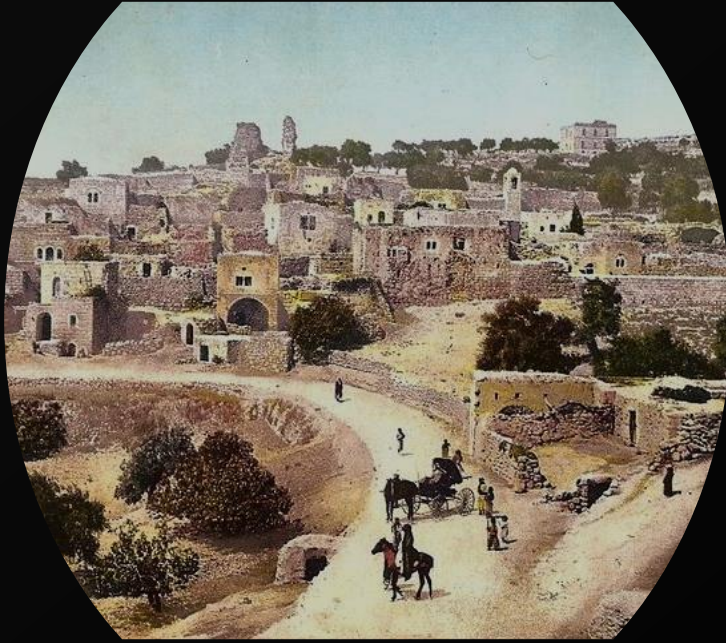
Luke shared this wonderful story:
“Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath, and a woman was there who had been disabled ... for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten herself up completely. When Jesus saw her, he called her to him and said, ‘Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.’ Then he placed his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.” (Luke 13:10-13 NET)



How compassionate. How beautiful. The record doesn't say she asked Him for healing. They were apparently worshiping in the same synagogue on the Sabbath, and He noticed her and had pity!

It is noteworthy – Jesus called her to come to Him. That is a universal call which comes down to us today. *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* (Matt. 11:28)

She went to Him. The story is simple and short. He touched her and she could stand up straight! That is an orthopedic miracle! In seconds, a cripple to a whole functioning person. It occurred with His touch.



We don't know the name of the city – Luke only says it was a “*certain city*” in a providence of Galilee.

Likely near its southern border, assumed 60 miles from Jerusalem. Luke notes: “*Jesus was there.*”

That day would be remembered in infamy.
(Matt. 6:24, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-16)





Before we tell you what happened a few thoughts about leprosy. It is caused by a bacteria (a germ) closely related to tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium leprae*).

- In Bible times they didn't know that – but God did.
- Two whole chapters in Leviticus (13 & 14) are given to isolation techniques so it wouldn't spread to others.



It required quarantining so severe one had to be separated from family, wives, husbands and live outside the cities.

If anyone came near, they were required to cry “unclean – I’m unclean.” An ancient tragedy!

That created a traumatic “stress disorder” – every day was emotionally painful to the leper. “He was virtually without hope!”



Suddenly, in that “certain city”:

- Panic struck the crowd that had gathered to watch and listen to Jesus.
- A man – the Bible says – who was *filled with leprosy* approached the back of the crowd. He undoubtedly was loathsome in appearance.

As he got closer:

- He didn't cry, “Unclean!” He didn't cry, “I have leprosy!” He could see Jesus!
- He wanted to talk to Him. He heard that Jesus was a healer. “I must get to Him!” It was the most important mission of his whole life!

What is the most important mission in your life?

- We are all full of the leprosy of sin. (Isa. 1:5-6).
- We aren't spiritually well when we are infected with that "bacteria."

God says, however: "You don't need to be quarantined." Just "come unto me!"

- Warmly He tells us: "*Confess your sins, he is faithful and just to forgive ... our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1:9).
- Repent, confess! We are then spiritually healed – God spiritually touches us! And – He never runs out of that forgiving gift – even until the very end.

The whole crowd suddenly sees this man – the loathsome look – the leprosy – the infected one!

- In horror and terror, they fall back.
- Fear of being contaminated spreads through the crowd.



No matter how you might be rejected,
no matter how persecution knocks at your door:

- Something wonderful is always present,
a clear path to Jesus!
- This man saw that! The people actually made the way.”

There is that leper.

- We aren't told what his name was.
- Might it be our name?
- Maybe he was called a lot of names.
- We will never know how his aching heart to see his wife and children again was. I would guess that those lepers cried much!

The path is clear. There may have been 200 rows of people between him and Jesus.

- But now – he took the first step toward Jesus, toward hope. The path to Jesus is wide open.
- His eye is 100% now on Jesus.
- His heart is pounding. There's no stopping now!

Quickly, the distance between him and Jesus lessens.

- In a gesture of utmost eastern humility,
- He fell flat on the ground, his face toward the ground before Jesus.
- Then he came face to face with Jesus!



Loathsome disease facing perfection. But purity touches him!

The leper likely stammering, stuttering, loosing words his heart wants to say. He now blurts out – “Lord” – “Master” – “You!!!” That cry has a deeper meaning! The Greek word for “you”, *kurie* means “the one I belong to!”

How singular is your focus on Jesus?

- Are you influenced by the crowd?
Or – is the crowd focused on you?
- Do others' opinions or opposition take your eyes off of Jesus?
- Are you easily detracted from Him?
- Is your “walk” lessening the distance between you and Jesus? Or – are the stresses of life draining away all your spiritual ambition?



Even before he was healed was his cry:

- “Master – I’m yours!” “I know I look terrible.”
- “I know You didn’t mind my coming into your presence!” “I belong to you.”

That must be our cry soon! We will have nowhere else to turn if heaven is to be gained:

- “Master – I’m helpless. I’m your brother. I love you. Help me! Please!”

His cry continues to encircle planet earth, pleading:

- “Lord – if you choose – you **can** heal me” ...
“*make me clean*” (Luke 5:12). “If it is your will, you can change the course of my life.” Please!

“Clean” means nothing bad is left. Since leprosy also represents sin, that cry is always one that God answers in the affirmative.

- The leper knew he was unclean.
- He had likely cried unclean for years.
- Now he presents himself to Jesus just as he is.

That I John 1:9 message:

- If we confess
- ***He will cleanse*** – not He “might cleanse” – not He will “consider it.”
He always answers that prayer.



What happens next symbolizes the creative power of heaven.

- It represents the amazing grace at work in a human being!

*“And he put forth his hand and **touched him**”* (Matt. 8:3).

- To touch anything related to a leper defiles and requires a cleansing process.
- But – the Undefined touched the defiled, and ***everything became clean.***



It was that touch, the touch of Jesus, that brought healing.

- When he touched the leper, the Bible says:
- He was *immediately* made whole.
- For the rest of that man's life, he could say, ***“Jesus touched me and made me whole.”***

There is something special about the leper's story. He knew he needed help.

- He was desperate for a miracle.
- Nothing stopped him from coming to Jesus.
- Nothing stopped him from casting himself at His feet.
- Ever wonder what it was like to feel new again? To have creative power surge through your body?

That's as much a creative act as Genesis 1 and 2.



Sin-sick People – Spiritual Leprosy

The Bible says that our hearts are “*desperately wicked*” (Jer. 17:9).

- *“The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment”* (Isa. 1:5-6).

That describes spiritual leprosy. We all have it. No doctor can help. It needs the touch of the Master.

Story:

A young lady named Malika, native of Morocco, was born into a devout Muslim family.



- She had a burning desire to please Allah.
- She rejected everything Jewish or Christian.

Going to a private multi-religious French school, at 16 years of age she met a young man, who was also a student. She was attracted to him. He was a Christian. He talked about Jesus in such a loving way. He gave her a book, which was the gospel of John.



She began to read it secretly.

- The very first chapter overwhelmed her heart.
- She was touched by God's Spirit and felt that the story of Jesus was true.

“Until then I didn't know that God loved everyone – without exception,” she said. Then she learned that she could talk to God as a loving father.

- She decided to experiment: Every evening before she slept, she talked with God and felt a certainty, a presence, and her heart was warmed.
- When she recited prayers for Allah, she felt an emptiness.
- As time passed, she developed a firm belief in Jesus Christ. She learned of Christ's death for her and that repentance for sin was important.

She accepted Jesus Christ and became a Christian.

Malika and her Christian friend were married. The road forward was most difficult because of rejection and scorn from her family. They had, however, a happy home, two dedicated Christians, a love for Christ.

- God's Spirit gave a *healing touch* to Malika's heart.
- God's Spirit brought conviction, and *she responded to that touch.*

Jesus had been on the eastern side of the sea of Galilee. He was returning to the western shore – perhaps to “His” city of Capernaum.

- How news traveled so swiftly is amazing.
- When He landed, a “*multitude*” had gathered to greet Him.

Christ spent some time healing and teaching – then went to Levi Matthew’s home for a feast meal.

A man named Jairus was the ruler of the synagogue at Capernaum (Mark 5:22). He had charge of organizing all Jewish services. Suddenly, his daughter became critically ill. Jarius was fearful and distressed.

With no record of prejudice, he sought Jesus, the miracle worker. He found Jesus at Levi Matthew's house. In a unique custom of respect, he cast himself before Jesus' feet.



“And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live” (Mark 5:23).

- The incredible trust of this man is wonderful.
- It is what God wants us to experience. When all seems hopeless, even at the last minute, still trusting that His will will be done!



Jesus immediately set out with Jarius to his nearby house.

- The crowds were large.
- Christ stopped to heal and give an encouraging word.
- Jarius was impatient.

Then, the unthinkable – a messenger made contact with Jarius. “Your daughter is dead, don’t bother the Master.”

- Jesus heard that and said to Jarius, “Believe only – she shall be made whole.”
- Mourners were already there. Jesus tried to silence them. They grated on His emotions.



“Why weep? The damsel is not dead but sleeps.” Jesus was laughed at. He, the parents, and three disciples went into the house.

Taking her hand into His:

- Softly speaking, Jesus said, “*Child arise.*”
- A touch, a word → life.

That likely was the most joyous, exciting, grateful and emotional time in their lives!!! He asked the parents to keep quiet as to what He had done.

- Impossible: The news quickly spread throughout Galilee (Matt. 9:26). Jesus had slipped away.

There's something strangely wonderful about what Jesus did. In confidence He set out to bring healing. That confidence was borne out of a pristine faith in His Father. The relationship was so close He knew that this girl's life would be restored.

"I can of mine own self do nothing of myself." (John 5:19, 30).



“His own city!”

At intervals in His travels, Christ often spent time in Capernaum on the northern coast of the sea of Galilee. It was the hometown of Peter. He often spoke in its synagogue.



“All who heard the Saviour ‘were astonished at His doctrine: for His word was with power.’ ‘He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.’” (Luke 4:32; Matt. 7:29)

“Jesus watched with deep earnestness the changing countenances of His hearers. The faces that expressed interest and pleasure gave Him great satisfaction. As the arrows of truth pierced to the soul, breaking through the barriers of selfishness, and working contrition, and finally gratitude, the Saviour was made glad.... He saw in them hopeful subjects for His kingdom. When the truth, plainly spoken, touched some cherished idol, He marked the change of countenance, the cold, forbidding look, which told that the light was unwelcome. When He saw men refuse the message of peace, His heart was pierced to the very depths.”

(The Desire of Ages, p. 253, 255)

This particular Sabbath, “While the congregation in the synagogue was still spellbound with awe, Jesus withdrew to the home of Peter for a little rest. But here, also, a shadow had fallen. The mother of Peter’s wife lay sick, stricken with a ‘great fever.’ Jesus rebuked the disease, and the sufferer arose, and ministered to the wants of the Master and His disciples.” (*ibid.*, p. 259)

Matthew tells us how that happened:

“He touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.” (Matt. 8:15)



Story

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom. Knowing his dad could easily afford it, he told him that was all he wanted for graduation.

The afternoon of graduation day his father told him how proud he was for his achievements – and expressed how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box.



Curious, but somewhat disappointed the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible. He burst out in irritation, raising his voice, and said, “With all your money you give me a Bible?” and walked away, leaving the Holy Book behind. He actually soon left home with a negative spirit.

Many years passed. He became very successful in his own business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family. One day he realized his father was very old and thought perhaps he should go visit him. He hadn't seen him many times since that graduation day.

Before he could make travel arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away and willed all his possessions to his son. He needed to go quickly to take care things.



When he arrived at his father's house a sudden sadness and remorse filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and saw the box with the still new Bible in it, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he lifted it out of the box. As he removed the Bible, a car key dropped from a small envelope taped on its back leaf.

It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words ...
PAID IN FULL.

He was emotionally touched! His heart was breaking. But no where near how painful his dad's heart had been! It was too late to thank and hug his dad. It was too late to get the gift! Soon – it will be too late to get the most wonderful heart touch from Christ.

“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Matt. 24:44).

Then the saddest words: *“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and I am not saved.”* (Jer. 8:20)

Today Jesus touches us with His Spirit. It can be a wonderful experience – so much so that He even code named Him, the “Comforter.”

- He can give us a new heart.
- He can guide us into all truth.
- He can show us future things yet to happen.

Its touch elevates the mind – if we’re willing to concentrate on the messages He has gifted us with!

The apostle John was given a unique vision of four angels holding the winds of strife. (Rev. 7)

They had to remain secure until the saints were sealed.



Then John saw those saints before the throne and before the Lamb described as a “great multitude” too large to count. (Rev. 7:9)



They all had that invisible mark or seal which came from a special heavenly touch by Christ. Ezekiel briefly recorded this process: *“And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer’s inkhorn by his side; And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city,* →

through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.” (Eze. 9:3-4)

All those who were sealed have/had negative reactions to sin. The sins especially abhorrent to God were recorded in Ezekiel 8:

1. Substitute god at doorway to God's house
2. Worshiping false gods created by man
3. God of fertility – procreation – sex
4. The sun

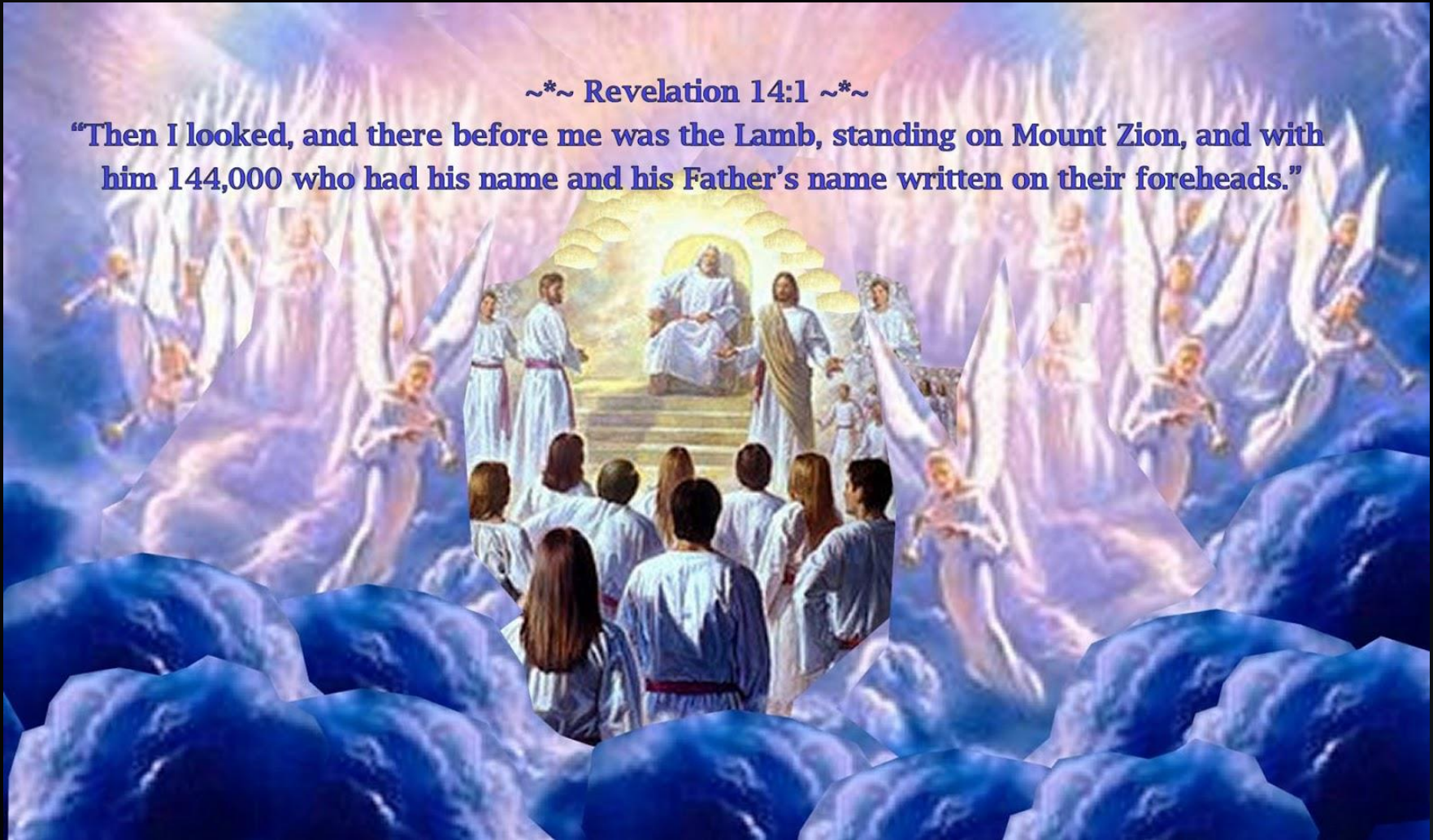
Revelation 3:12 tells us what distinct messages are put on the forehead. When this is done, we have formally become citizens of the heavenly kingdom forever.



144,000 Witnesses Sealed

~*~ Revelation 14:1 ~*~

“Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads.”



The Sealing Touch

From the Korean Unification Church to Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, many Protestants and even Muslims, there is a *sacred intrigue* with the number "144,000." To Christians, the key Bible texts that forward that narrative are:

"Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God" (Rev. 7:2 – NKJV).

"Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads" (Rev. 7:3 – NKJV).

“And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed” (Rev. 7:4 – NKJV).

John, later in Revelation, noted in beautiful imagery: *“Lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion [representing the administrative center of heaven], and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads [they are not only citizens but now in God’s kingdom] “And they sung as it were a new song before the throne... [they are a special choir that can sing a certain song].*

These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth [they are part of the retinue intimately associated with Jesus, even in heaven]. These were redeemed from among men ... the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb” [they are the ‘first’ of some group to be saved] and “without fault before the throne of God [they are uniquely placed before God’s throne – perfect in character].”

(Rev. 14:1, 3-5)



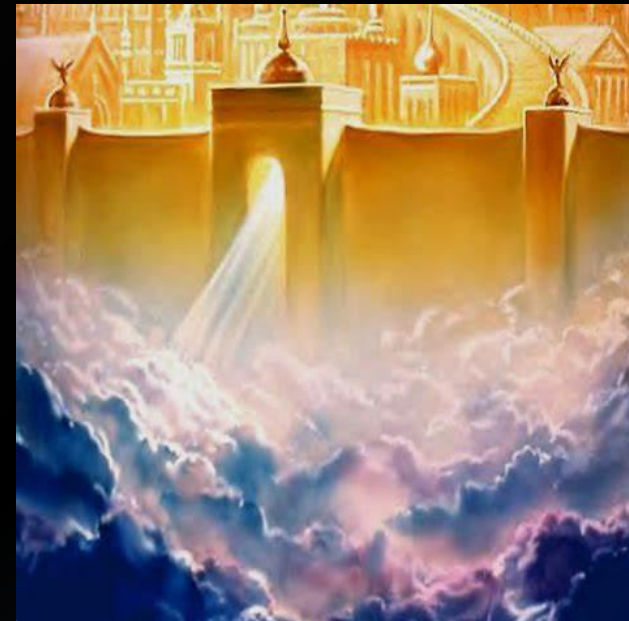
That writing on their foreheads is a promise:

- They have become citizens of God's heavenly kingdom.
- They are a part of a special choir.
- They know a special "theme" song.
- They have the special privileges of *following Jesus*.
- They are perfect – holy.
- They will be positioned before God's throne.
- God's name is ever with them.

“The sealing is a pledge from God of perfect security to His chosen ones (Ex. 31:13-17). Sealing indicates you are God’s chosen. He has appropriated you to Himself. As the sealed of God, we are Christ’s purchased possession, and no one shall pluck us out of His hands.”

Manuscript Release, vol. 15, p. 225.

When we receive
that sealing touch,
this is assured!



Both Daniel and John record very special “touches” they received by heavenly beings:

Daniel:

1. At Christ’s command, Gabriel approached the seer on a teaching mission (8:17-19). Daniel was confused regarding the ram, he-goat, and little horn vision.
 - a. Daniel became afraid of Gabriel so much that he fell on his face.
 - b. Gabriel touched him and stood him on his feet.

You can almost hear him say: “Daniel, listen, I’m going to help you understand!”

2. Later, at God's command, Gabriel again came to Daniel while he was praying and touched him (9:21), then gave Daniel a profound Messianic prophecy.



3. Later still: *“And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling”* (Dan. 10:10-11).

John:

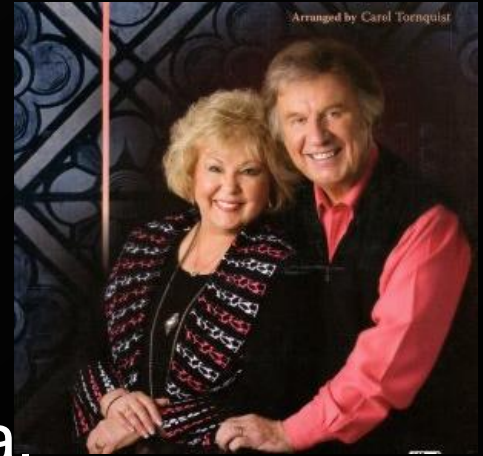
1. John was hearing Christ speaking behind him (Rev. 1:10-16).
 - a. He turned to see who it was.
 - b. There was Jesus, just like Daniel observed in Daniel 10:5-7.
 - c. John noted: *“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last”* (Rev. 1:17). (“I exist throughout redemptive history!”)

Every provision has been made for cleansing us from sin. He's ready to touch us, ready to touch our hearts.

- The price has been paid by the exclusive suffering of Jesus.
- The price has been paid by the blood of Jesus.
- The grace of Jesus now waits to touch us.
- It simply needs activating by our faith – a faith so strong that we wish to please Him at all costs.

But – there is a caveat: We must want to be changed! Want to be like Jesus.

In 1962 Bill Gaither and Gloria Sickal married, which began a gospel singing career together. They initially composed 53 songs (music and words) but initial interest in their ministry was limited to local churches where they were invited to sing.



“The Longer I Serve Him,” “Because He Lives,” “The King Is Coming,” “Sinner Saved by Grace,” “Something Beautiful,” “It Is Finished,” “Jesus, There’s Something about that Name,” and “Let’s Just Praise the Lord.”

Then an older preacher, Dr. Dale Oldham, asked Bill to accompany him in an evangelistic crusade. One night, after a particularly eloquent message, Dr. Oldham said to Bill: "... the word "touch" is a very popular word. It comes up so often in the New Testament stories about Jesus touching people's eyes, bodies, lives and hearts – each time changing them. That stimulated the composition of another song.

Everything changed in their writing career when that song, "*He touched me,*" came out. By 2012 Bill and Gloria had written over 700 songs. Their recordings were broadcast over and over on radio and TV.

Shackled by a heavy burden,
'Neath a load of guilt and shame.
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.

Since I met this blessed Savior,
Since He cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise Him,
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.

He touched me, Oh He
touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my
soul!
Something happened and
now I know
He touched me and made me
whole



As we reach out to Him in faith, He reaches down and touches us, as He did with the leper. It may be physical, or mental or spiritual but something good happens!



I hope you crave that touch, that your mission is to unswervingly fall at the feet of Jesus and cry – “Make me whole,” “touch my heart,” “please live within me.” “You, Jesus, [like the leper] YOU can make me whole,” “You are my friend,” “I want that to be a forever!”

God is on a touching mission!
He’s waiting for your touch!

The End

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