



He took the lame man by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. (Acts 3:7)

God of all power and might, it is by your Holy Spirit that the apostles were able to heal and cast out demons. You are the same God, yesterday, today, and forever. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we too would point people to your power and grace. Your promises are trustworthy and true, and we know you hear our prayers and answer us when we call on your name. In thanksgiving, we pray in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Introduction

In the days after Pentecost, Peter and James went up to the Temple to pray. At the gate, they encountered a beggar who had been lame from birth. That day, the poor man received a gift greater than he ever would have expected!

Read: Acts 3:1-16

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Biblical Context

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to rest upon the followers of Jesus. That day, those who were merely disciples (followers; those who learn) were remade by God into apostles (those who are sent out). The presence and power of the Holy Spirit overcame their fears and doubts and sent them out to bring the promise of the Gospel to all nations!

We see this same power at work in today's story, where a poor man's life was changed for the better by his encounter with Peter and John. Jesus' name and power brought about healing and restoration. When the disciples began to tell others about Jesus, many came to believe. This was God's doing; the power of the Holy Spirit was at work in God's Word!

Discussion Questions

1. Why were Peter and John going up to the temple that day? Do you get the impression that this was something they did often?
2. In a literal sense, what does it mean to be "lame"? What did the lame man do while he was sitting at the gate? Do you think this was this an easy way to live? Why or why not?
3. How did Peter and John respond when the lame man begged them for alms? Why would their action have been surprising to the man?
4. What does the Bible say happened to the man? How did the man react? What do you think you would have done?
5. When the crowd gathered around in amazement, what did Peter say to them? Who did he say was responsible for this miracle? Why is that important?
6. What was the last thing that most of the people in the crowd would have known about Jesus (vv. 13-15)? In what way(s) did those same people bear responsibility for this?
7. Reread verse 16. What does it mean to have faith "in the name of Jesus"? What does it mean that we have faith "through Jesus"? Is there a different shade of meaning in these two phrases?
8. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12. In what ways would you say the name of Jesus is glorified in you? By whose power does this happen in your life?