

*August 7, 2020*

## **Do You Want to Be Healed?**

*Awareness is the first step in healing.*

—Dean Ornish

In John 5, we have the story of an invalid who spent years by the pool at Bethesda, waiting for the exact moment when a healing angel would come and stir the waters. Meanwhile, this person asked for contributions from people who passed by to maintain himself. Jesus approached the man and asked, “Do you want to be healed?” Without hesitation, the man said, “Yes!”

But what if he had answered differently? He had grown up with his illness and spent years by the pool. People knew him, he earned a modest living and he was used to his way of life. Rather than be open to new potential, he could have answered, “No thanks, I’ll stay the way I am.”

Let’s face it, sometimes we just like the way things are even if they are not the healthy for us or for others. We are not aware of our own need to heal. How would you answer the question, “Do you want to be healed?” Do we want to live a lifestyle that promotes justice for the earth and our neighbors?

And as a church, we can ask, “Do we want to be healed?” Renewal and growth, in all their dimensions, are possible only for those who take Jesus’ question seriously. Let us be willing to manifest new health and wholeness by taking a hard look at who we have been and what we might become. There is hurt that needs to be healed. Will we be open to the healing power of God’s love?

This is an exciting time for the church. We are finding new ways to be community amid a pandemic. Let’s be a place of healing!

*Paula*