

UNSTOPPABLE POWER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

“PURPOSE-DRIVEN HEALING”

ACTS 3:1-26

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

OCTOBER 10, 2021

Introduction: Today, we are going to explore the first miracle ever performed in the church that resulted in the healing of a lame man. Does God still heal people today? If so, why doesn't He heal everyone who asks? We will discover the answer to those questions and more in Acts 3.

I. The New Testament And Healing

A. The Primary Purpose of Healing Was To Affirm the Healer's Message (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4)

2 Corinthians 12:12 “The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”

Hebrews 2:4 “God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”

B. Healing Was Limited in Scope

1. The number of people who could heal was limited (2 Corinthians 12:12)

2. The number of people who were healed was limited

C. Healing Became More Rare As Church Progressed

1 Timothy 5:23 “No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.”

2 Timothy 4:19-20 ¹⁹ “Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.”

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II. The Miracle Performed By Peter (Acts 3:1-11)

A. A Beggar Cries Out With a Need (Acts 3:1-3)

Acts 3:1 “Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer.”

Acts 3:2-3 ² “And a man who had been lame from his mother’s womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms.”

B. Peter Answers With a Miraculous Deed (Acts 3:4-8)

Acts 3:6-8 ⁶ “Peter said, ‘I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!’ ⁷ And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were strengthened. ⁸ With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.”

C. The People Were Amazed Indeed (Acts 3:9-11)

Acts 3:9-11 ⁹ “All the people saw him walking and praising God; ¹⁰ and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. ¹¹ While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement.”

III. The Message Delivered By Peter (Acts 3:12-26)

Acts 3:12-13 ¹² “When Peter saw this, he replied to the people, ‘Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.’”

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A. Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah (Acts 3:14-16)

Acts 3:14-16 ¹⁴ “But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses. ¹⁶ 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.”

B. Peter Explains the Jews’ Guilt Before God (Acts 3:17-18)

Acts 3:17 “And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.”

Acts 3:18 “But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.”

C. Peter Calls for Repentance (Acts 3:19-26)

Acts 3:19 “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.”

Acts 3:20-21 ²⁰ “That he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”

IV. Two Timeless Truths From Acts 3

A. The Church’s Mission Is To Meet the Spiritual Needs of People

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B. All Healing Ultimately Comes from God

James 5:14-16 ¹⁴ “Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

Conclusion