

A New Step!

Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. John 5:5-9 NKJV

God comes to us to change not your circumstances, but to change you! We view our life by what surrounds us, we value our life based upon what we have, but God values our life by who we are. Today we begin a journey called Seven Steps to Success. We all may be extremely different but we all want the same thing – to be a success in life. The circumstances that surround you do not need to limit you. Everything and anything are subject to change. We may feel we do not have the power to do anything about it within ourselves, but with God, all things are possible! Jesus encountered a man who had been stuck for thirty eight years. This man was waiting for someone else to help him, to do it for him. Jesus did not hesitate, He gave no excuse, He lovingly told the man, YOU rise, YOU take up your bed, and YOU walk! What a storm of emotions must have gripped this man! What to do? Can I really do this? What difference will it make? Nothing works for me! I thought Jesus was going to help me!

Today our hearts are swirling with emotion. We long for change; we want to succeed. Sometimes we simply aren't sure what steps to take. Our pride may prevent us from asking for help so we expect someone else to magically do something for us. And like this man, our hesitation to step out ends up in a thirty eight year gap of uncertainty.

But that all changes today! Why? Because Jesus is here, amongst us, in this local church. And He's asking this same question of us? "Do you want to be made well? ... Do you want to succeed?"

Don't give Jesus your excuse why it isn't working. He already knows that. Just listen carefully as He lovingly speaks to you ... And then be willing to do what He says. Just take the first step! The first step is always the hardest step. It will require a shift in your thinking. Instead of "I can't" or "I won't", let it be "He can and He will!" With confidence, in immediacy ... rise! This step you have never taken before. But you can take it! Your first step will be a new step. Do not be afraid!

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