

LOVE IS A BATTLEFIELD

PART 7

FIGHTING FOR A FRIEND

Luke 5:17–26 One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus. Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. **Seeing their faith**, Jesus said to the man, **"Young man, your sins are forgiven."** But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!" Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, **"Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins."** Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, **"Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"** And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!"

Five feelings to fight for the sake of my friend

1. Fight the doubts.

Mark 9:23–24 **"What do you mean, 'If I can'?"** Jesus asked. **"Anything is possible if a person believes."** The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

2. Fight the prejudices.

John 9:2–3 "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" **"It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins,"** Jesus answered. **"This happened so the power of God could be seen in him."**

3. Fight the apathy and complacency.

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

4. Fight the fear of rejection.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes...

5. Fight the urge to give up.

Galatians 6:9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.