

THE DOCTOR

Christian stopped in front of the door and read the sign, "JESUS THE GREAT PHYSICIAN". "This is my last hope", he muttered to himself. He paused for a moment and then slowly pushed open the door. At the desk he saw the assistant. "Good morning", said the assistant, "My name is Holy Spirit, may I help you?" "May I see the doctor please?", asked Christian. "I am here to usher you into his presence", said the Holy Spirit, with a smile that set Christian at ease.

As the door swung open, Christian saw Him. He was surprised at His appearance. Christian quickly realized that his image of Jesus was far too small. For the first time since he could remember, Christian began to really see Him. Jesus' eyes were clear and exhibited love, compassion and judgment all at the same time. He couldn't explain it, but he knew that Jesus was looking right into the very center of his being. The next things that Christian noticed were His Holiness, His Purity and His Righteousness. "I didn't know that you could see those things", thought Christian. "Good morning", said Jesus. His voice sounded like rushing waters. Christian didn't remember consciously doing it, but suddenly he was on his knees before Him. It was the only position that was appropriate. Christian tried to speak but no sound would come out. He was actually relieved that he was dumb because he knew that he could never say anything that would not be meaningless and yet, Christian felt strangely at ease. Jesus spoke, "Rise my son", He said. Christian rose to his feet, his eyes still fastened upon The Great Physician. "What can I do for you?", asked the Doctor. Somehow Christian knew that this was a redundant question and that Jesus knew exactly what He could do for him. "I have this feeling in my chest", said Christian. "it feels like a sort of empty and yet aching feeling. I read in a book that it might be either low self esteem or maybe burnout", said Christian. Then he started to talk nervously, "I have been trying to live a good Christian life and have a valid ministry and I try to talk to people about God and all and I try to tithe and pray for all of the missionaries and I try to always forgive people when they do mean things to me and I ...", Christian stopped. Jesus looked at him with those eyes and said, "My son, you are busy about many things, just as Martha was many years ago. You need to be more like Mary who simply sat at my feet and learned of me." "But this is what I have been doing", said Christian, "You should see all of the Christian books that I have. I have books on Christian

counseling, improving your self esteem, how to witness, I have lots of books on that, how to get answers to prayer, how to have an effective bus ministry, how to write Christian songs that will appeal to young people, and that's not all, I have written to sponsors of bad TV shows and told them that I was going to boycott their product if they don't stop and I have been arrested once for picketing an abortion mill...", Christian could see the disappointment in the Doctor's eyes. "You didn't hear what I said, did you?", said Jesus. Christian was puzzled. He thought that he had heard him. Then Jesus began to ask some questions.

He asked, "What did you do to be saved?" Christian said, "There was this guy at work who invited me to...", Jesus was holding up His hand to stop Christian. That was the first time he saw it, right there in the middle of His palm was the hole where the nail had been. As his attention was once again focused on Jesus, Christian said, "I'm sorry, what did you say?" Jesus said, "I said, what did YOU do to be saved?", placing the emphasis on YOU. Christian began again, "I went with this guy at work to...". Again Jesus stopped him. "Let me say it another way. What did you do to EARN salvation? What good deeds did you perform to make you worthy of salvation?" "Oh!" said Christian, "There was nothing that I could do to earn salvation, I had to depend entirely upon You and Your grace." "That is right", said The Doctor, "and in the same way, you cannot LIVE the Christian life without relying on Me and My grace imparted through My Holy Spirit. How can you convince anyone to become a Christian unless the Holy Spirit draws him? What can you do for me unless I empower you to do it? What can you give to me that I have not first given to you?" Then Jesus looked at him with those eyes and said, "My dear son, I desire above all things to impart to you my nature. This doesn't come from reading books, doing Christian works or giving up things that you think need giving up. This comes from spending time with me. Christian's eyes grew larger as he began to explain, "Oh yes, I do pray. I prayed for a job and you gave me that. I have been praying for some of my relatives, I prayed for Mrs. McGee's cat when it was missing and it came back, and I ..." Christian stopped. He could see that look again. "I love to give gifts to my children", said Jesus, "but above all, I want them to spend time with me, getting to know me, learning to listen to my voice, hearing when I speak through my messenger, the Holy Spirit, meditating on my word that I have provided and protected through the ages." Finally, the truth of what

The Great Physician was saying began to dawn on Christian. He was slower to speak now and more eager to hear. Jesus continued, "You need to become what I want you to become before you can do what I want you to do. It took my servant Moses forty years in the desert where there were no distractions before he was ready to do the work that I had for him to do. There are many lessons that I have for you to learn that cannot be learned in a painless way. But know this, that I will be with you through it all and I will not impose any trial upon you that will not ultimately be worth it. You must trust me, my child. I love you more than you love yourself. I gave my very life for you. See these holes in my hands and in my side? Are they not proof enough for you? Don't struggle with your heavy burdens, bring them to me and I will give you rest. Cast all of your cares upon me and trust me. I have a plan for your life. It is a good plan if you will accept it and follow me. But we must spend time together talking and listening. In your asking, ask not so much for things that have a way of wearing out and rusting away, but ask rather for those things that build character, a kind and gentle spirit, a loving heart, tolerance of other's shortcomings, and humbleness. As you start to become more like me, all of these other things will take care of themselves. You need to become more like Mary, my son, and less like Martha." Christian bowed at the feet of Jesus and said, "I am your willing student Lord, until I am ready to become your willing servant." Jesus took him by the hand and raised him up and said, "You have come far today."