

## Acts 3: 1-10

### “Rise Up and Walk”

Remember Acts 1 and 2 - God sent His Spirit upon them to be His witnesses in all the world. To continue to do and teach as Jesus did through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 3:1-10

Crippled man lame from birth carried to the temple to beg.

Beautiful Gate - 75 feet high made of Corinthian Brass “Excelled those covered in silver and gold”

He asked to receive money and then looked in their eyes and expected to receive something :)

God healed this man who had been crippled for over 40 years (4:22) through Peter and John.

His feet and ankles were made strong and he walked, walked, walked, and was leaping and praising

God. Luke wants the reader to know he WALKED!

Leapt to praise God as Isaiah 35:6 states “then shall the lame man leap like a deer.”

The surrounding people were filled with wonder, amazement, and were utterly astounded.

Before we attempt to see why God heals and sometimes why He does not, please know that there are not formulas or prescriptive means by which we will, beyond a shadow of a doubt, see healing in every situation. This topic is so vast that we cannot cover every point and question in this message but we will try and see the main points of the passage and how it can be applied to our hearts right here and now.

#### **Why God heals this man or anyone at all?**

-He does not have to heal anyone...it is only by His mercy that He heals. “MERCY”

1. So that people are amazed by Him. Acts 3:10-11
2. To confirm or authenticate the gospel message and bring salvation. Acts 4:30
  - Peter immediately tells the people why this has happened. Acts 3:12-16
  - To bring Repentance and times of refreshing in the Presence of the Lord. Acts 3:17-21
  - Crippled man Acts 4:4, Paralyzed man Acts 9:35, Raised from dead Acts 9:42
3. To bring all Glory to Himself. Nearly always people are glorifying God. Acts 4:21b
  - “If you won’t take the credit when someone gets healed, then you won’t have to take the blame when they don’t get healed.”
4. He is compassionate and good! Mark 1:41-42, Matt. 9:27-31, 20:29-34

#### **Why God doesn’t heal?**

We must remember that some of the following reasons will not apply to all circumstances and we have to be thoughtful as we discuss these with others.

1. Unconfessed sin (James 5:15-16)
2. Unbelief or lack of faith (Matt 13:58) Peter and John had faith!
  - Be careful on this spectrum. One group of evangelicals say God does not heal today.
  - John Stott citing John Wimber “We have no liberty to dictate to God what He is permitted to do and not to do. And if we have hesitations about some claims to signs and wonders today, we must make sure that we have not confined both God and ourselves in the prison of Western, rationalistic unbelief.” So people do not ask for the big or small things!
  - The other group says whatever you claim in Jesus He has to do...and if He does not do it is your own fault. What about Paul and the thorn? Both views are extreme.
  - It is not in our own efforts to gain or muster up faith that we see healing, but it is believing that He can and still does heal today. He gives the faith -Apostles (Acts 3:16)
  - Do you believe God can and does heal? Then you can ask for it. Faith honors God because it turns the focus from you to Him. The real question is who is the object of your faith? Jesus is the one who can and does heal. I believe...help me in my unbelief. (Mark 9:24)

3. We do not have because we do not ask. (James 4:2)  
- Grudem," Once we ask or persistently ask on behalf of others or ourselves we can have faith that God *can* answer through miraculous ways or through ordinary means such as medicine. Asking does not guarantee results but one main problem is that we have not because we ask not."
4. Sovereign mystery and Sovereign timing and Suffering.(Isaiah 55:9) Might not know?  
- "It is for your better good." Storms  
- Suffering may produce the most growth. Paul / Thorn (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)  
- "Healing the sick is a great thing (and we should never cease to pray for it), but often there is a better thing that can only be attained by means of physical weakness." Storms

Sam Storms - "Life for the believer in this present age is a life of tension between the *already* and the *not yet*. We already have so very, very much. But we have not yet experienced it all. There is much yet to come. One of the "not yet's" in Christian experience is the complete redemption and glorification of the body." "But our citizenship is in heaven," says Paul, "and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself" (Phil. 3:20-21).

### **Conclusion**

My wife Laura has extreme anxiety and severe panic attacks. Constant feeling of dread leads to fatigue, nausea, migraines, and so many other things. It was / is crippling for her. Why? Can He heal? Is He healing? Will He heal completely? What if He does not heal or has not up to this point?

Laura says when she reads the following from Lucado, she deeply trusts that God must have a most glorious plan and will take care of her even if He does not heal.

If He had a calendar your birthday would be circled. (Lucado)

I have written your name on my hand. (Isaiah 49:16)

You were deliberately planned, specifically gifted, and lovingly positioned on this earth...by the Master Crafts-Man. (Lucado)

The gospel says: Romans 8:32 - Finally, if He who did not spare His own Son but gave him up for us all, how will He not also with him graciously give us **all things!** Romans 8:14-39 Is the only place to live and breath and eat and sleep because He loves us this much! We all will suffer at some point, or for some season, so to live in the love and higher purposes of God is the only place of real joy! **Will Reagan song!**

My 35 year old friend in Altus passed away from brain cancer. It was one of the most difficult times in our church and at the same time **so many** people were drawn to God through his life!

### **All I know is the man in Acts was crippled from birth and now walks!!!**

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? WE ASK GOD TO DRAW CLOSE TO US AND WE LISTEN FOR HIS VOICE AND WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER THAT HE MIGHT HE US. WE WALK DAY BY DAY WITH EACH OTHER PRAYING AND PLACING OUR HOPE IN THE ONE WHO LOVES US MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE.

WE DO NOT KNOW THE PLANS OF GOD. HE IS GREATER AND WE WILL NEVER KNOW ALL THAT IS IN HIS MIND. BUT WE KNOW HIS HEART AND BECAUSE HE DID NOT SPARE HIS OWN SON BUT OFFERS US ALL THINGS...LETS NOW ACTUALLY BELIEVE HIM AT HIS WORD THAT HE HEALS, THAT HE IS COMPASSIONATE, AND LETS ASK HIM FOR HEALING THIS MORNING. SOME OF YOU NEED HEALING, WHILE FOR OTHERS GOD HAS PLACED A DEEP LONGING TO PRAY FOR PEOPLE TO SEE THEM HEALED. LET'S GET TOGETHER AND ASK OUR LOVING FATHER FOR HEALING PRESENCE AND BE AMAZED AT HIS GOODNESS.

### Resources:

Jack Deere, *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*

Sam Storms, Enjoying God Ministries website ([www.enjoyinggoddministries.com](http://www.enjoyinggoddministries.com))

Max Lucado, *God Thinks You're Wonderful*