

# ***“Experienced!”***

Acts 3:1-10

February 15, 2015

## Review:

- A. **Ch.1 = Equipped!**
  - 1. Vision, Fusion, Mission (then... Ascension)
  - 2. Unified – “of one accord”
    - a. Joyful, faithful obedience/worship
    - b. Prayer
    - c. Waiting
  
- B. **Ch. 2 =** (amongst most important chapters...)
  - 1. **Empowered!** (*SPIRIT*)
  - 2. Explained, Exalted, Exhorted (*SERMON*)
  - 3. **Exemplified!** (*SAINTS*)
    - a. DNA
    - b. Discipleship
    - c. Development

TODAY: 3:1-10... **“Experienced!”** (*“Intro” of 3:1 – 4:31*)

**REMEMBER:**            Acts 1:8

God has a power-filled people...

and a purposed-plan... the Church!

&

The Church is here... to finish what Christ started.

**Big Idea:** God's about to share a little "show & tell" with us...

**Preview:**

- A. Looking back to 2:42-47**
- B. Experiencing the present**
- C. Preparing for what lies ahead**

**T/S:** Acts 2:47b is experienced in 3:1 - 4:31

**Introduction:**

In this chapter we have a miracle and a sermon: the miracle wrought to make way for the sermon,

This is the first healing miracle in Acts

The emphasis in [Acts 3](#) and [4](#) is on the name of the Lord Jesus ([Acts 3:6, 16; 4:7, 10, 12, 17-18, 30](#)).

Events in [Acts 3](#) are an illustration of the last phrase in [Acts 2:47](#), showing us how the Lord added to His church daily.

T/S:

<sup>1</sup> *Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer.*

<sup>1</sup> *Now* **(transition in time)**

*Peter and John* **(relationship dynamics)**

*were going up to the temple* **(missions trip @ ministry-central... a.k.a. “the church”)**

*at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer* **(note the ability to have regularly scheduled, religiously un-relational prayer time... How, why, and ultimately to Whom we pray really does matter!)**.

<sup>2</sup> *And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.*

<sup>2</sup> *And a man* (Why this man? Answer: because God said so! God is sovereign & chooses those upon whom His blessings of mercy & grace are bestowed. Until we accept that direct truth, we sinfully continue to wrestle with Almighty God for the Lordship of our own lives and the world around us.

*Peter & John were Spirit-led,  
they did NOT lead the Spirit.*

God's empowering will always fulfill His plans & purposes... No such guarantee can be made for man-made plans & purposes)

*who had been lame from his mother's womb*  
(contrast him and his congenital disease vs. the modern charlatan's psychosomatic victims of our day...)

*was being carried along*  
(who are YOU "carrying to their calling?"  
See parallel to the Great Commission),

*whom they used to set down every day*

This act of kindness was NOT a "strategy," but rather, a responsibility.

*at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful,*  
(This was the only gate NOT covered with silver and gold,  
but rather Corinthians bronze. It was a magnificent sight to  
behold, requiring 20+ men to open/close)

*in order to beg alms*  
(clearly an intentional plan... the question for us is two-fold.

1. Is this plan in-line with God's Word?
2. How does this apply to today?

**Answers:**

1. Yes. True need has God's blessing in its asking/begging for help.

2. The answer to #1 always has been and always will be "Yes." Our challenge is NOT in determining "yes" or "no" in giving to the needy, but rather, in determining the "truly needy" vs. the self induced, societal sponges, for whom the Word declares: "...if you do not work, you do not eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

Note the contrast between "works" oriented religion & the "fruit" of an overflowing "relationship" with God.

*of those who were entering the temple*

**(people have a right to expect the greatest generosity from those who purport to having a close, active relationship with the God of the Scriptures).**

<sup>3</sup> *When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms.*

**(exactly what would be expected...**

**God is emphasizing the “low expectations” of “routines” of the unredeemed...)**

<sup>4</sup> *But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!"*

<sup>4</sup> **But (contrast! Note the literary device that is designed to re-posture your heart & mind for what is to follow)**

*Peter, along with John, (here again... the wording reinforces the role & unity of the apostle's teamwork)*

*fixed his gaze on him*

**Stop... When was the last time you “fixed your gaze” on someone, OR, had someone “fix their gaze” upon you?**

**This is an INTENSE dynamic!**

*and said, (PROCLAMATION key to Great Commission)*

*"Look at us!"*

*You cannot see what you will not look at... you cannot hear what you will not listen to...*

<sup>5</sup> *And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.*

**Don't miss the unhealthy norm of their day that persists into ours... Namely, the mechanical & manipulative dynamic between stereotypical “givers & takers.” The taker often offers superficial “attention,” NOT out of respect or interpersonal interest, but rather, for their own personal gain. Christian commentary is needed here.**

**Both the stereotypical “giver” (who tends to “give” out of a selfish sense of conscience-easing duty) and the average “taker” (who frequently uses false affections and manipulative emotional strategies), need a Christ-like calibration – a cleansing & clarion call to be transparent & loving – in both directions, as a giver and/or taker. Spiritually speaking, by being Christ-like to each other, the two sides will often exchange places in their relationship.**

*<sup>6</sup> But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene— walk!"*

*<sup>6</sup> But **(Contrast! Watch out this time... God’s Word is setting up what will be a supernatural, cultural collision... What is and has always been “expected,” is about to be miraculously replaced with the very power & presence of Almighty God, in the form and fulfillment of the Holy Spirit!***  
***Even further, we are about to hear & see the “set-up” section of the fuller text [Acts 2:42 – 4:31],***

which is often mistaken for the thrust or high point of the section.

### **Discipling Application:**

**Be sure to approach the text with a proper contextual perspective. Be sure to see each “word” in its right relationship to its embodying “sentence;” and each sentence in its contextual paragraph, and each paragraph in its role in the broader “section,” and that section in the greater body of the book... and even said “book” in its overarching biblical context)**

*Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold,*

**(There’s a lot to unpack here... much of which comes out best through the asking of questions.**

**1. Are we to take Peter’s claim literally or figuratively? Is he saying he does not have “any” silver & gold OR is he implying that he does not have “enough” to solve the beggar’s problems?**

**2. Don’t miss the fact that Peter is knowingly, INTENSLY willing to let this man down... to tell him what he KNOWS the man does not WANT to hear. Are you willing to let people down, that instead, you might be able to lift them up?**

### 3. Don't let what you don't have interfere with or dampen what you DO have!)

*but what I do have I give to you:*

KEY QUESTION – “What” did Peter have to give?” Do YOU have what Peter had to give? Answer: “yes” & “no.” While Christian’s have the same Holy Spirit whose power has not changed... Today’s Christian’s do not have the same placement in the covenantal plan of God. There were some unique aspects to the Acts Church. To the point, God used the office of the Apostles to “start” His New Testament Church... “Starting” involves some unique things... For example, in our church... we only moved here once, we only acquired our 401C-3 status once, we only constituted once... etc. and, to the extent that we are the same church, we will never do, nor need to do, those things again. Now, the fact that most of you were not around to experience those start-up realities does NOT mean that you are not an authentic part of this church today; nor does the lack of your having experienced those things, in any way negate their reality. To connect the dots... God gave certain, special gifts to the Apostles that were a part of God’s plan to launch His Church. Those are the facts of the faithful. You and I should no sooner insist upon those special gifts continuing us than we would demand on another constitution signing service in our church. Think about it... we don’t insist that every Christian prove their authenticity by walking on water just because Peter walked on water... God’s miraculous

powers are His to distribute and apply. Let us neither neglect nor claim to control God's miraculous works.)

6a: Verse 6: is the heart of the passage, the one detail that sets this story apart from the usual narrative: "I have no silver or gold." Peter perhaps cast his glance up at the magnificent doors that towered above the poor beggar. They had no silver or gold either, with their beautiful craftsmanship in solid Corinthian bronze. They were too precious to be marred with an overlay that would only detract from their beauty. All the other gates of the sanctuary were gilded. Not this one. Some things are more precious than silver or gold. The beggar was soon to learn this lesson of the "Beautiful" gate.

- New American Commentary

*In the name of Jesus Christ*

(ESSENTIAL disclaimer: Peter is declaring the glory and power of Jesus' name. Moreover, Peter is proclaiming that Jesus is in fact the Messiah. To that end, it must be understood that "Christ" is not a sir-name, but rather, a title.

Peter is proclaiming the MOST provocative truth – Jesus is our King!

Moreover, this entire miracle account is underway so as to set up the preaching that will explain the merciful power that is about to be unleashed.

*the Nazarene*

(Here Peter uses an intentional, "hook" in his dialogue. By restating that Jesus was "the Nazarene," as He was widely known, Peter was invoking an instant tension – a rub up against the politically correct, cultural norms; for nothing good was thought to come out of Nazareth, let alone the Messiah, the Christ.

QUESTION: are you ready, willing, and able to utilize God's truths, in contrast to politically correct cultural norms, to advance the kingdom & to reach individual souls? God's Word is replete with examples of confronting &

conflicting with culture as a direct and effective way of explaining & exemplifying the contrast between Christianity's truths and culture's traits.)

—*walk!*"

(First, let this remind us that ALL things are possible with God – Amen! With that said, see that Peter continues to be INTENSE... As the Lord's Ambassador, he is authoritative and commands the beggar to walk. NOTE: as a Christian, you too are an Ambassador of Christ, one who is to speak with His love & authority. See also that the imperative statement requires the recipient to DO HIS PART. Though commanded & empowered by the miraculous mercy of God, the beggar must do his part to actualize the gift he has been offered. A gift has not found its fulfillment until it has been received. I am reminded of a very real parallel here. In much the same way as Jesus declared: "I stand at the door and knock..." Here again we see the eternal truth and tension between God's sovereignty in election & man's responsibility in redemption. Sadly, unlike this man in the text, many who are invited to "walk" spiritually CHOOSE instead to remain lame & broken. Such is the case for every soul privileged to hear the gospel but stubbornly sinful & nonresponsive to the Spirit's invitation (see Romans 1:16-32 & John 6:37)

**You may ask God for what you want, but don't be surprised when he gives you what you really need.**

- Life Application Study Bible.

**This theme will repeat itself in Acts. Those who were rejected as unworthy for worship in the old religion of Israel found full acceptance in the name of Jesus, whether a lame beggar, an Ethiopian eunuch, a woman, or a Gentile.**

- New American Commentary

**QUOTE:**

**Thomas Aquinas visited Pope Innocent II... Pope said: “No longer do we say, ‘Silver and gold have we none.’” Thomas looked at the pope and said, “Maybe that is why we can no longer say, ‘Rise up and walk.’”**

*<sup>7</sup> And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.*

<sup>7</sup> *And seizing him*

**(Don't miss the spiritual parallel to Jude's account of the believer's responsibility to "SNATCH them out of the fire" – there is a very real, very intense dynamic on the front lines of spiritual warfare. Again, do not miss the combative, war-time posture that Peter is taking. Why? Because he IS in the throws of spiritual warfare. Praise God, Peter is on offense! Let us take heed and learn...)**

*by the right hand, he raised him up*

**(NOTE: the missionary model is to help with "truth in love" in BOTH word (v.6) & deed (v.7) Moreover, the Lord never calls us to that which He has not empowered. We would do well to remember those times that He has sent His Spirit and/or His servants to help raise us up... Remembering such times should inspire us, with a grateful & gracious heart, to become a perpetual helper of others – all for God's glory, forever recognizing that is also by His grace);**

*and immediately*

(For some of us, this might be the most important single word in the passage... Oh, if we would only rest our understanding and expectations upon God's Word. Please note, the Lord's power did not creep up on or work through any time-delays. God's effectual powers are not limited by or contained within our weak & worldly "standards." I often remind people of this verse and its contextual counterpart in John 8 (vv.32-36), where there are NO CAVEATS! God SPOKE creation into being! He raises the dead with a word! He gives sight, heals the lame, AND saves souls instantaneously when He chooses.)

*his feet and his ankles were strengthened*

(Sidebar: herein we see a level of detail that is factual, while at the same time somewhat revealing of our human author. Luke, the physician, is detailed in his personality, but especially so when it comes to medical conditions & reporting. Luke knows that this miracle is truly miraculous... what it took for this man to do what he was now doing involved a myriad of micro medical-miracles to culminate in the macro miracle of the man's momentous movement(s).

*If we set ourselves to do what we can,  
God has promised his grace to enable us  
to do what we cannot;*

<sup>8</sup> *With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.*

<sup>8</sup> *With a leap he stood upright and began to walk* **(Stop for a minute and analyze this statement. Are YOU in “AWE” (Acts 2:43) of Almighty God? This man “INSTANTLY” leaps, stands upright, and walks – ALL things that he has never done before. This is an impossibility that is now a reality. Again, think about it... you are seeing an impossibility become a reality, right before your very eyes! Moms & dads, think about sitting on the floor with your kids for an hour or so and then trying to get up... Those of you who have ever experienced physical therapy before, try to imagine this man’s living demonstration of God’s wonder working power... To contemplate the genetic breakdown, the “never” factor of experience, and the sheer atrophy that was this man’s reality, is to be blown away by this man’s transformation. NOW... with that said, Christian: do you not see the direct parallel between this man’s physical**

condition and YOUR spiritual condition... prior to the miraculous move of God's mercy & grace upon your life through the gospel of Jesus Christ???);

*and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.*

the beggar who was “immediately” healed, immediately began to prioritize the worshipping of God, in the way God called to be worshipped.

With a reverence for appropriate “order” in our services & times together, we should simultaneously be a people of demonstrable, infectious praise and worship... awe-inspiring worship (which does not call for circus or carnival antics, but rather the palpable presence of God's Spirit amongst God's people).

**Personal APPLICATION:**

Question – What is YOUR form of brokenness?

How long has it held you in bondage? What are your personal expectations? What have you responded to your bondage in the past?

Satan and his demonic hosts can produce counterfeit healings. They do so not only in false religions but also under the guise of Christianity. The Lord Jesus Christ warned that "*false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray*" ([Mark 13:22](#)).

[Verse 8.](#)

**...a striking fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 35:6: "Then shall the lame man leap as an hart."**

*"He asked for money  
but was given a miracle!"*

- JDP

**How has this biblical text impacted & changed you?  
God can & does heal instantly & completely!  
(see [John 8:32 & 36](#); [2 Peter 1:3](#); [Philippians 4:13](#))**

**VIDEO:                    Miraculous Conversion!**

**\*\*\* See upcoming site: [www.LIFEwithoutChrist.com](http://www.LIFEwithoutChrist.com)**

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Life is filled with contrast & choices...

- Depressed?
- Deceived?
- Delusional?
- Delivered!



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- Hurting?
- Hopeless?
- Hiding?

Depressed...

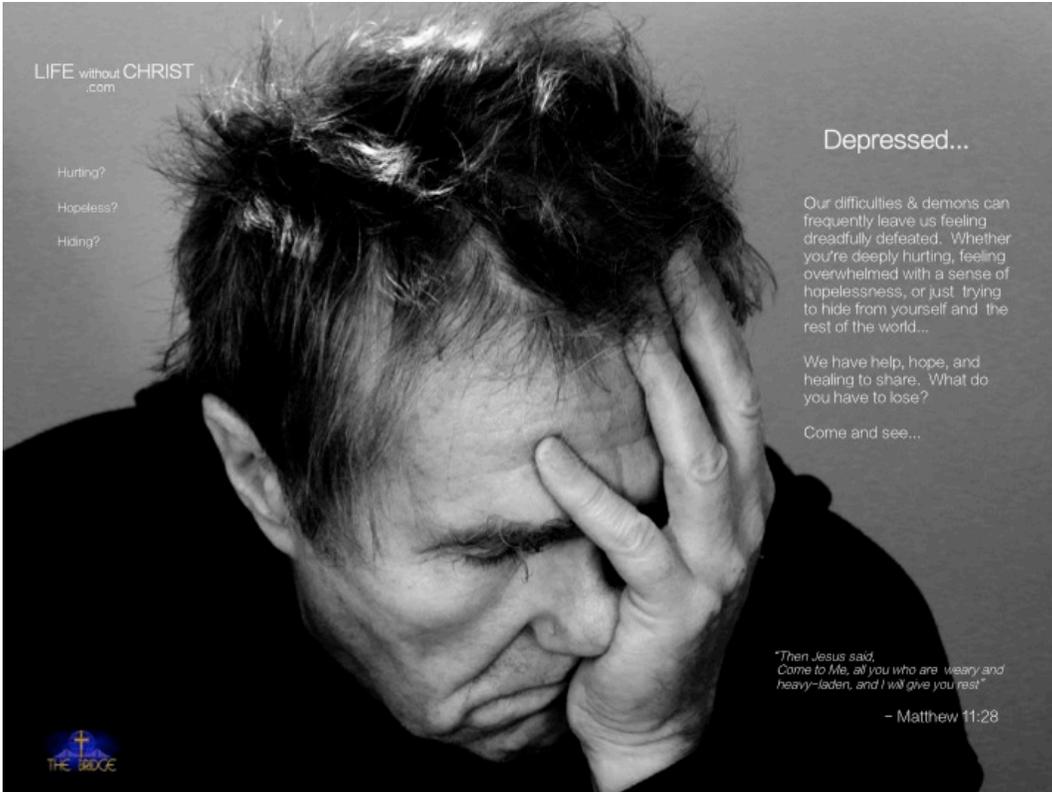
Our difficulties & demons can frequently leave us feeling dreadfully defeated. Whether you're deeply hurting, feeling overwhelmed with a sense of hopelessness, or just trying to hide from yourself and the rest of the world...

We have help, hope, and healing to share. What do you have to lose?

Come and see...

*"Then Jesus said, Come to Me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest"*

- Matthew 11:28



## Hurting?

You are not alone.

Pain & suffering are a very real part of living in the reality of a broken, sin-soaked world. Rest assured, every root cause of our anguish can be connected back to the affects of someone, somewhere, at sometime, having denied and/or disobeyed God's Word and way.

Hearts are broken in a number of ways...

Natural disasters, human disappointments, hellish diseases, and more - they can all bring devastating consequences into our lives. That being said, it is important to realize that while we will never be able to stop all the causes of grief, we do not have to continue grieving without God.

Come to Jesus, the Christ... He is humanity's great Pain-Reliever & Soul-Redeemer - the One who suffered so that you wouldn't have to.

Lost

Found

*"Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually give you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!"*  
- 2 Thessalonians 3:16



## Hopeless?

Don't give up!

With God, ALL things are possible. Whether you feel numb or out-numbered, neither fear nor foe can conquer the adopted children of God. While the "battles" rage on, the war has already been won - Amen.

Come to Jesus.

Surrender to victory and know the vibrant life of love lived out. When we put on the full armor of God and fight the good fight of faith, we are miraculously infused with the Lord's power, potential, passion & promises.

Ultimately, by God's grace... hope, healing & holiness create a bouquet of Christ-likeness in the life of His faithful followers.

Are you ready to blossom?

Lost

Found

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for good and not for disaster, plans to give you a future and a hope.*  
- Jeremiah 29:11



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## Hiding?

Sometimes we can feel so incredibly isolated, so alone... so lonely.

When the walls of this world seem to be caving in upon you, what do you do? Where do you go? Who do you run to?

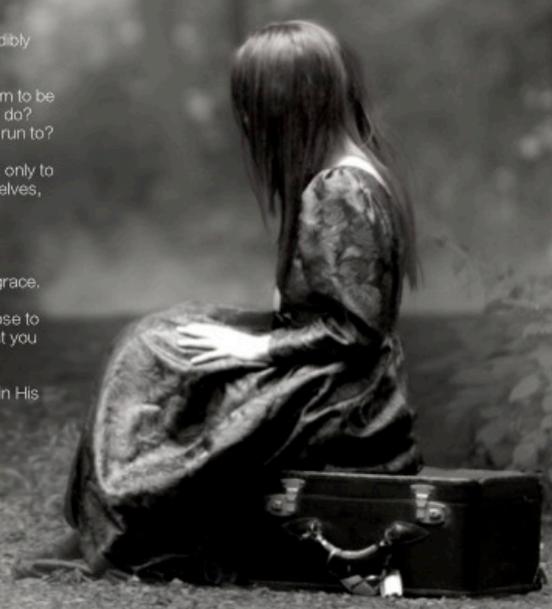
Often times we try to run away... only to find that we can't hide from ourselves, no matter how hard we try.

Stop running. Stop hiding.

Come to Jesus & embrace His grace. Believe & receive His life-giving invitation. He loves you. He chose to be crucified alone, in part, so that you would never feel alone again.

Friend, come join the "found" in His eternal family of faith.

Lost Found



*"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you & help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."*

- Isaiah 41:10

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Religious?

Religions?

Ravenous?

## Deceived...

Devilish deception is often defended & disguised in the damnable "status quo." The enemy of your soul often whispers: Shhh... Don't listen to them... You're fine... Drift back to sleep...

Wake up!

There are few things in this world more destructive & dangerous than false spiritual confidence.

Watch out!

Beware the false & fleeting, eternally-empty promises of Christ-less church life, the countless collections of counterfeit religions, and perhaps most damaging of all, the malicious meddling of wolves in sheep's clothing.

*They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable and disobedient, unfit for any good work.*

- Titus 1:16



## Religious?

Going to church and coming to Christ are two very different things.

Think about it...

Spending time in a church no more makes one a Christian than would spending time in a garage make one a car.

No amount of religion, ritual, or resume building will ever take the place of saving grace & faithful obedience.

Unless and until people realize how a person is "saved" AND how saved people live, any and all "confidence" a person may have... is really nothing more than a tragic expression of deception.

Lost Found

*"Not everyone who says to Me: 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, only the one(s) who do the will of My Father in heaven."*

- Matthew 7:21



## Religions?

There's nothing in here...

And so it is with ALL the Christ-less religions of the world.

Lost Found

*I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, except through Me (Jesus, the Christ)*

- John 14:6



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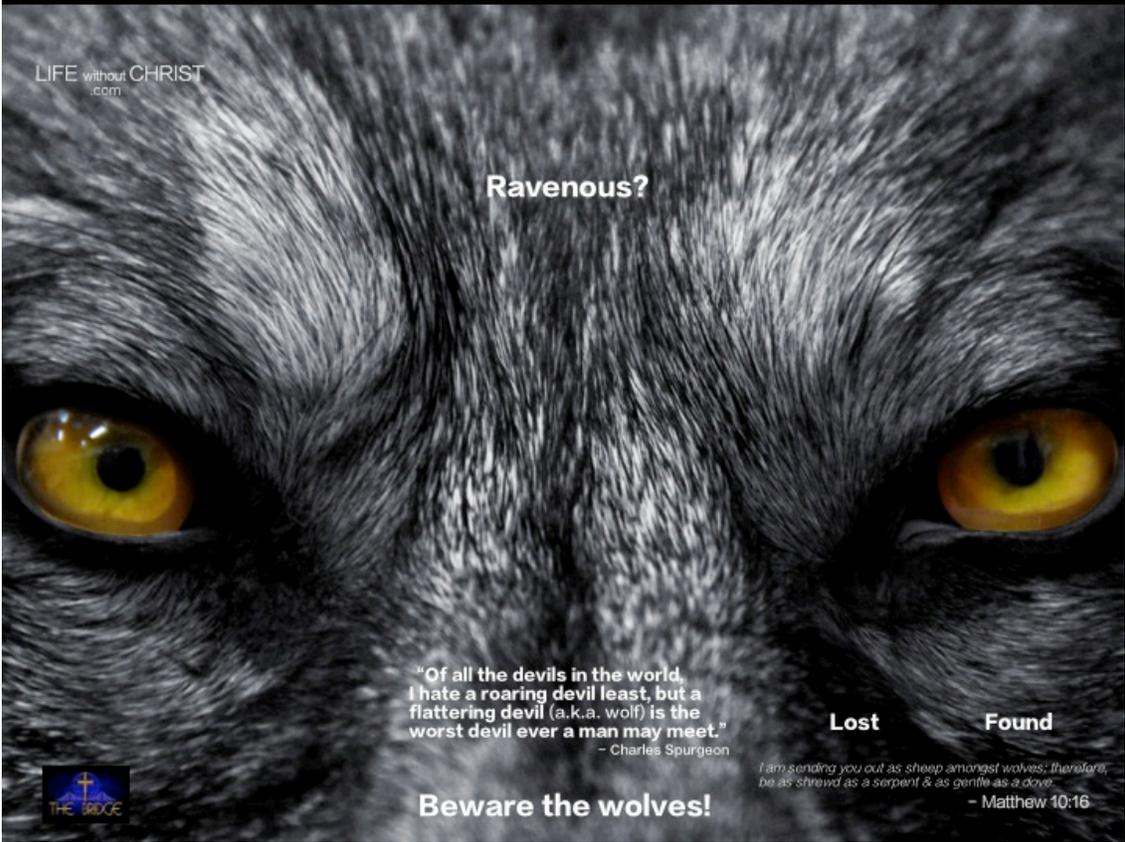
Ravenous?

*"Of all the devils in the world, I hate a roaring devil least, but a flattering devil (a.k.a. wolf) is the worst devil ever a man may meet."*  
 - Charles Spurgeon

Lost Found

*I am sending you out as sheep amongst wolves; therefore, be as shrewd as a serpent & as gentle as a dove.*  
 - Matthew 10:16

Beware the wolves!




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Independent?  
 Idolatrous?  
 Intellectual?

Delusional...

People have been doubting, disobeying & denying God since the Garden of Eden... Like it or not, admit it or not, known creation has an all-knowing, know-able Creator.

His name is Jesus... and He is coming back!

The good news (or bad news - depending on your response) is that He can & will sustain & strengthen ALL who surrender to His Lordship. And, to be clear, EVERY knee will eventually bow to Him.

*For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.*  
 - Colossians 1:16




## Independent?

This isn't going to end well. So many humans live & die like this fly... No one forced the fly to land on the Venus Flytrap. Truth of the matter is, he chose this spot of his own free will. Ironically enough, one could even argue that the fly's demise arrives at the height of its independence... One minute it is free-flying, uninhibited and totally unrestrained - feeling, no doubt, like the master of its own universe. Then... suddenly, the unsuspecting free-flyer is gone, burning alive as its capture's digestive juices (like the fires of hell), torturously take away its life & liberties forevermore.

Don't live & die like the fly.

Lost

Found



*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*

- Proverbs 16:25

## Idolatrous?

What do YOU want?

What do you WANT?

WHAT do you want?

How one answers that question, in each of the 3 inflections, reveals much about their heart & soul. More to the point, how one LIVES their life reveals their TRUE response to that question; as well as both the tapestry & trajectory of their spiritual life.

Friend, put your faith in Christ alone... and pursue Him with ALL your heart, soul, mind & strength. Heaven and hell weigh in the balance! If you think any-one or any-thing other than Jesus is worthy of your supreme affection and/or your (unhealthy) devotion, please recognize that the object of your obsession is an idol that feeds your damnable addiction.

BEWARE: most idols & addictions have nothing to do with drugs & alcohol.

Lost

Found



*Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil... He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires & inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.*

- Ephesians 2:1-3

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## Intellectual?

So... you think you've got this whole "God-thing" figured out. Yeah, sure you do.

Admit it, you need some help. Here's proof.

You have no beginning .

If your belief system literally has NO BEGINNING, how can you kid yourself into believing that everything came from nothing? Even a child knows better than that. Come on, be honest, be logical, be scientific, be whatever you want but face it... even if you want to believe in a "big bang," you've got to accept the reality of the "Bang-Maker."

His name is Jesus!

If you want to build your belief system with intellectual integrity, biblical Christianity is the ONLY worldview that can credibly explain humanity's past, present & future realities.

Lost Found



*The fool says in his heart: There is no God.*

- Psalm 14:1

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Truth

Love

Peace

## Delivered...

The only true solution to the trials & travails that accompany a life lived without Christ... is a life lived with and "in Christ."

By His grace & miraculous Holy Spirit power, if you are ready & willing to surrender, He can save your soul... right here, right now, forevermore! Amen.



*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. - 2 Corinthians 5:17*

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## Truth

The Gospel, or "good news" of Jesus Christ, is the literal "key" to eternal life.

Jesus is the Door, His gospel is the key, & your heart is the lock. The eternal question is: Will you or won't you respond to Jesus, who said: "*Here I am! I stand at the door & knock; if anyone hears My voice & opens the door, I will come in to Him... &... I am the way, the truth & the life; no one comes to the Father (in heaven), except through Me.*"

Lost Found



*If you abide in My (Jesus) word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.*  
- John 8:32

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## Love

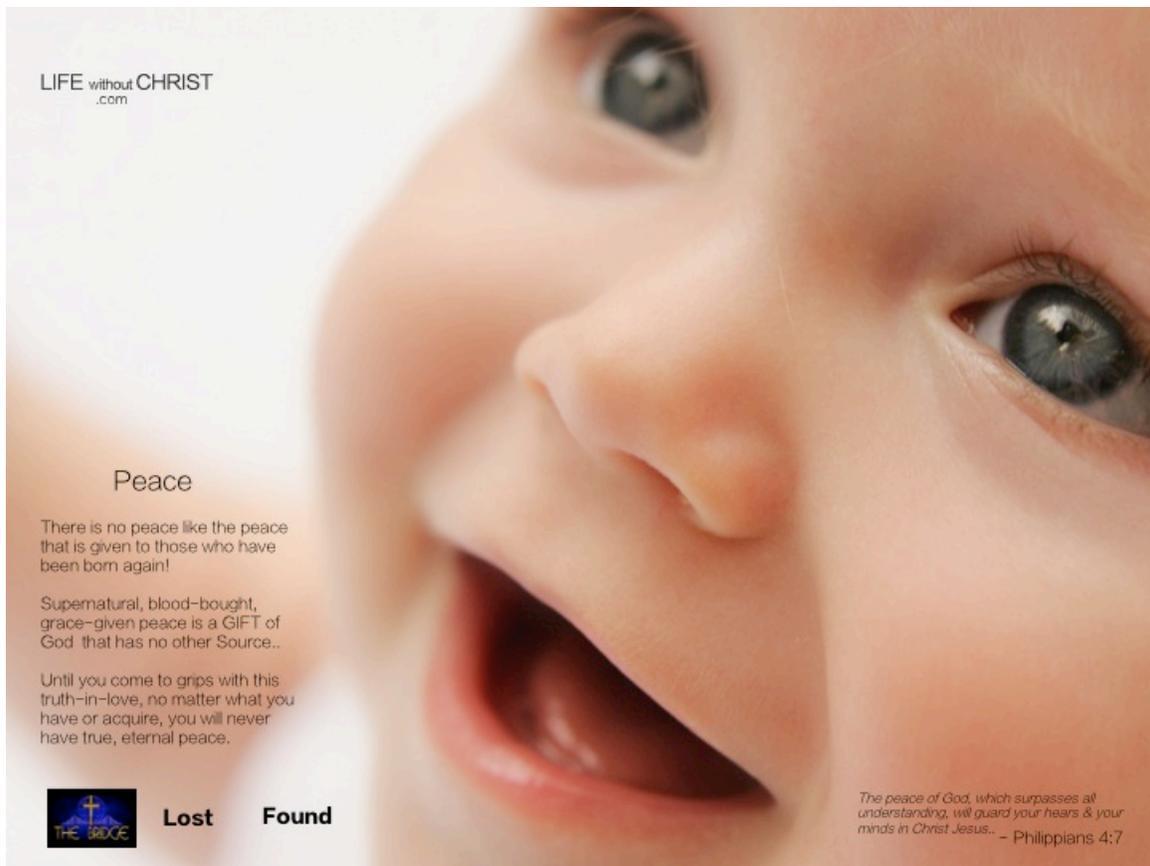
True love is best defined & described in the crucifixion of Christ... If you don't know this love, you don't know what you are missing. To live without this love is to live without truly living. Not only will you be trapped in the fleeting smallness of the temporary, but you will ultimately end up ravaged by the unquenchable fires of hell. **Remember:** For God so loved the world that He gave His only son (Jesus), that who-so-ever believes in Him will not perish but rather, will have eternal life. Tell the truth... do you KNOW this love?



Lost Found

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us...*

- 1 John 3:16



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Peace

There is no peace like the peace that is given to those who have been born again!

Supernatural, blood-bought, grace-given peace is a GIFT of God that has no other Source..

Until you come to grips with this truth-in-love, no matter what you have or acquire, you will never have true, eternal peace.

 **Lost Found**

*The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & your minds in Christ Jesus.. - Philippians 4:7*

*<sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God;*

*<sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him **(God's power & presence in our lives is there, on-purpose & in "purpose," to IMPACT other people! (see Acts 1:8) To not glorify God with the grace we've been given is to be grumbler of biblical proportions (see the Israelites in the Exodus experience)***

*walking*

(Where God has done a genuine, transformative work, His fruit will surface in the long-term walk of the new worshipper... see the Parable of the Soils).

*and praising God*

(Is your life a living testimony of praise? Are you as obvious a devoted, worship-filled follower of Christ as this healed beggar? If not, ask yourself why not. Moreover, after asking yourself why not, ask yourself if your answer would get the same response from Jesus, were He sitting next to you, that you or those closest to you, have shared. If your answer(s) are honest AND biblical, what are you going to do in response?)

*Remember: God's grace is always for God's glory. – JDP*

**Further evidence that the gift of healing was not used on behalf of the church comes from the passages that mention sick believers. Paul did not heal Trophimus but left him sick at Miletus (2 Tim. 4:20). Nor did he advise Timothy to go to the local healer for his medical problems. Instead, he told him to take wine for his illness (1 Tim. 5:23).** Does that mean God no longer heals? Of course not!

**The miracle was a testimony to the people. The beggar's outburst of praise caused shock and amazement on the part of the crowd.**

**That a miracle had taken place was undeniable.**

**As the bread was multiplied in the breaking, and the water turned into wine in the pouring out, so strength was given to the cripple's feet in his stirring them and using them.**

- Matthew Henry

*<sup>10</sup> and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.*

*<sup>10</sup> and they*

**(Who are the “they” people in your life? Note: We do not always see everyone who sees us! – JDP Also, be advised, there is almost ALWAYS “someone” watching you and evaluating your witness)**

*were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms*

(how comfortable, truthful & transparent are you with your “before & after” living-testimony?),

*and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.*

(This verse is one way of defining our Christian witness, per Acts 1:8... We are the Spirit empowered worshippers whose walk & witness inspire awe & amazement through the contrast in our “before & after” walking, worshipping, loving & leaping – Amen!)

CLOSE:

**As He had for Peter's first sermon on the Day of Pentecost, God provided the introduction. Amazed at the miraculous healing of the lame man, a large crowd gathered**

- MacArthur New Testament Commentary

It is easy to see in this man an illustration of what salvation is like...

He was born lame, and all of us are born unable to walk so as to please God.

Our father Adam had a fall and passed his lameness on to all of his descendants (Rom. 5:12-21).

The man was also poor, and we as sinners are bankrupt before God, unable to pay the tremendous debt that we owe Him (Luke 7:36-50).

He was "outside the temple," and all sinners are separated from God, no matter how near to the door they might be.

The man was healed wholly by the grace of God, and the healing was immediate (Eph. 2:8-9).

He gave evidence of what God had done by "walking, and leaping, and praising God" (Acts 3:8) and by publicly identifying himself with the Apostles, both in the temple (Acts 3:11) and in their arrest (Acts 4:14).

***Now that he could stand, there was no question where this man stood!***

*- Warren Wiersbe*

The Way of God 7  
Acts 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup> *Now (transition in time) Peter and John (relationship dynamics) were going up to the temple (missions trip @ ministry-central... a.k.a. “the church”) at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer (note the ability to have regularly scheduled, religiously un-relational prayer time... How, why, and ultimately to Whom we pray really does matter!).*

<sup>2</sup> *And a man (Question: Why this man? Answer: because God said so! God is sovereign & chooses those upon whom His blessings of mercy & grace are bestowed. Until we accept that direct truth, we sinfully continue to wrestle with Almighty God for the Lordship of our own lives and the world around us. Further, note: Peter & John did not choose this man, the Spirit of God chose him. Peter & John were Spirit-led, they did NOT lead the Spirit. This is a critically important distinction to make because, God’s empowering will always fulfill His plans & purposes... No such guarantee can be made for man-made plans & purposes) *who had been lame (physically helpless & literally broken... see the spiritual parallel) from his mother's womb (key contrasts & continuing parallels: contrast him and his**

congenital disease vs. the modern charlatan's psychosomatic victims of our day... Parallel this man's problem with every man's "born-with" problem of sin...) *was being carried along (who are YOU "carrying to their calling?" – here again we see a subtle parallel to the Great Commission), whom they used to set down every day (note the tone & example of perseverance in service... even when it appears to be hopeless, we are to "BE." Don't miss the opportunity to point out that this act of kindness was NOT a "strategy," but rather, a responsibility.* *at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, (historical exegesis reveals that this was the only gate NOT covered with silver and gold, but rather Corinthians bronze. It was a magnificent sight to behold, requiring 20+ men to open/close) in order to (clearly, this was an intentional plan... the question for us is two-fold. 1. Is this plan in-line with God's Word? & 2. How does this apply to today?* Answers: 1. Yes. True need has God's blessing in its asking/begging for help. 2. The answer to #1 always has been and always will be "Yes." Our challenge is NOT in determining "yes" or "no" in giving to the needy, but rather, in determining the "truly needy" vs. the self induced, societal sponges, for whom the Word declares: "...if you do not work, you do not eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). *beg alms (the needy were offering the blessed an opportunity to "DO" what Judaism associated with godliness – an act of kindness that was thought to bring about the favor of God. Note the*

contrast between “works” oriented religion & the “fruit” of an overflowing “relationship” with God. *of those who were entering the temple (people have a right to expect the greatest generosity from those who purport to having a close, active relationship with the God of the Scriptures).*

<sup>3</sup> *When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. (exactly what would be expected... on behalf of both parties. Exactly what had taken place, countless times before... God is emphasizing the “low expectations” of “routines” of the unredeemed...)*

<sup>4</sup> *But (contrast! Note the literary device that is designed to re-posture your heart & mind for what is to follow) Peter, along with John, (here again... the wording reinforces the role & unity of the apostle’s teamwork) fixed his gaze on him*  
Stop... put yourself in this scene for a moment. When was the last time you “fixed your gaze” on someone, OR, had someone “fix their gaze” upon you? To get this phrase is to be moved emotionally. This is a “fixed gaze” that will be followed by an exclamatory statement... This is an INTENSE dynamic! Imagine God’s sent & set apart, Spirit filled and miracle working

worshippers coming up to YOU and, with 2-fingers connecting 2 sets of eyes...) *and said*, (note the PROCLAMATION component of the Great Commission) "*Look at us!*" (Contextual importance: you cannot see what you will not look at... you cannot hear what you will not listen to... “Righteous respect requires appropriate attention.” -JDP)

<sup>5</sup> *And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.* (Note: again, on one hand, this encounter is unfolding exactly as the cultural norms would expect... At the same time, don't miss the unhealthy norm of their day that persists into ours... Namely, the mechanical & manipulative dynamic between stereotypical “givers & takers.” The taker often offers superficial “attention,” NOT out of respect or interpersonal interest, but rather, for their own personal gain. Christian commentary is needed here. Both the stereotypical “giver” (who tends to “give” out of a selfish sense of conscience-easing duty) and the average “taker” (who frequently uses false affections and manipulative emotional strategies), need a Christ-like calibration – a cleansing & clarion call to be transparent & loving – in both directions, as a giver and/or taker. Spiritually speaking, by being Christ-like to each other, the two sides will often exchange places in their relationship.

<sup>6</sup> But (Contrast! Watch out this time... God's Word is setting up what will be a supernatural, cultural collision... What is and has always been "expected," is about to be miraculously replaced with the very power & presence of Almighty God, in the form and fulfillment of the Holy Spirit!

Even further, we are about to hear & see the "set-up" section of the fuller text [Acts 2:42 – 4:31], which is often mistaken for the thrust or high point of the section.

Discipling Application: be sure to approach the text with a proper contextual perspective. Be sure to see each "word" in its right relationship to its embodying "sentence;" and each sentence in its contextual paragraph, and each paragraph in its role in the broader "section," and that section in the greater body of the book... and even said "book" in its overarching biblical context) *Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, (There's a lot to unpack here... much of which comes out best through the asking of questions.*

1. Are we to take Peter's claim literally or figuratively? Is he saying he does not have "any" silver & gold OR is he implying that he does not have "enough" to solve the beggar's problems?

2. Remembering the intense, gaze-fixing dynamic that is already in place, don't miss the fact that Peter is knowingly, INTENSLY willing to let this man down... to tell him what he KNOWS the man

does not WANT to hear. Are you willing to let people down, that instead, you might be able to lift them up?

3. Don't let what you don't have interfere with or dampen what you DO have!) *but what I do have I give to you: KEY QUESTION – “What” did Peter have to give?”*  
Do YOU have what Peter had to give? Answer: “yes” & “no.” While Christians have the same Holy Spirit whose power has not changed... Today's Christians do not have the same placement in the covenantal plan of God. There were some unique aspects to the Acts Church. To the point, God used the office of the Apostles to “start” His New Testament Church... “Starting” involves some unique things... For example, in our church... we only moved here once, we only acquired our 401C-3 status once, we only constituted once... etc. and, to the extent that we are the same church, we will never do, nor need to do, those things again. Now, the fact that most of you were not around to experience those start-up realities does NOT mean that you are not an authentic part of this church today; nor does the lack of your having experienced those things, in any way negate their reality. To connect the dots... God gave certain, special gifts to the Apostles that were a part of God's plan to launch His Church. Those are the facts of the faithful. You and I should no sooner insist upon those special gifts continuing us than we would demand on another constitution signing service in our church. Think about it... we don't insist that every Christian prove their authenticity by walking on water just because Peter walked on water... God's miraculous powers are His to distribute and apply.

Let us neither neglect nor claim to control God's miraculous works.) *In the name of Jesus Christ* (ESSENTIAL disclaimer: Peter is underscoring his entire point in this statement. Peter is making sure that no one think that the miracle is coming out of his own power. No. Instead, Peter is declaring the glory and power of Jesus' name. Moreover, Peter is proclaiming that Jesus is in fact the Messiah. To that end, it must be understood that "Christ" is not a sir-name, but rather, a title. Peter is declaring the deity of Jesus. Jesus IS the anointed One, the Savior, the Redeemer, the Rescuer that every religious Jew was expecting AND claiming to love & serve. In that same, continuing intensity, Peter is proclaiming the MOST provocative truth – Jesus is our King! Moreover, this entire miracle account is underway so as to set up the preaching that will explain the merciful power that is about to be unleashed. Take note: Peter is clarifying that the power herein comes from the name of Jesus. By contrast, when performing miracles, Jesus simply did them... because it was His own power. He did not declare in His own name. Rather, Jesus said: I Am; to which we say: Amen!) *the Nazarene* (Here Peter uses an intentional, "hook" in his dialogue. By restating that Jesus was "the Nazarene," as He was widely known, Peter was invoking an instant tension – a rub up against the politically correct, cultural norms; for nothing good was thought to come out of Nazareth, let alone the Messiah, the Christ.

**QUESTION: are you ready, willing, and able to utilize God's truths, in contrast to politically correct cultural norms, to advance the kingdom & to reach individual souls? God's Word is replete with examples of confronting & conflicting with culture as a direct and effective way of explaining & exemplifying the contrast between Christianity's truths and culture's traits.)**  
—*walk!*"

**(First, let this remind us that ALL things are possible with God – Amen! With that said, see that Peter continues to be INTENSE... As the Lord's Ambassador, he is authoritative and commands the beggar to walk. NOTE: as a Christian, you too are an Ambassador of Christ, one who is to speak with His love & authority. See also that the imperative statement requires the recipient to DO HIS PART. Though commanded & empowered by the miraculous mercy of God, the beggar must do his part to actualize the gift he has been offered. A gift has not found its fulfillment until it has been received. I am reminded of a very real parallel here. In much the same way as Jesus declared: "I stand at the door and knock..." Here again we see the eternal truth and tension between God's sovereignty in election & man's responsibility in redemption. Sadly, unlike this man in the text, many who are invited to "walk" spiritually CHOOSE instead to remain lame & broken. Such is the case for every soul privileged to hear the**

gospel but stubbornly sinful & nonresponsive to the Spirit's invitation (see Romans 1:16-32 & John 6:37)

<sup>7</sup> *And seizing him* (Don't miss the spiritual parallel to Jude's account of the believer's responsibility to "SNATCH them out of the fire" – there is a very real, very intense dynamic on the front lines of spiritual warfare. Again, do not miss the combative, war-time posture that Peter is taking. Why? Because he IS in the throws of spiritual warfare. Praise God, Peter is on offense! Let us take heed and learn...)

*by the right hand, he raised him up* (NOTE: the missionary model is to help with "truth in love" in BOTH word (v.6) & deed (v.7) Moreover, the Lord never calls us to that which He has not empowered. We would do well to remember those times that He has sent His Spirit and/or His servants to help raise us up... Remembering such times should inspire us, with a grateful & gracious heart, to become a perpetual helper of others – all for God's glory, forever recognizing that is also by His grace);

*and immediately* (For some of us, this might be the most important single word in the passage... Oh, if we would only rest our understanding and expectations upon God's Word. Please note, the Lord's power did not creep up on or work through any time-delays. God's effectual powers are not limited by or contained within our weak & worldly "standards." I often remind people of this verse and its contextual counterpart in John 8 (vv.32-36), where there are **NO CAVEATS!** God SPOKE creation into being! He raises the dead with a word! He gives sight, heals the lame, AND saves souls instantaneously when He chooses.) *his feet and his ankles were strengthened* (Sidebar: herein we see a level of detail that is factual, while at the same time somewhat revealing of our human author. Luke, the physician, is detailed in his personality, but especially so when it comes to medical conditions & reporting. Luke knows that this miracle is truly miraculous... what it took for this man to do what he was now doing involved a myriad of micro medical-miracles to culminate in the macro miracle of the man's momentous movement(s).

<sup>8</sup> *With a leap he stood upright and began to walk* (Stop for a minute and analyze this statement. Are YOU in "AWE" (Acts 2:43) of Almighty God? This man

“INSTANTLY” leaps, stands upright, and walks – ALL things that he has never done before. This is an impossibility that is now a reality. Again, think about it... you are seeing an impossibility become a reality, right before your very eyes! Moms & dads, think about sitting on the floor with your kids for an hour or so and then trying to get up... Those of you who have ever experienced physical therapy before, try to imagine this man’s living demonstration of God’s wonder working power... To contemplate the genetic breakdown, the “never” factor of experience, and the sheer atrophy that was this man’s reality, is to be blown away by this man’s transformation. NOW... with that said, Christian: do you not see the direct parallel between this man’s physical condition and YOUR spiritual condition... prior to the miraculous move of God’s mercy & grace upon your life through the gospel of Jesus Christ???); *and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.* (Take notice of the following: upon receiving the Lord’s miraculous, healing gift, the beggar who was “immediately” healed, immediately began to prioritize the worshipping of God, in the way God called to be worshipped. Next, see the genuine affection for God’s servants. When authentic Christian love & power are present, there will be a God-honoring, supernatural affection & respect for those who have been used as the first-responders in your life. “with them” is a very strong phrase and undying testimony. The “walking &

leaping” were visible, unrestrained, exuberant reflections of joy & celebration in the aftermath of God’s restoring work.

With a reverence for appropriate “order” in our services & times together, we should simultaneously be a people of demonstrable, infectious praise and worship... awe-inspiring worship (which does not call for circus or carnival antics, but rather the palpable presence of God’s Spirit amongst God’s people). This beggar’s heart was in the right place, evidenced by the fact that his appreciation and admiration for the Apostles was tempered by a rightly placed attitude that was noted for “praising God” as he headed into the Temple. May it be so with us as well, that we never become so enamored by the “gift” that we forget to place our ultimate affections & appreciation on the gift-Giver).

**Personal APPLICATION: Question – What is YOUR form of brokenness? How long has it held you in bondage? What are your personal expectations? What have you responded to your bondage in the past?**

**How has this biblical text impacted & changed you?**

**God can & does heal instantly & completely!**

**(see John 8:32 & 36; 2 Peter 1:3; Philippians 4:13)**

\*\*\* See upcoming site: [www.LIFEwithoutChrist.com](http://www.LIFEwithoutChrist.com)

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.com

Life is filled with contrast & choices...

Depressed?  
Deceived?  
Delusional?  
Delivered!



THE BRIDGE

The image shows a close-up of a hand holding a collection of colorful crayons. The hand is rendered in grayscale, while the crayons are vibrant. The background is dark, making the hand and crayons stand out. The text is positioned in the upper left and center of the image.

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Hurting?  
Hopeless?  
Hiding?

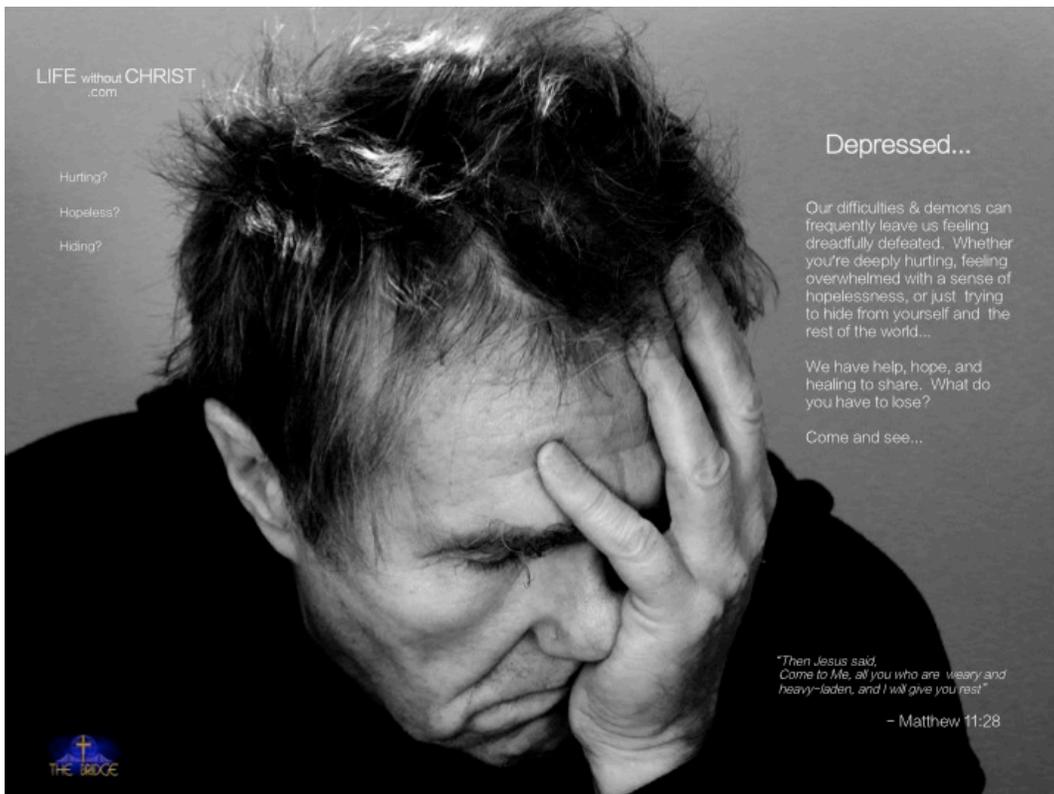
Depressed...

Our difficulties & demons can frequently leave us feeling dreadfully defeated. Whether you're deeply hurting, feeling overwhelmed with a sense of hopelessness, or just trying to hide from yourself and the rest of the world...

We have help, hope, and healing to share. What do you have to lose?

Come and see...

*"Then Jesus said, Come to Me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest"*  
- Matthew 11:28



THE BRIDGE

The image shows a man in a dark shirt covering his face with his hand, suggesting a state of despair or depression. The background is a plain, light color. The text is positioned in the upper left, center, and lower right of the image.

## Hurting?

You are not alone.

Pain & suffering are a very real part of living in the reality of a broken, sin-soaked world. Rest assured, every root cause of our anguish can be connected back to the affects of someone, somewhere, at sometime, having denied and/or disobeyed God's Word and way.

Hearts are broken in a number of ways...

Natural disasters, human disappointments, hellish diseases, and more - they can all bring devastating consequences into our lives. That being said, it is important to realize that while we will never be able to stop all the causes of grief, we do not have to continue grieving without God.

Come to Jesus, the Christ... He is humanity's great Pain-Reliever & Soul-Redeemer - the One who suffered so that you wouldn't have to.

Lost

Found

*"Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually give you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!"*  
- 2 Thessalonians 3:16



## Hopeless?

Don't give up!

With God, ALL things are possible. Whether you feel numb or out-numbered, neither fear nor foe can conquer the adopted children of God. While the "battles" rage on, the war has already been won - Amen.

Come to Jesus.

Surrender to victory and know the vibrant life of love lived out. When we put on the full armor of God and fight the good fight of faith, we are miraculously infused with the Lord's power, potential, passion & promises.

Ultimately, by God's grace... hope, healing & holiness create a bouquet of Christ-likeness in the life of His faithful followers.

Are you ready to blossom?

Lost

Found

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for good and not for disaster, plans to give you a future and a hope.*  
- Jeremiah 29:11



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## Hiding?

Sometimes we can feel so incredibly isolated, so alone... so lonely.

When the walls of this world seem to be caving in upon you, what do you do? Where do you go? Who do you run to?

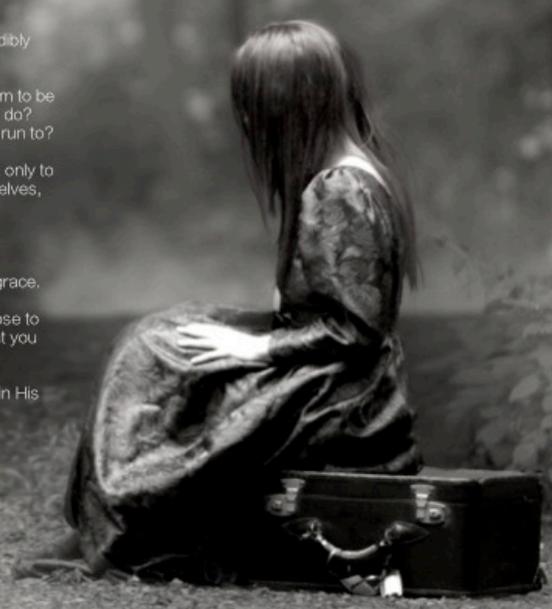
Often times we try to run away... only to find that we can't hide from ourselves, no matter how hard we try.

Stop running. Stop hiding.

Come to Jesus & embrace His grace. Believe & receive His life-giving invitation. He loves you. He chose to be crucified alone, in part, so that you would never feel alone again.

Friend, come join the "found" in His eternal family of faith.

Lost Found



*"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you & help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."*

- Isaiah 41:10

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Religious?

Religions?

Ravenous?

## Deceived...

Devilish deception is often defended & disguised in the damnable "status quo." The enemy of your soul often whispers: Shhh... Don't listen to them... You're fine... Drift back to sleep...

Wake up!

There are few things in this world more destructive & dangerous than false spiritual confidence.

Watch out!

Beware the false & fleeting, eternally-empty promises of Christ-less church life, the countless collections of counterfeit religions, and perhaps most damaging of all, the malicious meddling of wolves in sheep's clothing.

*They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable and disobedient, unfit for any good work.*

- Titus 1:16



## Religious?

Going to church and coming to Christ are two very different things.

Think about it...

Spending time in a church no more makes one a Christian than would spending time in a garage make one a car.

No amount of religion, ritual, or resume building will ever take the place of saving grace & faithful obedience.

Unless and until people realize how a person is "saved" AND how saved people live, any and all "confidence" a person may have... is really nothing more than a tragic expression of deception.

Lost Found

*"Not everyone who says to Me: 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, only the one(s) who do the will of My Father in heaven."*

- Matthew 7:21



## Religions?

There's nothing in here...

And so it is with ALL the Christ-less religions of the world.

Lost Found

*I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, except through Me (Jesus, the Christ)*

- John 14:6



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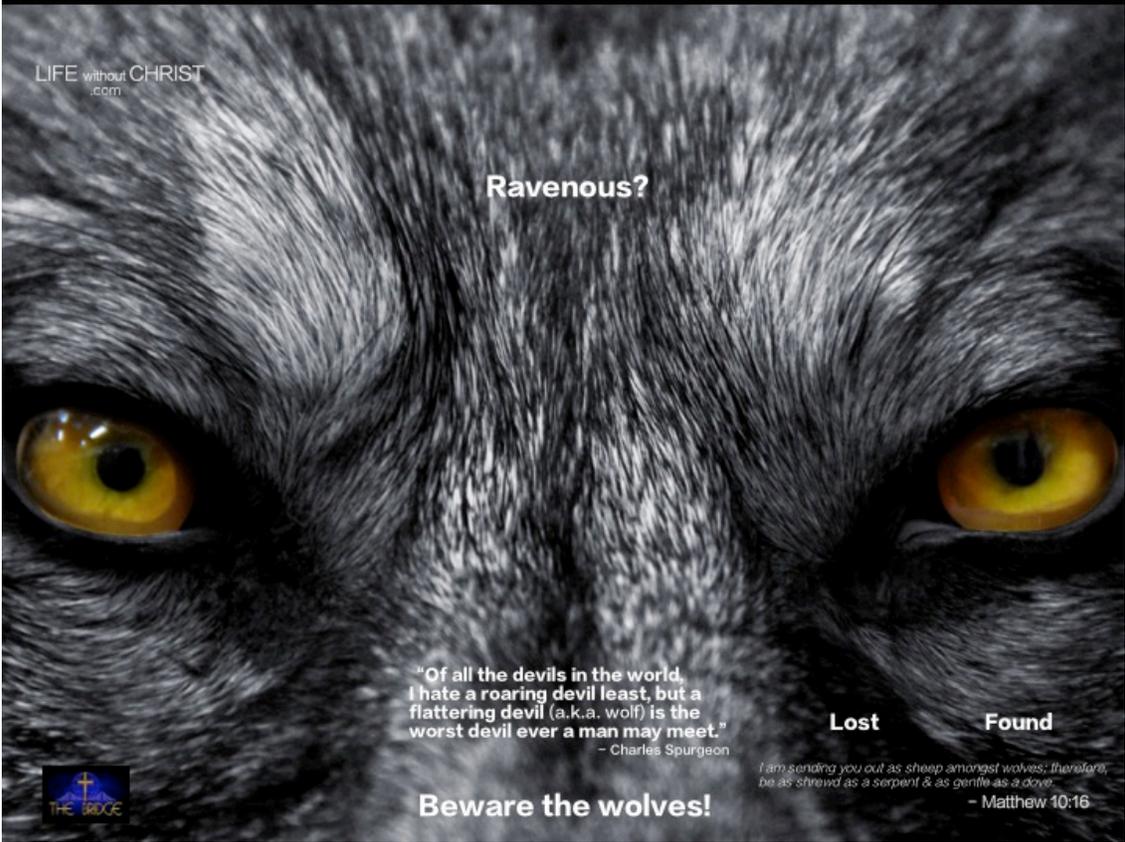
Ravenous?

*"Of all the devils in the world, I hate a roaring devil least, but a flattering devil (a.k.a. wolf) is the worst devil ever a man may meet."*  
 - Charles Spurgeon

Lost Found

*I am sending you out as sheep amongst wolves; therefore, be as shrewd as a serpent & as gentle as a dove.*  
 - Matthew 10:16

Beware the wolves!




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Independent?  
 Idolatrous?  
 Intellectual?

Delusional...

People have been doubting, disobeying & denying God since the Garden of Eden... Like it or not, admit it or not, known creation has an all-knowing, know-able Creator.

His name is Jesus... and He is coming back!

The good news (or bad news - depending on your response) is that He can & will sustain & strengthen ALL who surrender to His Lordship. And, to be clear, EVERY knee will eventually bow to Him.

*For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.*  
 - Colossians 1:16




## Independent?

This isn't going to end well. So many humans live & die like this fly... No one forced the fly to land on the Venus Flytrap. Truth of the matter is, he chose this spot of his own free will. Ironically enough, one could even argue that the fly's demise arrives at the height of its independence... One minute it is free-flying, uninhibited and totally unrestrained - feeling, no doubt, like the master of its own universe. Then... suddenly, the unsuspecting free-flyer is gone, burning alive as its capture's digestive juices (like the fires of hell), torturously take away its life & liberties forevermore.

Don't live & die like the fly.

Lost

Found



*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*

- Proverbs 16:25

## Idolatrous?

What do YOU want?

What do you WANT?

WHAT do you want?

How one answers that question, in each of the 3 inflections, reveals much about their heart & soul. More to the point, how one LIVES their life reveals their TRUE response to that question; as well as both the tapestry & trajectory of their spiritual life.

Friend, put your faith in Christ alone... and pursue Him with ALL your heart, soul, mind & strength. Heaven and hell weigh in the balance! If you think any-one or any-thing other than Jesus is worthy of your supreme affection and/or your (unhealthy) devotion, please recognize that the object of your obsession is an idol that feeds your damnable addiction.

BEWARE: most idols & addictions have nothing to do with drugs & alcohol.

Lost

Found



*Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil... He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires & inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.*

- Ephesians 2:1-3

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## Intellectual?

So... you think you've got this whole "God-thing" figured out. Yeah, sure you do.

Admit it, you need some help. Here's proof.

You have no beginning .

If your belief system literally has NO BEGINNING, how can you kid yourself into believing that everything came from nothing? Even a child knows better than that. Come on, be honest, be logical, be scientific, be whatever you want but face it... even if you want to believe in a "big bang," you've got to accept the reality of the "Bang-Maker."

His name is Jesus!

If you want to build your belief system with intellectual integrity, biblical Christianity is the ONLY worldview that can credibly explain humanity's past, present & future realities.

Lost Found



*The fool says in his heart: There is no God.*

- Psalm 14:1

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Truth

Love

Peace

## Delivered...

The only true solution to the trials & travails that accompany a life lived without Christ... is a life lived with and "in Christ."

By His grace & miraculous Holy Spirit power, if you are ready & willing to surrender, He can save your soul... right here, right now, forevermore! Amen.



*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. - 2 Corinthians 5:17*

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## Truth

The Gospel, or "good news" of Jesus Christ, is the literal "key" to eternal life.

Jesus is the Door, His gospel is the key, & your heart is the lock. The eternal question is: Will you or won't you respond to Jesus, who said: "*Here I am! I stand at the door & knock; if anyone hears My voice & opens the door, I will come in to Him... &... I am the way, the truth & the life; no one comes to the Father (in heaven), except through Me.*"

Lost Found



*If you abide in My (Jesus) word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.*  
- John 8:32

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## Love

True love is best defined & described in the crucifixion of Christ... If you don't know this love, you don't know what you are missing. To live without this love is to live without truly living. Not only will you be trapped in the fleeting smallness of the temporary, but you will ultimately end up ravaged by the unquenchable fires of hell. **Remember:** For God so loved the world that He gave His only son (Jesus), that who-so-ever believes in Him will not perish but rather, will have eternal life. Tell the truth... do you KNOW this love?



Lost Found

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us...*

- 1 John 3:16



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Peace

There is no peace like the peace that is given to those who have been born again!

Supernatural, blood-bought, grace-given peace is a GIFT of God that has no other Source..

Until you come to grips with this truth-in-love, no matter what you have or acquire, you will never have true, eternal peace.

 **Lost Found**

*The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & your minds in Christ Jesus... - Philippians 4:7*

<sup>9</sup> *And all the people saw him (God's power & presence in our lives is there, on-purpose & in "purpose," to IMPACT other people! (see Acts 1:8) To not glorify God with the grace we've been given is to be grumbler of biblical proportions (see the Israelites in the Exodus experience) walking (Where God has done a genuine, transformative work, His fruit will surface in the long-term walk of the new worshipper... see the Parable of the Soils). and praising God (Is your life a living testimony of praise? Are you as obvious a devoted, worship-filled follower of Christ as this healed beggar? If not, ask yourself why not. Moreover, after asking yourself why not, ask yourself if your*

answer would get the same response from Jesus, were He sitting next to you, that you or those closest to you, have shared. If your answer(s) are honest AND biblical, what are you going to do in response?

*Remember: God's grace is always for God's glory.* – JDP

<sup>10</sup> *and they* (Who are the “they” people in your life?

Note: We do not always see everyone who sees

us! – JDP Also, be advised, there is almost ALWAYS

“someone” watching you and evaluating your witness) *were*

*taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the*

*Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms* (how comfortable, truthful & transparent are you with your “before & after”

living-testimony?), *and they were filled with wonder and*

*amazement at what had happened to him.* (This verse is **one**

way of defining our Christian witness, per Acts

1:8... We are the Spirit empowered worshippers

whose walk & witness inspire awe & amazement

through the contrast in our “before & after”

walking, worshipping, loving & leaping – Amen!)

INTRODUCTION:

## **This is the first healing miracle in Acts** - HCSB Study Bible.

**3:1** The Jews observed three times of prayer—morning (9:00 AM), afternoon (3:00 PM), and evening (sunset). At these times devout Jews and Gentiles who believed in God often would go to the Temple to pray. Peter and John were going to the Temple for the afternoon prayer service. - Life Application Study Bible.

## **The emphasis in Acts 3 and 4 is on the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 3:6, 16; 4:7, 10, 12, 17-18, 30).**

A name, of course, implies much more than identification; it carries with it authority, reputation, and power. When somebody says, "You can use my name!" you sincerely hope the name is worth using.

**But the name of the Lord Jesus has *all authority* behind it, for He is the Son of God (Matt. 28:18). Because His name is "above every name" (Phil. 2:9-11), He deserves our worship and obedience. The great concern of the first Christians was that the name of Jesus Christ, God's Son, be glorified; and believers today should have that same concern.**

- Bible Exposition Commentary

**In this chapter we have a miracle and a sermon: the miracle wrought to make way for the sermon**, to confirm the doctrine that was to be preached, and to make way for it into the minds of the people; and then the sermon to explain the miracle, and to sow the ground which by it was broken up...

**We were told in general (ch. 2:43) that many signs and wonders were done by the apostles, which are not written in this book; but here we have one given us for an instance. As they wrought miracles, not upon every body as every body had occasion for them, but as the Holy Spirit gave direction...**

- Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible.

**Of the many miracles recounted in Acts, none has more formal resemblance to the miracles of Jesus in the Gospels than this one.**

**There is one major difference—Jesus healed by His own authority; Peter healed by the “name” of Jesus, which was indeed by Jesus’ authority at work through the agency of the apostles.**

**Perhaps more striking still are the parallels between this story, Jesus’ healing of a paralytic (Luke 5:17–26), and Paul’s healing of a lame man at Lystra (Acts 14:8–11).**

Indeed, in Acts most of the miracles of Peter have their counterpart in similar works of Paul in the latter half of the book. In this way Luke showed that the work of Christ begun in his earthly life (cf. Acts 1:1) continued in the work of the young Christian community. In Acts the miracles were always in the service of the word, confirming God’s presence in the spread of the gospel or as a sign that enabled faith.

- New American Commentary

**LUKE HAS JUST given a summary description of the community life of the young church (2:42-47). Included in that description was the fact that "many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles" (2:43). Of these many miracles Luke mentions one that received much publicity and triggered a series of events involving serious opposition to the gospel. This story ends in 4:31 with the disciples' prayer in response to the decree banning evangelism.**

- NIV Application Commentary

v.1:

The time of the apostles' visit was the "ninth" hour, three in the afternoon, i.e., the hour of prayer. **It was also the time of the evening *Tamid*, one of the two sacrifices held daily in the temple. These had become prescribed times of prayer, and people would come to the temple at the sacrifice times to observe the ceremony and pray. The largest crowds would thus have been found at the times of sacrifice, as Peter and John must have been well aware; for they went to the temple for prayer and for witness.**

- New American Commentary

v.2

That he would have been carried there so late seems strange, for the afternoon *Tamid* was the final stage of the daily temple worship; the crowds would soon have been gone for the day. Still, it was one of the two major periods of worship, and many would have come to the temple at precisely this time to express their devotion to God. It was prime time for receiving alms. The rabbis taught that there were three pillars for the Jewish faith—the Torah, worship, and the showing of kindness, or charity. Almsgiving was one of the main ways to show kindness and was thus considered a

major expression of one's devotion to God. With their minds set on worship, those who entered the temple for the evening sacrifice and prayer would be particularly disposed to practice their piety by generously giving alms to a lame beggar.

“Gate Beautiful” = This seems to be the most likely spot for Peter's encounter with the lame man. He lay at the beautiful gate with its magnificent doors of Corinthian bronze, begging at the entrance to, but still definitely outside, the sanctuary.

vv.3-5:

Verses [3–5](#) relate Peter and John's encounter with the lame man. “Alms, alms,” he begged, like a stuck phonograph record, as he would have uttered hundreds of times a day. This time the response was different. Typically, donors would flip a coin in his direction as they hastened into the temple, scarcely giving him a glance. This time the would-be benefactors stopped in their tracks. Peter fixed his gaze on him (*atenizō*). “Look [*blepō*] at me,” he said. This obviously was not going to be a chance encounter, so the man responded by giving his total attention (*epechō*) to Peter. Perhaps he expected a display of unusual generosity. Would this be his day? Yes, it would be, but not as he might think.

- **New American Commentary**

[3:5, 6](#) The lame man asked for money, but Peter gave him something much better—the use of his legs. **We often ask God to solve a small problem, but he wants to give us a whole new life and help for all our problems. He may say, "I've got something even better for you." You may ask God for what you want, but don't be surprised when he gives you what you really need.**

**3:6** "In the name of Jesus Christ" means "**by the authority of Jesus Christ.**" The apostles were doing this healing through the Holy Spirit's power, not their own.

- Life Application Study Bible.

v.6:

6a: Verse 6 is the heart of the passage, the one detail that sets this story apart from the usual narrative: "I have no silver or gold." Peter perhaps cast his glance up at the magnificent doors that towered above the poor beggar. They had no silver or gold either, with their beautiful craftsmanship in solid Corinthian bronze. They were too precious to be marred with an overlay that would only detract from their beauty. All the other gates of the sanctuary were gilded. Not this one. Some things are more precious than silver or gold. The beggar was soon to learn this lesson of the "Beautiful" gate.

- New American Commentary

vv.6b-10:

That more precious something is related in vv. [6b–8](#), the gift of healing.

**“In the name of Jesus” Peter commanded the man to walk. The reference to “the name” is not incidental. In the biblical sense a name is far more than a label. It represents a person and is an extension of that person’s being and personality. To invoke the name of Jesus is to call upon his authority and power. In a real sense, then, Jesus through Peter continued his healing ministry. With a healing touch common to miracle narratives, Peter grasped the man’s right hand and lifted him up.**

**This theme will repeat itself in Acts. Those who were rejected as unworthy for worship in the old religion of Israel found full acceptance in the name of Jesus, whether a lame beggar, an Ethiopian eunuch, a woman, or a Gentile.**

Luke perhaps gave a veiled reference to the man’s healing being a sign of the messianic times that had come in Jesus. He used a rare word (*hallomai*) for the man’s jumping, a word found in the Septuagint text of [Isa 35:6](#) with reference to the messianic age: “Then will the lame leap like a deer.” The people who were present at the temple witnessed the transformation. They knew the man for the lame beggar he had been and saw what he had become as he leapt about in the temple praising God. They were filled with awe and amazement at what they saw, and that wonder prepared them for Peter’s explanation. - **New American Commentary**

## CONTEXTUAL EXEGESIS:

### *The Lame Man Healed (3:1-10)*

#### **THE STORY BEGINS during one of the daily visits (2:46) that Christians made to the temple (3:1).**

This visit was at 3:00 P.M., one of the Jewish times of prayer (the other two being 9:00 A.M. and 12 noon). As was common at entrances to places of worship, a man crippled from birth was begging at the temple gate called Beautiful ([v. 2](#)).

Following his plea for money, "Peter looked straight at him, as did John" ([v. 4](#)). The reference to John alongside Peter, even though John plays no significant role in this story, has puzzled some commentators. Some suggest that the inclusion of John is an addition to the story, perhaps to provide two witnesses for the trial before the Sanhedrin later on. But, as Howard Marshall points out, the appearance of both apostles in this episode is in keeping with the fact that **Peter and John were associates and that the early Christians were in the habit of working in pairs.** The addition of John's name in [verse 4](#), where it is almost an afterthought, may indicate that, though Peter was the prominent member of the team, John had an important role. Luke seems to alternate between the mention of both Peter and John and of Peter alone in this chapter.

Peter's memorable words to the beggar ([v. 6](#)) indicate that they were in touch with the power of Jesus. "The name of Jesus" signifies his authority here. The name in Semitic thought "expresses the very nature of [a person's] being. Hence the power of the person is present and available in the name of the person." Marshall reminds us that "Jesus himself had no need to appeal to a higher authority such as the name of God."

- NIV Application Commentary,

## APPLICATION:

OUR PASSAGE GIVES us a description of the typical evangelistic ministry among Jews in the early church. As we seek to apply it to today, we will particularly look for **principles of ministry that we can follow**.

**Team ministry.** Through the alternation of the use of Peter and John and Peter alone in this passage, we have a good example of the team ministry of the evangelist Peter. This style is found throughout Acts. When Jesus sent out his twelve apostles and the seventy disciples, they were sent out two by two ([Mark 6:7](#); [Luke 10:1](#)). When Peter rose to speak on the day of Pentecost, he "stood up with the Eleven" ([Acts 2:14](#)). When he talked of his witness, he said, "We are witnesses of this" ([3:15](#); cf. [2:32](#); [5:32](#)). Peter was not a lone voice; he had a ministry team backing him when he spoke. Peter and John ministered as a team after this incident too ([8:14](#)). When Peter went to the home of Cornelius on his historic visit, he took six brothers with him ([10:23](#); [11:12](#)).

When the first missionary team for Gentile evangelization was commissioned, the Holy Spirit wanted two people set apart ([13:2](#)). When this team broke up, both Paul and Barnabas took others along to form their own teams ([15:39-40](#)). We know that Paul almost never traveled alone. He had his traveling Bible school, where he trained "interns" like Timothy and Titus. Even when Paul went to Rome as a prisoner, Luke was with him ([27:2](#)). In his last letter written from prison, Paul asked Timothy to join him quickly and to bring Mark along ([2 Tim. 4:9, 11](#)). Only in exceptional cases, such as Philip the evangelist, do we see ministry performed alone in the New Testament.

**In the Bible, working in teams is the normal style of ministry. Presumably the teams worked according to the giftedness of the members as described in [1 Corinthians 12](#).**

**TEAM MINISTRY TODAY.** The value of team ministry today cannot be overstressed.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 gives four benefits of teams:**

- **Greater fruitfulness:** *"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work."*
- **Help in times of personal failure:** *"If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!"*
- **Warmth of affirmation in times of need:** *"Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?"*
- **Strength to face attacks:** *"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."*

- NIV Application Commentary,

The giving of alms in Old Testament Israel and in New Testament Christianity was a practice expected by God of His people. One of the surviving documents from the second century, the short book called the *Didache*, or the "Teaching of the Apostles," gives us a summary of Christian duty and obligation and obedience, and stressed in the *Didache* is the generous giving of alms.

**So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them (v. 5).** The man looked at Peter and John, watching their hands, watching for the wallet, watching for the money that was about to come, in a state of eager anticipation. On this occasion Peter expressed the immortal words, **“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk (v. 6).**

What? The man’s heart sank at the first portion of what Peter said: “Silver and gold I do not have.” The man was likely thinking, “Well, then, why are you looking at me, and why did you ask me to look at you? You filled my heart with expectation only to tell me you have no money. What help can you possibly give?” Peter did not have money to give, but he did have something for the man: “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

Then an astonishing event took place. **He took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength (v. 7).** Peter reached down and took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and where moments before his legs had been useless limbs, now he could stand. **So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God (v. 8).** What an incredible moment. He was no staged plant for a healing service. This man was known by everyone in the temple complex...

#### **QUOTE:**

**Centuries later the great theologian Thomas Aquinas visited Rome and had an audience with Pope Innocent II. Aquinas was somewhat amazed by the opulence of the Vatican in that day. This was prior to the building of St. Peter’s, but even then it was a glorious headquarters for the church, filled with riches, and the pope was somewhat proud of the riches of the church, and he said to**

**Aquinas, “No longer do we say, ‘Silver and gold have we none.’” Thomas looked at the pope and said, “Maybe that is why we can no longer say, ‘Rise up and walk.’”** - St. Andrew's Expository Commentary

### **A Miracle to Confirm the Word ([Acts 3:1-10](#))**

*Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. And a certain man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. And when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. And Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze upon him and said, "Look at us!" And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene— walk!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. And with a leap, he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God; and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. And while he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement. ([3:1-10](#))*

The Bible warns repeatedly of the ever-present danger of heretical false teachers. Because they claim to represent God, yet misrepresent His truth, they do great harm. Jesus described these preachers in [Matthew 7:15](#) as "ravenous wolves" and warned that "many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many" ([Matt. 24:11](#)). Some will be exceedingly dangerous, showing "great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect" ([Matt. 24:24](#)).

The apostle Paul called false teachers "savage wolves" ([Acts 20:29](#)), "rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers" ([Titus 1:10](#)). He warned the Corinthians to beware of them, calling them "false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ" ([2 Cor. 11:13](#)). They are those who "fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons" ([1 Tim. 4:1](#)), who "oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith" ([2 Tim. 3:8](#)).

Perhaps the most scathing denunciation of heretical preachers comes from the pen of the apostle Peter. It needs to be read in full.

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his

righteous soul tormented day after day with their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord. But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you, having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children; forsaking the right way they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness, but he received a rebuke for his own transgression; for a dumb donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet. These are springs without water, and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them. ([2 Peter 2](#); [Jude 4-16](#))

The danger posed by such liars makes it imperative that there be a way to distinguish them from those who speak truth from God. The apostle John recognized that need for discernment when he warned believers,

"Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" ([1 John 4:1](#)).

The Lord Jesus Christ recognized the responsibility for God's messengers to have His teaching accredited by His works. He said of His own ministry, "*the works that I do in My Father's name, these bear witness of Me*" ([John 10:25](#)), and, "*If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father*" ([John 10:37-38](#)). He challenged Philip to "believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the works themselves" ([John 14:11](#)). The works that He did corroborated the words that He said. Nicodemus recognized that when he said, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him" ([John 3:2](#)).

The Lord granted that His spokesmen in the early church, the apostles and prophets, also be accredited by miracles. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "*The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles*" ([2 Cor. 12:12](#)).

The writer of Hebrews added, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will" ([Heb. 2:3-4](#)). As noted in the discussion of [Acts 2:43](#) in [chapter 7](#), however, **such miraculous accreditation is no longer necessary. We can determine who speaks for God by comparing their teaching with Scripture.**

The miraculous sign gifts included the gift of healing (cf. [Matt. 10:1](#)) exercised in this passage. This is one of many healings done by the apostles (cf. [Acts 2:43](#)), selected for its impact and connection to Peter's inspired sermon. Unfortunately, there is much confusion about that gift. Many today claim to possess or have access to that gift. Their so-called healings run the gamut from psychological ploys to outright fakes to demonic activity. A biblical understanding of the apostolic healing ministry includes the following points:

First, as noted above, many alleged healings are fraudulent. Over the years, faith healers have been exposed as charlatans. Apparent healings result from mind manipulation or a kind of hypnosis, stemming from a strong belief in an authority figure. When that figure tells people they are healed, their emotions may temporarily override their physical symptoms. Such "healings," needless to say, are short-lived.

A related category of "healings" involves cures of psychosomatic illnesses. Since such imagined diseases can produce symptomatic illnesses having no physical, organic cause, their cure is not an illustration of the gift of healing. Jesus and the apostles healed those afflicted with physical ailments, such as blindness, deafness, and paralysis, and organic diseases, such as leprosy. The cure of those conditions, and others like them, however, is beyond the reach of contemporary faith healers.

Second, **Satan and his demonic hosts can produce counterfeit healings. They do so not only in false religions but also under the guise of Christianity. The Lord Jesus Christ warned that "false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray" ([Mark 13:22](#)).**

The apostle **Paul echoed that warning, relating it specifically to the coming man of sin. He described him as the "one**

**whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders" (2 Thess. 2:9).**

Jesus warned that "*many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness,'*" ([Matt. 7:22-23](#)). **God is not involved in, nor does He approve of, everything done in His name.** Still less does He desire testimony from demonic sources. Our Lord refused to allow the demons to disclose His true identity ([Luke 4:41](#)), and Paul refused to allow a demon-possessed girl even to testify to the truth that he and Silas were God's servants ([Acts 16:16-18](#)).

**Believers must constantly be aware of the danger of satanic deception.** Paul warned the Corinthians of that when he wrote regarding some of the false teachers of his day:

*For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.* ([2 Cor. 11:13-15](#))

Satan is perhaps even more dangerous in his subtlety as a wolf in sheep's clothing than as a roaring lion.

Third, contrary to the teaching of many today, **the early church was not a miracle-working church. Rather, they were a church with miracle-working apostles. The gift of healing in the early church was limited to the apostles and their close associates in ministry.** When they disappeared, so did the gift of healing.

Fourth, in **every recorded instance of the gift of healing in Acts, it is unbelievers who are healed (3:1-11; 5:15-16; 8:7; 19:11-12; 28:8)**. (Whether or not Aeneas [[Acts 9:33-34](#)] was a believer is difficult to determine due to the brevity of the passage. However the description of him as "a certain man," rather than a believer or disciple [cf. [Acts 9:36](#)] suggests he was an unbeliever.) That miraculous healing was an utterly uncommon occurrence in the early church is clear from the stir Peter's healing of Aeneas caused. If healings were common, what would be so sensational about one more? Yet Peter's healing of Aeneas caused all who lived in that region to turn to the Lord ([Acts 9:35](#)).

**Further evidence that the gift of healing was not used on behalf of the church comes from the passages that mention sick believers. Paul did not heal Trophimus but left him sick at Miletus (2 Tim. 4:20). Nor did he advise Timothy to go to the local healer for his medical problems. Instead, he told him to take wine for his illness (1 Tim. 5:23)**.

**Does that mean God no longer heals? Of course not! God may choose to heal today in response to the prayers of His children, when that is consistent with His will. But that is a far cry from the miraculous, supernatural healing ability given the apostles on behalf of non-Christians.** They were the foundation of the church ([Eph. 2:20](#)), but they have passed from the scene.

With them went the miraculous gifts that were uniquely associated with them ([2 Cor. 12:12](#)). It is an unfounded assumption without biblical

support that healings should be expected as commonplace in the church. Never in all history has there been a time of such healing power as exhibited by Christ and the apostles. There is no time before or since when God manifested such prolific healing miracles. It was rare before the ministry of the Lord and the apostles and equally, if not more, rare since. (For a detailed discussion of healing, see my book *Charismatic Chaos* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992], and Richard Mayhue, *The Healing Promise* [Eugene, Oreg.: Harvest House, 1994].)

**In Acts 3:1-10, the Holy Spirit selects one of the "many wonders and signs" mentioned in 2:43 as an illustration.** This astounding miracle of healing a man lame from birth **gathers a curious crowd and prepares them to hear Peter's sermon.** It also confirms that Peter and John represent God. The record of the lame man unfolds in three events: the scene, the sign, and the sequel.

### **The Scene**

*Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. And a certain man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. And when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. ([3:1-3](#))*

The gospels and Acts reveal that **Peter and John were closely associated.** According to [Luke 5:10](#), they were partners in a **fishing business before their call as disciples.** With John's brother James, they made up the inner circle of the twelve

(cf. [Matt. 17:1](#); [Mark 5:37](#); [9:2](#); [13:3](#); [14:33](#); [Luke 8:51](#); [9:28](#)). Jesus entrusted them with making preparations for the Passover meal ([Luke 22:8](#)). They alone of the twelve followed Jesus to the high priest's house after His arrest ([John 18:15ff.](#)). Peter and John were the first of the disciples to visit the tomb after the resurrection ([John 20:2ff.](#)). The early chapters of Acts often find them traveling and ministering together (cf. [4:13](#), [19](#); [8:14](#)).

The imperfect tense of the verb translated **were going up** suggests it was their custom to go to the temple frequently (cf. [2:46](#)). The **ninth hour, the hour of prayer** would be three in the afternoon according to the Jewish reckoning, which counted the hours from sunrise. [Psalm 55:17](#) mentions the three hours of prayer, the other two being in the morning (the third hour) and at noon (the sixth hour). The ninth hour was also the time of the evening sacrifice, when the daily temple crowds would be at their peak.

On their way into the temple, the two apostles encountered **a certain man who had been lame from his mother's womb**. Crippled from birth, his case was hopeless; his affliction was not one the doctors of his day could cure. The imperfect tense of the verb translated **was being carried along**, together with the phrase **set down every day** indicates it was his daily routine to beg at that location.

**The gate of the temple which is called Beautiful** was the perfect site **to beg alms of those who were entering the temple**. Beggars in Palestine favored three locations: the houses of the rich (cf. [Luke 14:1-2](#); [16:19-21](#)), main highways (cf. [Mark 10:46](#)), and the temple. Of the three, the temple was the best site. Not only did crowds throng the temple daily, but they also came to impress God with their piety. One way to do that was to give alms to the poor. Further, the temple treasury was where people gave their offerings to the Lord. They would therefore be in the frame of mind to give money when they came to the temple. The **Beautiful Gate**, inside the temple mount area on the eastern side, separated the Court of the Gentiles from the Court of the Women. Like

the other gates, it was large and ornate. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, it was made of Corinthian brass, and was so large it took twenty men to close it ([Wars V.V.3](#), [VI.V.3](#)).

The lame man was strategically placed at the gate for maximum effect, and spotting **Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms.** He expected mercy in the form of money, little realizing he was about to receive the greater mercy of healing and salvation.

## The Sign

*And Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze upon him and said, "Look at us!" And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. And with a leap, he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping*  
([3:4-8a](#))

**Four (4) aspects of this miracle** are noteworthy: it was unexpected, it was done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, it was instantaneous, and it was complete.

### 1. It Was Unexpected

*And Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze upon him and said, "Look at us!" And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.*

*But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: ([3:4-6a](#))*

In response to the beggar's cries for alms, **Peter and John fixed their gaze upon him. Atenizō (fixed his gaze upon) is the same word used in 1:10 to describe the apostles' intense gaze at the ascending Lord.** The two apostles focused their attention on the unhappy cripple, commanding him, "**Look at us!**" With eager anticipation, the beggar **began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.** He was expecting, of course, to receive money. Peter's reply, "**I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you,**" was totally unexpected. The beggar no doubt wondered what these men could give him that would be more valuable than money. He was soon to find out.

**Like all of God's works, this miracle was based on God's sovereign will. There were hundreds of other beggars in Jerusalem,** many of them undoubtedly crippled as well. But it was this man that God sovereignly chose to receive healing. Expecting only some money to help momentarily ease his desperate situation, the beggar instead received far more than he would have ever dreamed possible.

### **It Was Done in the Name of Jesus Christ**

*In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!  
([3:6b](#))*

### **The beggar had little reason to believe in Jesus Christ.**

Jesus had not changed his plight, and He had been executed as a blasphemer. He therefore must have found Peter's use of His name perplexing. **In the name of** means by virtue of Christ's character, authority, and power. As noted in the discussion of [Acts 2:22](#) in [chapter](#)

**5, Jesus Christ the Nazarene** was the common designation of our Lord during His earthly ministry. It describes Him as Jesus, the Messiah from Nazareth. To do something in the name of Jesus Christ is to act consistent with His will; to do what He would do if He were here, to act in His authority and with His delegated power. Peter had seen the Lord heal countless times. Now, acting on behalf of His Lord with the power delegated to him (cf. [Matt. 10:1](#)), he commands the beggar to **walk**.

## 2. It Was Instantaneous

*And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up;  
and immediately his feet and his ankles were  
strengthened. ([3:7](#))*

The beggar's confusion did not last long. **Seizing him by the right hand, Peter raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were strengthened.** The genuine gift of healing, in contrast to the alleged healings of today, resulted in immediate cures. **Our Lord's healings were instantaneous** (cf. [Matt. 8:13](#); [Mark 5:29](#); [Luke 5:13](#); [17:14](#); [John 5:9](#)); there was no gradual process involved. Scripture knows nothing of "progressive healings." The beggar did not even need to be taught how to walk. He received his coordination and balance instantly.

## 3. It Was Complete

*And with a leap, he stood upright and began to walk;  
and he entered the temple with them, walking and  
leaping ([3:8a](#))*

Peter did not have to manhandle the beggar to get him on his feet. As soon as he felt the strength surge through his feet and ankles, **with a leap he stood upright and began to walk. His symptoms were completely gone.** Peter and John did not have to support him as he

limped along. Instead, **he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping.** His joy and excitement knew no bounds. Mere walking was not enough for him, he also had to leap. Like a child with a new toy he could not resist using his new-found ability.

The four characteristics of this miracle provide a checklist to screen all alleged miraculous healings. **A healing that fits the true biblical pattern will stem from God's sovereign choice, it will be done to glorify Jesus Christ, it will be instantaneous, and it will be complete.**

Needless to say, the so-called instances of healing claimed by modern "healers" do not meet those criteria.

## The Sequel

*and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God; and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. And while he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement.*

*([3:8b-11](#))*

There were three results of the miraculous healing of the lame beggar. First was joy to the beggar himself, which he expressed by **praising God.** The sedate, stately ritual of the evening sacrifice was suddenly shattered by his loud cries of joy and praise. It is God's desire that all His children experience joy. Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" ([John 15:11](#); cf. [16:24](#)).

A second result was praise and worship toward God. Mere participation in a religious service does not in itself guarantee true worship. The most genuine worship of God likely to have taken place that day in the temple was the praise of the beggar.

**Third, the miracle was a testimony to the people. The beggar's outburst of praise caused shock and amazement on the part of the crowd. All the people there in the temple saw him walking and praising God. His was a very public testimony. Recognizing him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, the crowd was filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.**

**That a miracle had taken place was undeniable.**

They had seen the beggar sitting at the Beautiful Gate for many years, so everyone knew his condition. Even the Jewish leaders did not deny that a miracle had taken place. In [Acts 4:16](#), they said, "What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it."

**As noted in the discussion of [Acts 2:22](#) in [chapter 5](#), God designed miracles to act as signs to attract attention and point people to divine**

**truth.** This healing did both. It certainly drew the attention of the crowd, who **ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement.** And had they remembered their Old Testament, they would have known that healings were to mark the beginning of messianic times. Isaiah said of that age, "Then the lame will leap like a deer" ([Isa. 35:6](#)).

**As He had for Peter's first sermon on the Day of Pentecost, God provided the introduction.**

**Amazed at the miraculous healing of the lame**

**man, a large crowd gathered** at the portico of Solomon, the porch surrounding the Court of the Gentiles (the same location where Jesus had given the discourse on the Good Shepherd [[John 10:23](#)]). The man who had been healed stood with the apostles, **clinging to Peter and John**. He was living proof that a miracle had taken place. The stage was set for Peter to preach Christ.

- MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Acts 1-12.

## **Amazement: Jesus the Healer (Acts 3:1-10)**

The Power of His Name: The emphasis in [Acts 3](#) and [4](#) is on the name of the Lord Jesus ([Acts 3:6, 16; 4:7, 10, 12, 17-18, 30](#)).

A name, of course, implies much more than identification; it carries with it authority, reputation, and power. When somebody says, "You can use my name!" you sincerely hope the name is worth using.

**But the name of the Lord Jesus has *all authority* behind it, for He is the Son of God ([Matt. 28:18](#)). Because His name is "above every name" ([Phil. 2:9-11](#)), He deserves our worship and obedience. The great concern of the first Christians was that the name of Jesus Christ, God's Son, be glorified; and believers today should have that same concern.**

The believers were still attached to the temple and to the traditional hours of prayer ([Ps. 55:17](#); [Dan. 6:10](#); [Acts 10:30](#)). **Keep in mind that [Acts 1-10](#) describes a gradual transition from Israel to the Gentiles and from "Jewish Christianity" (note [Acts 21:20](#)) to the "one body" made up of both Jews and Gentiles.** It took several years before many of the Jewish believers really understood the place of the Gentiles in God's program, and this understanding did not come without its conflicts.

**The contrast between [Acts 2](#) and [3](#) is interesting: Peter the preacher—Peter the personal worker; multitudes—one poor man; ministry resulting in blessing—ministry resulting in arrest and persecution. The events in [Acts 3](#) are an illustration of the last phrase in [Acts 2:47](#), showing us how the Lord added to His church daily.**

While the Holy Spirit is not named in this chapter, He was certainly at work in and through the Apostles, performing His ministry of glorifying Jesus Christ ([John 16:14](#)).

**Peter and John are often found together in Scripture. They were partners in the fishing business ([Luke 5:10](#)); they prepared the last Passover for Jesus ([Luke 22:8](#)); they ran to the tomb on the first Easter Sunday morning ([John 20:3-4](#));**

**and they ministered to the Samaritans who believed on Jesus Christ ([Acts 8:14](#)). Now that they were filled with the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were no longer competing for greatness, but were at last working faithfully together to build the church ([Ps. 133](#)).**

**That Peter noticed the lame beggar is another evidence of the Spirit's ministry. No doubt thousands of people were near the temple ([Acts 4:4](#)), and perhaps scores of beggars, but the Lord told Peter to heal a lame man lying at the Beautiful Gate.**

There were nine gates that led from the court of the Gentiles into the temple itself. Scholars are not agreed, but the Beautiful Gate was probably the "Eastern Gate" that led into the court of the women. Made of Corinthian bronze, the gate looked like gold; and it certainly was a choice place for a lame man to beg.

The giving of alms was an important part of the Jewish faith, so beggars found it profitable to be near the temple. Since the believers had pooled their resources ([Acts 2:44-45](#)), the two Apostles had no money to give; but **money was not what the man needed most. He needed salvation for his soul and healing for his body, and money could provide neither.**

Through the power of the name of Jesus, the beggar was completely healed; and he was so happy and excited that he acted like a child, leaping and praising God.

It is easy to see in this man an illustration of what salvation is like...

He was born lame, and all of us are born unable to walk so as to please God.

Our father Adam had a fall and passed his lameness on to all of his descendants (Rom. 5:12-21).

The man was also poor, and we as sinners are bankrupt before God, unable to pay the tremendous debt that we owe Him (Luke 7:36-50).

He was "outside the temple," and all sinners are separated from God, no matter how near to the door they might be.

The man was healed wholly by the grace of God, and the healing was immediate (Eph. 2:8-9).

He gave evidence of what God had done by "walking, and leaping, and praising God" (Acts 3:8) and by publicly identifying himself with the Apostles, both in the temple (Acts 3:11) and in their arrest (Acts 4:14).

*Now that he could stand, there was no question where this man stood!*

**- Bible Exposition Commentary**

## Acts Chapter 3

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**Verse 1.** *Peter and John went up*, etc. In [Luke 24:53](#), it is said that the apostles were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. From [Acts 2:46](#), it is clear that all the disciples were accustomed daily to resort to the temple for devotion. Whether they joined in the *sacrifices* of the temple-service is not said; but the thing is not improbable. This was the place and the manner in which they and their fathers had worshipped. They came slowly to the conclusion that they were to leave the *temple*; and they would naturally resort there with their countrymen to worship the God of their fathers. In the previous chapter, ([Acts 2:43](#),) we are told *in general* that many wonders and signs were done by the hands of the apostles. From the many miracles which were performed, Luke selects one, of which he gives a more full account; and especially as it gives him occasion to record another of the addresses of Peter to the Jews. An impostor would have been satisfied with the *general* statement that many miracles *were* performed. The sacred writers descend to particulars, and tell us where, and in relation to whom, they were performed. This is a proof that they were honest men, and did not intend to deceive.

*Into the temple.* Not into the edifice properly called the temple, but into the court of the temple, where prayer was accustomed to be made. [Matthew 21:12](#).

*At the hour of prayer*, etc. The Jewish day was divided into twelve equal parts; of course the ninth hour would be about three o'clock, P.M. This was the hour of evening prayer. Morning prayer was offered at nine o'clock. Comp. [Psalms 55:17](#), [Daniel 6:10](#).

(\*) "the hour of prayer" [Psalms 55:17](#), [Daniel 6:10](#)

**Verse 2.** *Lame*, etc. The mention of this shows that there was no deception in the case. The man had been always lame; he was obliged to be carried; and he was well known to the Jews.

*Whom they laid daily.* That is, his friends laid him there *daily*. **He would therefore be well known to those who were in the habit of entering the temple.** Among the ancients there were no hospitals for the afflicted; and no alms-houses for the poor. **The poor were dependent, therefore, on the charity of those who were in better circumstances.** It became an important matter for them to be placed where they would see many people. Hence it was customary to place them at the gates of rich men, ([Luke 16:20](#);) and they also sat by the side of the highway to beg where many persons would pass, [Mark 10:46](#), [Luke 18:35](#), [John 9:1-8](#). The entrance to the *temple* would be a favourable place for begging; for,

(1.) great multitudes were accustomed to enter there; and,

(2.) when going up for the purposes of religion, they would be more inclined to give alms than at other times; and especially was this true of the Pharisees, who were particularly desirous of *publicity* in bestowing charity. It is recorded by Martial, (i. 112,) that this custom prevailed among the Romans, of placing the poor by the gates of the temples; and the custom was also observed a long time in the Christian churches.

*At the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful.* In regard to this gate there have been two opinions; one of which supposes that this was

the gate commonly called *Nicanor*, which led from the court of the Gentiles to the court of the women, [Matthew 21:12](#); and the other, that it was the gate at the eastern entrance of the temple, commonly called *Suzan*. It is not easy to determine which is intended; though from the fact that it occurred near Solomon's porch, ([Acts 3:11](#)); comp. plan of the temple, [Matthew 21:12](#), it seems probable that the latter was intended. This gate was large and splendid. It was made of Corinthian brass, a most valuable metal, and made a magnificent appearance.- *Josephus, Jewish War*, b. v., chap. v.,

*To ask alms.* Charity.

(\* "gate of the temple" [John 9:8](#))

**Verse 3.** *Who seeing Peter.* There is no evidence that he was acquainted with them, or knew who they were. He asked of them as he was accustomed to do of the multitude that entered the temple.

**Verse 4.** *Fastening his eyes.* The word used here denotes to look *intently*, or with fixed attention. It is one of the peculiar words which *Luke* uses, [Luke 4:20](#), [22:56](#), [Acts 1:10](#), [3:12](#), [6:15](#), [7:55](#), [10:4](#), etc., in all twelve times. It is used by no other writer in the New Testament, except by Paul twice, [2 Corinthians 3:7,13](#).

*Look on us.* All this was done to fix the attention. He wished to call the attention of the man distinctly to himself, and to what he was about to do. It was also done that the man might be fully apprised that his restoration to health came from him.

**Verse 6.** *Silver and gold have I none.* The man had asked for money; Peter assures him that he had not that to give; it was done, however, in such a way as to show his *willingness* to aid him, if he had possessed it.

*Such as I have.* Such as is in my power. It is not to be supposed that he meant to say that he originated this power himself, but only that it was entrusted to him. He immediately adds, that it was derived solely from the Lord Jesus Christ.

***In the name. Comp. Acts 4:10. In Mark 16:17,18, it is said, "These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils, etc.-they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." The expression means, by his authority, or in virtue of power derived from him. We are here struck with a remarkable difference between the manner in which the Lord Jesus wrought miracles, and that in which it was done by his apostles. He did it in his own name, and by virtue of his own power. He claimed dominion over disease and death. The apostles never attempted to perform a miracle by their own power. It was only in the name of Jesus; and this circumstance alone shows that there was a radical difference between Christ and all other prophets and teachers.***

*Of Nazareth.* This was the name by which he was commonly known. By this name he had been designated among the Jews, and on the cross. It is by no means improbable that the man had heard of him by this name; and it was important that he should understand that it was by the authority of him who had been crucified as an impostor.

*Rise up and walk.* To do this would be evidence of signal power. It is remarkable that, in cases like this, they were commanded to do the thing at once. See similar cases in [John 5:8](#), [Matthew 9:6](#), [12:13](#). It would have been easy to allege that they had *no power*, that they were lame, or sick, or palsied, and could do nothing until God should give them strength. But the command was *to do the thing*; nor did the Saviour or the apostles stop to convince them that they *could* do nothing. They did not doubt that, if it were done, they would ascribe the power to God. Precisely like this is the condition of the sinner. God commands him *to do the thing*; to repent, and believe, and lead a holy life. It is not merely to attempt to do it; to make use of means; or to wait on him; but it is *actually to repent and believe the gospel*. Where he may obtain power to do it is another question. It is easy for him to involve himself in difficulty, as it would have been in these cases. But the command of God is positive, and must be obeyed. If not obeyed, men must perish; just as this man would have been always lame if he had put forth no effort of his own. When done, a convicted sinner will do just as this man did, *instinctively give all the praise to God*, [Acts 3:8](#).

(\* "in the name of Jesus" [Acts 4:10](#))

**Verse 7. And he took him. He took hold of his hand. To take hold of the hand in such a case was an offer of aid, an indication that Peter was sincere, and was an inducement to him to make an effort.**

**This may be employed as a beautiful illustration of the manner of God when he commands men to repent and believe, He does not leave them alone; he extends help, and aids their efforts.**

**If they tremble, and feel that they are weak, and needy, and helpless, his hand is stretched out, and his power exerted to impart strength and grace.**

*His feet and ankle bones.* The fact that strength was immediately imparted; that the feet, long lame, were now made strong, was a full and clear proof of miraculous power.

**Verse 8. And he leaping up. ...a natural expression of joy;**

**...a striking fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 35:6: "Then shall the lame man leap as an hart."**

The account here given is one that is perfectly natural. The man would be filled with joy, and would express it in this manner. **He had been lame from a child; he had never walked; and there was more in the miracle than merely giving *strength*. The act of walking is one that is acquired by long practice. Children learn slowly. Casper Hauser,** lately discovered in one of the cities of Germany, who had been confined in prison from a child, was unable to walk in an easy way when released, but stumbled in a very awkward manner. (See his Life.) When, **therefore, this man was able at once to walk, it was clear proof of a miracle.**

*Praising God.* **This was the natural and appropriate expression of his feelings on this occasion. His heart would be full; and he could have no doubt that this blessing had come from God alone. It is**

**remarkable that he did not even express his gratitude to Peter and John.** They had not pretended to restore him in their own name; and he would feel that man could not do it. It is remarkable that he praised God without being *taught* or entreated to do it. It was instinctive—the natural feeling of the heart. So a sinner. His first feelings when renewed, will be to ascribe the praise to God. **While he may and will feel regard for the ministry by whose instrumentality he has received the blessing, yet his main expression of gratitude will be to God. And this he will do instinctively; he needs no prompter; he knows that no power of man is equal to the work of converting the soul, and will rejoice, and give all the praise to the God of grace.** (\*) "leaping up" [Isaiah 35:6](#)

[Verses 9, 10.](#) *And all the people*, etc. The people who had been accustomed to see him sit in a public place.

*And they knew*, etc. In this they could not be deceived; they had seen him a long time, and now they saw the same man expressing his praise to God for complete recovery.

**The particulars in this miracle are the following;**  
and they are as far as possible from any appearance of imposture.

**(1.) The man had been afflicted from a child.** This was known to all the people. At this time he was 40 years of age, [Acts 4:22](#).

**(2.) He was not an impostor.** If he had *pretended* lameness, it is wonderful that he had not been detected before, and not have been suffered to occupy a place thus in the temple.

**(3.) The apostles had no agency in placing him there.** They had not seen him before. There was manifestly no *collusion or agreement* with him to attempt to impose on the people. The man himself was convinced of the miracle; and did not doubt that the power by which he had been healed was of God.

**(4.) The *people* were convinced of the same thing.** They saw the effects; they had known him well; they had had every opportunity to know that he was diseased; **and they were now satisfied that he was restored.** There was no possibility of deception in the case. **It was not merely the friends of Jesus that saw this; not those who had an interest in the miracle, but those who had been his enemies, and who had just before been engaged in putting him to death.** Let this miracle be compared, in these particulars, with those *pretended* miracles which have been affirmed to have been wrought in defense of other systems of religion, and it will be seen at once that here is every appearance of sincerity, honesty, and truth; and in them every mark of deception, fraud, and imposition. (See Paley's Evidences of Christianity, Proposition ii., chap. ii.)

- Barnes' Notes on the New Testament.

Acts 3:1-10

v.1

Peter and John had each of them a brother among the twelve, with whom they were coupled when they were sent out; yet now they seem to be knit together more closely than either of them to his brother, for the bond of friendship is sometimes stronger than that of relation: there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Peter and John seem to have had a peculiar intimacy after Christ's resurrection more than before, [John 20:2](#).

v.2-3

**The patient on whom this miraculous cure was wrought is here described, [v. 2](#). He was a poor lame beggar at the temple gate.**

1. **he was a cripple, not by accident, but born so**; he was lame from his mother's womb, as it should seem, by a paralytic distemper, which weakened his limbs; for it is said in the description of his cure ([v. 7](#)), His feet and ankle bones received strength. Some such piteous cases now and then there are, which we ought to be affected with and look upon with compassion, and which are designed to show us what we all are by nature spiritually: without strength, lame from our birth, unable to work or walk in God's service.

2. **He was a beggar. Being unable to work for his living, he must live upon alms**; such are God's poor. He was laid daily by his friends at one of the gates of the temple, a miserable spectacle, unable to do any thing for himself but to ask alms of those that entered into the temple or came out. There was a concourse,-a concourse of devout good people, from whom charity might be expected, and a concourse of such people when it might be hoped they were in the best frame; and there he was laid. **Those that need, and cannot work, must not be ashamed to beg**. He would not have been laid there, and laid there daily, if he

had not been used to meet with supplies, daily supplies there. Note, **Our prayers and our alms should go together**; Cornelius's did, ch. [10:4](#). Objects of charity should be in a particular manner welcome to us when we go up to the temple to pray; it is a pity that common beggars at church doors should any of them be of such a character as to discourage charity; but they ought not always to be overlooked: some there are surely that merit regard, and better feed ten drones, yea, and some wasps, than let one bee starve. The gate of the temple at which he was laid is here named: it was called Beautiful, for the extraordinary splendour and magnificence of it. Dr. Lightfoot observes that this was the gate that led out of the court of the Gentiles into that of the Jews, and he supposes that the cripple would beg only of the Jews, as disdaining to ask any thing of the Gentiles. But Dr. Whitby takes it to be at the first entrance into the temple, and beautified sumptuously, as became the frontispiece of that place where the divine Majesty vouchsafed to dwell; and it was no diminution to the beauty of this gate that a poor man lay there begging.

3. **He begged of Peter and John (v. 3), begged an alms; this was the utmost he expected from them**, who had the reputation of being charitable men, and who, though they had not much, yet did good with what they had. **It was not many weeks ago that the blind and the lame came to Christ in the temple, and were healed there, [Matthew 21:14](#)**. And why might not he have asked more than an alms, if he knew that Peter and John were Christ's messengers, and preached and wrought miracles in his name? But he had that done for him which he looked not for; he asked an alms, and had a cure.

*“He asked for money  
but was given a miracle!”*

## We have here the method of the cure.

His expectations were raised. Peter, instead of turning his eyes from him, as many do from objects of charity, turned his eyes to him, nay, **he fastened his eyes upon him, that his eye might affect his heart with compassion towards him, v. 4.** John did so too, for **they were both guided by one and the same Spirit, and concurred in this miracle; they said, Look on us.**

He gave him that which was better-the cure of his disease, which he would gladly have given a great deal of silver and gold for, if he had had it, and the cure could have been so obtained. This would enable him to work for his living, so that he would not need to beg any more; nay, he would have to give to those that needed, and it is more blessed to give than to receive. A miraculous cure would be a greater instance of God's favour, and would put a greater honour upon him, than thousands of gold and silver could. observe, When Peter had no silver and gold to give, yet (says he) such as I have I give thee. Note, Those may be, and ought to be, otherwise charitable and helpful to the poor, who have not wherewithal to give in charity; those who have not silver and gold have their limbs and senses, and with these may be serviceable to the blind, and lame, and sick, and if they be not, as there is occasion, neither would they give to them if they had silver and gold. As every one hath received the gift, so let him minister it.

**[1.] Christ sent his word, and healed him (Psa. 107:20); for healing grace is given by the word of Christ;** this is the vehicle of the healing virtue derived from Christ. **Christ spoke cures by himself; the apostles spoke them in his name.**

**[2.] Peter lent his hand, and helped him (v. 7): He took him by the right hand, in the same name in which he had spoken to him to arise and walk, and lifted him up. Not that this could contribute any thing to his cure; but it was a sign, plainly intimating the help he should receive from God, if he exerted himself as he was bidden. When God by his word commands us to rise, and walk in the way of his commandments, if we mix faith with that word, and lay our souls under the power of it, he will give his Spirit to take us by the hand, and lift us up.**

*If we set ourselves to do what we can,  
God has promised his grace to enable us  
to do what we cannot;*

*The beggar does his part,  
and Peter does his,  
and yet it is Christ that does all:  
it is he that puts strength into him.*

**As the bread was multiplied in the breaking,  
and the water turned into wine in the pouring  
out, so strength was given to the cripple's feet  
in his stirring them and using them.**

Note, Those who have had experience of the working of divine grace upon them should evidence what they have experienced. Has God put strength into us? Let us stand before him in the exercises of devotion; let us walk before him in all the instances of a religious conversation. Let us stand up resolutely for him, and walk cheerfully with him, and both in strength derived and received from him.

*Those that have experienced the power of Christ should earnestly desire to grow in their acquaintance with Christ.*

He was there walking, and leaping, and praising God. Note, The strength God has given us, both in mind and body, should be made us of to his praise, and we should study how to honour him with it. Those that are healed in his name must walk up and down in his name and in his strength, [Zechariah 10:12](#). This man, as soon as he could leap, leaped for joy in God, and praised him. Here was that scripture fulfilled ([Isaiah 35:6](#)): Then shall the lame man leap as a hart. Now that this man was newly cured he was in this excess of joy and thankfulness. All true converts walk and praise God; but perhaps young converts leap more in his praises.

**- Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible.**

## TRANSITION:

**3:11** Verse [11](#) is transitional, linking the healing narrative in the temple with Peter's sermon from Solomon's Colonnade. Solomon's Colonnade lay along the eastern wall and thus across the court of the Gentiles and some distance from the sanctuary. Although Luke did not mention any exit from the sanctuary, one has to assume that the group exited the temple by way of the beautiful gate, traversed the court of the Gentiles, and reassembled at Solomon's portico. The scene was now set for Peter's speech. The healed man was there as living evidence of the miracle, holding fast to Peter and John. The crowd likewise came running to the scene with a mixture of curiosity and awe. Peter was not about to miss this opportunity for witness.

- New American Commentary – Volume 26: Acts.