

I. Review of Recent Sessions

- Hearing, Receiving, and Responding
- Reaping the Harvest of Healing
- The Undesired Harvest

II. THE TEMPTATION TO QUIT

A. Be Determined to Stand

1. With every fight of faith, there will be opportunities to quit, give up, or become discouraged. The victory belongs to those who refuse to be moved from what God has said.
2. When it comes to healing, we must be determined to stand in faith until we see the victory manifested.
3. Guard against becoming “battle-weary.”
 - a. Battle-weary describes becoming tired, discouraged, or worn down after standing in faith over an extended period of time.
 - b. We must guard against battle weariness when engaged in a fight that lingers—becoming tired of standing, confessing, praying, and resisting.

PASTOR'S NOTE: *When dealing with chronic illness or a prolonged health battle, there can be a temptation to allow the diagnosis, prognosis, and length of the condition to convince us that nothing will ever change. Over time, we can become accustomed to the condition and stop actively standing in faith for healing.*

B. Guard Against Developing a Sickness Mindset

1. John 5:5-9

KJV “And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, **Wilt thou be made whole?** The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise,

take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath."

2. He had been sick with the same illness for 38 years (long-term illness).
 - a. He had watched others receive healing while he remained sick.
3. Thirty-eight years of sickness had created a lifestyle, a mindset, and an identity built around his condition.
 - a. His lifestyle was completely developed around the condition. His income was connected to support from others, and his friends were those awaiting healing as well.
 - b. When Jesus presented him with the possibility of healing, his mind immediately went to all the reasons it couldn't happen.

PASTOR'S NOTE: *When the man first came to the pool, he came with hope and expectation of being healed. But after years of waiting without change, he could no longer see a way out of his condition.*

III. WE MUST KEEP OUR FAITH ALIVE

- Keep hearing the Word.
- Keep believing the Word.
- Keep speaking the Word.
- Keep acting on the Word.
- Keep expecting the promise.

A. Scriptures

1. Hebrews 10:35–36

KJV "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

NKJV "You have need of ENDURANCE so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."

- a. "Endurance": Perseverance; the ability to remain under pressure without giving up.

2. Hebrews 6:12

NKJV "...that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

NLT "Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance."

AMP "So that you will not be [spiritually] sluggish, but [will instead be] imitators of those who through faith [lean on God with absolute trust and confidence in Him and in His power] and by patient endurance [even when suffering] are [now] inheriting the promises."

B. We Must Guard Our Identity

1. When we are dealing with sickness and are continually surrounded by others who are sick, it can become easy for our identity to become clouded by our condition.
2. If we are not careful, we can begin to identify ourselves by what we are experiencing rather than by who we are in Christ. Sickness may describe what we are dealing with, but it does not define who we are.

PASTOR'S NOTE: *The man at the pool was surrounded daily by others who were sick and suffering. It is easy to imagine that the atmosphere was dominated by their conditions, their symptoms, and struggles. Living continually in such an environment could make it difficult to see beyond the condition.*

3. What we continually hear and focus upon can become seed in the heart, producing either faith and hope or weariness and discouragement.
4. Do not allow your identity to be determined by conditions.
5. Keep your identity established in Christ (i.e. you are the healed, not the sick).

C. Guard Against Giving Up: Signs to Watch for!

1. Your inward thoughts and mindsets change.
 - a. You stop expecting anything to change.
 - b. You begin to view your condition as permanent
 - c. You imagine yourself with the condition for life.
 - d. You imagine yourself dying and what it will be like.
2. You stop feeding your faith.
 - a. Your time in the Word decreases.
 - b. There is a shift from faith for living to faith for dying.
3. Your words change.
 - a. You talk more about the sickness and condition than faith.
 - b. You speak of living with the condition rather than when you are healed.
 - c. You speak more of the reports from the doctor than God's Promises.
4. Resistance changes.
 - a. You are no longer resisting the condition but embracing it.
 - b. Thoughts that you once challenged by faith you now embrace without any resistance.
5. Natural effort begins to change.
 - a. You stop resisting physical hindrances and begin yielding to limitations.
 - b. You stop exercising, walking, stretching, or taking other natural steps to stay engaged.

IV. CLOSING

A. Scriptures for Reflection

1. Proverbs 24:10

KJV *"If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small."*

2. Galatians 6:9

KJV *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*

ISV "Let's not get tired of doing what is good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest—if we do not give up."

3. Psalm 27:13-14

NKJV "*I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!*"

B. Stay In the Fight!

1. Don't allow the length of the battle to determine the strength of your faith.
2. Don't let what has not happened yet cause you to abandon what you believe.
3. Don't allow persistent symptoms to have the final word.
4. Don't cast away your confidence simply because you've had to stand longer than you expected.