



NEW COVENANT CHURCH

Love & Serve

***Break the Pattern.
Walk Out of Stuck.***

When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

John 5:6

PASTOR BRYAN HUDSON, D.Min.

John 5:2

*Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. 3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. 5 One who was there **had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.** 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “**Do you want to get well?**”*

John 5:7

*“Sir,” the invalid replied, “**I have no one to help me into the pool** when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me. 8 Then Jesus said to him, “**Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.**” 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath*

John 5:10

*and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, **"It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."***¹¹ But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"¹² So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"
13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

Sometimes, we are so dependent on a system, custom, pattern, or habit, we don't see another way.

Know that Jesus always has power and
resources available by no other means

“Do you want to be healed?”

This is an odd question that Jesus asked. Seemed obvious and little rude. The man had been an invalid for 38 years. We don't know how long he had been coming to Bethesda.

Being asked a question is often the first step to breaking a pattern.

Loving and serving often involves questions:

- Do you want to change?
- Are you serious about change?
- What do you need to change in order to change?
- Is this sustainable? How long can I do it?
- What are your God inspired priorities?

The Pool of Bethesda (near the Sheep Gate)
Built by the ancient Greeks
Was a place of ritual purification for sheep
Became a place of desperation



The **Inertia** of a System and Pattern

(INERTIA: The tendency to remain unchanged)

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The **Inertia** of a System and Pattern

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The man misinterpreted Jesus question:

He only heard Jesus from the **frame or inertia of his pattern.**

He thought healing could only come by the means he had heard about.

He was stuck in a system or pattern of thinking.

He essentially said to Jesus, ***“You don’t understand how this works.”***

OBSERVATION #1:

When people are stuck, the pattern is to tell unstuck people trying to help them that they don't understand.

OBSERVATION #2:

People are sometimes so locked into a system or pattern that they lose sight of other resources.

Sometimes the pattern is trying to figure things out on their own.

John 5:8, Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

OBSERVATION #3:

Don't ignore an instruction from God. Recognize when power and provision are present.

Shift focus from your system, custom, pattern, or habit.

When the man did what Jesus said, **he broke the pattern and walked out of stuck** by the power of God.

He experienced his breakthrough through obedience to an instruction.

- Correct actions breaks the pattern
- You can walk out of stuck
- God's power can make the difference
- Believe that your past does not define your future
- This is one of the lessons of Black History