



**BRIAN BLOUNT**

**PUTTING  
JESUS ON  
DISPLAY  
WITH  
LOVE AND  
POWER**

**FOREWORD BY ROBBY DAWKINS**

**PUTTING  
JESUS ON  
DISPLAY**

**WITH**

**LOVE AND  
POWER**

**BRIAN BLOUNT**



**Chosen**

*a division of Baker Publishing Group*  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

© 2019 by Brian Blount

Published by Chosen Books  
11400 Hampshire Avenue South  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55438  
www.chosenbooks.com

Chosen Books is a division of  
Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy, recording—without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Blount, Brian K., author.

Title: Putting Jesus on display with love and power / Brian Blount.

Description: Minneapolis : Chosen Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2019.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019019609 | ISBN 9780800799304 (trade paper : alk. paper) | ISBN 9781493418800 (e-book)

Subjects: LCSH: Christian life. | Supernatural.

Classification: LCC BV4501.3 .B573 2019 | DDC 248.4—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019019609>

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com). The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture quotations identified **ESV** are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ESV Text Edition: 2016

Scripture quotations identified **THE MESSAGE** are from THE MESSAGE, copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. Used by permission of NavPress. All rights reserved. Represented by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Scripture quotations identified **NKJV** are from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Note that in some of the author’s stories, the names and identifying details of certain individuals have been changed to protect their privacy.

19 20 21 22 23 24 25                    7 6 5 4 3 2 1



*Dedicated to my six children, Annalisa, Tyler, Amberlyn, Josiah, Nathaniel and Ashley. My prayer is that you would always know how much I love and treasure you. But even more than that, I pray you would always know the love of the Father, and through that, you would live a lifestyle of putting Jesus on display.*

# CONTENTS

- Foreword by Robby Dawkins 13
- Acknowledgments 15
1. Deaf Ears Opening 17
  2. Jesus' Mission, Message and Ministry 25
  3. The Gospel of the Kingdom Is at Hand 45
  4. Living an "As You Go" Lifestyle 67
  5. Risk Opens the Door to the Impossible 93
  6. Look, Listen and Respond 113
  7. Created to Do Good Works 137
  8. Empowered by Love 159
  9. Treasure in Earthen Vessels 185
  10. A Healing and Power Evangelism Model 213

## FOREWORD

In 2011, I was speaking in Russia at a training event for a denomination's missions department. One of the other facilitators, Charles Bello, kept saying to me, "You've got to meet Brian Blount. You both do the same stuff. . . ." He later handed me a book he had co-authored with Brian, called *From the Sanctuary to the Streets*. Reading about Brian's faith for ministering healing and his passion for equipping others to do the same had such an impact on me. As I read about his journey of being impacted by Blaine Cook (a man who had an impact on me as well, and actually at the same meeting as Brian), I knew that Brian and I were connected. I instantly became a fan of Brian Blount.

Brian has a passion like few I have seen to equip all the Body of Christ to walk in the fullness of who Christ is. In this book, he so powerfully communicates "putting Jesus on display," the truth that we the Church have a calling and responsibility not just to believe the words of Scripture, but actually to walk in them. Putting Jesus on display is not just a teaching. It is a powerful and dynamic invitation to step out of "normal" life and into the supernatural life that Christ and the disciples themselves lived. Brian's gift goes beyond just inviting you to hear his stories of healing and the

miraculous. You will actually receive an impartation from them as you read this book.

Brian speaks with such power because he completely remains his normal self, while seeing incredible supernatural activity on a daily basis. Don't get me wrong—his stories will captivate you and show you a high level of supernatural power. But Brian's honest, simplistic approach and communication style gives you the understanding and permission to go and do the same as he does by remaining who you naturally are. When I read this book, I feel the faith to go and see people jump out of wheelchairs, and to see blind eyes open, yet I also feel the peace to go out and fail big in the effort of “going for it.”

“Why?” you ask.

Because Brian gives us the realization that living the book of Acts and putting Jesus on display is demonstrated both in the blind eye opening, and in it not opening while I am trying—because I am obeying Christ in His instructions to go. Reading Brian's words, you will be freed from your fear of failure and empowered to witness the miraculous by your own words and your own hands, but with Christ's very own power.

Brace for impact, and hear the call in these pages to “put Jesus on display” everywhere you go.

Robby Dawkins, documentary film subject; bestselling author and international conference speaker; [robbydawkins.com](http://robbydawkins.com)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to my wife, Jeanine, for helping me put my words together on paper in a way that communicates my thoughts and history with the Lord well, and for encouraging me through the entire process. This book would never have happened without you. Thank you to my children, who are the most important part of my day. You have also sacrificed as I have taken time to write this book, and you have sacrificed as I have traveled in ministry.

Many thanks to Jeanine's parents, Jack and Bonnie Spratt, who are the best Mimi and Papa in the world. You love our children well, and you have taken the kids for several weekends so Jeanine and I could get away to work on this project. It could not have happened without your support.

Thank you also to Charles Bello, who has been my friend, mentor, pastor and sounding board, supporting me through the trials and joys of ministry for over twenty years. You offered valuable ideas, feedback and encouragement as I was writing this book.

I'd also like to thank my friend Blaine Cook. God used you in a profound way that changed my life forever. You helped me believe that the Holy Spirit wanted to empower even me—just an ordinary believer who was hungry to see the Kingdom come—and that I, too, could live out a naturally supernatural lifestyle. Thank you for your faithfulness to steward what God gave you, model it for others and give it away.

# 1

## DEAF EARS OPENING

*Jesus, I want to see the deaf hear tonight.*

This is a prayer I have prayed many times, but this evening in Brazil it seemed to carry a special weight. I was reminded of Isaiah 35:5, the Scripture that says, “Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.” We had seen the blind see on that trip, but my heart was yearning to see the deaf hear, too. I wanted to put Jesus on display by doing the ministry He called every believer to do. And that includes healing the deaf.

A month previously, I had been ministering at a church in the United States when a young girl asked for prayer. She had been born without any ear at all on one side—it had been folded in on itself, and there was no shape of an outer ear and apparently none of the structures inside the ear that allow hearing to take place. Plastic surgeons had created an outer ear for her, but it was purely cosmetic. She had undergone surgery to help her doctors determine if hearing would be possible through a medical hearing device. The outlook was dismal outside of supernatural healing.

As I began to pray for this girl, I could feel a spirit of unbelief settle all around me. I could feel it trying to creep up inside me,

to keep me from praying. I could feel it coming from the demonic forces that know a seed of unbelief can squelch out the conviction that Jesus still heals today and uses everyday people like you and me to do it.

It would have been so easy to launch into the “sometimes we don’t see healing happen, and sometimes Jesus heals gradually” speech, but instead I prayed for her. I prayed a quick, short prayer of command, telling the malformed ear to hear. I prayed again and again. Each time I prayed, I asked the girl to test out her ear and see if she noticed any difference. Gradually, she started hearing faint sounds. Then louder sounds. Within moments, she could hear fully on both sides!

She wept as she covered her good ear and others whispered into the opposite ear, which had lacked the necessary structures for hearing anything. She wept again as she held a phone up and had a conversation through an ear that had been impossible to hear through.

That evening in Brazil, as I prayed, *Jesus, I want to see the deaf hear tonight*, I recalled that girl’s face from a month earlier, beaming in the wonder of God’s goodness.

I had been in Brazil for a couple of weeks, ministering with my good friend Blaine Cook, and we had joined up with Randy Clark and his Global Awakening ministry trip to Brazil. That evening it was Blaine’s turn to speak, and I would be part of the ministry team. I had seen God do amazing things on this trip—there had been tremendous healings and outpouring of God’s power. But I had yet to see the deaf hear.

As we pulled up to the church in our bus, the prayer rose inside me again: *I want to see the deaf hear tonight*. When I walked into the building, I noticed a section reserved for the deaf ministry, something I had not seen at all in my weeks in Brazil. My faith skyrocketed. I knew that it was not just my prayer I had been praying. It was the Lord giving me faith. He was showing me what He wanted to do that evening. He wanted to heal the deaf.

At the end of the service I began ministering to people, but I was struggling because of the language barrier. I don't speak Portuguese, and not many people spoke English. A woman named Ana approached me. "Do you need help? I could interpret for you," she offered. She explained hesitantly that she had never interpreted before, but she was willing to try.

We began praying for people, and amazing things were happening. Ana wept as we saw more and more people healed of various illnesses and pains. She had never seen healings like this. I began coaching her in how she could pray for the sick on her own. She was amazed that people were getting healed through her hands. And yet my heart was yearning for the deaf section on the other side of the room.

"Ana," I asked, "do you mind if we go over to the deaf section? Do you think any of the people there would like us to pray for them?" Not only did I not know Portuguese, I also certainly did not know how to sign. I knew I would definitely need Ana's assistance to enlist the help of the people who were signing, who could translate for us.

"Let me go ask," she said. She walked over to the deaf section, and to my astonishment, she began to sign with them. Ana knew Brazilian Sign Language! At that moment, I knew something supernatural was about to happen. That prayer I had been praying as I pulled up on the bus had come from God's heart. What are the odds of being offered the help of someone who could interpret in English, Portuguese and sign language? This had to be a divine appointment. As Ana asked the people with deafness if anyone wanted prayer for healing, one lady quickly came forward.

I have a strong conviction that the ministry of Jesus is supposed to be reproducible and meant for all believers, not just a select few anointed disciples. Ana translated from English into Portuguese and Brazilian Sign Language, and I coached her as we both prayed for this woman's hearing to be restored. We prayed three or four

times, each time with the woman's hearing beginning to open more and more. Eventually, her ears popped open and she could hear fully. She had been born deaf in both ears, so she had never heard anything. She did not yet have the ability to speak, but she could hear!

Tears were streaming down the woman's face, and her eyes beamed with awe and joy. "It's so loud!" she signed to Ana as noises she had never heard overwhelmed her.

Immediately, the woman wanted to find her husband and share what had happened. He was also deaf from birth, and she thought, *If my ears can be opened, maybe his can, too.* She signed to Ana, asking if she could bring him over and we could pray.

I told her through Ana, "We would love to pray for your husband, but I want you to help us pray!"

Ana and I then showed the woman how to help us pray for her husband. To her amazement, Jesus used her to help bring healing to him. The sweetest thing to me was that she was pregnant. These new parents would now be able to hear their baby's cries and respond. They would learn their child's voice. They would rejoice at his or her first words. A whole new world had just opened up to them.

We continued praying for more people in the deaf section. Each time someone was healed and could hear for the first time, I had that person pray with me for the next person. Jesus said in Matthew 10:8, "Freely you have received; freely give." I was explaining in English, Ana was interpreting into Brazilian Sign Language, and then the now-hearing, formerly deaf people would help pray for their friends.

Another woman who had been born deaf had a husband who was not deaf. When he learned what had happened, he came up behind her and whispered in her ear. To his shock, she turned around at the sound of his voice, which she had heard for the first time! They embraced with tears of joy rolling down their cheeks.

Jesus was not only restoring hearing to her; He was bringing a deeper intimacy that this couple had never experienced before to their marriage.

“I’ve never seen anything like this,” exclaimed the man who led the church’s deaf ministry. He was stunned as he went around to check on each of the people as they were healed, to make sure they could hear. I prayed for him and Ana for an increased impartation for healing, and the power of God came strongly upon both of them.

“I think your ministry to the deaf has just changed,” I told them. “Not only will you minister to them through sign language interpretation, but now your ministry will also include healing them!” Their lives were radically changed that night, too.

In all, six people who had never heard from birth were healed and received full ability to hear. That night, there had been a total of twelve people in the deaf section. I am convinced that the other six would have been healed, too, except that they had already left by the time Ana and I made it over to their section.

When I got back on the bus, I sat there in awe and wonder, reflecting on what had happened. Not only did we see hundreds of healings, my little prayer earlier on the bus to see the deaf hear was also answered beyond what I could have imagined. We had seen a fulfillment of Isaiah 35:5, “Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.”

Six months later, I was ministering in South Africa. One of the difficulties I encounter there (and in most other places as well) is not a lack of faith that God will heal, but a lack of understanding that God will heal through ordinary believers. Although they believe in the anointing on “the man of God” to heal, often Christians don’t think God can use *them*.

It was this lack of understanding I was confronting at a church service in South Africa when I said, “I know you all believe that God can heal people through me. But you don’t believe God could

use you to heal the sick. You also don't believe God could use the sick to heal the sick. You think you are disqualified because you have sickness. Both of those are lies from the enemy. God has called every believer to heal the sick, and He can even use the sick to heal the sick. You don't believe it yet, but you're going to believe it. Who here has a deaf ear on one side?"

Two women stood up and came forward. One woman had been deaf in one ear for a couple of years, and the other had been deaf on one side for much longer. I had the women face each other as I said to the congregation, "As a sign to you that God will use ordinary people, and that God can use the sick to heal the sick, I'm going to have these ladies pray for each other. As soon as they do, their deaf ears will completely open!"

As soon as the words were out of my mouth, I felt uncertain. It had been a gift of faith that had given me the boldness to make such a confident declaration, but now I was struggling. I thought to myself, *Either something supernatural is going to happen or I'm going to be humbled, and I'm okay with either of those outcomes.*

I instructed the ladies, "Place your hand on each other's deaf ear and simply command the deafness to leave."

As they did this, immediately both their deaf ears opened. The congregation was stunned. And I have to admit, I was stunned, too! These seemingly unanointed, broken, deaf ladies had prayed for each other, and both of them had received their hearing instantly.

This demonstration of God's desire to use every ordinary believer to do the ministry of Jesus shifted the church. The result was a congregation of people who believed they could heal the sick. That evening, as a line of people who needed healing stretched from one end of the church to the other, 100 percent of them received healing, all through the hands of other people in their own congregation who believed Jesus wanted to use them. That night clearly demonstrated that it is not about the man of God; it is about the people of God.

It is not just physical deafness that Jesus wants to heal. He also wants to heal our spiritual deafness. As Jesus proclaimed, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Matthew 11:15 NKJV). I believe that what happened that day in South Africa was a prophetic sign to all of them, but also to all of us. Jesus wants to use everyone—even you—to put Him on display.

I believe a spiritual deafness has fallen over much of the Church today. It is a deafness that has kept people from hearing and believing that God has called every believer to put Jesus on display with signs and wonders. This spiritual deafness has blocked the ears of believers from hearing the commission He gave us. I believe this spiritual deafness has perpetuated the lie of the evil one that causes people to think, *God can't use me. Or, I'm not qualified; it's only for an anointed few people. Or, These gifts have passed away.* This spiritual deafness has blocked us from hearing Jesus' commissioning to His Church (all believers): “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give” (Matthew 10:7–8).

We have all been commissioned to heal the sick, preach the good news of the Kingdom and demonstrate the love and power of God to those around us. It is not about possessing a special gifting or anointing. It is not about the great man or woman of God. It is about the great God of men.

I believe God has given us ears for the purpose of hearing, not only physically, but also spiritually. We as the Church and the people of God need to have ears to hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying, in order that we might put Jesus on display with love and power.