

## To be read the night before confirmation:

“whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these” – Jesus, Jn 14:12

It was a beautiful afternoon on the southern California coast, and 22-year-old Andrew Laubacher had just finished surfing. He was walking along the boardwalk in his wetsuit, heading back to his car, when he spotted a young girl sitting in a wheelchair on the beach. He knew he had to pray with her.

Andrew was in many ways a typical Catholic young adult. He loved surfing, playing music, and hanging out with his friends. In his teen years he had gone through a time of rebellion and had gotten into some trouble with the law. He had become an atheist for a time. Then he experienced a powerful conversion at a Steubenville Youth Conference,<sup>1</sup> and he began to learn that as followers of Christ we are called to bring the good news to others in the power of the Holy Spirit. He had even witnessed some miraculous healings. So when he saw the teenage Hispanic girl, sitting by the ocean in a wheelchair, he felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit to stop and pray with her. In his own words, Andrew recounts what happened next:

“I got out of my wetsuit and dried off and approached the girl, who was with her parents. They didn’t speak English but the girl did. I went up and asked how she was doing and if she wanted prayer for anything. The fear of rejection and of having nothing happen when I prayed was real and strong, but I went anyway. As I asked her what was going on with her and why she was in a wheelchair, she began to pour out her life to me. It was shocking. She had just gotten out of the hospital because she had tried to kill herself for the second time. She had done meth and several other drugs, and she struggled with depression and anxiety. She had difficulty walking because she had had cerebral palsy since she was born. After she said all this, I was extremely moved with compassion and the conviction that God wanted to encounter her, and boldness came over me, casting out all fear that I was not good enough pray with her. So I prayed for healing for her condition, for peace and the power of the Holy Spirit to flood her body. After I prayed for a little while I asked her to get up and walk. She began to walk and realized she was walking straighter and with less pain. Then I prayed over her knees. They visibly were crooked and sticking out in opposite directions, but after the prayer they were perfectly straight. When her parents saw that she was walking better and her knees were straightened out, they were shocked. After all this I asked her what she was experiencing and she said her knees were hot and her body was tingling and there was no pain in her body. I told her, “That’s Jesus, baby!” It turned out she was Catholic but not into her faith at all. I told her to get to Mass and confession and receive the forgiveness that God wanted to give her. I stayed in touch with her after that day. She texted me to tell me she went to confession and Mass and said she felt free and lighter and experienced the love of God. After reflecting on that experience and many more, I am convinced that, as the Scriptures say, the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power (1 Cor 4:20). As Christians, little “anointed ones,” we can bring people healing and redemption through Jesus everywhere we go. We seem to do a lot of ministry and mission trips, but what if every day in our very homes we prayed with the sick, the depressed, the lame, and the blind for healing? It would change everything. We would be manifesting the kingdom, which is his love. This is our mission, to go out into all the world and bring the good news of healing, mercy, compassion, and most of all, unconditional love!”

**Because of Andrew’s faith and courage in obeying the prompting of the Holy Spirit, that young girl’s life was changed forever.** If he had done nothing but talk to her about God’s love, that alone would have been a very good thing. However, she might have thought to herself, “Sure, I know. I’ve heard all that before.” But because Andrew took the bold step of praying with her for healing, she experienced God’s love in her very body. In a most tangible way, this broken person encountered the power and mercy of the risen Lord, restoring her to the fullness of life.

I am convinced that Andrew’s story represents something immensely significant that God is doing in the Church in our time. [...] In this age when so many have wandered far from God, the Lord is once more clothing his followers with power from on high (cf. Luke 24:49). He is calling us to go out and proclaim the gospel not only in words, but also in signs and wonders that bear witness to the truth of the words.

Healing is one of the charisms the Holy Spirit bestows on Christ's followers to equip us for mission. The gift of healing has been present in the Church in every age, but is being poured out in remarkable abundance in our time. Perhaps this is in part because of the tremendous physical, emotional, and spiritual woundedness in postmodern society. God has infinite compassion for those who suffer, and healing is one of the means he uses to manifest his real and powerful love.

\*Healy, Mary. *Healing: Bringing the Gift of God's Mercy to the World* (pp. 9-12). *Our Sunday Visitor*. Kindle Edition.



## To be read after confirmation:

Congratulations on your confirmation, prepare to surf divine waves...

Now that you have been confirmed don't just stand there.. it doesn't end with pictures or a nice dinner... chin up, shoulders back and get ready to heal a broken world.

Your life will never be the same. By being confirmed you have been equipped for mission... you are expected to preach the Gospel and move in the power of the Holy Spirit to: dismantle the kingdom of darkness, heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons, heal the brokenness in people's hearts and the fragmentation in society. **"Come Holy Spirit, show me what you want me to do here and teach me how to pray in this situation"** Carry this prayer on a notecard until you memorize it and carry it in your heart. That is your last homework assignment from me. *If* you carry this prayer in your heart every day I guarantee you – let me repeat – *I guarantee you* that the Holy Spirit will call you to step out like the young man in the account above and you too will see the difference Confirmation makes. This however requires faith. How do you spell faith? Answer: "RISK." If you want to grow in faith that God can move in powerful ways, you need to step out in faith when the Holy Spirit is whispering to you and take a RISK. When you do, you won't be preoccupied with questioning if God exists or what His heart is for broken humanity... you will be testifying to it with you own personal experience. Other people's lives depend on your answer. God Himself gave you the calculus: 'I am the vine, you are the branch,' this means you are the one called to bear fruit in the world by the grace of your Confirmation... He will feed you His Divine Life in the Eucharist at Holy Mass and Confession (of which you are called to be faithful to), but it is up to you to step out and allow this divine life to bear fruit in the world. With that said, I will now pray over you from a distance wherever you are and at whatever stage in life you read this letter. Paraphrasing the words from two great Christian healers (Randy Clark and Mary Healey) I pray:

Father, in Jesus' name I ask You to release the gifts of Your Holy Spirit in a greater measure into the life of the one reading this letter. I ask that You fill this reader afresh with Your Holy Spirit. Open his or her spiritual eyes to see and spiritual ears to hear the cries of those all around who need You and who need the revelation of Your mercy, grace and power. I ask for the gifts to be released through this reader in order to display Your glory. I ask that You and Your Son would receive glory through the Holy Spirit's gift. I pray for a greater understanding of Your ways: how gifts of revelation release the gift of faith, and how the gift of faith releases the gifts of healings and working of miracles. I pray for humility and confidence to operate in this reader's life. I bless him or her in Jesus' powerful name. More, Lord! More love! More power! More of You in our lives! In the authority of Jesus' name, Amen and Amen.

I have no doubt the power of the Holy Spirit rests on you. I pray that you give God permission to live and work in you... our broken world needs it. – Fr. Liam

Here are some resources on prayer ministry and moving with the power of the Holy Spirit:

- ❖ YouTube Video titled: **"Gift of Healing: A Catholic Perspective - Mary Healy"**  
<https://youtu.be/FHMdVa9ouBE>
- ❖ YouTube Video titled: **"Your Sons and Daughters shall Prophecy - Patrick Reis"**  
<https://youtu.be/ger3MHQn520>
- ❖ YouTube Video titled: **"Encounter Conference: Testimony of Signs Wonders and Miracles"**  
<https://youtu.be/P5UCVZ2SS50>

