



BREAKTHROUGH FAITH PART 2

Revival | 2.8.26

Libin Abraham

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Libin Abraham 0:00

Hey, last week, we began looking at Second Kings chapter four, at the story of Elisha and the Shunammite women. And I'm sorry I left she kind of on a cliffhanger. And I did think about just starting a whole new series today and not even going back to finish it, but I thought that might be a little cruel, but we are looking in this two part message about what does breakthrough faith look like. Breakthrough faith is part of that breakthrough you curve we've been looking at. And breakthrough faith is when you have absolute confidence in who God is, regardless of what God chooses to do, a confidence in the who who he is, even when what he chooses to do, kind of is unsettling. We trust in who he is. So there's this woman in the town of shunem. She's described to us as a prominent woman. Likely, she is influential and even wealthy. But in the story, what's noteworthy about our life is that she is generous. She notices that Elisha, the Prophet, travels by her town and her home often, so she builds an upper room for the prophet of God so that anytime he's in town, he can stay and rest and eat at their house. Elisha wants to repay this woman for her kindness and promises her that she will have a son in a year. And usually when, especially in ancient times, when you receive that kind of news, you receive it with joy and excitement, but not her. She receives it with skepticism and suspicion, and in fact, she tells the Prophet, don't lie to me, Don't mislead me. Because that had been once a prayer for her. Once it used to be a dream and a hope for her, but now she had settled into living with that disappointment that she believed will mark the rest of her life. God is so gracious and so unkind that he does give her a son. So she has a son, he grows up, and sometime in the year, between five to 10 years of age. For this child, he's out in the fields working with his dad. Gets a headache. The dad carries this boy back to his mom, and this child, this boy, dies in her lap. So he was fine in the morning, and by noon he dies. Well, the faith of this woman is remarkable. She does not go into a loop of despair, but rather she presses in, and she believes that God can do something, even with her dead child. So instead of planning a burial, she runs upstairs to the room that she had made for the prophet, and she lays her boy there. She closes the room and she leaves. So the first thing we found out about her breakthrough faith is simply that breakthrough faith does not deny reality. It refuses to finalize it. She knows that if her neighbors find out, even if her husband finds out, they're going to bury this child, and she is just not ready to finalize his death, so she leaves him in the room and she goes to run to look for a prophet. What's true about her story is that the Shunammite woman plans for a resurrection instead of burying her, instead of planning for a burial, she plans for his resurrection. She saddles her donkey and goes to the prophet of God. In an Old Covenant, if you wanted to present your tragedy to God, your need, your heartache, to God, you found a prophet, or you found a priest, and they would go to God on your behalf. So her journeying to the prophet Elisha is a statement of breakthrough faith, which means that in our breakthrough faith, we run toward God when hope is disappointed. And you know what it looks like and feels like when hope has been disappointed, when a dream has come crashing down, a vision, even a ministry you held dearly to has ended. We talked about how oftentimes disappointment is a crossroads for faith, and at this crossroad for faith, we can choose either to pursue or to retreat. Two options available for all of us, in our pain, in our doubt, in our anguish. But this Shunammite woman, she chooses the path of pursuit. She runs to God by running to the Prophet. And where we left off, we are at the scene where she comes to Elisha Gehazi. Her the servant of the Prophet, tries to pry her away, push her away, but she presses in, and she breaks decorum and she clings to the feet of the Prophet with her anguish and her pain being poured out. If last week, the emphasis was on her breakthrough faith, today, I want to lean in, because even the prophet of God had to have breakthrough faith for what God was going to do. So here's the third part that describes the breakthrough faith in the text that breakthrough faith is persistent when results are delayed, there is this nature of persistence about this kind of faith, even when the results you hope for are delayed, and could even seem like it's been delayed denied. Right. So the text goes on in Second Kings, four verse, 29 onwards, to say, Elisha said to Gehazi, tuck your mantle under your belt, take my staff with you and go. If you meet

anyone, don't stop to greet him. And if a man greets you, don't answer him. Then place my staff on the boy's face. This is what Elisha believes will resurrect this child. Now, Elisha didn't pray about this. He didn't consult God. He, I think, responded in a human instinct and sends His servant with a staff. Perhaps he remembers the story of how God used the staff of Moses to do miracles in Egypt. Or maybe he remembers watching Elijah, his mentor, take off the mantle, off his back, the clothing off his back, and strike the Jordan River, and the river splits. So he's thinking, Well, God, can just use my staff, so let me send the servant, but it ain't going to work this time. It's amazing that the shunammah woman kind of has a sense that it's not going to work, because the boy's mother said to Elisha, as the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you. So he got up and followed her. Gehazi went ahead of them and placed the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or sign of life. So he went back to meet Elisha and told him, the boy didn't wake up. The boy didn't wake up, the miracle didn't happen. Well, this failure of this attempt in wanting to raise his boy is actually not a mistake in the story. I think it's actually part of the message of the story. I think one of the things that is saying to us that a breakthrough, a miracle, even a resurrection, it's not simply mechanical. There are some people who believe man, if I can just say the right words in the right order, that's when God hears my prayer, or if I can face a certain direction, or hold a rosary or hold a certain crucifix the right way, if I can just do these things, that's when God hears my prayer. But the truth is, God does not perform miracles or bring breakthrough because of objects or rituals or traditions. Miracles happen because of the presence of the living God, that's how miracles happen. It is a relationship with Him that leads to breakthrough and the works of God in our life. But the other thing that this text is showing us is that reviving faith cannot be outsourced or delegated. It can't be outsourced to someone else. Elisha sends the servant, and it doesn't work. Why? Because the servant doesn't have the relationship with God that Elisha has heard it said that God doesn't have kids, doesn't have grandkids. He only has kids because we can't go to God on behalf of someone else's faith, your parents' faith, or grandparents or your church's faith. No, no for God to do a deep work in you and through it requires a relationship you have with him, so God was not going to work through a person who didn't have the same relationship that Elisha had. Think it's interesting also, there's something about character and compassion that Gehazi lacked. We saw earlier that he is trying to push the woman away from Elisha, and in the next chapter, in chapter five, we realize that Gehazi is a greedy man. He tries to get from he gets from Naaman, like wealth and clothing that Elisha had refused and God was not going to bless his lack of character. He carries the staff of Elisha, but he doesn't carry the compassion and the character that God would bless to do this miracle. So here it seems like the miracle just may not happen, but what we find out in the story is that delayed results do not mean divine absence. It seems delayed, but it is not denied. It seems like God is absent, but he actually is still at work in the brokenness of the story.

Libin Abraham 9:21

Sometime last year, we got to take our kids to Japan, and one of our most fun adventures in Japan was right in the subway system with our kiddos. We just took Avery and Liam. It's a little older to do that, and now, if you haven't been to the subway system in Japan, it's super clean, it's very quiet. There's 1000s of people on it, but no one says anything. No one's on their phone, everything's on time. It's incredibly quiet and clean, which is completely foreign to us as Americans. So experience that kind of a subway system, okay? But part of the system is you wait like, just like any subway system, you wait for the train to approach, and sometimes when you're in on the platform and you're waiting, and here I am, we're waiting for train. Trains, and I'm just trying to make sure my squirmy six show doesn't cross the line and fall into the track. But you're waiting, and when you're waiting at the subway system, everything is silent, there's no lights, there's no rumbling, no noise. And the waiting means either the train has left or the train is coming, and sometimes you don't know which one it is. And my instinct, usually, when I'm waiting on a platform like that, is, man, maybe I've missed it. It seems so silent. Maybe we've missed the train. But then just a few minutes in, like the silence breaks and there is this, this rush of wind as this train approaches, and you see from a distance the glimmering, glimmering lights of the train, and you feel the sound and everything that was once quiet comes alive. And the silence was not because of its absence. It was actually due to its approaching. And sometimes when we wait on God, it feels like that when prayers haven't been heard when nothing has actually changed. And you wonder, has God left? Did he miss did we miss it? But what if Heaven's silence is not the absence of God, but it's the approaching of God. It is His coming into our life, coming into our story. There were 400 years of silence right before the New Testament, where people felt like maybe God has abandoned us and left us. But in all those years, God was at work behind the scenes, and it was not a sign of absence, it was a sign of his approaching. So hang on to faith when it feels quiet and you feel the silence of God. And here the results were delayed, but it was not denied. And so verse 32 Elisha presses in. But Elisha got to the house, he discovered the boy lying dead on his bed, so he went in, closed the door behind the two of them. I think that's interesting. If you're alone in a room with a dead body, how many of you are there? I'm usually going to say one, but here it's not one, it's two. I think that even it's inviting us to a kind of faith. What do we view our circumstance as? And the writer said, look, there was two of them in this room, Elisha and the dead child. So the two of

them. And he prayed to the Lord, and he went up and lay on the boy. Notice how he did it. He put mouth to mouth, eye to eye, hand to hand, while he bent over him, the boy's flesh became warm. Elisha God up and went into the house and paced back and forth, back and forth. Last week, we saw how the Shunammite woman, she broke protocol and decorum by clinging to the Prophet's feet. And here, even Elisha breaks protocol. What does he do? He lays on a dead body, on a corpse, which would have been considered for a prophet unclean. But don't you know that sometimes Desperate times call for desperate measures, and you do some things out of the ordinary, because you're so desperate for God to move. And here Elijah Elisha, is hoping that the life in him could reactivate the life in this child, so he overlays his body with that of the corpse, hand to hand, eye to eye, and mouth to mouth. He tried the delegation route. He tried the outsourcing route. It didn't work, because breakthrough requires incarnation. It requires our presence and our proximity to that which is broken. And this picture of Elisha on this dead body is actually a picture of how the church should live in this broken world. We don't disengage from it. We don't distance ourselves from it. We get as close as we can with the life of Christ in us, and we engage with the brokenness, with everything in us. We contend in prayer. We engage in relationships with the brokenness of the world, asking God to move because church, we are the incarnate presence of God now in the world. And breakthrough requires proximity and presence and understanding and conversation, and that is how God works through our life. So Elisha lays himself on this child. The boy warms up, but he does not get up, and as warm as his body is, it's still dead. So what does Elisha do? He paces back and forth, back and forth. What that tells us is the breakthrough of faith presses in, even when obedience seems ineffective, even when you're doing what God has called you to do. And. And things aren't coming alive. Breakthrough Faith says, I'm going to keep leaning in, pressing in. I'm not yet giving up. This is what Elisha does. He paces back and forth. He's contending in prayer. He's asking God to do what he physically cannot do. He is pleading with God. He has nowhere else to go, so he paces back and forth asking God to raise this child to life. I want you to imagine this room, all the stuff that's happened in this room, this amazing woman. She built this room for the Prophet to sleep in and rest in, but her act of kindness is now a waiting room of tragedy. She never imagined that this house she will build to serve a servant of God would actually be the very Room The Room that she built would be the very room that she would have to lay her dead son. Inhizi has come into the room and laid the staff of Elisha, and nothing happened. Elisha has entered this room and put his body on this dead child, and still nothing is happening. It would be very reasonable and logical to just abandon the room, to leave it and to conclude to yourself, God's presence is now there it is. Final, nothing is going to happen in this room. And yet what Elisha does is he paces back and forth, but he refuses to leave the room. He enters in the room with faith again. So can I just ask you, what room have you left that maybe you are called to re enter? What room of pain or disappointment or unanswered prayer or a calling of ministry have you left? And maybe right now today, online in this room, you were at the doorway, leaving a room, a room you had hopes in and believed in and you were on the way out. But maybe God is just building faith in you to say, what if I re entered it just one more time? What if I just believed in it once again, prayed for it once again? Yes, the marriage feels fragile. But what if we begin to contend in prayer together? Yes, the healing may have not yet come, but what if we didn't give up on it? What if, yes, the world feels broken, and even our country can feel divided. But what if we, as people of faith, just believe that we are unwilling to leave the rooms we are called into that we're going to believe in prayer, believe in healing, believe in Unity. Revivals happened because there was at least one or two people who refused to leave the room. They stayed in Broken Places and disappointing times and in dark times through history, and they prayed, believing God for a miracle. So pace back and forth if you need to but we enter the room with faith and hope in mind, and that's what Elisha does. He paces back and forth, and he comes back into the room and notice what happens. Then he went up and bent down over him again. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Can we just say an Amen? What a beautiful moment in the story. He sneezed seven times. I don't know if he just woke up with allergies or what, but he sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Elisha called Gehazi and said, call the Shunammite woman. He called her and she came. Then Elisha said, Pick up your son. She came, fell at his feet and bowed down to the ground. She picked up her son and she left. Last week, she was at the feet of the Prophet in anguish and in pain, but today, at the end of the story, she is yes again on her knees in front of the Prophet, but not in anguish and in pain, but in gratitude and wonder and awe, because she has seen the power of God coming through, through the tragedy, through the delay, through the waiting, through the delay That seemed like denial.

Libin Abraham 19:20

She experienced the resurrection power of God, and she picked up her son and left. When we read passages like this, it inspires us. It encourages us, and sometimes it can trouble us. The last 50 years of our church, let me tell you, we have prayed for so many miracles, and many of those God did. God has answered miraculously prayers we've prayed. I'm even hearing reports of just in our last Thursday night prayer backs were healed, supernatural things happened. And there have also been a lot of prayers for miracles that God did not answer as we had hoped. He answered it differently. We prayed and

they didn't come back to life. The sickness wasn't healed as we imagined. Just last week, we did a funeral for a 30 year old sister in our church who died in a tragic car accident, leaving her husband and 15 month old child behind. I prayed that she would get out of that ICU room, but God called her home. But even in the midst of all of that breakthrough, faith is a confidence in who God is, regardless of what he chooses to do. Breakthrough Faith says, I know who he is. I know what he is capable of. And I can't tell you when God's going to do a miracle on this side of eternity or when he will do that miracle on the other side of eternity, but what I can tell you is that he is the same yesterday, today and forever. He hasn't changed. He has power to even raise the dead. So I don't know what God's going to do, but I'm always going to believe for him to do the impossible, because he is who he said he is, and at the same time, if he chooses to answer in a way that different than what we had hoped. We are okay with that. We trust that that is better, because he is always good. He is always faith. It's a breakthrough. Faith really does believe that I trust in who he is, even when he does something different than what we might have chosen. That is the deep, abiding trust we have in the character and goodness of God. But ultimately, can I just tell you that this story isn't just for us to stand in amazement of Elisha, even the Shunammite woman and this child who has been raised this story points us to the ultimate story and the ultimate miracle of how God raises us to life in him. That's the great miracle that this points us to break through faith is an abiding trust in our resurrected Savior who resurrects us. It's about him. Let me just draw a few contrasts for you. Elisha stretched out himself, stretched himself over one dead child, but Jesus on the cross, he would stretch himself to give life to the world. There on the cross, there Jesus is with arms stretched wide, not just to save one child, but to give life to humanity, he would die for the sins of all human beings, and then he would be buried in the grave, and three days later he would rise again. And because Jesus rose from the dead, one day, we too will be risen with him. So that means our story doesn't end with sickness, our story doesn't end with death. Our story doesn't end with a funeral. There is a resurrection waiting for every believer in Jesus, amen. That is our hope, and that is going to be the end of our story. Elisha's miracle was temporary, because this child, who was raised would die again, but Jesus entered death to defeat it eternally. Those who have died in Christ and are now raised in Jesus, they will never face death again. They will experience life forever, unhindered. So this miracle of Jesus is permanent and it is eternal. Elisha prayed for resurrection. Jesus is resurrection. He would say, I am the life. I am the resurrection. Whoever will believe in me, though they die, they will rise again, because he is resurrection. Elisha proves what God can do. Jesus proves who God is. When he rose from the dead, he was proving to us that he is who he said, he is that he is the resurrection. He is God. And what is true of us in what he said that is ultimate truth and ultimate reality, Elisha restored a dead son to his mother. Jesus restores lost sons and daughters to the Father. Can I just tell you you don't have to wait for your physical resurrection. To do that, you don't have to wait for heaven. That can happen now. And for those in Christ, that has already happened, we've experienced a spiritual resurrection. It's why N T writes, he describes our physical resurrection as simply life after life after death, because we've already experienced life after death, which is we who were dead spiritually, have experienced new life in Christ, and that is the truth for all of us. And here's the last thing, Elisha gives us a glimpse of the resurrection. Jesus guarantees it for you and for me, he guarantees our resurrection. That's the end of the story all of us are. Moving towards our ultimate resurrection from the dead. If Jesus tarries, I tell families at funeral services, I do look that plot of ground that you're burying your child or spouse or parent or loved one in, ultimately, that's not a burial site. That is a resurrection sight. That's a resurrection sight, because when the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and he returns those who died in Christ will rise first. And I believe, in a beautiful, visible way, perhaps even from there. So next time you visit your loved one at a great slaughter, you think about those who have died. Imagine with faith their resurrection. That's breakthrough faith, refusing to believe that their life has ended. But actually, the story continues with resurrection in mind. This lady receives back her dead. But the story doesn't end there. It doesn't end with her picking up her son and leaving it actually continues in four chapters later, we find out that breakthrough faith becomes a public witness to awaken trust in others. So far, all that's happened has been private. I mean, she saddles the donkey when no one knows where she's going, she gets to Elisha. No one sees her. She's there alone. She is clinging in anguish. Then she comes back, and Elisha raises this child in a private room. But there is a public way that God gets the glory out of this. So four chapters later, we actually see the end of the story. We finish the arc of where the story is headed. So notice, with me in Second Kings chapter eight, we're not going to dive into a deep end. We're going to just read you what happens four chapters later. That might be part three later coming on sometime from this text. But here's what happens four chapters later. Second Kings eight Elisha said to the woman, the same woman whose son he had restored to life, get ready you and your household and go live as a resident alien wherever you can. For the Lord has announced a seven year famine, and it has already come to the land. So the woman got ready and did what the man of God said. She and her household lived as a resident, as resident aliens in the land of the Philistines for seven years. When the woman returned from the land of the Philistines, at the end of the seven years, she went to appeal to the king. Remember, Elisha, when you first started the story in chapter four, he was saying to her, What can I say on behalf of you to the king? And she didn't need anything. But now, seven years later, when she comes back to her land, she needed

to go to the king and make an appeal for her house and field. The king had been speaking. So while she was gone, they had sold her house, sold her field. The king had been speaking to Gehazi, the attendant of the man of God, saying, Tell me all the great things Elisha has done. And while he was telling the king how Elisha restored the dead son to life, the woman whose son he had restored to life came to appeal to the king for her house and field. So Gehazi said, my lord the king, this is the woman, and this is a son, Elisha, restored to life. When the king asked the woman, she told him the story. She told him the story. So the king appointed a court official for her, saying, restore all that was hers, along with all the income from the field from the day she left the country until now. That's the end of this amazing story. So many things in this but here's three things I want to leave you with. God often uses what he revives in private. He often uses in public the faith she had in private to keep pressing in when it seemed hopeless and helpless.

Libin Abraham 29:11

That faith she contended with breakthrough faith. I'm going to believe that perhaps God can do something. I'm not going to bury him just yet. I'm going to lay him in the room. I'm going to go to God, go to the Prophet. God used what happened in private to bring public glory, to awaken trust in this king who needed to be reminded of the greatness of God. God used what happened in private to get public glory. Second of all, God times our testimony for maximum impact, as Gehazi is talking to the king about her there she is. Just happened to stroll in with our son. The timing was so right, his heart was ready to hear her story. And can I just tell you, just like God timed her story? God times your story to be told when the heart of a friend or a boss or a co worker is just right, and there is going to be that moment they say to you, tell me your story. Tell me what God did, tell me how you came through the thick and the darkness and the horrible things that have happened. Tell me your story. And there will be the moment that God times your testimony. Why? Because revival spreads when resurrection stories are told. That's how revival spreads when resurrection stories are told. And maybe you're thinking, Man, look, I don't have that kind of a story where a physical life was resurrected, but, oh, can I tell you you have even a greater story, because we were all once dead in our sins, but we have been made alive because of the gospel of Jesus. Christ. We were once enemies to God, but now we are children of God. We were once foreigners and aliens to the promises of God, but we are one family in Christ. That is the great story of the ultimate resurrection, our hearts that have been made alive to Jesus, and that story must be told. Amen. It is God using what's happened in private to get glory in public, and you have a story of resurrection life in you. Today, I want to end the sermon with one of those stories from our church members. So I want to invite up on stage with me Jason and Michelle Frazier to tell their story of how God met them in tragedy and how God brought life and purpose. And today, I'm excited for you to hear their stories. Would you welcome on stage? Jason and Michelle Frazier, welcome. Have a seat. What a joy to be with you today, and to tell a little bit of your story. I love your family. You have a beautiful family with two amazing kids and chase and in Jaden faith, and then nine years ago, when you were doing what you were always doing on Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving Day, everything changed for you. So Jason, would you start us off and just tell us what happened nine years ago? You bet?

Speaker 1 32:11

Can you all hear me? Hello. All right, awesome. Hi everybody. I'm Jason. This my awesome wife, Michelle. Jason is in Chicago. He's my 25 year old and my daughter, Jaden faith is right here, my beautiful angel, 21 year old, best friend. So you're asking me to distill down a lot into two minutes, and she's got a little more. So I'm gonna do my best. Brevity is not my forte. But anyway, so yeah, we were downtown feeding the homeless on Thanksgiving Day, that's 2016 my daughter was 12 at the time, nine plus years ago. This is a happy story, because she's here with us, and at the nine o'clock she wasn't here. But as you can see, things things that looked grave, they can turn around. So we were downtown, feeding the homeless. And we were driving home, coming up the tollway. She was with one of her best friends that she danced with, and they wanted to go by and see Booker T Washington, which is a performing arts school in downtown Dallas. They intended to go to fun. Fact is that the girl we were writing with now dances at Juilliard. So she did, she did fulfill some dance dreams. Is pretty incredible. But we were driving home, we got rear ended. We were in a sedan got rear ended, and at that point, my seat collapsed backward into hers. My son was riding shotgun. Same thing, his collapsed backward into Michelle. The problem was she's just under five foot tall, and at that same time that my seat collapsed rearward into her head, it split her skull open. I was concussed. They took me out in a separate ambulance, and truly, I was probably concussed for a week, but I was it's all very blurry back then, they took Jaden faith to Children's Medical Center, but at the point when they loaded me into the ambulance, my wife into another ambulance, she was dead on the side of the road, no light, no life, no pulse, no nothing. And the chief of fire, a guy named Chief Springer, is a dear friend of mine today for Dallas fire, and he corroborated that story. Those those gentlemen were extremely shaken up to see her lifeless and put into an ambulance on Thanksgiving Day. So it's just hard, on a number of levels, for people to wrap their brain around what, what Jesus is doing. And I'd like to

tell this is of me being a hero story, but really, this is a Jesus being a hero story, because I got taken off in an ambulance, and that was the end of my story, really. But that's when my wife became the hero, and she is a hero, and she can probably take the story from here. And I'm thankful for how Jesus moved in you from that period onward, when I. I both lacked faith and wasn't feel didn't feel strong enough. She was prepared that day, and she was strong. And is strong so

Libin Abraham 35:12

Jaden faith before the accidents. She's lively. She's excited about life. She's hurt. Her dad loves dance, and so, you have this future dream all of that

Speaker 1 35:23

the Juilliard girl right there, and she's behind her. That is the day of the accident we were downtown feeding the homeless at the SM right foundation. And many of you might know SM right. He's a dear friend and runs an incredible outreach in South Dallas. So that's my crazy kid.

Libin Abraham 35:42

And so you're rear ended. Jason gets taken to a different hospital in Michelle Parkland Hospital. Yes, parkland, and you're now with Jay Fay. Tell us that journey to the hospital, what happened in the hospital, and really how Jesus met you in front of a mirror there. And so just tell us that journey.

Speaker 2 35:59

Well, I related so much to the way you shared the story last week, the Bible story of the woman and the lifeless child. And I just came up to you at the end and said, Oh my gosh, this is I can feel this. And so what happened was Jason, as he said, he went off to Parkland. I just left everybody in the rear view mirror. I just loaded into the Amy. I didn't know what was going on with him. I left my son on the side of the road. I just went with her, and they bring her in. I didn't know we, none of us, knew that she was without life on the side of the road. Just figured she was going to be okay, hoping. But they brought her in, and I they put me into a separate room, so a little room in the ER by myself. And I remember asking one of the nurses, I said, Do you have a restroom that I could use? And I went in the bathroom, and I was covered in her blood. And when I arrived, they were like, Let's check you out and make sure I said, it's not my blood. You know, it's not I'm fine. And I just remember looking in the mirror and just and it really was a crossroads. I mean, I felt that really strongly on my heart, like this is a moment that I am either going to lean in and pursue God and have faith, or I am going to be devoured by fear. And I just thought in that, I mean, I remember kind of even asking God, just saying, Okay, God, I am here like I know what I believe, and I'm going to trust and fully surrender. And I think I told you this living that I don't even remember praying, please, God save her life. I just remember praying like, let me surrender and just be okay with trusting you and have faith and and you know, that night they, you know, they, they worked on her, the doctor came and said, it's very grave. And I was like, That's a weird that's a bad word to tell somebody Yeah. And, and she said, I need you to sign to have a procedure done in the ER. And I said, Well, you know, I'm without my partner. I don't, I don't make decisions without him. And I said, Well, is it the best? She said, it's the best and the only, well, here I go. You know, I'm signing away. And so in the in then we moved to the ICU, and we've got, you know, my friend here, my best friend is here, Tana, and she was, she was with me that night, and she said it was strange, in retrospect, that you were so calm and so peaceful and almost weirdly, you know. And I'm sure I was in shock a little bit, but I also feel like the Holy Spirit was just enveloping me in peace, you know. And just I people would say, are you okay? I'm like, I'm I'm fine. You know, I know this is not in my hands anymore. It is in God's hands. He she was never ours. She is his. And this is a moment that, you know, I don't have control over.

Libin Abraham 39:20

Tell us about when the chaplain came in. Oh yes, yeah, I forgot that part.

Speaker 2 39:24

So when I was in the ER, in the little, tiny room, and I was by myself, as I said, you know, the chaplain comes walking in, and I remember saying, Oh no, no, chaplain's not good, yeah. And he said, I'm only here to pray with you if you want to pray. I'm here to just be with you. You're by yourself. So he thought

Libin Abraham 39:47

he was coming to finalize what had happened, and you just refused to finalize your reality in that moment.

Speaker 2 39:53

And that's another that's another thing I really related to, the woman is no this. Is, I don't I am not going to accept that this is final.

Libin Abraham 40:04

So you're there in the hospital, and so much is happening for both of you. You're in a different hospital. J Faith is going through so many procedures, and your dad, who's maybe not a super religious person, he has a vision, and it was one of the moments that God met you with a message, and so tell us about the vision that your dad had that gave you perspective for this moment.

Speaker 2 40:26

I thought about this after I told this story this morning at the nine o'clock that we live in mystery, and you know, we don't know so much of what God's doing or what his plan is. And I felt like this was just a moment that the curtain was pulled back a little for me. So what happened was my dad, as I said, Jason, was in another hospital. I was alone. My dad came. My mom and dad came, and my dad said, I'm not leaving you, and I'm not leaving her. He said, I'm staying here. So he stayed with me that night. At three in the

Speaker 1 41:02

morning, broken hip too. It just on a cane and hobbling around,

Speaker 2 41:07

and they took her at three in the morning. They wanted to take her for a brain scan and our our and it's interesting that the boy passed around noon, because that's when our accident was. It was right around noon, so they wanted to take her. And I was like, Dad, I can't even walk. I can't even I can't do this. He said, I'm going with her. So he stayed with us the whole night. The next night, he goes home, and he sleeps at home, and he calls me the next morning and he says, You got to hear this. I had a dream. And he goes, Michelle, it was so real. He said that I dreamed that Jesus was rocking Jay Fay. He said, it's this big, you know, beautiful rocking chair. And he is, she is in his arms, and he said, she's not a baby. She's her 12 year old self. And they're rocking, and he's sort of telling her, Jay Fay, we have, you know, we, we have to make a choice, you know, together. And he said, and he kind of, he sort of, points in a direction, and it's clearly heaven, the way that my dad would interpret it, you know, it's beautiful. There's music. It's gorgeous. There's children playing. He said, You know, we can go down this path, or, you know, he said, there's another path. And he said, My dad said, it's obscured, you know, you can't see what's down there. And he said, this, this other way, will be hard. And what I can tell you is, I will be with you and your parents, your mommy and daddy, will be with you always, and they will help you. And she said to him, can I just rock for a while longer? She said, It's so warm here. And he says, As long as you need. And I just felt like that was my message that I needed through, you know, very unlikely source, honestly. And it, just like I said, it sort of pulled back the curtain a little bit, but what it gave me was a lot of hope and a belief that, you know, I think when things happen, especially with children or, you know, people that you love, that you just want to push against and say, This is wrong. This should not be happening to this angel. What did she do? You know? And it just was my message, I feel like, from God, just to say, everything is okay. It is all the way it's supposed to be, even if it feels that feels wrong. But I am in control. And we Jay Fay and Jesus, we are doing a thing.

Libin Abraham 43:54

You describe that as a co creative moment between Jesus and Jay Fay, of like, let's, let's enter back in this scene and stay here on earth. What an amazing picture of her purpose and mission. And I know for you, it wasn't like nine years ago, you had to hold on to faith, but every day you had to hold on to faith, and you were talking about even her middle name is Faith. So daily in the last nine years, you've been walking with faith even a year ago, like we're in the ICU together, not sure if she was going to come out. And so it's been a daily journey of trusting in Jesus, not sharing, not sure what the outcome will be, but knowing who he is. And so describe just what is the last nine years been like for you and have you've had to lean in to the presence of God, even in her active recovery right since then, tell us about that journey.

Speaker 1 44:39

I would describe it as all the feels up down, all around you, hit your knees, you cry, you doubt you believe you. It's it's

literally been a roller coaster. But I would say one of the larger lessons that I have learned, and that my daughter, my angel, continually shows all of us, is that. Ness is an inside game. It's just a choice that you make. Because I walk in often and see her giggling, laughing, smiling, enjoying when she's got every right in the world just to be mad, to be disgruntled, to be upset. It's between your ears, and she chooses that often and always and so for me to walk in the room and feel disgruntled or unhappy is just that doesn't seem right. I'm like, Oh my gosh, if you got this, then I got it too, you know. So she's just this little this, just this little character mentor for me, showing me that you can be joyful, Daddy. I'm doing it from inside my broken down body. I cannot walk talk, and I cannot move my arms and legs volitionally. However, I'm happy, Dad, I love this life, and you can too. And so that's it's just just incredible. I feel like this massive blessing that's come out of this. Other good things have happened. We've created a law with her name as part of the the bill that was moved forward to change seat backs and seat back safety. That's we're distilling a lot of stuff into a little bit of time here, but it's just been awesome, and God's in control. And every day we just look up and say, Thank you. Use us as a vessel. Breathe through this family and help us to make the world a bit better, and so that's what we try to do, is tell this story as often as possible, so it's really not painful. So we're thankful to every one of you that lifts us up and that has loved us through the process. Many of our friends are here today, and thank you. Thank you to all of you, and we love

Libin Abraham 46:37

Stuart the best story. Let's go praise God for that. I mean, let's just stop there and thank God you steward of the story and the pain to do good in the world. Every Monday you're on miracle Monday, talking about, here's a journey of faith, and what miracle looks like day to day, and the fact that she's here today, breathing and alive, that is a story of God's goodness and faithfulness. And she's right here. I don't know if you can see here, but she's right here. Hi, baby. And beauty and life and so, and I know you're praying for her to dance again and run again, not just an eternity, but even here. And we will be joining them, won't we will be joining you in your in your prayer. And so, Michelle, would you any last minute word, any last thoughts you want to just share with us?

Speaker 2 47:20

Well, I think that, you know, there's a surrender that is required every day to your calling. And you know, even though our calling looks a lot different than we thought it would, it is, it is, I believe the on this family, it's our it's our calling on our life, and that we just continue to surrender to that. You know, even I say that Jay Fay was going to make a big impact no matter what, but even without a voice, she has made such a bigger impact on so many more people that we could have ever imagined. So there is a beauty in God's plan.

Libin Abraham 47:58

Well, we hope this is a moment for some of you, like in Second Kings eight, or what God did in their life privately, that it awakens trust and faith in your life and for your story, whatever that might be. So could you help me? Thank Jason and Michelle and Jaden? Face once again. We love you all so much. Thank you. Thank you, brother. Thank you. Caleb, since last week, he's been working on a song with this message in mind and with today in mind. It's something God's been stirring up in his heart. And I don't know where you find yourself in this second Kings four story, you may be in the beginning of the story where you're in a loop of despair and you have given up hope. You may be freshly experiencing tragedy and you don't know what to do. You could be clinging at the feet of God, asking for a miracle, or maybe you're celebrating stories of resurrection and life. Wherever you are, our collective response is to cling to the cross of Jesus, to hold on to hope, because Jesus is holding on to us. So as we sing this song over you, and in just a moment, we're going to take communion, because that is our hope, and it's a remembrance that becomes a powerful weapon in the pain that we go through remembering the cross. So grab your communion elements. We're going to sing the song over you, and then we will take communion together. You.