



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Do You want to be made whole?

Scripture: John 5:1-9

John 5:1-9 recounts Jesus' healing of a man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath, demonstrating his power, compassion, and authority over religious laws. The story highlights God's help for the helpless and the importance of trusting in Jesus, not superstitious practices. It also foreshadows the conflict between Jesus and religious authorities over his violation of the Sabbath and claim to divinity.

Jesus attends a feast in Jerusalem and goes to the Pool of Bethesda, surrounded by sick people waiting for the water to be stirred by an angel to bring healing. A man who had been infirm for 38 years is among the crowd, but he has no one to help him into the pool. This man's problem had become a way of life. He had no hope of ever being healed and no desire to help himself. His situation looked hopeless. Jesus asks the man, "*Wilt thou be made whole?*". The man explains his inability to get into the pool, focusing on his limitation rather than Jesus' power. Jesus bypasses the pool and commands, "*Rise, take up thy bed, and walk,*" which the man immediately does.

Jesus demonstrates both his deep compassion for the man's long-term suffering and his immediate, divine power to heal. The healing on the Sabbath leads to conflict with Jewish religious leaders, who are more concerned with the violation of the law than the miracle itself. The passage challenges the popular belief in the magical properties of the pool, showing that Jesus' living waters and power offer true healing, not the ritual of the pool. **The story calls people to trust in Jesus as the true source of life and healing, rather than in other systems or rituals that offer false hope.** The conflict that arises from the healing foreshadows Jesus' future confrontation with the authorities and his claims to divinity.

Jehovah Rapha is a Hebrew name for God that translates to "The Lord who heals". It combines "Jehovah," the existing one or Lord, with "Rapha," meaning to heal, restore, or make whole. **This name signifies God's healing power, which is considered to be both physical and spiritual, and is available to those who believe in Him.**

To be made whole spiritually is a state of being complete and integrated where the physical, mental, and spiritual aspects of life are in harmony. It involves healing internal brokenness, finding inner peace, and developing a deep connection with the divine or sacred, leading to a sense of fullness and contentment. Moreover, reconciling brokenness to find a peaceful relationship with God and others, and being healed in spirit, soul, and body. When God makes us whole our fractured hearts are mended, the empty well inside our soul is filled up with the love of Christ, and we cease looking to people, possessions, or power to make us feel complete.

No matter how trapped you feel in your infirmities, God can minister to your deepest needs. Don't let a problem or hardship cause you to lose hope. God may have special work for you to do in spite of your condition, or even because of it. Many have ministered effectively to hurting people because they have triumphed over their own hurts. Paul is a prime example of doing his ministry during his infirmities (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).

Even when we feel helpless physically and spiritually God always demonstrates His power if we trust in Him. Just like He did for the woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years, the impotent man at the pool, and a certain man lame from his mother's womb. Throughout the Bible we read about Christ's compassion for the multitude (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32), the unfortunate (Matthew 20:34), for Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37), for the leper (Mark 1:41), and for the bereaved (Luke 7:13; John 11:35).

Mankind's extremity becomes God's opportunity to help. He was there to protect the disciples in the storm, heal the woman with the issue of blood for twelve years and the father of the demoniac son, deliver Peter out of prison, save Paul and his companions on the sea, and feed the disciples and the hungry multitude.

People of God if you really want to be healed physically or spiritually you must listen to the explicit directions given by God. Just like He told the impotent man to "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk."