Exclusives- A Trip to the Pool Don Williams- February 26, 2023

John 5:1-8

"Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. 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—and they waited for the moving of the waters. ⁴ From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease they had. 5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirtyeight 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?"

- 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.

John 1:29

"The next day John (the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

- Familiarity
- The pain of change
- Guilt
- False Identity

The Man's Excuses

• Excuse #1- It's someone else's fault

People may have contributed to paralysis in your past...but you control what path you follow into your future.

 Excuse #2- What works for others but doesn't work for me

John 5:8-9

"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 Role of Faith in Healing

- Faith resulting in healing
- Faith created by healing

John 5:9-15

"The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, 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."

Tony Evans~Faith isn't about how much you believe what you believe. Faith is about believing that the One you believe in is believable.

<u>James 2:17</u>

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

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Why Do People Stay Stuck?