

The Day I Saved my Father ... and the Day My Father Saved Me!

By Norman Mathews

Hello, my name is Norman Mathews from Eau Claire, WI. As a young man I was raised in the Daggett, MI area. My parents were Dale and Doris Mathews. I later returned to the area during 1963 – 1969 as a floundering alcoholic. Like many people from the area back in the 1950s we worked in the woods, cutting and skidding poplar to sell. When I was 14 years old, I had one of the strangest ordeals of my life. Little did I know that this same type of supernatural experience would occur to me in a different way later on in life!

Let me tell you about the first experience ... I was 14 years of age and working with my father, Dale Mathews in the woods. My father was skidding wood and the dray got caught on a stump causing the tractor to tip over. When my father landed head-first into a tree, his head was split wide open and blood was gushing out. Immediately my senses and surroundings turned into a combination of both a slow motion and fast motion experience. On one hand, everything appeared in slow motion, and I could sense everything around me in a way that I had never experienced before. On the other hand, everything appeared in fast motion where time sped up in an incredible manner. What happened in those few seconds would be an experience I will never forget. I immediately cradled my father in my arms and ran down the hill and through the swamp a ½ mile to our house, all within what appeared to be less than a second in time. It was that slow-motion and fast-motion experience that made everything appear as if only 1-second in time had passed between the incident and running the ½ mile home. When I got home, my mother and I drove him to Dr. Heidenreich's office, where his head was stitched-up. Dr. Heidenreich stated that if we would have gotten him there this quickly, he would have bled to death.

In this experience it was clear that my action saved my father's life, but I did not understand what had taken place. I described the experience to Dr. Heidenreich, and he stated that it was an 'adrenaline' rush that allowed this experience to occur. For years I had forgotten about the feeling that I experienced that day. However, this past year I heard someone describe an experience called a '**Quickening**' experience. A quickening experience is when the presence of the Holy Spirit 'quickens' a person and their surroundings, and suddenly the awareness of 'time' feels as if it is non-existent, or where slow-motion and fast-motion is occurring at the same time. This type of experience also occurred when Jesus Christ died on the cross. If you look in Matthew 27:45-56, you will find that when Jesus died, the entire surroundings in time changed. The Bible states that it became dark for three hours, there was an earthquake, and some dead people rose from their graves and walked into Jerusalem. Within a split second of time, things were potentially fast-motion, slow-motion, and even reversed inasmuch that people who were dead were now alive again. This is not hard to fathom when you consider that Jesus was being quickened from this earthly life to His eternal home. During that quickening moment all of heaven and earth were shaken. Romans 8:11 shares that this quickening experience does happen to people by saying "*But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in*

you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

This awareness of the power of the Holy Spirit brings me to my second supernatural experience which is a more ongoing and progressive experience that has occurred over a 30-year period of time. Through Christ's love I have been eternally saved, been healed of colon cancer, delivered through triple bi-pass surgery, and spared on numerous other occasions.

For 25 years I was a hopeless alcoholic and a very angry person like many other people in the Wisconsin and Upper Peninsula area. Yes, I worked hard, raised my seven children, and have been married for 53 years; but deep within I was an eternally dead man who was pushing his way through life. At this juncture in my life I can now see a critical comparison ... 'just as my father back in the woods was a dead man without my 'quickenning experience,' I was also a dead man without a 'quickenning experience' occurring in my life. The quickening experience with my father allowed me to redeem enough time to get him to the Doctor's office before he bled to death; and the quickening experience from my heavenly Father (God) through the Holy Spirit allowed me to redeem the lost years of time.

Possibly you are like I was; you drink, get angry, are bitter and have no eternal hope. If this is you, this is the reason for this story. As my brother-in-law Jimmy LaCass told me one day... "Norman, if a drunk like you can quit drinking, anyone can quit drinking." In the most basic sense he was right, but he did not know the secret of my changed life. My life changed through my heavenly Father saving me by accepting the transforming power of His son Jesus Christ. Christ shined his light into my life, which allowed me to see that Jesus Christ died for a mean alcoholic like me. His light was powerful and transforming and quickened my life from its dead nature. My life was quickened, and just as I saved my Father's life, my heavenly father saved my life. In both cases the quickening experience redeemed the time that was lost. I had lost many years to the power of alcohol, and God wanted to redeem these lost years. I can now thank God for the redemptive process.

If you or someone you know is under the power of some ungodly influence, I would like you to know that you can experience this same quickening (redeeming) of time experience by accepting Jesus into your heart. Below are the three simple steps to do this. If you would like to email me please send an email to Norman.Mathews@focusonheaven.com, or if you want to read my full testimony online including the experience of colon cancer, triple-bypass surgery, or my thanksgiving to God please visit <http://www.focusonheaven.com/redemptioncenter.html>

At this point in the story I would like to extend an offer of forgiveness to anyone who I have wronged in my past. I have learned that all healings and blessings begin on our knees where God can meet us and give us answer to all our prayers. If you have had a similar experiences like I did, I would love to hear from you.

The ABC's of Salvation - *know God and be ready for heaven, and redeem your lost years follow these steps:*

A. Admit you are a sinner.

"There is no one righteous, not even one ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:10,23. (See Romans 5:8; 6:23.)

Ask God's forgiveness.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

B. Believe in Jesus

(put your trust in Him) as your only hope of salvation.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (See John 14:6.)

Become a child of God by receiving Christ.

"To all who receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 (See Revelation 3:20.)

C. Confess that Jesus is your Lord.

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 (See verse 10.)