

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE?

John 5:1–18

We all have questions that we would like to ask God, such as “How long will I live?” or “What is my purpose here on earth?” These are good questions. But, what about the questions that God has for us? Before us is a story of a man in a seemingly hopeless situation. He was abandoned, uncared for, unable to help himself, and desperately lonely. Jesus comes to this man and asks him a poignant question, “Do you want to be made well?” I think God is essentially asking the same thing of us today: “Do you want to change your life?”

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Jesus asks the impossible.** In John 5:8 Jesus says, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk.” If God asks you to do something, you can do it even if it seems like you can’t, because with God nothing is impossible.
2. **Jesus removes all possibility of a relapse.** Jesus said to the lame man, “Pick up your bed and walk.” Jesus was essentially saying, “Your life is changed now.” Many people make a commitment to follow Christ but they never make a break with the past. They drag their past and their old sins with them.
3. **Jesus expects continued success.** In order for Christianity to work, you have to do your part. Jesus expected continued success from this man. He says, “Walk. Don’t expect to be carried.”

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- When we come to Christ, we should make no provision for a relapse; we should make a clean break from our past and relationships that take us down spiritually. You have to do your part as well. Pick up your bed and walk.
- We don’t work for our salvation. It is a gift from God. If you are a Christian you live it out, and carry it to the goal and fully complete it. Get all of the potential out of it. Apply yourself!
- If you want Christianity to work for you, you have to do your part. Memorize Scripture, go to church, get baptized, develop your prayer life, and turn from all sin. Get in there and work at it. Get going!

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

When God says, “Where are you?” we need to say, “I am not where I should be but I need to change.” After years of walking with the Lord, the apostle Paul said, “It is not as though I have already attained. I haven’t reached some spiritual plateau. I have a long way to go. I am letting go of the things that are behind and reaching forward to the things that are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Every believer should recognize there is a long way to go.