



## [Mark 2:3-5](#)

(3) And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. (4) And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. (5) When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

## [Luke 5:18-20](#)

(18) And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. (19) And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. (20) And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

*King James Version*

Four men arrive late, carrying a paralyzed man on his bed. When they realize that they cannot possibly get him through the door, they carry their helpless paralytic friend upstairs to the roof and lower the bed in front of [Jesus](#) as He is speaking. Their determination to place him before Jesus displays their [faith](#) that he would be healed. Instead of being deterred by the problem of the crowds, they see the possibilities for solving it. If they could only involve [God](#), they thought, things would go well. The persevering efforts of the four friends pay off for their paralytic friend as they help make possible his spiritual [healing](#) as well as his physical healing. Their actions are an example of the apostle James' statement in [James 2:18](#): "I will show you my faith by my works."

Christ finds faith in the friends, and He honors their faith, rather than any faith the sufferer has. Of course, no one can be saved by another's faith. Yet, another or others can help him along to Christ since only He can deliver him from the bondage of [sin](#). Being

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pleased with their works, which exhibited their faith, Christ responds to their resourcefulness and perseverance in behalf of their suffering friend. Their faith in Christ, then, is the catalyst in His performing this miracle. Our Savior works where faith is present ([Luke 5:20](#)). Obviously, He can perform His work anywhere regardless of human faith, but He often chooses not to act when people lack faith in Him, as happened in Nazareth ([Matthew 13:58](#)).

[Hope](#) motivates the paralytic's friends to manifest faith. First, their faith is a *wise* faith in that it brought the paralytic to the only One who could heal. Second, it is a *persistent* faith because it is undeterred by seemingly overwhelming obstacles. Third, it is a *sacrificial* faith in that it gives of its time and effort to bring the paralytic before Christ. Fourth, it is an *unintimidated* faith because it is unashamedly displayed in public. Fifth, it is a *humble* faith since the friends do not ask Jesus to come to him but take him to Jesus. Sixth, it is a *loving* faith because the friends willingly expend great effort to get him real help. Finally, it is an *active* faith in that they take the man to Christ rather than sit around complaining and grumbling about their friend's woeful condition.

— Martin G. Collins

**To learn more, see:**

[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing a Paralytic \(Part One\)](#)

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