

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Promises of God -

Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Passage – John 5:1-47

1 After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda [meaning "mercy"], having five porticoes.

3 In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [waiting for the moving of the waters;

4 for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.]

This bracketed portion was not included in some of the early manuscripts. That portion, however, does reveal what the people believed about these particular waters.

5 A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?"

7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

8 Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." The Lord has issued three commands -

"Get up," "Pick up," and "Walk" – –Literally "To walk around" or "walk about"

An act of mercy and grace. . .

Mercy - God withholding that which we deserve

Grace – the unmerited favor of God

9 Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day.

The spiritual police converge on this man who has been healed by the Lord -

10 So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet."

11 But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Pick up your pallet and walk.'"

12 They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Pick up your pallet and walk'?"

The sick man does not know who healed him.

13 But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place.



The man's FAITH preceded his OBEDIENCE!

14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you."

Principle – God does not command us to do anything for which He does not provide the power for us to accomplish those commands.

Whatever was that man's sin, Jesus Christ did not rub it in his face!

Few points to note at this point –

1. The man did not know who had commanded him to pick up his pallet and go walking around (vs. 13).
2. His faith in the One who commanded preceded his obedience to the commands.

In a similar manner, we keep His commands because we believe!

3. Therefore, the man believed the One who commanded him had the power or ability to make him well.

15 The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

16 For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus. . .

“Persecuting” - – “*Persecuting or pursuing*”

Pursuing Jesus because He was violating the Sabbath ***in their eyes!***

. . . because He was doing **these things** on the Sabbath.

The Jews were . . .

- Running around trying to find Him.
- Putting together an informal court proceeding to try Him for violating the Sabbath.

Remember that punishment for violating the Sabbath is death by stoning.

Sanhedrin – a counsel composed of 70 high priests that had jurisdiction over Judea

- They have the authority to issue warrants for arrest.
- Authority to try people for violating the Mosaic Law
- Also referred to as “*Ruler of the Jews*”

17 But [Therefore] He **answered** them. . .

“Answered” - μ – “*He replied*”

- . . . A solemn defense of their accusation of His breaking the Sabbath
- . . . Defending Himself against this charge
- . . . It is only in grace that any response is given!

In all this, the Pharisees are given an opportunity to trust in the Lord!

. . . “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”

Corrected translation – “Therefore He replied to them, “The Father of Me, right at this very moment, is working Himself *on the Sabbath*, and I am working Myself *on the Sabbath*.”

Jesus Christ is stating that God is His Father; therefore, He is God in the flesh.

Jesus Christ is doing no more than obeying the Father and they are both *working on the Sabbath*.

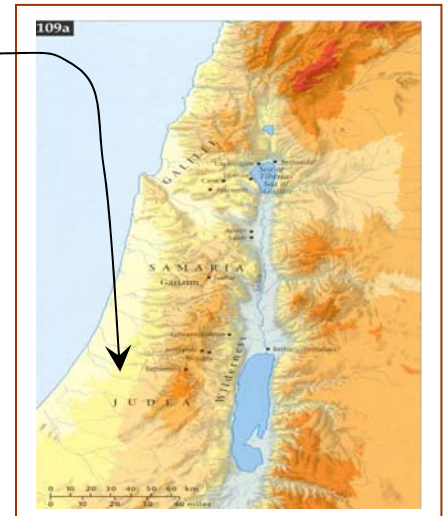
Does God have the power. . .

To command?

To heal?

To sustain?

Yes, yes and yes - He does.



This is blasphemy to the religious ones.

The man who was healed is doing nothing more than obeying what the Son told him to do.

Was man made for the Sabbath or was the Sabbath made for man?

WHAT IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE?

¹⁸ For this reason therefore the Jews were **seeking all the more to kill Him**, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

Jesus' defense of Himself (vv. 19-47) -

¹⁹ Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

The Lord's defense –

1. First part – His personal testimony vv. 19-32
 2. Second part – The testimony of others
 - a. John the Herald vv. 32-35
 - b. His works vs. 36
 - c. The Father vv. 37-38
 - d. The Scriptures vv. 38-47
 - e. Moses testimony also. . .
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All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.