



**Believing Enough to Never Return  
(What are you done with?)**

**Date: August 24, 2025**

**Introduction:**

- **Saying you are done with something is a far cry from actually being done with it. Even Paul admitted this struggle in Romans 7:15 (NIV):**

“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do,  
but what I hate I do.”

- He knew the tension between desire and discipline—between declaring freedom and actually walking in it.

**Series Summary:**

1. Believing Beyond the **Crowd** (Has your environment limited your faith?)
2. Believing In Your **Responsibility** (What is 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)

**Text: John 5:14**

- **14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. *Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.*”**

**Statement:** What is going on in your life that would qualify for this kind of comment? In this story we have a man who is lame for 38 years and suddenly he is healed and warned. What are you tempted to allow back into your life.

**Five Steps to Get Over Something Destructive in Your Life**

1. **Admit it is destructive** and needs to be dealt with immediately  
- Look at your life results—do they reflect who God called you to be?
2. **Admit the people connection** to your destructive behavior  
- Sometimes it's the people you love who keep you in destructive patterns.

3. **Admit the cultural connection** to your destructive behavior  
-Some religious or social norms actually blind us to destructive patterns.
4. **Admit the temptation to be insecure** in your destructive behavior  
- You may fear what freedom demands—but healing has a cost.  
-I FACE THIS TEMPTATION MORE THAN I EVER EXPECTED.
5. **Admit the temptation to put off** dealing with destructive patterns  
-Delayed obedience is just polished disobedience.

#### Summary:

- The lame man in John 5 is described as someone who endured a 38-year physical challenge that left him begging. After he was healed, he was warned not to return to the path that had caused him so much pain. John 5:14 makes it clear that the outcome could easily become worse if he did.
- **It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.** ([Galatians 5:1](#), NIV)

#### Galatians 5: 1 Explained

##### 1. “It is for freedom...”

- Eleutheria = freedom; liberty from bondage
- Eleutherōsen = He set us free (aorist tense, active voice)  
→ This is a completed act—Jesus freed us fully and decisively.

##### 2. “Stand firm...”

- Stēkete = keep standing, hold your ground  
→ Present imperative = a continuous command: keep resisting, stay grounded.

##### 3. “Do not be burdened again...”

- Zygō douleias = yoke of slavery
- Enechesthe = be entangled, be ensnared  
→ Passive voice = don’t allow yourself to be caught or wrapped up again.

**Next Time:** Believing In The Power of Hunger

**Read Ahead:** Proverbs 16:26