

**March 10, 2024**

**God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing**

***The Book of Acts Pt 5***

***Acts 3 – There's Power in the Name of Jesus***

Our theme for 2024 is God's Good News Story, Continued... "*The Church Alive & Growing*". For the past few weeks, we have been looking at the basic descriptions and the **true call & purpose of the Church**... The powerful Witnesses of God's Good News Story, motivated by love, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 3: 1-26**...Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, (3pm) the hour of prayer. <sup>2</sup> And a man who had been unable to walk from birth was being carried, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple, which is called Beautiful, in order for him to beg for charitable gifts from those entering the temple grounds. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple grounds, he began asking to receive a charitable gift. <sup>4</sup> But Peter, along with John, looked at him intently and said, "Look at us!" <sup>5</sup> And he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> But Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none, but what I do have, I give to you: In the NAME OF JESUS Christ the Nazarene, walk!" <sup>7</sup> And grasping him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. <sup>8</sup> And leaping up, he stood and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking & praising God;

***Song clip – Get on Your Feet***

<sup>10</sup> and they recognized him as being the very one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg for charitable gifts, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Peter's Second Sermon

<sup>11</sup> While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the portico named Solomon's, completely astonished. <sup>12</sup> But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why are you staring at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. <sup>14</sup> But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> but put to death the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the NAME OF JESUS which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

<sup>17</sup> "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers also did. <sup>18</sup> But the things which God previously announced by the mouths of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has fulfilled in this way. <sup>19</sup> Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the

*Lord; <sup>20</sup> and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things, about which God spoke by the mouths of His holy prophets from ancient times. <sup>22</sup> Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR COUNTRYMEN; TO HIM YOU SHALL LISTEN regarding everything He says to you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul that does not listen to that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' <sup>24</sup> And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken from Samuel and his successors onward, have also announced these days. <sup>25</sup> It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God ordained with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.' <sup>26</sup> God raised up His Servant for you first, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways."*

Wow! Can you say AMEN to "There is Power in the Name of Jesus". The key take away I hope you get from today's message is that "**There is Power in Jesus Name**" He has all authority over any problem, issue or situation you will ever face. It is up to us to trust and place our faith in Jesus for the victory!

There is so much that I could address in this message, but I am just going to get to the heart of the issue.

Your trust and faith in Jesus! Do you have any?

Do you have a deep strong conviction of His power? and Do you depend and rely on Him?

In this story we find a man who is not simply broke, but broken, humiliated & hopeless. You and I may not be quite so broken, but we all have some brokenness in our lives, and we certainly know friends, family, neighbors or co-workers who are broken. This story reminds us of the need to be aware of and care for people who are struggling with life issues.

Many people, maybe you are one, have learned to put on a good face, a mask, to cover our brokenness. Maybe we have learned some basic coping mechanisms to 'get by'. There are actually a lot of human and earthly resources that offer some help... Doctors, medicines, counselors, meditation, self-help practices, etc. are a sort of 'band aide' for our problems. Sadly, many people also try to 'self-medicate' with alcohol, drugs, money, sex or power. These too, may have some degree of alleviation of the pain, but it is only temporary and always destructive in the end.

It is OK to consult doctors, medicines, counselors, meditation, and even some self-help practices... but the ONLY REAL, GENUINE AND PERMANENT SOURCE OF POWER, RELIEF AND HEALING COMES FROM "**THE POWERFUL NAME OF JESUS**".

Now to be clear, simply saying the name of 'JESUS' doesn't guarantee some magical power. We don't use 'The Name of Jesus' as some sort of amulet. When the Bible makes this comment, it is actually talking about the very essence and power of Jesus Himself.

When you invoke the Name of someone or something, you are really acknowledging the true power behind the name.

In the case of this crippled man, Peter is making it clear that it is not him, Peter, who is the power for healing but Jesus. The same Jesus that these people who were listening had just rejected, crucified and buried a couple of months before.

In this story, after Peter and invoked the Name and Power of Jesus, this man was wondrously healed. This newly healed man was ecstatic and clung to Peter. As the crowds gathered and marveled, Peter took the opportunity to give his 2<sup>nd</sup> sermon. The 1<sup>st</sup> one was at Pentecost. Peter specifically addresses the people with the main point of showing them that Jesus was the true Messiah and they needed to accept Him. Peter used a great number of Old Testament and ‘Jewish friendly’ language to help these people see Jesus and hopefully trust in Jesus.

**In vs. 13,26** – Peter begins with a reference to the “*God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*”. This would have caught the theological attention of the people, and they were without doubt aware that Peter was tying Jesus to the Old Testament God. He then spoke of how the One True God had “*Glorified His Servant Jesus*”. This would have rung a bell with them as it echoed the prophecies of the Messiah found in Isaiah 52, 53 and other chapters.

**In vs. 14** – Peter then takes the opportunity to remind them that they were the very ones who disowned “*the Servant*

*of God*’ and had rejected Him, crucified, and buried Him. Peter stings them with the condemnation that they had actually “*disowned the Holy & Righteous One of God*”

**In vs. 15** – Peter then shocks them with the truth that even though they had tried to put to death the very ‘*Author, Prince, or Source/Origin of Life*’. But that God Himself had raised Jesus from the dead and Peter and the other believers then gave proof of this by their eyewitness accounts of Jesus resurrection. Referring to Jesus as this Prince or Source of Life is a clear Messianic reference.

**In vs. 16** – Peter then uses these previous proofs of Jesus divinity and then announces that it was in “*the Power of the Name of Jesus*” that this man was healed. Then Peter zeros in on the fact that it is by “faith in His Name” that healing is accomplished.

**In the following verses 17-26**, Peter then uses the foundation of the Old Testament witnesses to Jesus as Messiah, and the current healing that took place in “the Name of Jesus” to seek to bring the people to repentance and faith in Jesus. Peter’s true point in this 2<sup>nd</sup> sermon was the same as in his 1<sup>st</sup> one – the need for repentance and salvation.

Listen to **Acts 3:19-23**...<sup>19</sup> *Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order “that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; <sup>20</sup> and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive*

*until the period of restoration of all things, about which God spoke by the mouths of His holy prophets from ancient times.* <sup>22</sup> *Moses said, ‘THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR COUNTRYMEN; TO HIM YOU SHALL LISTEN regarding everything He says to you.* <sup>23</sup> *And it shall be that every soul that does not listen to that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’*

Now, next Sunday I will address Chapter 4, but just as a teaser... There was a great evangelistic response and Acts 4:4, states that about 5,000 men believed.

Wow, what a miraculous event. The miracle of the Healing of the Cripple was great, but the true miracle was the changed lives of over 5,000 people. AMEN! That is the type of miracles that I hope and pray for today in our times!

The true source of healing and power then as well as today in our lives still comes from “The Power of the Name of Jesus”. This power and authority come from Him being God, the Son. Remember the words of Jesus Himself just before He ascended:

**Matthew 28:18**...*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

Listen to this description by Pastor John Piper, in his sermon “The Lofty Claim”.

All authority. He has authority over Satan and all demons, over all angels -good and evil - over the natural universe, natural objects and laws and forces: stars, galaxies, planets, meteorites; authority over all weather systems: winds, rains, lightning, thunder, hurricanes, tornadoes, monsoons, typhoons, cyclones; authority over all their effects: tidal waves, floods, fires; authority over all molecular and atomic reality: atoms, electrons, protons, neutrons, undiscovered subatomic particles, quantum physics, genetic structures, DNA, chromosomes; authority over all plants and animals great and small: whales and redwoods, giant squid and giant oaks, all fish, all wild beasts, all invisible animals and plants: bacteria, viruses, parasites, germs; authority over all the parts and functions of the human body: every beat of the heart, every breath of the diaphragm, every electrical jump across a million synapses in our brains; authority over all nations and governments: congresses and legislatures and presidents and kings and premiers and courts; authority over all armies and weapons and bombs and terrorists; authority over all industry and business and finance and currency; authority over all entertainment and amusement and leisure and media; over all education and research and science and discovery; authority over all crime and violence; over all families and neighborhoods; and over the church, and over every soul and every moment of every life that has been or ever will be lived”. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-lofty-claim-the-last-command-the-loving-comfort>

**Invitation** – Will you choose to put your faith and trust in “the Powerful Name of Jesus” and be His Powerful witnesses?