

I. Sometimes we'll find ourselves
flat on the mat

Lev 13:1ff;
Dan 2:31-45; 7:1-7;
Dan 7:17-18; Rev 13:1

A. Everyone can be spiritually
crushed

II Cor 4:8-9; 1:8-9a;
Rom 8:35-37;
II Cor 4:1, 16;
Eph 2:1

B. Without outside help,
we're flat cats

II. There's a doctor in the house
(Jesus)

A. He teaches

Mark 1:32-39;
Rom 8:11

B. He's approachable / available

Phil 4:6-7;
Heb 4:16

C. He discerns

Acts 5:3ff; 13:10-11;
Prov 28:11; Heb 5:14;
Matt 9:2; James 5:14-16

D. He has authority

Ps 51:4

III. Good Group Faith "removes the
roof"

A. GGF is strong

Ecc 4:9-12

B. GGF is sacrificial

C. GGF is steadfast

¹ A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralytic, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"