



The Power of Intercessory Prayer

Amazement seized them all, and they glorified God (Luke 4:26)

In Luke 5:17-20, we read about the determination of a man's friends to bring him to Jesus. The man is paralyzed, and his friends are trying to bring him to Jesus for healing. Jesus is in a house, but there are too many people. Everyone is crowded around the doors and windows and the friends are unable to bring the man to Jesus. They do not give up. Instead, they climb on the roof, cut out a large hole, and lower the paralyzed man into the house to Jesus. Jesus heals the man of his sins and his paralysis.

What has struck me as amazing is the determination of the man's friends. I wonder how far they carried him? Was it down the road? across town? or through the countryside. Just, so that their friend could possibly be healed? Also, when they were confronted with obstacles to seeing Jesus, they climbed to the roof (carrying the man), cut a large hole in the roof (large enough for the man to fit through), and then lowered the man into where Jesus was sitting. These are strong, determined friends.

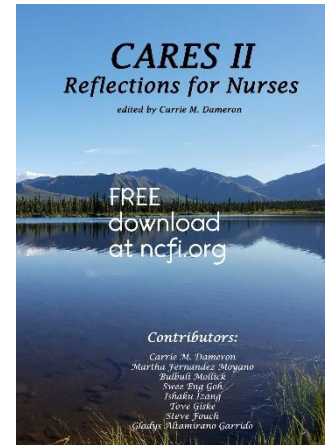
Yet, the friends' determination wasn't just physical strength needed for the journey, nor creating an access to Jesus. Their determination is also in their faith. They believed that Jesus would heal their friend! They didn't doubt, nor sway in their determination. Their belief was so assured that they overcame all obstacles.

Jesus took notice, *Jesus seeing their (friends) faith*, he healed their friend. Notice, it was not the man's faith, nor his determination. Instead, Jesus saw the friends' faith. This is the power of intercessory prayer—belief. Belief that God can do anything for our friends, our families, and for our patients. The person we pray for doesn't need to believe. We believe for them and are determined to show them Jesus.

When we are determined in prayer and belief, we witness the hand of God touch lives. Amazingly, the man was forgiven and healed, and the crowd was amazed and glorified God. So much was accomplished. All because of the determination and faith of a few friends.

Here is a challenge—commit to pray for one person every day for 30 days and see all that God does through your faith and determination.

Blessings,
Carrie



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