

Sermon ~ Sunday, July 11, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: John 5: 1-15

Title: "I Believe JESUS WORD!"

Belief, noun, is an acceptance, faith, trust, reliance.

Believe, verb, ALONG, expresses to trust, but... to think you do believe, but... to guess you believe, but... to be of the opinion that you believe, but...

According to TSA (US Transportation Security Agency) reported over 8.8 million people went through Security checkpoints this past weekend for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday. For those whose Airflights were not canceled (over 4, 500), got on an Airplane, fastened their seatbelts, and let a *complete stranger*, pilot them some 32,000 feet in the Air. The vast majority survived!

Most in this world (some of you present) with their (your) feet on the ground, will say, "I believe I would survive too, if I flew on an Airplane!" (One day maybe, but not now!) Well, that's not what it means to Believe. That's a *mental assent*... an *acceptance* of a fact, but not **Biblical Faith**. James said, "Thou believest that there is **ONE GOD**; thou dost well: the devils also believe, and tremble." (James 2: 19)

**Biblical Faith** is like "buying the ticket!" **Biblical Faith** is like "boarding the plane, fastening your seatbelt, and trusting the Pilot to take you up and bring you down again.

**Biblically Faith** is trust/confidence—putting your **Eternal Destiny** (not just for the ride) in **The Hands of The Only LORD and SAVIOR** of this world.

John 5: 24, records JESUS' WORD, "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth MY WORD, and believeth on HIM that sent ME, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Point: The one who believes in JESUS is trusting HIM with their **Eternal Destiny**! The real question is, do you simply accept the facts as true? Or are you trusting CHRIST with your **Eternal Destiny**?

Belief or Believe in the Greek language, the word is pistis (pis'-tis) meaning, faith (Biblically, Faith is always a "gift" from GOD, and never something that can be produced by people).

Belief or Believe, pistis, is a **GOD Divine Persuasion**!

Pistis is an "Birth-Faith" in the yielded believer so they can know *What GOD prefers*, i.e. *What GOD Wills, What GOD Want, What's GOD Way*!

Pistis is a "**Guarantee (Warranty)**" certifying that **The Revelation GOD** in birth will come to pass **HIS Way**!

Our text is the third "Sign" of JESUS, The SON of GOD, our **ONLY LORD** and **SAVIOR, WHO Eternally saves** by HIS WORD (The Miracle of Water that was better than Wine); the *second* "Sign" was **The Healing Miracle** of the Nobleman son from a distance) showing **Salvation is by FAITH in JESUS' WORD**; this *third Miracle* our text, shows that **Salvation is by GRACE and Acting FAITH on JESUS WORD**!

"I Believe JESUS WORD!"

--V. 2, This Pool called Bethesda, meaning, "**House of Mercy**," or "**House of GRACE**," in the Greek. It seems to have been *the Jerusalem hospital*. There were 5 porches, said verse 2, the number 5 biblically is the number of **GRACE**. The Pool was by the *Sheep Gate*, which speaks of "*sacrifice*." **The LAMB of GOD—JESUS CHRIST** had to *die, be buried, and rise* from the dead before **GOD'S GRACE** could be pour out on believing, *repentant, sinners*.

[The fourth verse which speaks of "an angel seasonally coming down and troubling the water and who jumps in first, gets healed," is left out of the *text*, in The Revised Version. It's an "*spurious*" *text*, not being what it purports to be. The water like the Dead Sea may have had "many healing virtues and the intermittent bubbling], But see from this text, "a man who did not get in the water, but yet he was healed!"

--**His Condition**, vs. 5b, "He had an infirmity 38 years." Did you catch verse 14, "**JESUS** findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, "**Behold, thou are made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto you.**" This man's 38 long years of infirmity was he result of "*sin*." (Romans 3: 23) *Sin* is an "old-standing disease." As far as this man's ability, like all *sinners*, "was (is) past hope. Bethesda, "**House of Mercy**," or "**House of GRACE**," was his last shift. [I don't know who **The LORD** is speaking to today, but this maybe your last shift.] **The Mercy of GOD** and **This House of GRACE** is 'the *sinners*' only Hope!

--**His Position**, vs. 5a, "...this certain man was there..." Where? There—among '*afflicted people*,' All who point out "*the sad condition of the "unsaved: impotent—powerless,* Romans 5: 6, "For when we were without strength, in due time **CHRIST** died for the ungodly." The blind and halt—*unable to walk correctly*, Ephesians 2: 1-3, NLT "Once you (I) were dead, doomed forever because of your many *sins*. You (I) used to live just like the rest of the world, full of *sin*, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey **GOD**. All of us used to live that way, [some of you are living that way now] following the passions and desires of our evil nature. You and I were born with an evil nature, and we were under **GOD'S** anger just like everyone else."

The withered (paralysis sick) and those who waited, that is, "without hope," Ephesians 2: 12, "In those days you (I) were living apart from **CHRIST**. You and I were excluded from **GOD'S** people, and you (neither I) did not know the promises **GOD** had made to **HIS** people. You and I lived in this world without **GOD** and without hope."

Point: If these (we) could have got to the water, when it was troubled, they (we) could be healed; but we all lacked the power to get in the water!

See him, he was not ashamed to take his place among the *helpless* and the *needy*. If he had refused to take this *self-humbling step*, he never would have been healed. "*Pride*" and '*shame*' keeps many away from **The Saving Touch of JESUS CHRIST**. To many **GOD** is still saying, "*How long will ye refuse to humble yourselves?*"

--**His Effort**, vs. 7c, "While I am coming, another steppeth down before me." He took his place among the "impotent folk." *Now* he is doing *the best he can*. BUT *the best* only ends in *failure* and *disappointment*. Point: There are a great many others, *seen* and *unseen*, in this Hospital and on the outside, that are ready to "step down" [*do something*] before "a soul seeking *Salvation*."

Salvation is not of works— “For by **GRACE** are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is **The Gift of GOD**: not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2: 8, 9)  
Point: His repeated failures made him more prepared for **The Saving GRACE of JESUS CHRIST!**  
Question? How many more failure will it take for you?

--His **Merciful DELIEVER**, vs. 6a, “When **JESUS** saw him *lie* and *knew*... **HE** saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?” **JESUS** saw and *knew*... The man was *waiting* for a more “*convenient season*,” BUT that was not what he *needed*.  
He *needed*, **ONE** to save him *where he was*; He *needed* **ONE** to save him, *as he was*; He *needed* **ONE** unlike *himself* and *themselves* to save him, and **JESUS** offered to do that!  
“Wilt thou be made whole, where you are, just now???”  
When he answered “Sir, I have no man... etc.,” it was clear that he did not know to **WHOM** he was speaking. For those who are *saved* by **CHRIST** need no other man.  
Hear **JESUS** this morning, “Wilt thou that “**I**” should make thee whole?”

--**Personal Call**, vs. 8, “**JESUS** saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.”  
This had not happened in 38 years. But there is always that *inexplicable something* about **The PERSON and WORD of The LORD JESUS CHRIST**. If anybody else had said it, This man would had given them a foolishness look. But **JESUS** said...

--**Sudden Change**, vs. 9, “And immediately the man was made whole.”

1. He **believed** **The WORD of The LORD**.

2. He *acted on* **The Authority of The WORD of The LORD** and found...

3. He *received* **The Blessing** for which so many long.

He *got it*, not by working, striving, or struggling, but simply by **Believing** and **GOD’S GRACE**.  
The cure was “*mystery*,” but the *Healing*, was “*certainty*.”

--**Fearless Testimony**, v. 15, “The man departed, and told the Jews that it was **JESUS**, which had made him whole.”

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the *mouth* confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10: 10)

“Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.” (James 2: 18)

Some refuse to confess **CHRIST**... “Nevertheless, among the chief rulers also many **believed** on **HIM**; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess **HIM**, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the *praise* of men more than **The Praise of GOD**.” (John 12: 42, 43)

“Whosoever shall confess **ME** before men, him will I confess also before **MY FATHER** which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny **ME** before men, him will I also deny before **MY FATHER** which is in Heaven.” (Matthew 10: 32, 33)

**“I Believe JESUS WORD!”**