

## ~ACTS~

## Lesson 12- A Miraculous Healing

We are continuing our study through the book of Acts, and today we begin chapter 3. Luke ended chapter 2 by describing the Fellowship of the early church. In the last 6 verses of chapter 2, we get a glimpse of the overwhelming love that the Brethren had for God and for one another. And in verse 42, Luke tells us there were four things the disciples were continuing steadfastly in and that is: 1) Apostolic Teaching... 2) Koinonia Fellowship... 3) the breaking of Bread by sharing in the elements of communion... 4) Prayer.

And in verse 43 we see the results of this steadfast church... there was an awestruck fear that came upon every soul because many wonders and signs were being done through the Apostles. And in chapter 3, we see an example of one of these miracles. There were many miracles happening with this early church, more than are recorded in the book of Acts, but in chapter 3, Luke gives us one specific account of a healing miracle that took place. Let's begin by reading our text today, **Acts 3:1-11**.

This was a miracle, a supernatural act of God that was done by the power of the Holy Spirit through Peter as an ambassador of Jesus Christ. And notice that this miracle pointed to the Spiritual Truth that exalted Jesus as the Christ, **Acts 3:12-16**. Godly miracles will always lift up the Name of Jesus. They will always pave the way to impart Truth and bear witness of Jesus Christ who is the Truth. These miracles are always surrounding the Truth because it is the Spirit of Truth that is the power behind these gifts, Acts 1:8.

Supernatural miracles bear witness of God's gift of Salvation, **Hebrews 2:3-4**. The miracles Jesus did proved Him to be the Christ, **Acts 2:22**; John 5:36; **10:25, 37-38**; 14:11. And there were also signs that followed the Apostles to validate that they were men sent by God to proclaim His Word, **Acts 2:43**. These miracles validated that the Apostles were sent by God to bear witness of the risen Jesus Christ, **2 Corinthians 12:12**. But the signs didn't stop with the Apostles as some might suggest because the Bible tells us in Mark 16:17-18 that *these signs will follow them who believe*. And we see evidence of this in faithful men like Philip and Stephen who were not Apostles, but faithful men whom the Spirit was working through, **Acts 6:8; 8:6**. And the gifts of the Spirit are still in operation even today, and they won't stop until that which is perfect has come, **1 Corinthians 13:10**. But we have to remember, these gifts are given and distributed "as He wills," not as I will, **1 Cor 12:11**. The gifts of the Spirit are not on-demand gifts to be used however we see fit. The gifts of the Spirit are given and administered as He wills, and however He sees fit to fulfill His plan of Redemption.

So today in Acts chapter 3, we see another miracle, and this happens to be the first healing miracle recorded in the book of Acts. And this is the second manifested gift recorded, the first being the gift of tongues on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, and now the gift of healing in Acts 3 is manifested. But even though these are different gifts being worked, we see the same result in both. Because there is always one purpose, one common goal of any the gifts of the Spirit and that is to exalt the Name of Jesus Christ. And this is what we see in Acts chapter 3. After the healing miracle of the lame man, many people gather together in amazement, Peter gives all the glory and honor to Jesus, he preaches the Word, and thousands repent and are saved. It's the same pattern we see repeated over and over again throughout the book of Acts, Acts 5:12-16, 42-6:1; 7-8; 8:4-8, 12-13; 9:36-42; 11:19-26; 13:11-12; 14:8-23; 16:25-34; 19:11-20; 28:1-10.

So let's look at this verse by verse starting in verse 1...

<p><sup>1</sup> Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> Ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτὸ δὲ Πέτρος καὶ Ἰωάννης ἀνέβαινον εἰς τὸ ἱερὸν ἐπὶ τὴν ὥραν τῆς προσευχῆς τὴν ἑννάτην.</p>
--	--

“**Peter and John**”- these two were close friends. You remember that these two knew each other before Jesus even called them to the ministry because their families worked together in the fishing business in

Galilee. Zebedee and his sons, James and John working with Peter and Andrew, Luke 5:1-11. And we constantly see these two together during the three-year ministry of Jesus as they were part of the inner circle of the disciples that included John's brother James as well, Matt 17:1; 26:37; Mark 5:37. And when the disciples heard from the women that the tomb was empty, it was Peter and John that ran to the tomb first, John 20:3-4.

So these two have known each other for a long time and Luke says they are together again and are heading to the **temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour**. This would be 3pm because the Jewish day started at 6am.\* Notice they are going into the temple... this is the most hostile place they could be going, but they are led of the Spirit they are bold to preach the Word. ...

<sup>2</sup> And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

<sup>2</sup> καὶ τις ἀνὴρ χωλὸς ἐκ κοιλίας μητρὸς αὐτοῦ ὑπάρχων ἐβαστάζετο· ὃν ἐτίθουν καθ' ἡμέραν πρὸς τὴν θύραν τοῦ ἱεροῦ τὴν λεγομένην Ὠραίαν, τοῦ αἰτεῖν ἐλεημοσύνην παρὰ τῶν εἰσπορευομένων εἰς τὸ ἱερόν.

This man was born with a birth defect that effected his feet and ankles, Acts 3:7, and Luke tells us in Acts 4:22 this man was over 40 years old. He had lived this way his whole life and he had friends that would lay him at the gate of the temple daily.

The gate where they would lay him was called "The Beautiful Gate," but there is no other reference in the Bible to this gate. But Josephus gives us a description of a gate that exceeded all the rest in his book called, *The War of the Jews*, book 5, chapter 5. <sup>(201)</sup> Now nine of these gates were on every side covered over with gold and silver, as were the jambs of their doors and their lintels; **but there was one gate that was without [the inward court of] the holy house, which was of Corinthian brass, and greatly excelled those that were only covered over with silver and gold...** <sup>(204)</sup> Now the magnitudes of the other gates were equal one to another; but that over the **Corinthian gate**, which opened on the east over against the gate of the holy house itself, **was much larger;** <sup>(205)</sup> for its height was fifty cubits; and its doors were forty cubits; and it **was adorned after a most costly manner, as having much richer and thicker plates of silver and gold upon them than the other.**<sup>†</sup> This Beautiful gate mentioned in Acts is most likely this Corinthian gate on the east side of the temple. This gate is also nearby to Solomon's Porch where all the people ran to meet him, Acts 3:11.

This lame man was a beggar, and he was laid at the temple gate daily asking for alms or some type of money from those who would enter the temple. And he looks up and sees Peter and John entering the temple...

<sup>3</sup> who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. <sup>4</sup> And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

<sup>3</sup> ὃς ἰδὼν Πέτρον καὶ Ἰωάννην μέλλοντας εἰσιέναι εἰς τὸ ἱερόν, ἡρώτα ἐλεημοσύνην. <sup>4</sup> ἀτενίσας δὲ Πέτρος εἰς αὐτὸν σὺν τῷ Ἰωάννῃ, εἶπε, Βλέψον εἰς ἡμᾶς. <sup>5</sup> ὁ δὲ ἐπέιχεν αὐτοῖς, προσδοκῶν τι παρ' αὐτῶν λαβεῖν.

\* According to Jewish tradition, there are three times of prayer each day. This is based on Daniel having prayed three times on the day he was arrested and thrown in the lions den, Dan 6:10 and in Psalm 55:17 when David said he prayed evening, morning, and noon. But we also see this spill over into the book of Acts because the disciples were praying in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour, Acts 2:15; Peter is again praying on the roof at the 6<sup>th</sup> hour (12:00) when he receives the vision from God in Acts 10:9; and here in Acts 3:1 Peter and John are going to the temple to pray. We also see Cornelius praying at the 9<sup>th</sup> hour in Acts 10:30. But a fun correlation with these times that is fascinating is these are the specific times mentioned in the Bible as Jesus was on the cross. He was crucified on the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour, Mark 15:25; at the sixth hour there was darkness, Matt 27:45; and He died at the ninth hour, Matt 27:46.

<sup>†</sup> Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. The works of Josephus: complete and unabridged (p. 707). Peabody: Hendrickson.

As Peter and John are entering the temple, this beggar asks them for money, and Peter says, “**Look at us.**” Peter is getting his undivided attention. I think it was right here that the Holy Spirit tells Peter to heal him. Up until this point, Peter and John are just going into the temple, trusting and praising God. But the plan becomes clear to Peter at this moment. The beggar looks up expecting to receive money from them. Notice this beggar is not a believer, and he does not have faith or any expectation to be healed. He is just looking for a handout. So its not the faith of this beggar that healed him. This is God working through Peter to show His glory.

**6** Then Peter said, “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.” **7** And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

**6** εἶπε δὲ Πέτρος, Ἀργύριον καὶ χρυσίον οὐχ ὑπάρχει μοι· ὃ δὲ ἔχω, τοῦτό σοι δίδωμι. ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ Ναζωραίου, ἔγειραι καὶ περιπάτει. **7** καὶ πιάσας αὐτὸν τῆς δεξιᾶς χειρὸς ἤγειρε· παραχρῆμα δὲ ἐστερεώθησαν αὐτοῦ αἱ βάσεις καὶ τὰ σφυρά.

I’m sure he wasn’t the only beggar there, and he probably wasn’t the only one who needed healing, but God chose this man out of all the others probably because he was the only one who had been there his whole life. All the people of Jerusalem knew this to be the lame beggar that sat by the Beautiful gate every day. God chose this man to show His glory, the one whom nobody could deny the miracle, Acts 4:16. It’s interesting to think about this man lying there for years because it is possible that even Jesus saw this man many times as He entered the temple, but chose to heal him through the Apostle Peter at this specific time because He knew this specific healing, at this time, would reap thousands for the kingdom.

This is kind of a bummer verse for the prosperity gospel. You don’t hear them quote this one too much. “**Silver and gold I do not have.**” And it’s even more emphatic in the Greek. He literally says, “Silver and gold does not belong to me.” But Peter, being led of the Spirit, knew he had something much more precious... the gift of healing and life, and he says “**this I give to you.**” Peter, being bold and without hesitation says, “**In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.**” Peter is doing this in the name of Jesus, in the authority that has been delegated to him as an ambassador. And notice, Peter doesn’t ask him to get up. Verse 7 says, “**he took him by the right hand...**” The word took is *πιάσας*. To forcefully grab, to seize, capture, take hold of, arrest.

**And immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.** You have to remember this guy hasn’t ever walked in his entire life. So not only did his feet receive strength, but the muscles in his legs and everything it takes to stand up was made strong also. And he didn’t just stand up, he is leaping and praising God. Look at verses 8-9...

**8** So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. **9** And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

**8** καὶ ἐξαλλόμενος ἔστη καὶ περιεπάτει, καὶ εἰσῆλθε σὺν αὐτοῖς εἰς τὸ ἱερόν, περιπατῶν καὶ ἀλλόμενος καὶ αἰνῶν τὸν Θεόν. **9** καὶ εἶδεν αὐτὸν πᾶς ὁ λαὸς περιπατοῦντα καὶ αἰνοῦντα τὸν Θεόν.

There wasn’t a break in period to get him used to walking. He didn’t have to learn to walk. The Holy Spirit re-programmed his brain to know how to start walking and leaping. And notice the phrase **praising God** is mentioned twice. He is giving God all the glory and all the people in the temple see him and come running over. These are some of the people that Luke says they had favor in Acts 2:47.

**10** Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

**10** ἐπεγίνωσκόν τε αὐτὸν ὅτι οὗτος ἦν ὁ πρὸς τὴν ἐλεημοσύνην καθήμενος ἐπὶ τῇ Ὠραίᾳ πύλῃ τοῦ ἱεροῦ· καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν θάμβους καὶ ἐκστάσεως ἐπὶ τῷ συμβεβηκότι αὐτῷ.

**11** Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.

<sup>11</sup> Κρατούντος δὲ τοῦ ἰαθέντος χωλοῦ τὸν Πέτρον καὶ Ἰωάννην, συνέδραμε πρὸς αὐτοὺς πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἐπὶ τῇ στοᾷ τῇ καλουμένῃ Σολομώντος, ἔκθαμβοι.

Remember, this is the hour of prayer. The temple probably has a quiet, reverent air about it, and then all of the sudden this man starts jumping and praising God, and his praises are echoing throughout the temple halls. This gets everyone's attention and they come running over to see what is going on. Everyone knew who this crippled beggar was, and I think this is exactly why God chose him to be healed. Because look at the effect of this miracle. It brought wonder and amazement as people are running together to them.

Again, just like on the Day of Pentecost, the miracle draws thousands of people to them in amazement, but it's not the miracle that brings salvation. The sign is just the tool to bring them together to point them to Salvation so they can hear the Word and be saved. Notice they are in Solomon's porch, which is just inside the Beautiful gate. Solomon's porch was a huge area that would hold thousands of people. And after everybody comes rushing over, Peter begins glorifying Jesus and preaching the Gospel and that's all detailed in the rest of chapter 3 that we will look at next week.

It's clear from the book of Acts that the gift of healing, along with all the gifts of the Spirit, are used for Kingdom purposes. They are used as a tool or a method to expose the hearts of the people and draw those who have ears to hear to the Word of God so they can be saved. We saw an example of this on the Day of Pentecost with the gift of tongues, and we saw it today in the healing of the lame man, and we will continue to see the gifts manifested in the book of Acts for this purpose. It is evident that the gifts have a Kingdom purpose. And God, by the power of the Holy Spirit works through His ambassadors for His plan of Redemption. And we even see examples of this with Jesus in the Gospels as He is doing the work of the Father, using the gift of healing to expose the hearts of the people. For instance, in John chapter 9 there is the healing of the blind man, and the purpose for this miracle is in [John 9:39](#). It's a way to expose the hearts of the people. Those who think they see by their own self-righteousness, are made blind because of their hard heart. And those who know they are a sinner; their eyes are open to Spiritual Truth. Another example is the man with the withered hand. That healing was clearly to expose the hearts of the hard-hearted Pharisees, [Luke 6:6-11](#). Again, this healing exposed the hearts of the people.

But there is another type of healing that we see in the Bible apart from what I would call the Kingdom gift of healing. It is a personal healing simply because we ask Him, and because He loves us. In James 5:14-15- *"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."* This isn't the gift of healing being used to expose the hearts of the people. This is a healing for God's children because He loves us. We don't really see this type of personal healing in the book of Acts, but we do see Jesus heal in this way. Remember Jairus' daughter. Jesus raised her from the dead for Jairus' sake, and Jesus specifically said not to tell anybody. It was personal, Luke 8:40-56. And the leper who was cleansed, Jesus said the same thing. Don't tell anybody because it was personal, Matt 8:1-4.

God is our Healer. He is Jehovah Rapha, Ex 15:26; Ps 30:2, and He is still healing today. Now I can't tell you why not everybody gets physically healed, but I can tell you to Trust in God and you will be healed unto Everlasting Life. He has given us the promise of healing. Isaiah 53 says, "by His stripes we are healed." And whether He does this in this life or Eternal Life, that's up to Him. But don't lose heart. Stay focused on Him. Many times, we get too focused on the healing, and we lose focus of the Healer Himself. Focus on Jesus. Stay fixed on Him, trust in Him, put your faith in Him, abide in Him and rejoice that you have Eternal Life in Him.