

*Bethesda's Pool, *John 5:2*

HERE at the Gospel pool,* the poor,
The withered, lame and blind,
With waiting hearts expect a cure,
And free admission find.

- 2 Here streams of sovereign mercy flow,
To heal the sin-sick soul,
To wash the guilty white as snow,
And make the wounded whole.
- 3 The dumb break forth with songs of praise,
The blind their sight receive,
The cripple walks in wisdom's ways,
The dead revive, and live!
- 4 Yet numbers oft-times here apply
Who meet with no relief;
Though help is here, they pine and die
In hopeless unbelief.
- 5 Why should such souls refuse to bathe,
And yet attend the pool?
But none can ever find the faith
While love of sin bears rule.
- 6 Dear Saviour, come and interpose,
Our stubborn wills constrain,
Or else for us the water flows
And grace is preached in vain.

John Newton, 1725-1807