

Southern Adventist University

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The Main Thing Devotional

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Healing for the Hopeless

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The Main Thing Devotional: Healing for the Hopeless

"Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, "Would you like to get well?"" John 5:1-6

Out of all the people gathered around the pool, Jesus noticed this one man. In verse five, we are told that there was a man who was there who was physically disabled, who had been at the pool for 38 years. 38 years! Grasp this thought: 38 years was longer than the average life expectancy at this time. This man lived as a physically disabled person for much, if not all, of his *entire* life. He didn't know any other way of living other than to live as a disabled person.

But in verse six, Jesus kneels down in the dust of this cripple's life, looks upon him with compassion and He asks the man this question: "Do you want to be healed?" *What kind of question is that Jesus? Of course the man wants to be healed, he's been an invalid for 38 years! Don't you think, Jesus, that he would want to be healed?* Jesus' question is counterintuitive, it's upside down, but it is not self-evident. Because, you see, many people hang around the pool all of the time without really wanting to be healed. And so, Jesus invites this man into his own healing process. In verse eight Jesus tells the man, "Get up! Get up, take up your mat and walk."

The Greek word that Jesus uses here is *ἐγείρω* [egeiro]. Egeiro means "to waken or to arouse." It means "to waken, to lift, to raise again, to stand up." Friend, no matter what circumstance you might be facing today, no matter what trial has got you down, no matter what advance the enemy is making to try to destroy you and keep you in a state of brokenness and pain - **Jesus calls to you today and says: "Egeiro, Rise up!"** You and I don't rise up in our own strength. Rise up in the strength of Jesus! Rise up with the courage of Christ! Rise up with the assurance of salvation! Rise up in the baptism of His Spirit and receive your spiritual healing!

Reflection

- What areas of your life are needing healing right now?
- In what ways is God calling you to participate in the healing process?
- Are you wrestling with anxiety or grief? Join our [Grief Support Group](#) today.

Prayer

God, only you know the true condition of my heart and my life. I pray today for the baptism of the Holy Spirit in my life that as you call me to participate with your divine hand in the healing process, that I will willfully choose to do so and have the strength to do so. I pray God that as you call me to rise up from my current situation, trust in you, and grasp hold of your goodness, mercy, and love that I will find life renewed, restored, and recreated! I pray this in your powerful name, amen.

NEWS AND RESOURCES

- **Vespers:** At southern.edu/united, reserve your seat for this week or any other week to come! Contact [Michael Baranda](#) if you need to cancel your ticket for any reason.
- **United in Prayer:** Every morning at the flag pole in front of Wright Hall from 8:15-8:30 (M-F), students, join with faculty, staff and students to specifically pray for an end to any racial division within our campus, our church, and our nation. For more information, feel free to contact [Stephanie Guster](#).
- Share your prayer requests or praises with us via text message using your mobile phone. **Text-to-Pray: 423-281-8996.**
- **Need to talk to someone?** We encourage you to make an appointment to with Chaplains [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to talk to for support, prayer or have a desire to grow spiritually.