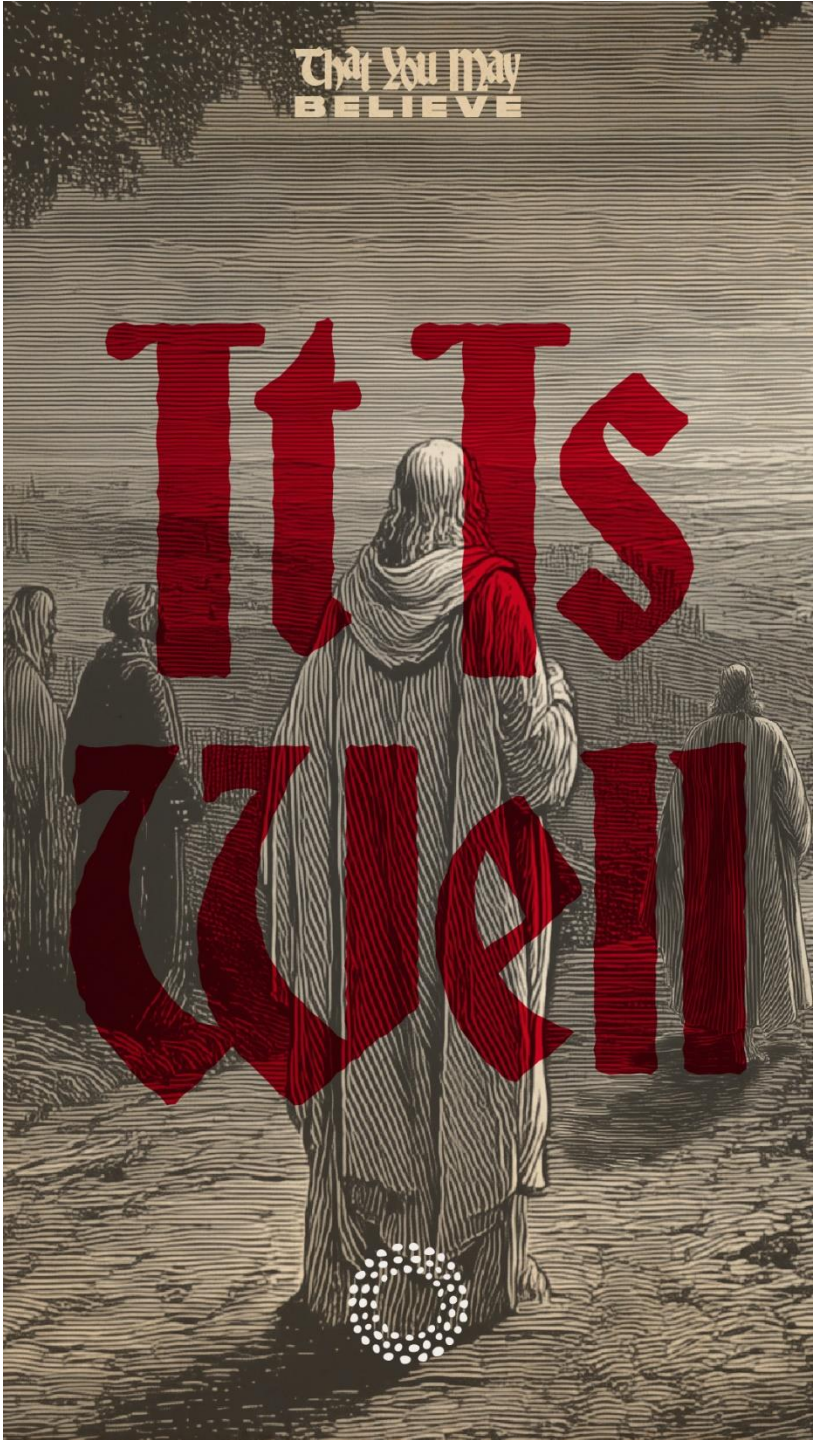


That You May
BELIEVE

IT'S ZEPH



It is Well

Faith Before the Miracle

Introduction

What do you do when your last hope is all you have left?

There comes a moment in every life when strength is not enough.
Connections are not enough.
Money is not enough.
Knowledge is not enough.

There comes a moment when all your titles, influence, and resources collapse under the weight of reality — and you are left with one desperate prayer:

“God, I need You now.”

This is not a story about religion.
It is a story about desperation.
It is a story about trust.
It is a story about faith that moves before the miracle appears.

And above all, it is a story about a God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Chapter 1

When Desperation Knocks

There was a man of status. A royal official. A man of influence.
He had access to the best doctors.
The best treatments.
The best medicine money could buy.

But none of it worked.

His son was dying.

And nothing exposes human limitation like watching someone you love suffer.

Power feels useless.
Wealth feels hollow.
Control evaporates.

It is Well

Desperation has a way of stripping titles and revealing truth.

He did something unusual for a man of authority:

He went to ask for help.

Not command.

Not negotiate.

Not instruct.

He pleaded.

That word matters.

Because desperation humbles us.

Desperation is not weakness — it is often the doorway to divine encounter.

He had heard that Jesus was nearby. And in his heart he must have thought:

If there is any hope left... it is there.

How often do we do the opposite?

We try everything first.

We exhaust our options.

We rely on ourselves.

And only when we have nothing left do we turn upward.

But here is the truth:

He should not be your last resort.

He was always meant to be your first response.

Chapter 2

The Crowd and the Crisis

When the official approached Jesus, people were watching.

Crowds love spectacle.

Crowds love signs.

Crowds love something impressive.

But Jesus saw something deeper.

It is Well

He saw a father in agony.

And He exposed something uncomfortable:

Many people were interested in the miracle.

Few were interested in the heart.

It is possible to follow for excitement and miss the encounter.

It is possible to want the blessing and ignore the relationship.

It is possible to seek signs and miss the Savior.

When pain is entertainment to others, it is intimacy to God.

The official did not care about spectacle.

He cared about his son.

“Please come before my child dies.”

There is no theology debate in that sentence.

No polished speech.

No religious vocabulary.

Just raw need.

And heaven responds to raw need.

Chapter 3

The Word That Travels Without Moving

Here is where the story shifts.

The father expected Jesus to come physically to his house.

Instead, he received something far more powerful.

“Go. Your son will live.”

No touch.

No visible action.

No dramatic scene.

Just a word.

And this is the moment that defines faith.

Because faith begins where sight ends.

The man had two choices:

1. Demand proof.
2. Walk home trusting the word.

He chose to walk.

Faith walks home before the miracle arrives.

That journey must have felt long.

Every step between promise and proof is a test.

“What if nothing changes?”

“What if I misunderstood?”

“What if I believed too soon?”

But he kept walking.

Because belief is not emotion — it is decision.

Chapter 4

The Delay That Tests Trust

The miracle did not appear instantly before his eyes.

He discovered the healing the next day.

And this is where many lose heart.

We want instant results.

Immediate answers.

Visible evidence.

But most of life with God is lived in the space between promise and manifestation.

The space between prayer and answer is where faith matures.

Does God still perform miracles?

Yes.

Does He always do it the way we expect?

No.

Does He always do it in our timing?

No.

Does He remain faithful even when we do not understand?

Absolutely.

There are promises that will not be fully understood in this lifetime.

There are answers that may only make sense from eternity.

Trust does not require explanation.

Trust requires surrender.

Chapter 5

Why We Wait Too Long to Turn to Him

Why do we often make God our last option instead of our first?

1. Pride

“I can handle this.”

Pride whispers independence.

Faith whispers dependence.

2. Shame

“I messed this up.”

We think we must fix what we broke before approaching Him.

But healing does not begin with perfection — it begins with confession.

3. Fear

“If I surrender this, what will happen?”

We fear exposure.

We fear vulnerability.

Yet the One we hesitate to approach already knows everything.

And still invites us closer.

He is not intimidated by your mess. He is moved by your trust.

Chapter 6

Faith Before Outcome

When the servants met the father on the road and said, “Your son lives,” he asked the time.

It was the exact hour the word was spoken.

The miracle happened when the promise was released — not when it was verified.

This changes everything.

The miracle begins when the Word is spoken, not when the evidence appears.

And something even greater happened.

Not only did the son live.

The entire household believed.

One man’s desperation became a family’s transformation.

One act of faith became generational impact.

Chapter 7

“It Is Well” Before It Feels Well

There is a line that echoes through faith:

“It is well with my soul.”

Notice something profound:

It does not say, “It is easy.”

It does not say, “It makes sense.”

It does not say, “It feels good.”

It says, “It is well.”

Peace is not the absence of storms.

Peace is the presence of trust.

Peace is not found in control — it is found in surrender.

When you stand on faithfulness instead of feelings, your soul stabilizes.

When you trust the character of God more than your circumstances, you anchor yourself in something eternal.

Chapter 8

The Same God

The God who answered before still answers now.

The God who healed then still heals now.

The God who provided then still provides now.

He does not change.

What changes is our willingness to trust.

When life shakes you, stand on faithfulness.

When anxiety rises, declare your need.

When fear speaks, answer with surrender.

“Oh God, I need You now.”

That prayer is not weakness.

It is strength redirected.

Final Reflection

What desperation are you carrying alone?

What promise do you need to trust?

What step of faith must you take before the outcome is visible?

You may not see the miracle yet.

It is Well

But if He has spoken, you can walk.

And when you walk in trust, you discover something deeper than resolution:

You discover peace.

And sometimes the greatest miracle is not the healing of the situation —

It is the healing of the soul.

**When you trust before you see, your soul learns to say:
“It is well.”**

It is Well