

# **“Does your Christianity make any Difference?”**

## **The Foundation, part 2**

**John 5.1-9**

**January 24, 2016**

- † Brazos Meadows – and your D<sup>2</sup> group – must be the safest place on earth. This must be the safest place to find healing and wholeness.

## **Foundational Facts**

### **1. Not everyone who is sick wants to get well.**

- † “Sick” is comfortable because we know what to expect. “Well” can be uncomfortable because we don’t know what to expect – it’s unknown territory.

Exodus 16.3: *The sons of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the LORD’S hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”*

Exodus 17.3: *But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, “Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”*

- † If you’re going to find spiritual and emotional wholeness, you’re going to have to decide that God’s way is better than remaining where you are.

### **2. We rarely change when we see the light; however, we do change when we feel the heat.**

- † Knowledge is rarely enough to effect change.

- † It’s not knowledge that changes most of us; it’s pressure that changes us.

- † Pressure comes in numerous forms. Here are just two:

- ♥ Kindness – Rom. 2.4: *Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?*

♥ Tragedy – Ps. 107.10-13: *There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in misery and chains, because they had rebelled against the words of God and spurned the counsel of the Most High. Therefore He humbled their heart with labor; they stumbled and there was none to help. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; He saved them out of their distresses.*

† Rick Warren: *You won't desire to change until the pain exceeds your fear of change. The pain of not changing has to be greater than the pain of change; if it is not, you will remain where you are.*

### **3. Faith is essential.**

† Faith equates to action.

† We have to have the faith that God's way – even though we don't know all it will look like – is better than remaining spiritually or emotionally sick. We have to trust the goodness of God.

## **The Road to Recovery**

**1. Mental willingness: I want to be made whole.**

**2. Emotional strength: I need people.**

**3. Spiritual power: If God doesn't do it, it can't get done.**