

Find A Way

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C. Elijah Bronner: Where there is no way, you have to find a way.

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(Music Playing)

Automated Voice: And now for, "Find A Way."

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining for Brothers of the Word because brother you need the word.

Well, we welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at BrothersofTheWord.com or Facebook Live. We welcome you to today's service. Always a wonderful joy and delight to have to tune in and join us.

Well, I would like to share just a little humor, a husband and wife were dining at a five-star restaurant and when their food arrived, the husband said, "Our food has arrived, let's eat." His wife reminded him, she said, "Honey, you always say your prayers at home before your dinner." Her husband replied, "That's at home, my dear. Here, the chef knows how to cook."

Well, we're sharing a scripture out of Matthew and we actually are going to be cross referencing this scripture in Mark as well as in Luke, but in Matthew Chapter 9 beginning verse 1 and 2, it says, "Then he entered speaking of Jesus and He entered into a ship and passed over and came into his own city and behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed and Jesus seeing their faith, said unto the sick of the palsy, 'Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee.'"

And I'll stop right there, but this is the account of the paralytic man brought by his four friends and let down through the roof into the home where Jesus was teaching because of the crowd and notice in verse 5, it says, "Jesus saw their faith." This let's us know that faith is not invisible. Faith is not invisible. We actually can give visibility to our faith through our actions. Our actions actually causes our faith to be seen. So, action, actually makes faith visible.

Let me ask you this question, can God see your faith? Can God, see your faith? What actions are you taking? What are you doing? Is there anything visible. I guess the book of James, the epistle of James says it this way, says that, "Faith without works is dead." One translation actually says, "Faith without corresponding action is dead." And so, our actions actually give visibility to our faith. I love that. I love that because I always thought faith was invisible but it's not. Jesus saw their faith and so, actions bring our faith into the visible realm. So, faith is not just what you believe, it's what you do. It's not just what you believe, it is what you do.

Now, in the other accounts in this particular account in the Gospel of Luke, and in the Gospel of Mark, the same account is covered. So, this account is covered by Matthew, Mark and Luke and in the other accounts, we get really in-depth analysis of actually what happened here where Jesus saw their faith. And in both accounts in Luke and in Mark, when these four men brought the paralytic on a bed trying to take him to Jesus, these two words, you'll find in Luke and Mark, but it says that they could not.

Everybody say, "Could not." They could not. Which means, they tried and they couldn't. They did try but they couldn't. They didn't see a way to get this man to Jesus. They could not. They could not. Now, let me ask you this question, what if they had simply given up and gone home? What if they have said, "Well, maybe this isn't meant to be." They tried and they could not. They could not, they tried and they could not.

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So, they had all rights to go home, they gave it a good shot. They could have said, "You know, we've tried. We couldn't do it." They could not, they tried but they could not. And they could have just said, you know this is not destined and maybe it wasn't meant to be. Maybe this man was meant to suffer this for the rest of his life and lived this way the rest of his life. But if they had done that, they would have missed the miracle. They would have missed the miracle.

Now, there is a message to us today and I just want to glean some things that this account says to us today. And it says this, this is the first thing that jumped out of me, it says, "That when we are

pursuing worthwhile things in life, whether it's a dream, a goal, aspiration, whether it's healing, physical, or even emotional healing, whether it's finances, whether it's a happy marriage or a successful parenting or whether it's any of God's promises. " When we are pursuing anything worthwhile in life, we learn these two lessons from this account: Number one, don't give up easily, everybody say, "Don't give up easily." And number two, "Don't quit at the first sign of trouble."

These guys could have quit, and they could have given up. But they did not. And there's something that this account speaks to us that anytime you are pursuing anything worthwhile, anything worth having in life, it will take determination, it will take perseverance, it will take continual effort and it will take some ingenuity and so, we gain some great insights on pursuing anything worthwhile in life. And this account, it says to us, "Now, Jesus was in this home and you know, they were attempting to bring the man in on the bed through the front door, but the Bible says, "They could not because of the crowd."

And it was crowded around the front door and I mean, the house was just jam-packed. And so, there was literally no way through the front door and that says to us, you know, "There are going to be times when we won't be able to walk through the front door of an opportunity." You won't be able to walk through the front door of an opportunity, any type of opportunity, any opportunity to bless your life or change your life. There'll be times where you won't be able to walk through the front door of the opportunity. Won't be a cake walk in other words and so, this account lets us know that there will be hiccups in your plans, things you had not expected or anticipated. Those things happen.

When they set out to take the man to Jesus, they had no idea they wouldn't be able to get in. They didn't anticipate that and neither did they expect that. So, that lets us know that on our journey toward any worthwhile endeavor, there will be hiccups, there will be things that we didn't plan, things we didn't take into account, things we didn't consider. There'll be things we just didn't expect. So, there'll be unexpected things, things we didn't anticipate, hiccups. I like to call them hiccups.

Avey(ph), if you have the picture, if you're able to pull up the picture, this is a little meme that kind of shows you what success is like. Now, the picture with the straight arrow and says, "That

most people think that that's what success looks like, but the other picture that's all jumbled up, that's what success is really like.

So, that lets us know that is not going to be a straight walk through the front door to anything worthwhile in life. Any endeavor with having a life but as you know, this is going to be a jumbled up mess sometimes because we're going to run into hiccups, we're going to run into things we didn't anticipate, there got to be surprises, things we didn't expect, things happen that we didn't take into account, we had no idea and you know that's going to need to be some trial and error as there going to need to be some restarts, there are going to need to be some do overs and so all of these things happen on the road to success.

So, the first two words, I wanted you to get, "They could not." Everybody say, "Could not." "Could not." So, they could have given up, they could have quit, they could have said, this wasn't meant to be. Now, the second phrase, this one is actually in the account that's recorded in Luke's Gospel is that, when they could not, it says, they sought means. Everybody say, "Sought means." So, other words, they look for other ways, they sought other means of getting into the house. They could not get in. So, then they sought means. They sought means. So, they couldn't get in through the front door and so, they begin to seek other ways. They tried the backdoor and guess what? It was crowded at the backdoor.

They were trying everything they could, you know, the bed wouldn't fit. There was just no way to get the bed through the door with that many people jammed up against it. It wasn't possible. They tried the front door, they went around, they tried the backdoor. I don't know if the house had windows --

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-- but if they did, I'm sure they measured the bed up against the window to see if they could maybe slide in through a window. They saw means they were trying to see maybe possibly they could take the man off the bed and piggyback him on their back. Possibly walk him in, but because he was paralyzed but he wouldn't be able to hold on. And so they were looking at everything they were looking at everything possible they sought means. They tried every available option. They tried every

opening that that house had. They tried every opening it had, every door, every window. They sought means they looked for a way in.

So, we find out the first two words were they could not, everybody say could not. Then they sought means. Everybody say sought means. So first when you can't when we have a problem when we are facing an obstacle, first one we can't. That's number one. Number two, we seek means. We look for other options. This is what it's teaching us in this account. Number three, in Mark's account of this and Chapter 2 and Mark account of this. It says that they uncovered the roof. So number one, could not. Number two, sought means. Number three, everybody say uncover.

Now, uncover means they uncovered something. It means that they revealed something. The roof was covered, they uncovered the roof, which means they revealed or you can say it this way, revelation. They got a revelation. They got an insight. They got an idea. They uncovered an idea and then the fourth word that I found in this account in Mark's Gospel was breakthrough. Everybody say breakthrough. So first, they could not, they sought means, they uncovered. That's revelation. That's insight. That's finding an idea. Fourth is breakthrough. They begin to break up the roof to breakthrough. The breakthrough means that you have to work it until you break through. This is where you have to put in the work.

So breakthrough represents the work. So after they could not, they looked for a way and then they uncovered, mean they got an idea. Now, the breakthrough. Now you have to execute that idea and you begin to work through the process. You begin to go into action. You begin to work it through. And so those are four things that the Holy Spirit pointed out to me. Those four words he pointed out to me and all of those particular accounts of this ministry event, they could not and then they sought means, they uncovered and then they broke through.

So when you can't, you look around, explore all options, you discover ideas and then you execute. You begin to work out the idea. And so that's something the Holy Spirit just showed me in this account that applies to life today. Isn't that good? Ain't the Holy Spirit good? So he can take something that happened two thousand years ago and show you the relevant principles to today. They had a problem. They had an obstacle. They could not. And

just like we have things they face us. we have obstacles in life. And it could be in any area of life. But these four things work. These four things work. You have to first you can't. You seek means. You explore all options. You uncover the idea. Then, you break through. You begin to work out and execute that idea.

Now, notice the work it took. So this account lets us know that anytime you're pursuing anything worthwhile, any worthwhile endeavor in life, look at all the work that's required. They had to climb from the ground to the roof. Now, it's enough just climbing by yourself. They had to climb carrying a bed. I don't know if anybody's ever been in the moving business or ever did in moving. Man, moving furniture is rough. Moving furniture is rough. I have a friend who was in the moving business. He came to me. He showed me his knuckles. His knuckles were all scratched up and scraped up. He said, "Man, I got to get out of this business. This moving is rough."

I've seen other guys in the moving business. You know, they've hurt their backs and so moving is a tough business because of the physicality of the labor. So they had to not only climb to the roof, they had to carry a bed, just furniture. Just imagine carrying furniture, moving furniture. Not only did they have to carry a bed, they had to carry a man lying on a bed. Now it's hard enough carrying furniture by itself. And then you're going to lay on it? Can you imagine that? Can you imagine the movers coming to your house to move you and you're laying on the bed? And then there was no handicap entrance.

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There was no easy way in. And so this is the Holy Spirit speaking to us then to obtain anything worthwhile pursuing a worthwhile endeavor, to change our lives, it requires effort and requires struggle. It requires daring because this was quite an adventure. This man had to be willing to be turned up vertical to go up. He could have slid off the bed and further injured himself. The guys carrying him could have injured themselves. This was a daring event, but I like something that Kenneth Patton(ph) said, he said, "Anything that is not daring is nothing."

There's no dare that is not even worth doing. I like that. Anybody like that? Am I the only one that likes it? He said, that which is not daring is nothing, which means that anything significant

requires some risk somewhere. A risk some kind of way. You have to risk in order to gain. That's the principle. You have to risk in order to gain. And so, this required effort and requires struggle, daring, required tenacity and required ingenuity. So anytime we're trying to do anything worthwhile, anything we're pursuing any dream, goal or life change or even just to obtain God's promises to possess them, these are things that are required.

It requires effort, struggle, daring, ingenuity, tenacity and you'll find this in the lives of God's people all through the Bible, it required that. It required that. When God told Abraham pick up your family and go where I tell you, he didn't know where he was going. That was daring man to pick up all you got and don't even know where you're going? That's daring. So the call of God has daring because God requires us to trust Him. It requires faith to do anything. And that's what the Bible says, Jesus saw their faith. This was faith in action. This was faith in action. So say this, "They could not, they sought means, they uncovered an idea, then, they began to break through." That's the work.

Those are the four principles that we learn: Could not, they sought means, they uncovered, they begin to breakthrough. Man, think about the things in life that we never achieve or obtained or arrived at because we're simply not willing to do what's inconvenient. This was inconvenient. This was inconvenient and that's why the Bible showed that going to the roof was inconvenient. If you couldn't get in through the front door, most people would have just gone home because they tried. But that's why could not was the first to words. They tried. It wasn't like they didn't try, they showed up. They went to the front door. They went to the back door. They went to the windows. There was no way in. They tried.

They could have legitimately go home and felt good about themselves. They could say, "Hey, we were at the meeting. We were there at the meeting. There was no way in there. We tried." They had a legitimate reason to feel good about the same -- hey, we showed up. We couldn't get in. We tried every which way it went around.

Notice that. So this is letting us know that anything worthwhile is not going to be convenient. Not going to be convenient. So they

had to inconvenience themselves. They had to inconvenience themselves before they obtain.

Think about how the world is conditioning us to convenience. Everything in the world is about convenience now. You don't have to leave your home even for groceries now. You don't have to leave your home for groceries. Amazon Fresh will bring them right to your house. You don't have to leave your home for any type of shopping now. It'll be on your doorsteps. Think about it. You don't have to go to the movies anymore. You can lay on your bed and watch all the movies you want. I used to have to go always pick up food and dinner for my family. I don't have to go out anymore, I can call Uber Eats.

Notice how everything is becoming more and more convenient so you don't have to go through any struggle or pain or discipline or effort to get anything. Well, that's not the way that anything worthwhile is achieved, anything worthwhile is gained. And when we're pursuing our dreams and our goals and life change and things that God has for us, He's letting us know that it takes good old-fashioned effort. It takes good old-fashioned work. You can't be afraid of struggle. You can't be afraid of hard times. You can't be afraid them. In fact, Paul told Timothy, he said and do a hardness as a good soldier in Christ Jesus.

Where do we get all these wimpy Christians from? No. And so we have to be willing to be inconvenienced. It's better to be inconvenienced to make a change for the better than to conveniently stay the same. So, we have to be inconvenienced to make a change. We have to refuse to be complacent, stuck where we are. He could have gone home but if he'd had gone home he'd still been on that bed. It would be convenient to just go home but he'd been stuck where he was. And so on the other side of inconvenience is a miracle. On the other side of inconvenience is a blessing.

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On the other side of inconvenience is the provision. And so, I like something that John Maxwell said. He says when you get out of your comfort zone and get in the faith zone, things happen in the faith zone that would never have happened in the comfort zone. So you get in the faith zone, things happen. That's why Jesus saw their faith. They were in the faith zone. Things were happening.

They were doing things. Nothing happens in the comfort zone. It's when you get in the faith zone that things begin to happen. You have to learn to do something that stretches you a little bit.

Our lives become so complacent and so boring and stale and stagnant. Do something that stretches you a little bit. Try something new, do something, learn something new, do something you don't know how to do. Be willing to stretch yourself. Be inconvenienced a little bit. It keeps us sharp. It makes you sharp, it makes you better. And so we learn from this, you know, where there is no way, you have to find a way. Where there is no way, you have to find a way.

Be creative. Be resourceful. And you ask God to birth an idea. Ask God to birth an idea. That's what happened. These gentlemen uncovered an idea. God gave them an idea and they acted on it and they were willing to put in the effort, the struggle, the daring, the ingenuity and the tenacity.

I was watching and I'm closing now. But I was watching a movie and the movie was called "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind." Anybody seen that movie? The Boy Who Harness The Wind. But it's about a little African village. In this African village, they were unable to grow food. I guess there was no rain and so they couldn't grow crops anymore. And so these people in this African village were starving to death. So many of them had decided to just get out of there. Others were just there emaciating away and so they were dying because there was no food. There's a little boy. A little boy was in school in his little class. One day, he saw a book with a windmill on it and it caught his attention and he began reading that book about windmill energy and how it works.

And this little boy had something that was itching him on the inside. He didn't quite understand that but he was curious and he was intrigued with the idea of wind energy that could possibly help his village. And later, he saw his teacher riding a bike from school and on the back of the bike the teacher had a little tail light and the tail light was powered by some contraption that was attached to the tire. So as he pedaled, that gave the light, light that powered the light. And so the boy saw that and he asked the teacher, he said how is that working? So anyway, long story short, he ended up taking that contraption off his teacher's bike and then he ended up getting all the men because everybody

thought he was crazy but he finally convinced everybody in the village to cooperate.

He borrowed a bicycle. He took that contraption. They gathered wood. They built the windmill. And this thing ended up powering an irrigation system that watered their land. And they were now once again able to grow food. And it saved the whole village. One boy with a crazy idea who harnessed the wind. And so God will breathe. God will breathe. He'll breathe an impossible situation and what this account says was there's nothing impossible with God. There is always a way to win with God. There is always a way to win with God. Praise God. That was actually my subject. My subject is Find A Way. There is always a way with God.

There is always a way with God. God will breathe in an idea. He'll give you the strategy. He'll line you up with the right people and the resources. There is always a way. There is always a way and we can find a way. And when there is no way, this is why He's called a way maker. That's where they came from. He's away when there is no way. When there is no way, He is a way maker. No don't make me preach. Praise God. Avey if you have the three-minute video, it's about a lady who found a way.

(Video Playing)

Male: "A holiday triumph. So many of you watching today tweeting about it. So many eyes studying that one trip on this Labor Day. Swimmer Diana Nyad swim from Cuba to Key West Florida. You can see it right here over my shoulder at 64 swimming 110 miles without a shark cage. The first ever to do it. Fifty-three hours, her dream finally come true after five tries. Her first one, 36 years ago in her 20's. She came out of the water, look at this, to a massive cheering crowd exhausted but victorious getting so many hugs.

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Tonight, ABC's Gio Benitez, with the first interview on her mission, her message and her mask. What she did this time to ward off the jellyfish and those excruciating stings.

Gio Benitez After less than three days and more than 100 miles in the water, 64-year-old Diana Nyad reached land.

- Diana Nyad: We should never ever give up dream.
- Gio Benitez: Her extreme dream of swimming from Cuba to Key West. After four failed attempts, 36 years in the making, finally a reality.
- Diana Nyad: You never are too old to chase your dream. Right.
- Male: Amazing.
- Gio Benitez: Right outside the hospital after she was released, she told us what kept her going.
- Diana Nyad: I went through hell on Saturday night for 13 hours with the jellyfish mask. I've got huge lacerations. I'm not talking well, all over my mouth, it was difficult to breathe. But you know I tell you my resolve on this thing was (00:26:09). I just had this attitude. It doesn't matter what it is, find a way.
- Gio Benitez: She's now the first person ever to swim from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage. Her only protection, a specially designed mask to repel jellyfish. Her team feeding her soft high calorie food like pasta. She would drink soups and water through a tube. Nyad made her name as a competitive swimmer. She swam around Manhattan in 1975. An inspirational figure asked to explain her drive in a TED talk.
- Diana Nyad: I said I want it to be difficult. I want it to take passion. I wanted to take an unwavering commitment to be able to get to the other shore.
- Gio Benitez: So she tried to swim from Cuba in 1978 at the age of 28 years. Then three more times in the last two years. But every time, exhaustion, dehydration or jellyfish stings.
- Diana Nyad: I wanted that feeling to be on the beach so badly.
- Gio Benitez: Forced her to abandon her quest. But today, the excitement was contagious here in Key West.
- Female: Just kept getting chills. It was just amazing.
- Gio Benitez: And around the world, her extreme dream trending on Twitter. So many inspired by Nyad's perseverance.

Male: This is the world record. This is arguably the greatest swim of all time.

Diana Nyad: People you can see, they were hungry for that life message of never ever give up.

Male: And you never did.

Diana Nyad: And I didn't.

Gio Benitez: An incredible journey for Diana Nyad. And tonight, we're told the weather for the most part cooperated and David, that current helped her swim fast."

C. Elijah Bronner: Wasn't that a powerful story? Man, she said three things. She said never give up. You never too old to pursue your dream. And she said find a way. Find A Way. Those of you watching by television, I want you to go to BrothersofTheWord.com. You can listen to this message in its entirety. Find a way absolutely free of charge and you can also e-mail it to a friend. Thank you so much for joining us today at Brothers of The Word because brother you need the Word.

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