

Building Your Faithⁱ

Key Point: Jesus responded to the faith of the individuals who brought their loved one forward for healing.

Luke 5:17-20 ¹⁷ One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. ¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. ²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." NIV

Note: The fact of Jesus' forgiveness does not mean the paralyzed man's problems were necessarily caused by sin (see John 9:1-3). Jesus's shows that He has the compassion and power to give salvation as well as heal the broken.

Your loved one may often seem paralyzed by their mental healthy difficulty. They feel (or may be) immobilized when trying to function at home, school, work, or in relationships. But when we come together as a group, the Body of Christ, we are like the faith-filled men who lowered the paralytic in front of Jesus. Like those men, Jesus, seeing our faith, will continue to reinforce us with sustaining grace for our loved ones.

In addition to this COMI group, who are other "stretcher bearers" helping to carry your loved one to Jesus:

Mother Teresa is attributed with writing these words. They were written and hanging of the wall in her home for the poorest of the poor children in Calcutta.

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you.

Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.

Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today will often be forgotten.

Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Grace Alliance, *Family Grace – healthy solutions for your mind* (p8f)

ⁱⁱ Gire, Ken. *At Peace in the Storm* (pp. 99-100). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.