

Faith Series: Faith to Tear the Roof Off

Notes 

LUKE 5:17-26

(Luke 5:17-26 NKJV) “Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them. {18} Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. {19} And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. {20} When He saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” {21} And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” {22} But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts? {23}” Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’? {24} But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”; He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” {25} Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. {26} And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen strange things today!””

(Mark 2:3-4 NKJV) “Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. {4} And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.”

Context

It happened on a certain day that the Lord was teaching in a crowded house that was filled to capacity. There were present that day religious officials, Jesus’ disciples, common people in need and some who were simply curious. The Scriptures tell us the power of the Lord was present for healing.

Suddenly a group of men tried to bring a friend of theirs into the meeting to get him close to Jesus. He was paralyzed and had to be carried on his bed. His friends found that they could not get him into the crowded house. This might have stopped them,

See also -
MARK 2:1-12

How often do we see a need that we can fill and yet we neglect to do what we have to do?

but they were a determined group. They could not ignore this opportunity. They would not be denied! They had to do something, and they did what they had to do. Since he could not move from his bed, they agreed to work together to move his bed to Jesus.

The paralyzed man's friends chopped a hole in the roof and lowered him, his bed and all his sorrows into the midst of the crowd who had filled the house to be with Jesus.

First Principle

Faith works through the Power of Agreement!

There is great power when your faith moves in agreement with the faith of others. Such faith moves God to miracles.

These men would not ignore their hurting friend. They refused to leave him alone and helpless in the condition he was in. We are not told much about these men, except they were bold enough to climb onto another man's roof and chop a hole in it!

- They would get together and they would get their victory together.
- The power of agreement would multiply their ability to gain the victory. It was a case of simple spiritual mathematics.

SPIRITUAL MATHEMATICS

(Leviticus 26:7-9 NKJV) "You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. {8} Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you. {9} For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you."

And so they lowered the bed through the roof into the midst of the crowd. Here then, in the midst of all these people, lay the unfortunate man, struck down with paralysis. **He was without hope, but he had friends who put feet to their faith and were determined to make a difference for him.**

He was not able to move from his bed, so his friends moved his bed to Jesus. They rose above the obstacles so they could lower him to Jesus!



Second Principle

Faith Succeeds through Determined People!

THE NATURAL BARRIERS THIS UNFORTUNATE MAN'S FRIENDS CONFRONTED WERE REAL, BUT HIS FRIENDS WOULD NOT BE DENIED THEIR OPPORTUNITY!

It was an act of agreement. It was an act of determination. It demonstrated their love for him. It enabled the faith in their actions to be turned into his miracle!

(John 6:37-38 NKJV) "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. {38} For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

(John 13:34-35 NKJV) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. {35} By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

There is great power when your faith moves with unstoppable determination! Think about these friends of the paralyzed man. They would not have taken him to Christ if they had not believed he could be healed. When they acted upon their faith, Jesus responded.

(James 2:18 NKJV) "But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

Think about all those people crowded into the house, who saw their efforts and could not ignore this interruption. They became witnesses to the power and person of the Lord Jesus Christ!

His Power is in His Person (He has declared it with His own words!)

(Mark 14:61-62 NKJV) "But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, 'Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?' {62} Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

*(John 8:58 NKJV) “Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.**””*

*(Exodus 3:13-14 NKJV) “Then Moses said to God, “indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name’ what shall I say to them” {14} And God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM**” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’””*

OPPOSITION TO OUR FAITH

When we determine to act together in faith, something will always try to keep our faith from having room to work. You have to be determined... not deterred!

The people who got in the house before the paralyzed man now blocked his way in. There seemed to be no other path to the presence of Christ... **but His friends got radical.** They would not be stopped. They made room for him through the power of their faith. Down through the hole in the roof he went, right to the feet of Jesus.



**Do you have faith that will not be denied?
Do you have radical, roof removing faith?**

Imagine the surprise and even the shock among all of them when the roof fell in and down came this unfortunate man lying on his bed.

- Imagine the dust and the debris falling down on the heads of all those in the room. It must have been chaotic!

A move of God is seldom clean and orderly!

- Imagine the anger of the owner of the house. His roof was ruined!
- Imagine the indignation of many of the people who got their clothes soiled, or had to squeeze back out of the way.

Yet, there was someone in that house who was not angry, shocked, indignant or surprised. His name is Jesus.

The Lord welcomed the interruption. Jesus would not ignore or scorn the presence of this hurting man.



Hurting people are all around us. How can we ignore them?

Third Principle

Faith accepts and trusts God's priorities!

God's priorities for us are always just right! Trust in His timing, and be content with it. Have patience. His judgment is always perfect! He is faithful!

(Luke 5:24-25 NKJV) ““But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”; He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” {25} Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.”

FACT: God was not surprised at the condition of this man's life!

Jesus never considered the sudden appearance of the paralyzed man to be any bother or unwelcome surprise. It was no interruption to Him!

Often, what we first consider interruptions are actually divinely ordered opportunities.

Think about the four men looking down through the hole in the roof. They had worked hard to bring the paralyzed man to Jesus. They had to carry him up on the roof, take off the tiles and break through the roof... and finally, lower him down on ropes! They were not looking for a chance to be spectators at a meeting. They had faith for a healing. This was their priority! They must have been surprised when Jesus said, *“Man, your sins are forgiven you.”* They would have been expecting Him to say something like - *Be healed. Take up your bed and walk.*

Jesus knew that this man's greatest burden was sin. It had to be dealt with first, because it affected his eternal destiny. Some things never change. We must still deal with our sins before we can expect God to deal with our burdens. (Someone once said that you have to get out of Egypt before God can take you to the Promised Land.)

The Lord's priorities will not always agree with our priorities.

There were some in the house who challenged Jesus' authority to forgive sin. He would meet this challenge by demonstrating the awesome power of His divinity. He healed the man instantly. The power of God was truly there! But... they were looking for a healing! Healing is only one part of our salvation.

- He sees our burdens. He knows our hopes, plans and dreams. He desires to help us with them.
- Often, we believe that our priorities are more important or more correct than His priorities. We want everything now. We even try to convince God to approve of our priorities over His. When we pray, instead of praying - *Your will be done*, we are too often pray - *Your approval for my will be done*.
- His ways must take priority over ours. He always knows best! His timing is always perfect! Timing is one of our real tests of faith.

(Psalms 37:3 NKJV) "Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness."

(Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV) "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; {6} In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."

With a single word from Jesus, the power of God was truly there! Salvation and healing were exclusively God's gift to this man lying on a bed before him.

Referring to this occasion, Charles Spurgeon said, *"There was no long lesson or formula for the paralyzed man to repeat. There was no intricate problem for him to work out in his mind. There was nothing he could do to save himself and nobody he could turn to for healing."*¹

¹ Ages Software - The Spurgeon Collection, Carried by Four, S981

The Lord's priorities may not always agree with our priorities, but He always knows best. We can rest in that assurance. He knows the burdens we carry and desires to help us be free of every one of them.

(Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV) "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. {30} For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

We have so many burdens in life... but we can give them all to Him. Like the crippled man, sin is also our greatest burden. It is the only burden we carry that affects our eternal destiny. Jesus is the only way to guarantee eternal life, joy, peace and fulfillment. He is the way, the truth and the life. He is the Resurrection and the Life. **He is the great I AM!** We need to come to Him and trade our difficult burdens for His blessed yoke. He promises us it will be easy, light and He will give us rest for our troubled souls.

Fourth Principle

Faith accepts and trusts in God's ways!

His ways are always best for us. They are higher and better than our ways. Consider them your only option!

Observe the newly forgiven and healed man's precise obedience. He just did it God's way!

(Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJV) ""For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. {9} "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

There were no objections, no doubts, and no taking some time to think about doing what seemed to be impossible. This man had been completely paralyzed, yet he had been touched so powerfully, that he rose, and stood before the Master and probably said something like this, *Help me get these ropes untied. I need to put this bed on my shoulders and go home!* And, off he went to his own house.

What a wonderful transformation! Can you imagine the inward peace that covered his soul with security he had never before felt? All this happened because his friends determined to bring him to Jesus... and he determined to get up and carry his bed home. Both efforts seemed impossible, but God made a way.

(Mark 10:27 NKJV) "But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

(Psalms 37:3-5 NKJV) "Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. {4} Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. {5} Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass."

Just Do It!

If Jesus commands it, just do it His way. Whether or not you think you can... whether or not it is convenient... and whether it might seem embarrassing, just be determined to do it His way!

Practical Instructions to help you *Just Do It!*

- 1. Search your heart and ask God to forgive you of your sins.**
- 2. Reject every fear or doubt that would keep you from accepting and trusting His ways.**
- 3. Believe your miracle is surely coming. Remember, He is forever faithful! (PSALM 36:5)**
- 4. Offer words of faith and praise as if your miracle has already happened. Thank and praise Him now!**
- 5. Broadcast your faith so it makes a difference in someone else's life. Declare it to the heavens! There is power in what you say!**
- 6. Break out of your boundaries. Possess your promises! Go ahead... **TEAR THE ROOF OFF!****

Fifth Principle

**Faith that tears the roof off does it the easy way -
God's way!**

Sixth Principle

Jesus alone has the authority to forgive sins and the power to heal! He is willing and... He will!

The hurting man's salvation and healing then became a sign of the Lord's glory. All were amazed. None could deny it!

We serve an amazing God who overflows with His amazing Grace!

(Luke 5:26 NKJV) "And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!""

Seventh Principle

There are no surprises in heaven. God is not surprised at the conditions in your life.

He is never ignorant of how things are with you. He knows when you are about to come to him with your trouble, and will always make a way. He is a miracle working Savior. He is ready to do everything He promises in His Word.

(Jeremiah 1:12 NKJV) "Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.""

Now, imagine, again, the men up on the roof, looking down through the hole to see what would happen to their friend. He lays below them paralyzed, burdened with sickness, sorrow, and all the disappointments of life. How could the condition of his life change - except for this Carpenter who sat in the room below, showing His glory and declaring His deity? They believed Jesus was who He said He was. They acted on their faith. Then, what they heard was not what they expected.

(Luke 5:20 NKJV) "When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you.""

These faithful friends would hardly have expected Jesus to look at this paralyzed man with such a great need for healing and pronounce forgiveness of sins over him... and then say it was because of their faith! This leads us to the next principle.

Eighth Principle

Act in faith and you can expect the unexpected! He will add blessings to blessings!

Confessing Christ as Lord not only brings forgiveness of one sin, or of many sins, but of all our sins. Jesus spoke to the man with the voice filled with divine authority, radiating divine love and speaking undeserved and limitless mercy. He washed away every sin in the man's life. He does the same with us.

Ninth Principle

The touch of the Savior will transform what seems impossible to transform.

Again - (Mark 10:27 NKJV) *“But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.”*”

If you could have looked into the face of that man, you would have seen a wonderful transformation. Understanding of the Savior and the joy of what had happened covered his soul with a warmth and sense of well-being he had never before felt! Accept Christ as your Lord and Savior. You will know what this feels like for yourself!

Tenth Principle

If Jesus commands it, just obey and do it!

(Look again at our fourth and fifth principles.)

First Jesus gave him forgiveness. Then, a brief moment later, Jesus said to him, *“Arise, and take up your bed, and go to your house.”* Now, here was a man who could not walk who was walking! Not only was he walking, but he picked up his bed, and walked out in a newly given strength that nobody could deny. He had no objections to Jesus' command. He expressed no doubts. He took no time to think about the impossibility of what Jesus asked. He was transformed. He just did what the Lord required. The Bible says, *“Immediately he rose up before them... and departed to his own house glorifying God.”*

Whether it appears we can, or it appears we cannot... whether it appears to be convenient or inconvenient... or even if it seem embarrassing, just obey and do what He asks!

This man, who could not even crawl, now stands up straight, puts the weight of his bed onto his shoulders, and pushes his way through the crowd. Imagine the amazement in that room! Imagine the shouts from the crowd, "*Glory! Glory! Glory to God!*"



Would not you have shouted the same if you had been paralyzed, and had been restored as he had?

Would not you have done the same if you had been a witness to the power of the Lord in that house on that day?

How easy it is to forget what it was like to be bound by sin, until Christ set us free. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He still forgives sin. He still heals the sick. He still performs miracles. He still commands us to do the impossible. For with God, all things are possible.

Eleventh Principle

With God, all things are possible!

Review:

PRINCIPLES OF FAITH TO TEAR THE ROOF OFF

- 1. Faith works through the power of agreement!**
- 2. Faith succeeds through determined people!**
- 3. Faith accepts and trusts God's priorities!**
- 4. Faith accepts and trusts in God's ways.**
- 5. Faith that tears the roof off does it the easy way - God's way!**
- 6. Jesus alone has the authority to forgive sins and the power to heal! He is willing and... He will!**

7. There are no surprises in heaven. God is not surprised at the conditions in your life.
8. Act in faith and you can expect the unexpected! He will add blessings to blessings!
9. The touch of the Savior will transform what seems impossible to transform.
10. If Jesus commands it, just obey and do it!
11. With God, all things are possible!

God bless you as you walk in the blessings of your faith.

Dr. Bob Abramson