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# Define Your Current Reality

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“Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?””

John 5:2-3, 5-6 ESV

### **Define Your Current Reality**

Have you ever experienced a moment that suddenly gave you great insight on where your life was headed? I remember a summer afternoon several years ago, driving back from a fun outing at the park with two close friends, windows down and laughter filling the air. Suddenly the light conversations took a drastic shift when one of us mentioned, “Soon we’ll be waving our carefree twenties goodbye and saying hello to 30!”

Silent. It was like someone had just knocked the wind right out of us. My friend made an abrupt sharp left turn at the next roundabout. “Where are we going?” I asked. “Donuts,” she simply replied, “We’re going to need lots of donuts!”

I laugh thinking back on that experience now. How the sudden awareness of our reality caused a certain kind of panic and propelled us into quick motion. Things like this happen all the time in our lives - sometimes it’s a crisis that finally caused us to wake up like the loss of a loved one or tragic incidents such as what took place this weekend. Sometimes it’s a grade received on a life changing exam, or heart wrenching breakup, or an unexpected broken bone. Whatever the cause, we’re suddenly jolted awake to understand our current reality.

What’s your current reality? And yes, as much as I really do care about your physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing, I’m most curious to know about the current reality of your spiritual life? Is it thriving? Is it dying or dead? Are you hanging on by just a thread?

This invalid man had been by the pool of Bethesda for 38 years! I’m sure in the first few days, weeks and months that past, as he sat by the pool hoping and praying for healing that he did so excitedly, investing a lot of energy and anticipation. But as time past, Ellen White describes in the [Desire of Ages](#) that he eventually gives up hope. When Jesus stumbles upon this man, his current reality is pretty bleak. Jesus asks him, “Do you want to be healed?”

So what is the current reality of *your* walk with God? Do you need a jolt of Holy Spirit rejuvenation? Are you desperate and anxious for a word from God to offer encouragement, comfort, or direction? Has it been so long that you’ve really taken time to connect with God that you’re not even sure He’d answer if you reached out?

Keep reading a few more verses in John 5:1-9. If Jesus can offer a future of possibilities to this man who’s current reality was utterly hopeless, I believe He can do the same for you and me.

As you determine what your current reality is, may you make the Main Thing, the main thing in your life and find everything you are looking for and more!

Challenge & Upcoming Events:

- Read and pray your way through Psalm 139. What does this passage tell you about God, about yourself, about your current reality? Take time to journal the insights God brings to your mind.
- Share vulnerably about your spiritual current reality with another peer or colleague. What has the ability to draw you nearer to God? What is standing in the way from you making Jesus the Main Thing in your life?
- Join us for **Vespers this Friday night at 7:30pm** in the University Church - Pastor Anna Bennett will be speaking.
- You're invited to a special **Afterglow experience following vespers as Pastor David & Cinda Lea Sitler** are opening their home to college students to gather and welcome in the Sabbath! Address: 8225 Stillwater Circle Ooltewah, TN 37363; cell: [931-202-0728](tel:931-202-0728)
- The Experience Sabbath School takes place every **Sabbath at 10:30am** in the University Church Fellowship Hall.

-Anna Bennett