

38 years

John 5:1-17 1 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. 5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, *Wilt thou be made whole?* 7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. 8 Jesus saith unto him, *Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.* 9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. 10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. 11 He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. 12 Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? 13 And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. 14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, *Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.* 15 The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. 16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. 17 But Jesus answered them, *My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*

I don't know what your situation is, but we have some lessons to learn from this passage. At the time of writing this teaching, I'm not yet 38 years. I'm 3 years away from making 38 so for me, this man was sick longer than I'm alive. I can't imagine being sick for 35 years. This is not something small especially if you have been sick before for a week, a month, or even a year.

This man was sick for 38 years. This is half of the lifespan of many people in Africa according to some research.

a) Bethesda

According to Strong's concordance, Bethesda means "*house of kindness*"

This man was not the only sick one that was looking for mercy and kindness. Many sick people were here waiting. "*great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water*"

b) Hope

A simple definition of hope is that it is the positive expectation of good in our lives.

- i) The Bible says, "*Hope deferred maketh the heart sick*". We can criticize this man all we want but the truth is 38 years is not a small time of being sick and still stay hopeful. Many people give up way sooner than this. When people's hope is long deferred, they are not only sick physically, but they also get sick in their hearts which could make it even harder for them to receive healing. Although it had taken 38 years, this man did not give us hope. He still believed that one day he would be healed. This could have been the only thing that kept him going.
- ii) This man was in sickness and infirmity for 38 years. This is a very long time. When people are afflicted and sick for so long, many can take on the sick mindset and adjust their lives to cope and live with the sickness. This could be a hindrance when help is on the way.

c) Do not quit

- i) It's not over until it is over.
- ii) Many people who are going through difficult times quit too early. What is early? Early is any time before the manifestation of your victory. We have all quit early. This is not to condemn anyone but encourage us to not quit early.

d) Don't assume what people want

Wilt thou be made whole? He asked this man. Why would Jesus ask a man who clearly needed healing what He could do for him? Just because someone is sick doesn't mean they want to be healed. Jesus always asked questions when dealing with the sick.

Some people, I hate to say this, but they want to pity, sympathy, money, welfare, etc. If I get healed, "I will have to go find a job and work."

"If I get healed, I will lose my medical bonus from the insurance company."

If I get healed, I will lose my government support. I like it this way, I do not have to do anything. I have a big house and support, and I can just watch movies or TV all day.

e) Healing is God's will

I have not found a person in the Bible who was sick and encountered Jesus and He did not heal Him.

f) Jesus saith

Jesus did not "pray" but simply said to the man. Prayer is important, but there are times when we do not have to pray, and we just have to say. If this man was wanting a traditional type of prayer, he was disappointed. It is amazing how God has no one way of doing things, He has no one size fits all.

g) Immediately

Many of us have been told to believe that we need to wait for our manifestation. Of course, there is truth in that. Waiting for my manifestation. This is one of the most effective traps from the enemy to those who are in faith for healing. Instead of waiting and being passive, you want to declare, decree, and prophesy your victory and manifestation.

This man got healed immediately. This is God's best. Immediately!