

# Big Power

## Acts 3:1-10

*"But Peter said, "I don't have silver or gold, but what I have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" - Acts 3:6*

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**Main Point: God's power is still ready and waiting to flow through you and His Church**

**Introduction:** Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

*What is the sickest you've ever been? Did someone help you get better? Who?*

*When is the last time you had an adrenaline rush or surge of power? What happened?*

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In the Book of Acts, we see that the early church understood its responsibility to follow Jesus' example of caring for the whole person. Acts 3 introduces the miraculous healing of a crippled man. This is the first healing miracle in Acts. The man was lame from birth and was daily carried to the temple gate called Beautiful so he could beg for money, which is where he encountered Peter and John. By reaching out in loving concern to the man, the disciples created an opportunity to witness about Christ. This encounter was both intense and intentional. The apostles were filled with the confidence that the Holy Spirit's power was about to be demonstrated in the life of a person for whom Christ had died.

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**Have a volunteer read Acts 3:1-10. We can see God's power unleashed when:**

1) **WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED.** Have a volunteer read **Acts 3:1-2.**

What did the lame man recognize about the Temple gate and the hour of prayer? How often does the scripture say he was carried there?

What was the lame man expecting from Peter and John? What would you have done in their situation?

What needs do you recognize in our families and communities today? How could you get involved in seeing a move of God in that area?

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2) **WE EXPECT GOD TO MEET THE NEED.** Read **Acts 3:3-6.**

How did Peter's response to the man contradict the man's expectations? Are there ways that we put limits on God's working in our lives?

On what authority did Peter heal the man? Why is this significant?

What might a modern day example of this encounter look like? Have you ever had a moment in prayer when you had every bit of confidence that God would answer and show His power? Would you say your faith is as bullet proof now as it was then?

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3) **WE STICK AROUND TO SEE THE NEED MET.** Read **Acts 3:7-10.**

What did Peter and John do to be sure the needs of the lame man were met? How are their actions so different from the typical "Christian" response?

Why is it so difficult for us to stick around until God moves? What would it look like for us to wait with those who need to see God's power?

Wonder and amazement were common responses among the early church and people who witnessed their work. Are these responses to God's power common in our church? Why or why not? What do you think keeps us from feeling the same sense of awe about what God is doing in our midst?

**Apply It:**

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Have you seen God's power at work? Who or what are you praying for now in which you expect a move of God and only under his authority can you bring healing, peace, or restoration? Who are you walking beside now who has a need that you can see through?

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**Pray:**

God we believe your power is here with us today just as it was with Peter and John. We trust in the power of Jesus' name and know you can do anything we are willing to ask of you. Help us to recognize the needs around us and act in your power to see your glory. Amen.

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**Coming up at VillageChurch:**

**May 13th** - Mother's Day: Baby Dedication, VillageKids Choir singing