



EPISODE TITLE: "Prayer and Healing"

Listen, Episode 4

Featured Guest: Bruce Epperly

Bruce Epperly is a practical theologian, pastor, spiritual guide, author, and leader in lay and pastoral faith formation. This fall he was Visiting Professor of Process Studies at Claremont School of Theology/Claremont Lincoln University. Prior to that he served as Director of Continuing Education and Professor of Practical Theology at Lancaster Theological Seminary (2003-2010). Bruce was also co-pastor of Disciples United Community Church (a partnership Disciples of Christ/United Church of Christ congregation) from 2004-2010.

Questions:

1. Do you have a spiritual practice? If so, does it come easily or is it difficult? Has that practice ever had a healing effect?
2. Do you think it is possible that the effects of prayer might one day be discovered to have a scientific basis? Would that affect your faith in prayer?
3. What do you think Bruce means by, "When I pray, coincidences happen?" How might we be better attuned to recognizing those coincidences, or even helping to make them happen?
4. What stood out for you from Mark 5: 24-34?
5. Bruce suggests that faith may open doors to healing transformations. What kinds of transformations do you think those might be?

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Mark 5: 24-34

²⁴So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' ²⁹Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' ³¹And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' ³²He looked all round to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.