

THE POWER OF PRAYER

There is Power in Prayer.

When you pray, God listens.
When you pray, storms get stilled.
When you pray, doors open.
When you pray, relationships get restored.
When you pray, sickness gets healed.
When you pray, hope gets rekindled.
When you pray, strength is renewed.
When you pray, answers come.
Don't lose faith about what you are praying for today.
God is faithful.
His answers will come at just the right time.

LOCK ARTICLE #181 A PITIFUL CONDITION

In the last article we concluded with Peter and John going up to the temple for the evening time of prayer where they came across a lame man. As they climbed the Temple steps, they must have conversed of the many times that their Master had walked at their side. But they would have realized too, that He was still as near as ever through his Spirit, and so they became the means of linking this withered man to His glorious health-giving power.

It was because Jesus was present with them in Spirit that the healed man was able to make up the fourth in the group.

At this point, I considered how much the prayers and the attitudes of the people who had committed their lives and substance to the Lord Jesus Christ, had changed after the miraculous results on the day of Pentecost,

when their whole life changed in a moment.

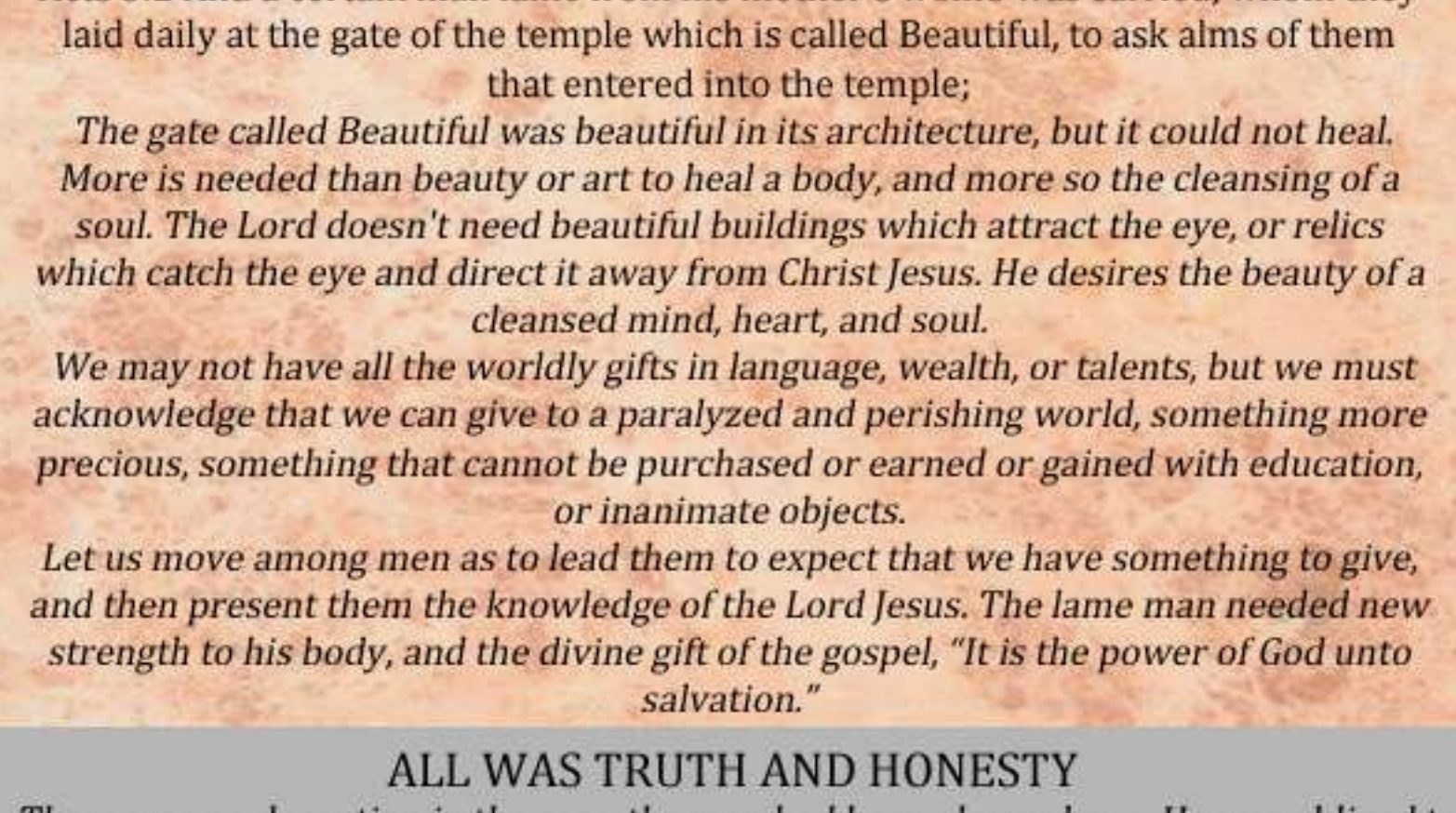
Were their prayers changed forever, from a people using repetitive phrases? Did their prayer now come to life, praising the Lord Jesus for their new birth? They were given a new understanding of the scriptures, and it was now in their clear perception a living, meaningful, and personal word in season.

The Holy Ghost revealed Scripture to men in a way that encouraged those who needed it, rebuked those who had been leading a life contrary to the teaching of Christ. It suddenly occurred that they had been involved in a dead religion, following certain forms, and systems which were largely involved with the commandments of men, which were not acceptable to God, and getting them nowhere, nor any closer to God or the Lord Jesus Christ who castigated them severely for putting these man made laws, even before God's commandments.

The errors that their Fathers made in rebelling against the blood Covenant that the God had made with them, causing them to follow vain things, not realising that Ichabod, (God was departed from them,) was written over them. What a terrible thing to contemplate, they were living in the flesh, and didn't realise they were walking alone, and in their own strength, and self righteousness.

These believing, loving people now understood the Old Testament types, and shadows, which pointed to the coming Messiah, Prince of Peace, which God had promised down through the ages.

Christ had now personally appeared to those who had accepted him as their own personal Saviour, Prophet, Priest, and King, and head of the invisible church of God. Now we come to the first miracle that was done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ after the Day of Pentecost.



A HEART-BREAKING CIRCUMSTANCE

Acts 3:2 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;

The gate called Beautiful was beautiful in its architecture, but it could not heal. More is needed than beauty or art to heal a body, and more so the cleansing of a soul. The Lord doesn't need beautiful buildings which attract the eye, or relics which catch the eye and direct it away from Christ Jesus. He desires the beauty of a cleansed mind, heart, and soul.

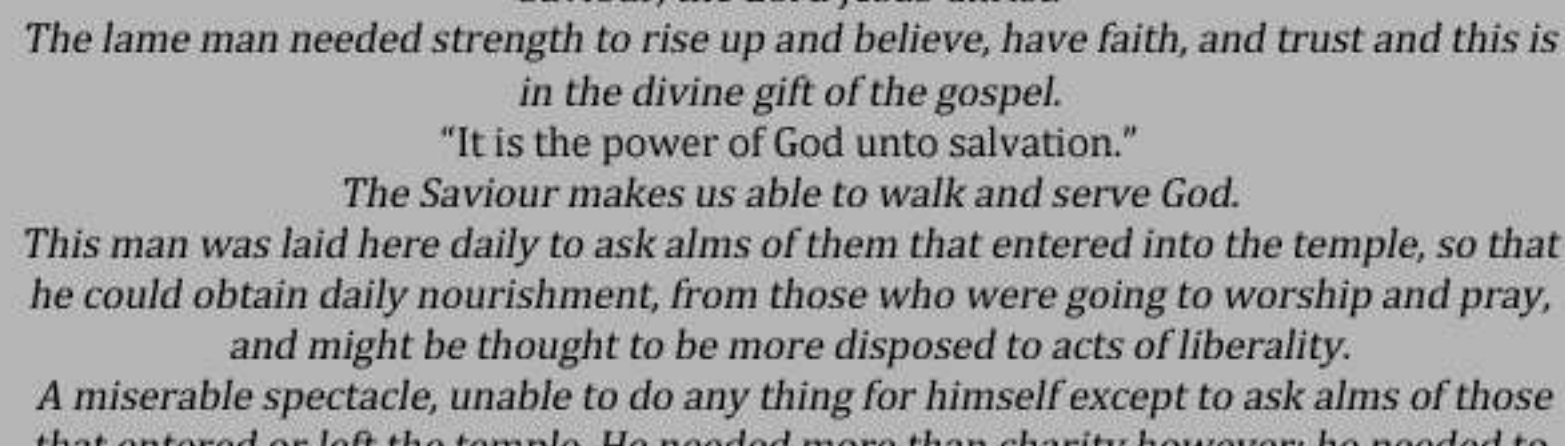
We may not have all the worldly gifts in language, wealth, or talents, but we must acknowledge that we can give to a paralyzed and perishing world, something more precious, something that cannot be purchased or earned or gained with education, or inanimate objects.

Let us move among men as to lead them to expect that we have something to give, and then present them the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. The lame man needed new strength to his body, and the divine gift of the gospel, "It is the power of God unto salvation."

ALL WAS TRUTH AND HONESTY

There was no deception in the case, the man had been always lame. He was obliged to be carried, and no doubt he was well known to the Jews, and the people who attended to the place of worship.

He was born in this condition. His lameness was not through any disease or sin as some used to think, or a fall, or any external hurt, but from a defect in nature from birth, which made the miracle all the more extraordinary. He was so lame that he was carried. He couldn't do anything by himself at all. This certainly pictures the disordered condition of the unsaved, who cannot help themselves, cannot in any way assist in their healing, let alone salvation.



A DAILY EXERCISE, BUT NOT BETTERED SPIRITUALLY OR BODILY whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful,

This man was near the place of the worship of God, where he dwells, but to be near the mark is not good enough. He needs to be personally united with the one and only Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The lame man needed strength to rise up and believe, have faith, and trust and this is in the divine gift of the gospel.

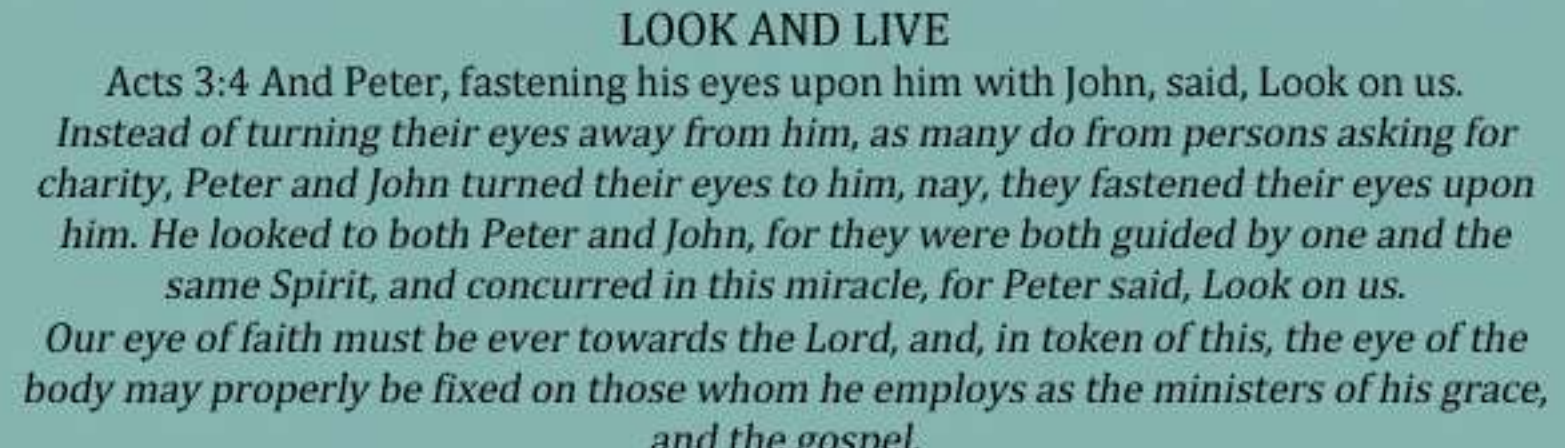
"It is the power of God unto salvation."

The Saviour makes us able to walk and serve God.

This man was laid here daily to ask alms of them that entered into the temple, so that he could obtain daily nourishment, from those who were going to worship and pray, and might be thought to be more disposed to acts of liberality.

A miserable spectacle, unable to do any thing for himself except to ask alms of those that entered or left the temple. He needed more than charity however; he needed to be born again by the Spirit of God as in John 3.16.

It is possible to nourish and provide for the poor and needy, but if they die in their sin, you have done little, and they will perish in their sin. You have even done them harm if you neglect the need of the soul, for they will end up in the pit of hell, if they have not experienced the new birth of God's Spirit.



THE SEEING EYE STIMULATED AND THE MOUTH OPENED

Acts 3:3 Who seeing Peter and John about to enter into the temple asked an alms.

The lame man was caused to look intently looked at them; and though they were strangers to him, he concluding they were Israelites by their going into the temple at that time:

LOOK AND LIVE

LOOK AND LIVE

Acts 3:4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. Instead of turning their eyes away from him, as many do from persons asking for charity, Peter and John turned their eyes to him, nay, they fastened their eyes upon him. He looked to both Peter and John, for they were both guided by one and the same Spirit, and concurred in this miracle, for Peter said, Look on us.

Our eye of faith must be ever towards the Lord, and, in token of this, the eye of the body may properly be fixed on those whom he employs as the ministers of his grace, and the gospel.

This man didn't need to be bidden twice to look on the apostles, for he justly thought their invitation gave him cause to expect that he should receive something from them, and therefore he gave heed to them.

THE NECESSARY PRAYER

Ps.5:3 In the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. Look up with expectation for an answer from the only one who can, and will answer prayer. Look with the eye of faith, but in this case, look to the those who have invited your attention.

We must come to God both to attend on his word and to apply it to ourselves as an answer to prayer, with hearts fixed and expectations raised. We must look up to heaven and expect to receive benefit from God, and an answer of peace to the prayers sent up to Heaven, as the Psalmist declared above.

Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11:6a

WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD

Acts 3:5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. His expectations, notwithstanding, were quite outdone. Peter had no money to give him, but he had that which was better; such an interest in the Divine, such a power from heaven, as to be able to cure his crippled body, and a gospel through which the man could find a place in Heaven through faith. Those who are poor in the world may yet be rich, very rich, in spiritual wisdom, gifts, graces, and comforts. Certainly there is that which we are capable of possessing which is infinitely better than silver and fine gold, the merchandise and gain of it are far better;

Job 28:11 He bindeth the floods from overflowing; and the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light.

Job 28:12 But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?

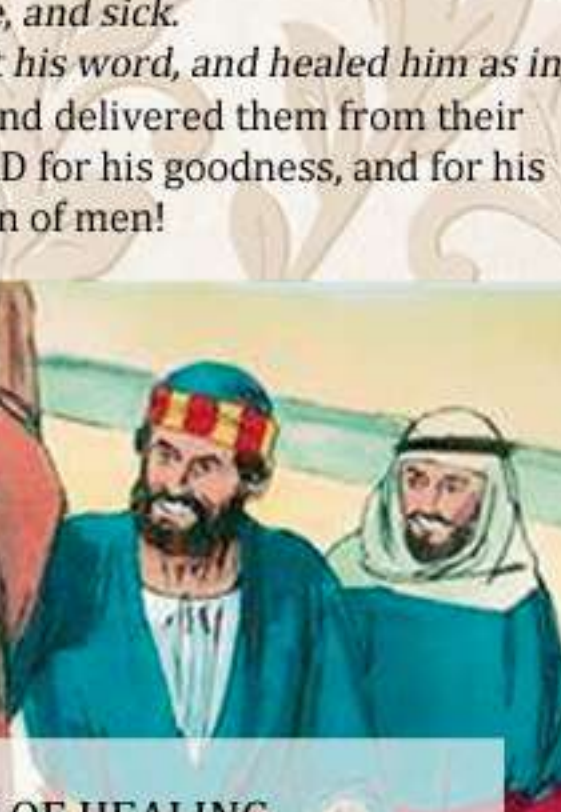
Proverbs 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Proverbs 3:14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Proverbs 3:15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

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.



A PRICELESS GIFT

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee; v7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

He gave him that which was better, a lifetime cure for his lameness, which would enable him to work for his living, so that he wouldn't need to beg any more. Better still, he would have the ability to give to those that needed, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

A miraculous cure is a greater instance of God's favour, and would put a greater honour upon him, than thousands of gold and silver. What need has God for precious metals. He made everything. He owns it all. The Lord has given it to us for a very small space of time, and then it is passed on to someone else.

Though Peter had no silver and gold to give, yet (he says) "such as I have give I thee." What a treasure he has and all it costs is faith, and trust!

Freely you have received, freely give.

Those who have not silver and gold, have their limbs and senses, and with these may be serviceable to the blind, lame, and sick.

Let us now see how the cure was wrought. Christ sent his word, and healed him as in, Psalm 107:20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. v21 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!



EVERY SOUL SAVED IS A MIRACLE OF HEALING

Healing grace is given through Christ. This is the means by which the healing virtue is derived. Christ spoke, and people were cured while he was here on earth, and now the apostles do the same by speaking in his name.

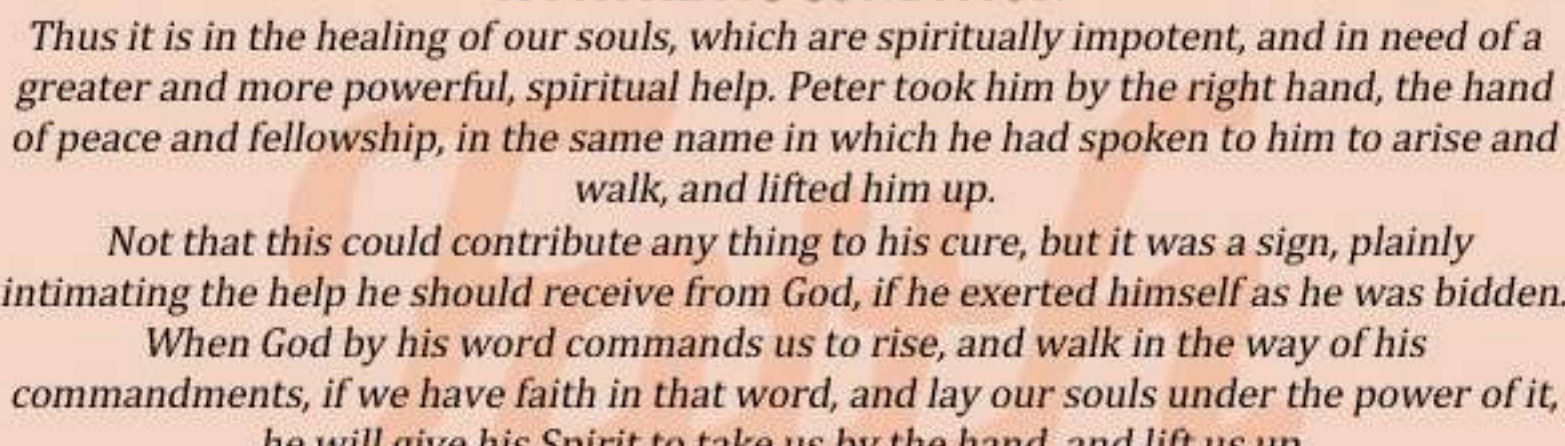
Peter bids a lame man rise up and walk, which would have been fruitless if he had not based his statement in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

If I say it by blessing him, and it shall be done by power from him, then all the glory and praise of it shall be ascribed to him.

He calls Christ by the name which was a name of reproach, to intimate that the cruelties, and rejection done to him on earth served but as a contrast to his glories now that he is in heaven. Yet in that name you shall see great wonders done at his second coming, you will experience his power, glory, judgement, whatever is applicable to your spiritual state, for, because he humbled himself to come to this earth, he is now highly exalted in Heaven.

THIS IS TOTAL OBEDIENCE

Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; Peter bids this crippled helpless man to rise up and walk, which does not prove that he had power in himself to do it, but if he attempts to rise and walk, knowing his own impotency, and depend upon a divine power to enable him to do it, he shall be enabled; and by rising and walking he must acknowledge that, that power has wrought upon him, and then let him be comforted, and let God have the worship, and the praise.



Acts 3:7

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

A PATHETIC CONDITION

Thus it is in the healing of our souls, which are spiritually impotent, and in need of a greater and more powerful, spiritual help. Peter took him by the right hand, the hand of peace and fellowship, in the same name in which he had spoken to him to arise and walk, and lifted him up.

Not that this could contribute anything to his cure, but it was a sign, plainly intimating the help he should receive from God, if he exerted himself as he was bidden.

When God by his word commands us to rise, and walk in the way of his commandments, if we have faith in that word, and lay our souls under the power of it, he will give his Spirit to take us by the hand, and lift us up.

If we set ourselves to do what we can, God has promised his grace to enable us to do what we cannot, and by that promise we partake of a new nature, and that grace shall not be in vain.

A PRECIOUS GIFT

Immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Which is unlikely if he hadn't attempted to rise and accept the help offered. Similarly, the spiritually lame need the gospel spoken, and help to get on their feet. God's people are to give this help, and yet it is Christ that does it all. This is where irresistibly, grace is established. It is Christ that calls by his grace, puts strength into the body, and points men to Heaven, and home.

As the bread was multiplied in the breaking, and the water turned into wine in the pouring out, so strength was given to the cripple's feet stirring him to use them.

This is a wonderful conclusion to this article, but the best is yet to come, for faith comes with trials and tribulations.

Thanks for reading!

We hoped you enjoyed the article
Please feel free to share these articles with family & friends.

If you have any questions please contact:

Kyle Graham
ph - (08) 8682 2968
kgraham.fpc@outlook.com

Trevor Spiers
ph - (08) 8689 1373
trevor.spiers2@bigpond.com