

# EPHPHATHA

Be Open to Transformation



Radiant Reflections with Pastor Tamaris

5 - Day Devotional

Week of September 22, 2024

## Devotional Summary:

This five-day devotional, "Ephphatha: Open to Transformation," walks us through the healing story in Mark 7:31-37 and invites us to reflect on how Jesus desires to bring healing and transformation into our lives. From recognizing our needs to experiencing a personal encounter with Jesus, each day calls us to be open to His transforming power and to share that transformation with others. May you grow in openness to God's work and live a life that reflects His transformative grace.

### Day 1: Jesus Sees Our Need

**Scripture:** Mark 7:31-32

**Reflection:** In today's reading, we see a group of people bringing a man who was deaf and could hardly speak to Jesus, pleading with Him to heal him. Jesus immediately responds to their request with compassion. Jesus is always aware of our deepest needs and desires to bring healing and restoration into our lives. Just as He saw the need of the deaf man, He sees our needs too, even when we cannot fully express them.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for seeing me in my need. Help me to trust in Your compassion and care, knowing that You are aware of all that I am going through. Amen.

**Action Step:** Take time to reflect on an area of your life where you are in need of healing or transformation. Bring it before Jesus in prayer, trusting Him to see and respond to your need.

### Day 2: A Personal Encounter with Jesus

**Scripture:** Mark 7:33

**Reflection:** In this verse, we see that Jesus took the man away from the crowd and engaged with him personally. Healing often happens in the context of a personal encounter with Christ. Jesus does not work in a detached or distant manner but meets us individually, where we are. His desire is to connect with us personally, beyond the distractions of the crowd, and bring transformation in our lives.

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for taking time to meet with me personally. Help me to be open to the intimate ways You want to work in my life. Amen.

**Action Step:** Set aside time today to be alone with Jesus. In that quiet time, open your heart to Him and invite Him to speak and work personally in your life.

### Day 3: Ephphatha: Open to Transformation

**Scripture:** Mark 7:34

**Reflection:** Jesus looks up to heaven and says, "Ephphatha," which means "Be opened." With that command, the man's ears are opened, and his tongue is loosened. Jesus' word brings immediate transformation. The command to "be opened" goes beyond physical healing—it's an invitation for all of us to open our hearts, minds, and lives to the transforming work of Christ. Are you open to the ways Jesus wants to bring healing and change to your life?

**Prayer:** Lord, speak "Ephphatha" over my life. Open me to Your will and the changes You desire for me. Help me to be fully receptive to Your transforming power. Amen.

**Action Step:** Consider one area in your life where you need to "be opened" to God's transformation. Surrender that area to Him today, asking Him to speak life and renewal into it.

### Day 4: The Power of God's Word

**Scripture:** Mark 7:35

**Reflection:** Immediately after Jesus speaks the word "Ephphatha," the man's ears were opened, and he began to speak plainly. Jesus' word is powerful and effective. When He speaks, transformation happens. As we engage with Scripture, we encounter the living Word of God that has the power to change us. Just as the man's physical healing was instantaneous, spiritual transformation can also happen when we allow God's Word to penetrate our hearts.

**Prayer:** God, Your Word is powerful and life-changing. As I engage with Your Word today, may it open my heart and transform my life. Amen.

**Action Step:** Spend time reading a passage of Scripture today, asking God to open your heart to its meaning. Reflect on how His Word can transform your thoughts, actions, or relationships.

### Day 5: Sharing the Story of Transformation

**Scripture:** Mark 7:36-37

**Reflection:** Even though Jesus instructed the crowd not to tell anyone about the healing, they could not contain their amazement and shared what had happened. They were filled with awe at Jesus' power, saying, "He has done everything well." When we experience the transformative power of Christ in our lives, we are compelled to share that story with others. Our testimony becomes a way to glorify God and encourage others to seek transformation in Him.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for the ways You have transformed my life. Help me to boldly share my story with others, so that they may also come to know Your power and love. Amen.

**Action Step:** Think about a time when Jesus brought transformation into your life. Share that testimony with a friend, family member, or in your community as a way to encourage others in their faith.

### Reflection