

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Adventure in Faith – The Healing at the Gate Beautiful**  
**Acts 3**

Last time...the Church was born – about 3000 people responded to the 1<sup>st</sup> Altar Call

The Model of the Church...continued steadfastly in

1. The Apostle's doctrine
2. Fellowship
3. The breaking of Bread
4. Prayers

The Builder of the Church...Jesus Christ

This time...the Adventure in Faith begins

The healing of a lame man at the Gate Beautiful

v1 Peter and John...temple...prayer:

The scene:

Where: the Temple in Jerusalem

When: 3pm

- evening prayer
- many people in the Temple

Who: Peter and John

- former fishing business partners, now fellow apostles and fishers of men
- men of prayer

Why: The Temple is the place of public worship for the Jews

- The newborn Church is...Jewish

Peter and John had no idea what this day would bring,  
they had no idea what God was going to do this day!

v2-3 man lame...ask alms:

Peter and John are entering the Temple from the east, thru the gate called Beautiful

- a gate on the Eastern Wall, the retaining wall of the Temple Mount platform built by Herod the Great  
i.e. opposite the Western Wailing/Retaining Wall

- from east to west:
  - Mount of Olives
  - Kidron Valley
  - Mount Moriah/Temple Mount
  - Gate Beautiful
  - Solomon's Porch
  - Courts of the Temple (Gentiles/Women/Men/Priests)
- partially covered by the Romans with a siege ramp when the Temple was destroyed in 70AD
- when the Muslims conquered Jerusalem (637-638),
  - made the former siege ramp a Muslim graveyard to prevent the Jewish Messiah from entering the Temple thru this gate per the prophet Ezekiel
  - today, armed guards

But here in Acts 3 the Gate Beautiful was a functioning gate into the Temple complex

There, as he had been every day (v10), was a man

- born lame
- has never
  - stood
  - walked
  - worked
- has always
  - been carried to and from the gate
  - asked benevolence of others in order to survive

Not a boy, a full grown man (Ch 4:22)...  
faithfully provided for by a faithful God

A man who had no idea what this day would bring, no idea what God was going to do this day!

At evening on this day the lame man

- saw Peter and John
  - "to see"...sight
  - "to know"...perceived, understood...perhaps had seen them before, recognized them like so many others
- asked them for an act of compassion for the poor (himself)

v4-5 eyes upon...Look on...gave heed:

Peter and John did not

- ignore the man
- pretend that they did not see him and keep walking
- feel awkward
- make a spectacle so all eyes would be on them

They stopped and focused their attention on the man and spoke directly to him

Look at us

And the man paid attention to them, expecting to receive an alms  
(nothing more, nothing less)

This interaction may seem simple enough, but it is not quite that simple

Look, don't just see

Listen, don't just hear

The difference:

1. The mind is engaged
2. The Holy Spirit is moving

We need to Look and Listen to what happens now

v6-8 Silver and gold...the name of Jesus Christ:

Peter spoke...by faith, as "impressed"/stirred by the Holy Spirit in that moment

- Silver and gold (money, false/deceiving/leave-behind riches)  
I have none
- Such as I have I give (gifts of God, true riches of eternal value)

Peter and John had been partners in a very successful fishing business.

They forsook the riches of the world for the riches of God  
(Matt 6:33)

- Matt 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give

- In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth
  - John 14:13-14 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, That will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

- rise up and walk  
“Be healed!”

No amount of money could buy what Peter and John were giving,  
certainly not the pocket change the man was begging for.

Peter acted...by faith, as moved by the Holy Spirit

- took him by the right hand and lifted him up...a helping hand,  
not just a hand-out
- took his hand and lifted before the man was healed

And...God acted

His gifts of faith and healing manifested in and thru both Peter and  
then in and thru the lame man...because

The healed man...by faith, receiving what is being given to him

- leaped up...jumped up, never done that before
- stood...never done that before
- walked...never done that before
- went into the Temple with Peter and John, all the while
  - walking
  - leaping
  - praising God...not praising the vessels, Peter and John

What has happened?

- spiritual gifts being exercised: faith and healing  
1 Cor 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the  
gifts of healing by the same Spirit
- the Holy Spirit giving very best gifts in this situation  
(vs gift of tongues in Acts 2)

1 Cor 12:31 covet earnestly the best gifts

Spiritual gifts are manifestations of God's love and power  
Faith and Healing are gifts of the Spirit, not works of men

The spiritual gifts (faith and healing) of God the Holy Spirit were given to

- Peter to speak and act upon, who received them by faith and he did
- the lame man, who received them by faith and acted and spoke

v9-11 all the people saw...knew...filled...ran:

The time of evening prayer was a very busy time in the Temple –  
lots of eyewitnesses to what God has done

And all of the eyewitnesses

- saw the man walking and praising God
- recognized the man...knew he was the 40-something year old man lame from his mother's womb
- filled with wonder and amazement because of his stunning healing
- saw the man clinging to Peter and John
- ran to Solomon's Porch (just inside the Eastern retaining wall of Temple Mount)
- (looked intently at Peter and John)

v12-13a at this...on us...God...His Son Jesus:

Peter saw

- "to see"...sight
- "to know"...perceived, understood
- Looked, did not just see...the mind engaged and the Holy Spirit moving

a God-given opportunity to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified and risen

Addressing the worshippers that quickly gathered in amazement in Solomon's Porch, Peter starts by correcting the people's perspectives

Why do you marvel at this...this healed man?

Jer 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too hard for thee:

Jer 32:27 Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

Why do you look so intently...

- at us (Peter and John, men of like passions as you)
- as if we had ANYTHING to do with this man walking?

The God of AI&J has glorified/magnified/honored His Son Jesus.

What does Peter understand, what does Peter say?

1. Peter knows that

- people love to put other people on pedestals
- people love to be put on pedestals by other people
- people worship celebrities
- celebrities love the worship of people

2. Peter takes NONE of the glory of God, takes NO credit for what God has done
  - There will be no ring kissing and genuflecting here
  - There will be nothing called Peter Ministries  
ala Joel Osteen Ministries, Benny Hinn Ministries
  - Only one name is given under heaven whereby men can be saved – Jesus Christ
3. Peter points the people to the God of their fathers and to Jesus Christ, Who alone is worthy of glory and honor and praise

v13b-15 ye delivered...denied...desired...killed:

The God of our fathers has glorified/magnified/honored His Son Jesus Christ...  
you

- delivered Him up...arrested and surrendered Him to the ruling authorities
- denied Him...disavowed Him...before Pilate, who knew He was an innocent Man
  - John 19:6-7 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify *him*, crucify *him*. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify *him*: for I find no fault in him. The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.
  - John 19:15 But they cried out, Away with *him*, away with *him*, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar
  - Matt 27:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood *be* on us, and on our children.
- denied the Holy One (30x in Isaiah) before God and man
  - Ps 89:18 For the LORD *is* our defence; and the Holy One of Israel *is* our king.
  - Is 12:6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great *is* the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee
  - Is 30:11 Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.
  - Is 30:15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

- Is 41:14 Fear not, thou worm Jacob, *and* ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.
- Is 48:17 Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I *am* the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way *that* thou shouldest go

- denied the Just...the innocent and righteous...before God and man
- desired a murderer be set free
- killed the Prince of Life...the Author of Life  
(physical and spiritual, temporal and eternal)

Whom God raised from the dead...i.e. how the God of our fathers glorified/magnified/honored His Son Jesus (v13a)

And we...Peter and John...are eyewitnesses of God's glory and power

v16 His name through faith in His name...the faith which is by Him had given him:

His name...the name of Jesus Christ

through faith in His name...by the distribution of faith in His name (Rom 12:3)  
has made this man strong...healed this man when he was weak, make him strong  
the faith which is by Him...through, starts with and goes from Jesus Christ

(Heb 12:2)

has given him...this man, this man was given a gift from God

this perfect soundness...a complete healing

in the presence of you all...you are eyewitnesses of the power of God

the multi-dimensional purpose of God with this gift of healing –  
for the man and for all the people...and for us

Metaphorically,

We were all this man lame from his mother's womb...unable to walk with  
our Creator

Is 59:1-2

Eph 2:8-9

Gifts of God: salvation, grace, faith, the work of Jesus Christ

We cannot take credit for any of the gifts, even the faith

It is thru the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by  
faith (Phil 3:9b) that we are healed and saved

all we bring to the table is a personal decision to invest our  
mustard-seed faith in Jesus Christ

2 Cor 5:17, 21

v17-18 through ignorance...God before has shewed:

Peter knows that the Jews, the people and the rulers, did v13b-15 out of ignorance, even though God had before declared/foretold/promised that His Servant the Messiah would suffer those things (Luke 12:48)

Therefore, the Jews were ignorant of

- The Word of God...all the prophets (Gen 22, Ps 22, Is 53, Dan 9, etc)
- The Truth

They were blinded/deceived by unbelief

- Pre-conceived ideas
- Traditions, commandments, and doctrines of men
- Misplaced faith

But their foreknown unbelief/ignorance had no bearing on God doing what He said He was going to do...and He has done it!

Which flows right into another Call to Action issued by Peter

v19 Repent...be converted:

The Call to Action:

1. Repent...the message of every prophet, of John the Baptist, of Jesus Christ, and now of the apostles and all disciples
2. Be converted...(receive by faith the strength of God to) revert
  - from ignorance to understanding
  - from unbelieving to believing
  - from rebellion against God and magnifying Self to trusting God and magnifying Jesus Christ

Matt 18:3      Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven

This is a “Listen, don’t just hear” Call to Action  
(mind engaged and Holy Spirit moving)



The benefits:

1. your sins blotted out, wiped away as if they never happened  
Rom 8:1  
Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity

2. the times of refreshing  
the times..."a short while", fulfilled in the near term  
of refreshing..."revival" (living again), "recovery of breath"  
(Breath of Life of God)...born again, a child of God  
shall come from...a gift of God  
Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

the presence of the Lord...

our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (2 Tim 1:10b)

God's promise of the hope of eternal life before the world began (Titus 1:2)

v20-21 He shall send Jesus Christ...times of restitution:  
A 3<sup>rd</sup> benefit of heeding the Call to Action:

3. the times of restitution  
He shall send Jesus Christ...God the Father did send His Son to earth and glorified/magnified/honored Him  
Then the Son returned to the Father  
Then the Father will send His Son to earth a 2<sup>nd</sup> time  
(gap of time between v19 and v20)  
which (Who) was preached unto you...by all the prophets  
foretelling history in advance i.e. of both comings to earth by the Son of God  
Whom the heaven must receive...the Son of God that came from heaven to earth must ascend/return to heaven from earth before coming from heaven to earth again  
until the times..."a long while", fulfilled in the far term  
of restitution of all things...Rev 12:10a
  1. salvation..."rescue", deliverance
  2. strength...*dunamis* (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8), "power" (Matt 28:18)
  3. the kingdom of our God...to rule on earth as He does in heaven

4. the power of His Christ..."authority", "jurisdiction to rule all the nations...when God's King, Kok/Lol,

- takes possession/redeems that which He has purchased with His blood
- deposes the god of this world and establishes the kingdom of God on earth (Mil Reign)
- finishes the restoration of Israel
- new heaven and new earth, absolutely devoid of even so much as a whiff of sin (Creation before fall of man)

which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began...God has foretold of all these things, He has said and He will do it... so be not ignorant/unbelieving

v22-23 Moses truly said:

The most revered of God's prophets, Moses had foretold of Jesus Christ  
Peter, speaking by the power of the Holy Spirit, quotes and gives the clear sense  
of Deut 18:18-19

not hear...because did not Listen  
shall be destroyed...unbelief comes with a very high price: Life  
Either the Son of God's Life (for whosoever believes)  
Or the unbeliever's life

v24-26 All the prophets...Abraham...unto you first:

But not just Moses has foretold of "all these things"  
Samuel and Abraham are mentioned, faithful prophets who listened,  
and recorded what God said.

**Gen 12:1-3**

All the families, all the races of mankind shall be blessed by...

- Salvation from eternal death by grace thru faith, the faith of and in the Messiah, Jesus Christ
- Sins being blotted out
- The times of refreshing...near term
- The times of restitution...far term

Who in particular are Abraham's descendants and heirs of this promise?

Gal 3:6-29

Rom 1:16-17

God the Father sent His Son...as His sin sacrifice for all of mankind's sins  
(1 John 2:2, the sin of the whole world not just some special elect),  
having raised Him from the dead (glorified/magnified/honored Him),  
first to His inheritance, the Jews

But not ONLY to the Jews  
To the Gentiles also...all the kindreds of the earth  
To turn all of Adam's race from their sin that separate Him from them

God sent His Son Jesus Christ of Nazareth to bless you  
How great of a blessing is the forgiveness of sin?!!!

(but you cursed Him...v13b-15...so

- Look and Listen...mind engaged and Holy Spirit moving
- Repent and be converted!)

## **Application**

### 1. Times of refreshing

- a. Certainly speaks of being born again of the Spirit of God  
“revival”, living again  
“recovery of breath”, the Breath of Life of God

If you are NOT a disciple of Jesus Christ, if you are the lord of your own life.  
you will lose your life, not allowed to enter the kingdom of God,  
unless you are born-again...revived by the Breath of Life

God gives the power to become His children to those who believe in His Son  
Jesus Christ

He has given you a measure of faith (Heb 11:1)...you cannot please Him apart  
from investing that gift of faith in His Son

God loves you, He gave His only begotten Son that you might choose to receive  
by faith the gift of everlasting life that is in Jesus

The world in these days is crazy, not in its right mind  
Fear has corrupted rational thinking and rational actions  
By the Word of God we disciples of Jesus Christ have

- understanding of what is happening
- understanding of what is going to happen in the future
- peace

God wants to reason with you, He wants to take away your fear and give you  
peace and love and power and a sound mind...at the feet of Jesus Christ

The gifts of God...salvation from eternal death, forgiveness of sin, grace, faith...  
cannot be purchased or earned; they must be received

Please pay attention (Listen, do not just hear) to that stirring in your heart  
It is the Holy Spirit of God urging, inviting you to choose Jesus Christ  
Please confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God...  
be blessed, turned away from your sins and having your sins blotted out,  
refreshed in the everlasting life of Jesus Christ

b. But the Lord refreshes His children day-by-day

Is 40:29-31

2 Cor 4:13-17

If you are a child of God, be refreshed today...and every day, during the day

The Home Fellowship in our Ahwatukee home  
Friday night  
Always exhausted, not wanting any to come  
Always refreshed and excited afterwards

Tired? Depressed? Weary of circumstances?  
BEST thing you can receive is the refreshing of the Lord  
Go to Study, go to Church service...when you don't "feel" (flesh) like it  
To give in to the tiredness and the depression is to in your flesh turn your  
back on the refreshing your Father wants to give you...  
exactly what the devil would have you to do

2. Be a part of what God is doing, be used by God  
How?

Look, don't just see  
Listen, don't just hear

The mind engaged...Rom 12:2  
The Holy Spirit moving

The healing of the man lame from his mother's womb was not the work of Peter and John  
They were "simply" going to prayer (they may not have even "felt" like going)

What happened was the work of the Holy Spirit

- to Peter and John from God
- thru Peter and John, who Looked and Listened
- to a lame man, who Looked and Listened

By faith, Peter and John and the man got to be a part of what God was doing that day!

Do you want that for yourself?

I do!

There is no more meaningful life than the life being used by God!

There is no greater “rush” than being used by God!!!

How do we get to be a part of what God is doing?

By faith

Get (the flesh) out of the way

Look and listen

Joyfully yield our plans...be interruptible...to whatever God wants to do in and thru us

Live lives of eternal value...life led by the Spirit of God, following Jesus

The Lord first

Others next

Self last

Starts with prayer...communion/communication with the Lord God

Seeking His presence, strength, guidance, wisdom, heart, eyes, ears

This also a part of “doing church”!

“Church” is not confined to a 2 hour time slot on Sunday morning

“Doing Church” is every day, during the day

One thing will lead to another...

- Ch 4 follows Ch 3
- a walk of faith, an adventure of faith...

as we exercise the power of the name of Jesus Christ

An adventure of faith – God moving supernaturally in the natural thru available (vs able)

Children who dare not

- take any of God’s glory
- let others put them on a pedestal
- step up onto a pedestal for others to see them
- bring people to themselves vs to Jesus

The very real danger of exercising the gifts of the Spirit is...our flesh!

We must die daily

Our Father and our Lord desire that we have adventures in faith!

Look

Listen