THE WELL BIBLE CHURCH

Acts 3 “By Faith In His Name”

Intro:
Throughout the Old Testament, God promised a coming day when the effects of sin would finally be undone. The blind would see, the deaf would hear, the lame would leap, sickness would disappear, and God's creation would be restored (Isaiah 33:24; 35:5–6; Ezekiel 47:1–12; Malachi 4:2). These promises pointed to the coming Messiah, through whom God would accomplish His work of restoration. In Acts 3, Luke records the healing of a man who had been lame from birth. Yet as Peter explains, this miracle is about far more than physical healing. While the crowds were captivated by a restored body, Peter directs their attention to a far greater need—the restoration of the soul. Christ came to do more than heal physical sickness; He came to bear the penalty for our sins on the cross so that all who repent and believe might be forgiven, experience times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord today, and one day share in the restoration of all things when He returns. The miracle is not the destination; it is the signpost pointing us to Christ.

1. **The Condition** (V.1-5)
Before Luke records the miracle, he first draws our attention to the condition of the man who is about to be healed. He tells us that this man was **"lame from birth."** This was not a temporary injury or a recent accident. From the very beginning of his life, he had never known what it was like to walk. Luke further emphasizes his helplessness through the passive verbs he uses. He **"was being carried"** and **"laid daily”**.

2. **Restoration** (V.6-9)
Peter gave the man something far greater than he expected. **"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"** Immediately, his feet and ankles were made strong. The one who had never walked now stood, walked, leaped, and entered the temple. Yet this is not the only restoration we see. Luke tells us that he entered the temple **"walking and leaping and praising God"** (v.8), later describes him **clinging to Peter and John** (v.11), and Peter explains that this miracle occurred **"by faith in His name"** (v.16). This was more than a physical healing; it was evidence of a greater work taking place **by faith in His name**.

This is important because the miracles of Jesus and His apostles pointed beyond themselves. They certainly displayed God's compassion and authenticated the Gospel they proclaimed, but they also served as previews of the restoration Christ came to bring. Through His death and resurrection, He forgives sinners, gives **times of refreshing** through His presence, and one day will restore all things. This miracle was not the destination; it was the signpost pointing us to Christ. **Read Isaiah 35:1-6.**

V.10-11
and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, **asking for alms**. *And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him*. While *he clung to Peter and John*, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s.”

3. **The Amazement** (V.10-11)
The people immediately recognized this man as the one who had sat daily at the Beautiful Gate asking for alms. Because they knew his condition, there was no denying the reality of the miracle. Luke tells us they were **"filled with wonder and amazement"** as they watched him walking, praising God, and clinging to Peter and John. Yet once again, the miracle itself was not the destination. God used it to gather a crowd and prepare their hearts to hear the Gospel. What began as amazement over a miracle became the opportunity for Peter to proclaim Jesus Christ.

4. **The Redirection** (V.12-18)
As the crowd gathered around Peter and John, their attention was fixed on the miracle and those through whom it had been performed. Peter immediately redirects their attention. **"Why do you wonder at this, or**

why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?" Peter refuses to take any credit for what has happened. The miracle was not accomplished by his power, his godliness, or his faith, but by Jesus Christ alone.
Peter then does what he has consistently done throughout Acts—he preaches Christ. He declares that Jesus is the **Servant** promised by the prophets, the **Holy and Righteous One**, the **Author of life**, whom they rejected and crucified, but whom God raised from the dead. The miracle was never intended to glorify the apostles; it was intended to glorify the risen Christ. Finally, Peter explains what the crowd had just witnessed. **"His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong"** (v.16). The miracle was not the message; it confirmed the message. It testified that Jesus is alive, that He possesses all authority, and that the Gospel Peter is about to proclaim is true.

V.19-26
"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.""

5. **The Proclamation** (V.19-26)
Having redirected the crowd's attention to Christ, Peter now calls them to respond. The miracle demanded more than amazement—it demanded repentance. **"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out."** Peter brings them to their greatest need. The greatest need was never restored legs but forgiven sins. Christ came to save guilty sinners by bearing their sin on the cross and rising again so that all who repent and believe might be reconciled to God. Peter also reveals the blessings that belong to those who come to Christ. Today, those who repent experience **times of refreshing** through the presence of the Lord as they are justified, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and progressively transformed into the likeness of Christ. Yet Peter also points beyond the present to the future. Heaven has received Christ **"until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets."** The restoration that began through the Gospel will one day be completed when Christ returns. Sin, death, suffering, and the curse will be no more, and God's people will dwell with Him forever in glorified bodies.

Conclusion and Main Idea:
The healing of the lame man was never the destination. It was the signpost pointing to Jesus Christ and the invitation to respond to Him. It authenticated the Gospel Peter proclaimed and gave a preview of the restoration God had promised through His prophets. Through Christ, guilty sinners can receive forgiveness of sins and experience times of refreshing today. And through Christ, all who belong to Him can look forward to the day when He returns to restore all things. The same invitation Peter gave that day is the invitation we must answer today: **Repent, and place your faith in His name***.*

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