

# Encourage U



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## Move Up to the Next Level

When Jesus hung upon the cross, before He took His final breath, He shouted, **"It is finished!"** He wasn't just talking about His own life and how He had finished His purpose. He was putting an end to all the negative things that try to hold you back. He was saying, "The guilt is finished! The low self-esteem is finished! The mediocrity is finished! The depression is finished! It is all finished!"

**Do you want to \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

In John 5, Jesus meets a disabled man who has basically been homeless for 38 years. When Jesus saw the man lying there, He asked him, "Do you want to get better?" It seemed like the answer was obvious. But Jesus could take one look at the man and see that there was nothing in the man's actions or his attitude that said he wanted to get better, nothing that said, "I'm expecting things to change."

**You need to be careful about whom you surround yourself with, especially in difficult times.** He had surrounded himself with other people who were just like him.

Where you \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_.

You may have been raised in a very limited environment. Maybe you came from a very dysfunctional home. Maybe your family members were good people, but they didn't have any vision for a better future, and they settled for mediocrity. **Where you start is not important. Where you finish is what matters.**

In the Bible, this is exactly what happened to both David and Jesus – so you are in good company!

Get \_\_\_\_\_ !

Life isn't always fair. But God says He will give you beauty for ashes – but you've got to let go of the ashes before you receive the beauty. **You can't hold on to the old and expect to receive the new.**

Do like David. David could have lived bitter, with a chip on his shoulder, but he understood this principle. He said to the past, "It is finished! I don't understand it, but I'm moving forward."

Next Week  
**Know You Are Loved**