

# THE LAME MAN HEALED AT THE TEMPLE

**BIBLE TEXT** : Acts 3:1-26

LESSON 282 Senior Course

**MEMORY VERSE** : "The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up: and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:15)

## **BIBLE TEXT in King James Version**

**Acts 3:1-26** <sup>1</sup> Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being the ninth hour.*

<sup>2</sup> And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

<sup>3</sup> Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

<sup>4</sup> And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

<sup>5</sup> And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

<sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

<sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

<sup>8</sup> And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

<sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

<sup>10</sup> And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

<sup>11</sup> And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's,

## **BIBLE REFERENCES:**

### **I Working the Works of God**

1. A lame man is healed according to the promises of God, Acts 3:1-10;

**Mark 16:18** <sup>18</sup> They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

**John 14:12-14** <sup>12</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

<sup>13</sup> And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

<sup>14</sup> If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

2. Miraculous powers are given by God to the Church, but are only exercised by the administration and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Acts 3:11, 12;

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11** <sup>4</sup> Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

<sup>5</sup> And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

<sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

<sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

<sup>8</sup> For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

<sup>9</sup> To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

<sup>10</sup> To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

<sup>11</sup> But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

- 1 **1 Corinthians 12:28-31** <sup>28</sup> And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

<sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

<sup>30</sup> Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

<sup>31</sup> But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

**Romans 12:3-8** <sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

<sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

<sup>5</sup> So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

<sup>6</sup> Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

<sup>7</sup> Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

<sup>8</sup> Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he

greatly wondering.

<sup>12</sup> And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

<sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go.

<sup>14</sup> But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

<sup>15</sup> And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

<sup>16</sup> And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

<sup>17</sup> And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did *it*, as *did* also your rulers.

<sup>18</sup> But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

<sup>19</sup> Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

<sup>20</sup> And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

<sup>21</sup> Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

<sup>22</sup> For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him

that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

3. Faith in Christ was the enabling power by which the lame man was healed, Acts 3:13-16;

**Acts 14:9** <sup>9</sup> The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

**Hebrews 11:6** <sup>6</sup> But without faith *it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

**Matthew 8:16-18** <sup>16</sup> When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with *his* word, and healed all that were sick:

<sup>17</sup> That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare *our* sicknesses.

<sup>18</sup> Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.

4. Peter exhorted the curious crowd to repent of their sins, and to turn to God, Acts 3:17-26;.

**Acts 5:28-32** <sup>28</sup> Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

<sup>29</sup> Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

<sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

<sup>31</sup> Him hath God exalted with his right hand *to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*

<sup>32</sup> And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.*

**Acts 14:15-18** <sup>15</sup> And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

<sup>16</sup> Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

<sup>17</sup> Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

<sup>18</sup> And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

### **NOTES:**

#### **Power from on High**

Jesus had commanded His disciples: "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). That command had been obeyed, and the disciples had received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. Power to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ was theirs, and God gave ample proof of that divine power by performing many miracles through their ministry.

Jesus had promised His people: "These signs shall follow them that believe; . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17, 18). That promise was already a fact, and the incident of the lame man's being healed at the command of Peter and John was further evidence of God's faithfulness to His promises. Jesus had often healed people to demonstrate His power, and as proof of His divine Sonship. He often used that same means to enliven their faith in Him that He could also forgive their sins. This outstanding miracle gave added proof of His resurrection and Eternal Being.

shall ye hear in all things  
whatsoever he shall say unto you.  
<sup>23</sup> And it shall come to pass, *that*  
every soul, which will not hear that  
prophet, shall be destroyed from  
among the people.

<sup>24</sup> Yea, and all the prophets from  
Samuel and those that follow  
after, as many as have spoken,  
have likewise foretold of these  
days.

<sup>25</sup> Ye are the children of the  
prophets, and of the covenant  
which God made with our fathers,  
saying unto Abraham, And in thy  
seed shall all the kindreds of the  
earth be blessed.

<sup>26</sup> Unto you first God, having  
raised up his Son Jesus, sent him  
to bless you, in turning away every  
one of you from his iniquities.

The incident of the lame man's being healed at the Temple was not something Peter and John performed by themselves without the aid or inspiration of God. The Bible states in various places that the Spirit of God is the Divine Teacher and Infallible Guide of the Church of Christ in the absence of Jesus Christ from the earth. (**John 14:16-17** <sup>16</sup> **And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;** <sup>17</sup> *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.* **John 14:26** <sup>26</sup> **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.** **John 16:7-15** <sup>7</sup> **Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.** <sup>8</sup> **And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** <sup>9</sup> **Of sin, because they believe not on me;** <sup>10</sup> **Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;** <sup>11</sup> **Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.** <sup>12</sup> **I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.** <sup>13</sup> **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.** <sup>14</sup> **He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.** <sup>15</sup> **All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**) Jesus had told His disciples, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). (**John 8:28** <sup>28</sup> **Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.** **John 9:33** <sup>33</sup> **If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.**) After the departure of Jesus from the world, the Holy Ghost has carried on the work of God, which Jesus had instituted.

At no time has the Holy Spirit been subject to man. God is sovereign in everything, and the most devout of God's people are under the leadership of the Holy Ghost. God points this out to His people and inquires of them as to who among them is able to guide or instruct Him. God said: "Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?" (Isaiah 40:13, 14). "For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counsellor?" (Romans 11:34).

The truth of the Holy Spirit's guidance and workings is being emphasized in this lesson because there are men who will point to such incidents as the one related in our lesson text in an attempt to prove that men can receive power from God to heal whomsoever they will, as they personally see fit, without the will and direction of God. Though our text nowhere specifically states that God moved Peter and John to act in faith that the lame man would be healed, there is every reason to think that God did lead them to do it, and no Scriptural reason to think otherwise.

The portion of the Word of God known today as the New Testament was then not written and God desired such public miracles to take place as infallible and irrefutable evidence of the resurrection of Christ and the truth of His Word. Great numbers of unbelievers were won to true salvation because of such deeds. Miracles are not alone for the past days but are still being performed by God. The written Word of God is in our possession

now, and it is the highest revelation of God's will that He is going to give to men until the return of Christ to earth again. Miracles are not to supersede the preaching of the Word of God to lead men to repentance and salvation. The greatest miracles ever performed by God are the transformations of men's lives as they believe in Christ unto salvation, as a result of hearing the Word of God!

We know Peter understood these things, because of his statements and sermon to the crowd, which had gathered after the lame man was healed. It seems that some of the crowd were of the opinion that Peter and John had healed the lame man by some power of their own. Peter's statement to the throng is significant: "Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? . . . his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all" (Acts 3:12, 16).

### Faith in His Name

Peter did not hesitate to give Christ the glory for the healing of the lame man. He impressed upon the crowd that faith in the name of Jesus Christ had provided the power for the lame man's healing.

God never performs a miracle to satisfy idle curiosity (**Matthew 12:38-39** <sup>38</sup> **Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.** <sup>39</sup> **But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:**). Many honest doubters have been truly converted to Christ because God has healed them or performed some other miracle in their behalf in a crucial moment. A miracle will sometimes prove to men more than anything else could, the reality of God's existence. God reveals His power and reality to honest hearts, for He desires men to believe in Him. He does much to enliven their faith in Him that they will become converted and have their sins forgiven. The healing of the lame man was just such an instance.

Peter, knowing that the miracles Jesus had performed were for the purpose of causing men to believe in Him as the Christ of God, and that He had power to forgive their sins, immediately directed the crowd's attention away from the lame man to Him who had performed the deed. (**Mark 2:1-12** <sup>1</sup> **And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.** <sup>2</sup> **And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.** <sup>3</sup> **And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.** <sup>4</sup> **And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.** <sup>5</sup> **When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.** <sup>6</sup> **But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,** <sup>7</sup> **Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?** <sup>8</sup> **And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?** <sup>9</sup> **Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?** <sup>10</sup> **But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to**



forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) <sup>11</sup> I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. <sup>12</sup> And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.). Peter reminded them of their past refusal of Jesus as the Christ, their sanctioning of His crucifixion, and their obligation to God to repent of their sins. It is demonstrated beyond the question of a doubt that Peter was right and proper in pointing men to their need of salvation, rather than emphasizing God's ability to heal, for about five thousand men believed on Christ as a result of Peter's sermon.

### **Divine Healing**

Much harm has been done the cause of Christ because of the large numbers of unprincipled men who have commercialised the Bible teaching of Divine Healing. They have not hesitated to claim that they have "gifts of healing." And can heal all who come to them. Great "healing campaigns" are foisted upon the public under the guise of preaching the Gospel. Usually very little is said about the necessity of men's being born again, because the men who are active in these campaigns are interested in the money that can be had from the crowds, and know little of true salvation.

It is true that among the gifts of the Spirit to the body of Christ is the gift of healing. (**1 Corinthians 12:9 <sup>9</sup> To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 1 Corinthians 12:28 <sup>28</sup> And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.**). However, no one ever need be in doubt, as to the authenticity of any self-styled healers. Jesus never held a "healing meeting"! He healed all who came unto Him, but at the same time directed them to sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon them. (**John 5:14 <sup>14</sup> Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.**) Jesus always directed men's attention from Himself to His heavenly Father, from whom He was sent. The last thing in the world a true child of God desires is to draw attention to himself for some work that God has done. Peter and John directed the crowd's attention to Jesus, and not to themselves, and declared that the lame man was not healed by any power or holiness of their own.

Such is not the attitude of the so-called "faith healers." These men and women do all they can to attract people's attention to themselves; and the spirit of such healing meetings is in direct opposition to the Spirit of God. Christ is exalted where the true Gospel is preached, and no one doctrine of the Bible is emphasized above another. Christ placed no price upon His healing power, and anyone else doing so is guilty of commercialising the Gospel. The Bible says, "Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain" (Proverbs 25:14). It also says: "Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

Anyone who has the true gift of healing is going to glorify Christ entirely, as the disciples did. They will be men and women of great holiness and piety, and will have nothing to do with worldly publicity and gain. God has said: "I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another" (Isaiah 42:8).

Divine healing is included in the plan of redemption, and is

part of the Atonement. (1 Peter 2:24 <sup>24</sup> Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. Matthew 8:16-17 <sup>16</sup> When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with *his* word, and healed all that were sick: <sup>17</sup> That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare *our* sicknesses. Isaiah 53:5 <sup>5</sup> But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.) It is free to all, and for all, and it can be obtained through faith in Christ, as Peter said. We read: "His name through faith in his name hath made this man strong." Faith in Christ, that He is the propitiation for our sins, and that through His stripes we can be healed, will bring the blessing.

James said: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. . . . Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:13-15). This is the proper way to come to God for healing. Those who come to God in the proper manner are healed, for God is faithful to His Word. It is very difficult to find any divine healings from the hands of the so-called "divine healer," and usually they are revealed for what they are.

Faith is the common denominator by which all men, everywhere, can obtain God's blessings. The rich and the poor, the bond and the free, the Jew and the Greek – all can have God's blessings by the medium of faith. God is no respecter of persons, and men are totally without merit before God, incapable of winning God's favour by their own devices. Yet by simple, childlike faith we can cause God to set in motion His great power in our behalf. Be it healing for the body, or forgiveness for the soul – both can be had by faith in God.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What did Peter and John offer to give the lame man instead of money?
2. How was the lame man healed?
3. Why did Peter and John disclaim any credit for healing the lame man?
4. How can healing be acquired today?
5. Does God still perform miracles? and if so, for whom?
6. What was the result of Peter's sermon to the multitude?