
Power in the Name

Acts 3:1-26

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.

3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.

4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us."

5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you.

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.

8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God,

10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's.

12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people:

"Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?"

13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.

14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

16 And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

17 "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,

20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

22 Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.

23 And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'

24 And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.

25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'

26 God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

Sermon Outline:

- I. The amazing gospel of grace is powerful enough to heal bodies (Acts 3:1-13).
 - A. More Than a Commodity
 1. Useful to Assuage Consciences
 2. Inherently Worthy
 - B. More Than This Body
- II. The amazing gospel of grace is powerful to restore the soul (Acts 3:14-26).
 - A. Guilt
 - B. Grace
 - C. Guide

Discussion Questions

1. Click on this link of the painting of [“The Healing of the Lame Man”](#) by the French painter Nicholas Poussin in 1655 AD. Then, describe, as if you were there as an observer, what happened between Peter and John and the lame man at the Beautiful Gate.
2. Contrast what the lame man expects and what he receives. How does this man respond when he is healed? How do all the people gathered respond? Contrast their responses (vv. 8 and 11-12).
3. The Apostle Peter seizes the opportunity to preach the gospel. Acts 3:11-26 serves as Peter’s second sermon in the book of Acts. What are the most important points of Peter’s sermon? How does he prove from the Old Testament that Jesus is the Messiah? Why is it vital to see the centrality of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament?
4. List each of the titles that Peter gives to Jesus. How do each of these speak to the uniqueness of Jesus? How is the authority of Jesus demonstrated in this miracle (v. 16)?
5. What does the Apostle Peter challenge his listeners and us to do in Acts 3:19? What promises does Peter make to those who turn and trust Christ (3:19b-21)? What happens as a result of the transformed life of this lame man (see 4:4)?
6. The wait for Jesus to return from heaven to “restore all things” may seem very long. How is your perspective on this wait affected by verse 21?

7. This completely healed man was a compelling testimony to the transforming power of God and the truth of the gospel. How have you seen God's power demonstrated in your life and in the lives of others?

8. Pray and ask the Lord to give you an opportunity like the Apostle Peter's to testify to our Lord Jesus Christ and His transforming gospel.

Going Deeper

1. Peter challenges his hearers on the necessity of repentance. Acts 3:19 sets forth how a person becomes a Christian and how a person grows as a believer: "Repent, therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out..." Verse 26 reminds us why God raised up his servant Jesus and sent him to the Jews first: "To bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

- Our Westminster Shorter Catechism question 87 teaches us what this type of repentance unto life really is. "Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it to God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience."
- What would it look like for daily repentance to become more of a distinctive feature of your life and relationships?

2. What are some of the great things that we should expect from God? What are some of the great things that we should attempt for God? Discuss the following especially in light of miracles and asking the Lord for healing: We can err by not expecting anything from God in order to protect ourselves and not be disappointed. We also can err by "expecting to receive from God, whose face we seek, more than he has actually promised." God certainly meets and blesses all who seek him in honest and heart-felt prayer.

- Adapted from J.I. Packer, "Piety on Fire," *Christianity Today*, May 12, 1989.