

Pastor Jack suggested that Jesus' command implies that we need to contribute to our own healing. We must make an effort to secure the wholeness that Jesus desires for us. Part of that effort is to open ourselves to new the risk of change. We might have to risk changing our own routines, long-held belief and experiences in order to move forward toward wholeness. How about you? What efforts have you made or can you make in order to grow spiritually? How to you contribute to the deepening of your relationship with God, Christ and others? Consider these thoughts, pray for God's guidance as you write your response here.

Thursday, September 3

In the interview with Bishop David Bard, Pastor Jack asked the Bishop what are the most pressing issues in the church today? Bishop Bard mentioned the issues of LGBTQIA inclusion, the Black Lives Matter movement and the church's response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Wow! Those are big issues that have caused the recent months and years to be very turbulent.

What are your thoughts? What your thoughts concerning the issue Bishop Bard identified? What other issues would you have identify as important to the church today? Have you ever discussed your ideas with others, your family or Pastor Jack? Why or why not? What results would you want from such discussions? Write your thoughts here and make a plan to reach out and discuss your ideas with others.

Friday, September 4

At Pastor Jack's invitation, Bishop Bard asked for prayer for himself centered on three words: Stamina, Wisdom and Grace. Pastor Jack offered prayer during the interview and invited our congregation to continue those prayers. What three words would capture the prayers you desire for yourself? Share those words with someone as you pray for our Bishop and for our church.

Message Notes – August 30, 2020

Questions from God – *Do You Want to Be Made Well?**

- I. The self-help industry was an 11.6 _____ dollar industry last year and was estimate to grow over 5% each year through 2022.
 - A. Turns out that the concept of self-help began a _____ years before when a Scottish Journalist by the name of Samuel Smiles wrote a book in 1859 appropriately titled, *Self-Help with Illustrations of Conduct and Perseverance*.
 - B. George Carlin, said, "If you're looking for self-help, why would you read a book written by somebody else? That's not self-help. That's help! There's no such a thing as self-help. If you did it _____, you didn't need help."
 1. Friends as we conclude our series of message on Questions from God, I had an interview with our Michigan Area _____, David Bard.
 2. We enjoyed some time together to talk about our scripture for today, the concepts of self-help, _____, joy and a few other topics.

- II. With all that has and is happening in our world today, we can become _____ – not unlike the man in our Bible passage for today.
 - A. Let's recognize that the man offers _____ for why he hasn't been healed in those 38 years.

*John 5:1-9a

- B. Jesus' question is telling in that it implies a _____ in that man's life; the freedom and healing Jesus offers means that life will be _____.
- C. There is an expectation that we have some _____ in our healing and wholeness.

- III. Our scripture indicates that there are times when we are paralyzed in life and need help and we bear the _____ in our own healing and wholeness.
 - A. We also need to be open to the risk of new _____ in our lives.
 - B. We need risk new experiences in the _____ – as an institution – the corporate body of Christ.
 - 1. Notice how the religious leaders were not so interested in the man's healing but in maintaining Sabbath _____.
 - 2. It's difficult sometimes to just experience _____.

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, August 31

As mentioned during the message, the “Self-Help” or “Self-Improvement” business is an 11.9 Billion Dollar Industry. George Carlin said, “If you're looking for self-help, why would you read a book written by somebody else? That's not self-help. That's help! There's no such a thing as self-help. If you did it

yourself, you didn't need help.” What are your thoughts on Self Help or Self Improvement books and resources? Can you name some Self-Help resources you have found valuable? What areas of your life would you like to work on? Think about these concepts and ideas and write your response here.

Tuesday, September 1

Read John 5:1-9. The man who Jesus asked the question, “Do you want to be made well?” had been by the side of the healing pool of Beth-zatha for a very long time (Verse 6). He had been ill for 38 years! At the risk of sounding a little insensitive, the man offered up the excuse that there was no one there to place him in the waters of the pool when it was believed that angels provided a healing presence.

Many of us become paralyzed in our work, our relationships and in various projects and endeavors. And we often offer up a bevy of excuses for why we haven't cleaned out the garage yet to why we haven't done what is necessary to advance in our workplace. We rationalize why we can't accomplish this task or that project. What excuses have you offered in order to rationalize not accomplishing something? Have you ever evaluated the validity of your excuses? What do you need to do to experience healing and wholeness? Sometimes there are very good reasons for not accomplishing what you set out to do. Think about these ideas, reflect on them and write down your own ideas here.

Wednesday, September 2

Read John 5:1-9. Yesterday we talked about excuses we might offer for not accomplishing things in our lives; especially those things that will provide for our healing and wholeness. The man with whom Jesus interacts does not answer Jesus' question but Jesus commanded the man to “Stand up, take your mat and walk.”