



Believe You Can Get Up Again (Believing Beyond the Crowd)

Date: August 3, 2025

Text for Series: John 5:1–18

Series Summary:

1. **Believing Beyond the Crowd** (Has your environment limited your faith?)
2. Believing In Your **Responsibility** (What are your responsibilities? John 5:8-15)
3. Believing Past Your **Critics** (How do you respond to criticism? John 5:8–18)
4. Believing Enough to **Never Return** (Have you returned to a bad habit? John 5:14–15)
5. Believing In The Power of Hunger (What are you hungry for in your life? Proverbs 16:26)

Statement: Have you ever had a long-term condition that made you feel trapped. Imagine the limitations a man who was paralyzed faced in a culture without many handicap support systems and tools.

He had no wheelchair, inadequate health care, and extreme dependence on family and friends. Family and friends were a lifeline to dignity. In this series, we will explore people who faced these kinds of challenges.

“Your present circumstances don’t determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start.”— Nido Qubein

Some time 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. 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 5:1–6](#), NIV)

I. Three Observations About the Lame Man’s Environment

1. His environment was filled with **sick people** (Nobody was delivered)
2. His environment had been a part of his life for a long time (**38 years of bondage**)
3. His environment felt **hopeless** with **roadblocks** everywhere



- **“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.” ([John 5:7](#), NIV)
- **Note: He was healed,** “At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. ([John 5:9](#), NIV)

Two Questions:

- Are you **surrounded** by people who are just like you? (**Everyone has an issue**)
- Do any of the people around you **encourage** you to dream beyond them?

II. Three Observations About the Lame Man’s Response

1. He was willing to discuss his life condition (He lists his previous efforts)
2. He was willing to verbalize his **faith**
3. He was willing to drop his **doubts** and believe

III. Five Closing Questions For You to Consider

1. Are you in the right place?
2. Are you listening to the right voice?
3. What are you verbalizing?
4. What are you doing that proves you want to be well and get up again?
5. What doubts are you holding on to that are not productive?

Note: Productive worry is worry that helps you get problems solved and that leads to action that you can take right now. Unproductive worry generates a lot of what-ifs that do not lead to any concrete practical action.

Next Time: Believing In Your Responsibility

Big Question: What is your responsibility after you hear from God?

Side Question: Have you heard from God? What did he say?

Read Ahead Text: John 5:8-15