

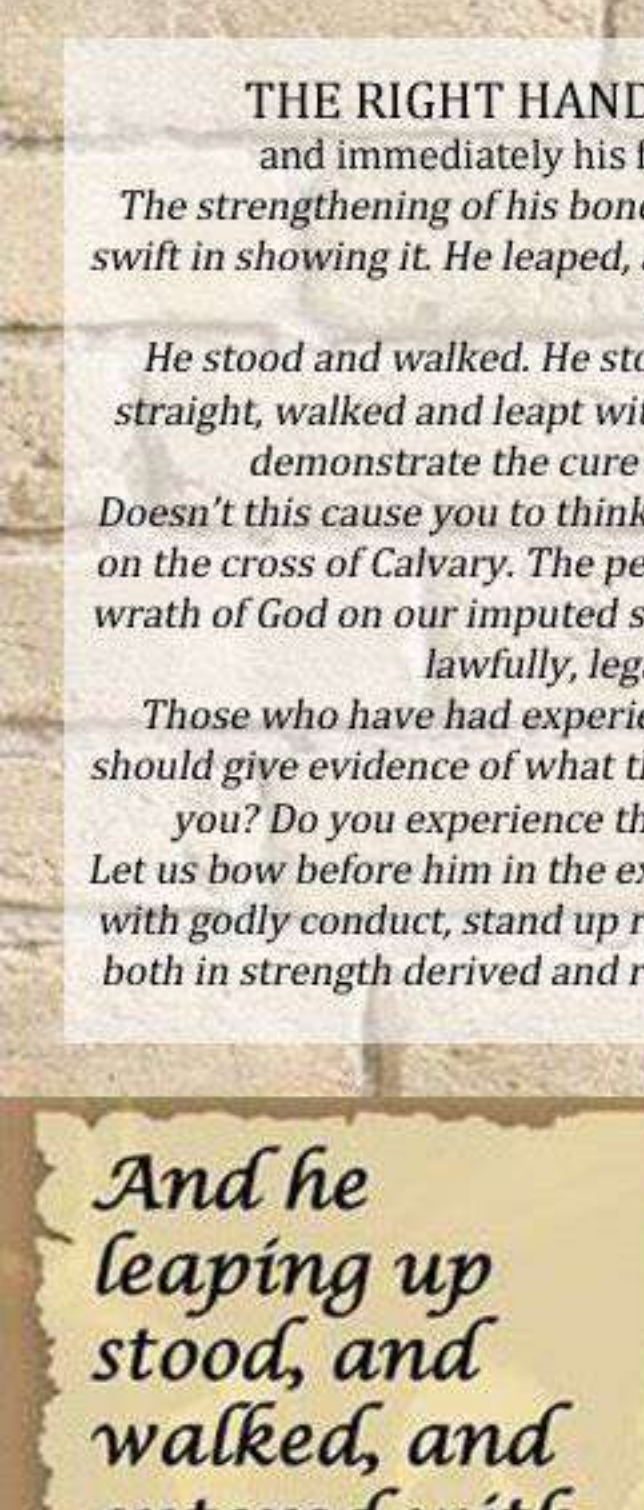
## Prayer

Let prayer in the name of Jesus Christ be a daily habit,  
Every morning and every evening of our lives,  
By keeping up that habit, you shall find,  
Strength for duty, Comfort in trouble,  
Guidance in perplexity, Hope in sickness,  
Support in death.

To pray without labouring is to mock God,  
To labour without prayer,  
Is to rob God of his glory.

Robert Haldane.

## LOCK ARTICLE # 182



## THE LONGING SOUL LEAPING

Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up:

Don't look upon Peter as the people did. Lift your eyes onto a higher plain, and gaze upon Christ the giver of every good and perfect gift.

Can you in your imagination see the impression which this cure made upon the patient himself, which we may best conceive if we put our soul into his soul's stead. He rose up with the help of Peter, in obedience to the command, "Rise up and walk." He immediately found in himself such a degree of strength in his feet and ankle-bones that he rose, perhaps with fear and trembling, and yet as he started up, as one refreshed from sleep, boldly, and with great agility, and as one that questioned not his own strength, but with the strength of an athlete.

## THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP AND POWER

and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

The strengthening of his bones and muscles was sudden, and he was no less swift in showing it. He leaped, as one glad to be quit of his bed on which he had lain so long lame.

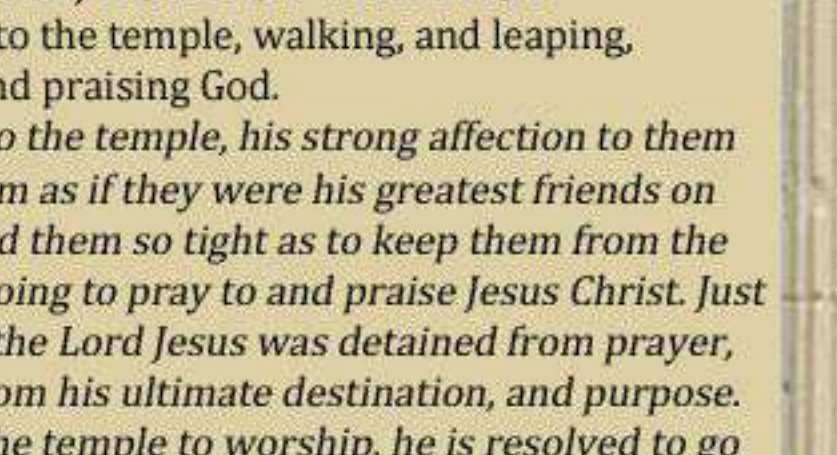
He stood and walked. He stood without either leaning or trembling, stood straight, walked and leapt without a staff, moving purposely, and this was to demonstrate the cure and that it was thorough and complete.

Doesn't this cause you to think of the Lord Jesus Christ willingly going to suffer on the cross of Calvary. The perfect and only sacrifice for our sin, enduring the wrath of God on our imputed sin, suffering in body and soul for his people, and lawfully, legally crying out, "It is finished."

Those who have had experience of the working of divine grace upon them should give evidence of what they have experienced. Has God put strength into you? Do you experience the joy and gladness that this man displayed?

Let us bow before him in the exercises of devotion, then stand, and walk before with godly conduct, stand up resolutely for him, and walk cheerfully with him, both in strength derived and received from him, and now used for his service.

## And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.



## BOUNDING IN BODY, SOARING IN SPIRIT

Act 3:8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Those first four words paint a representation of vital health, potent strength, and joy in spirit that was wonderful to behold. He was a man praising God.

This also was a gift of the grace of the Lord. It is possible, but fairly unlikely that this man was used to praising God, yet here we have him with his mouth opened wide in worship. Surely this was the work of the lovely Holy Spirit from on high, working in his heart, giving him a new song in his heart, a spring in his step, and joy in the Lord.

## A VISION SPLENDID

Act 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

He heard and held Peter and John. He knew he was healed; and he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered into the temple. And we need not ask why he held them; for I believe he scarcely knew himself. It was in a transport of joy that he embraced them as the best benefactors he had ever met with, and hung upon them as the greatest of friends, and with a desire that he could stay with them, while he no doubt published to all about him what great things God, by Peter and John, had done for him, through Jesus Christ. Thus he testified his affection to them, he held them closely. Those whom God hath healed and cleansed the most, love him most, and love those whom he made instruments of his and your healing.

## THE FIRST TIME, BUT NOT THE LAST

entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

What a grand entrance into the temple, his strong affection to them caused him to cling to them as if they were his greatest friends on earth, but he could not hold them so tight as to keep them from the temple, whither they were going to pray to and praise Jesus Christ. Just as there were times when the Lord Jesus was detained from prayer, but it didn't prevent him from his ultimate destination, and purpose.

But, if they are going into the temple to worship, he is resolved to go with them, from where he had been kept for so long by his weakness and his begging, even his whole life.

Here is an example for us, of not letting our infirmities hinder us from hearing the preaching. If possible, get above your hindrance, for in these days of electronic access to preaching there are ways and means.

I know of ill health, so I can speak with familiarity. Unless your disability disables all your faculties there is a way if you are prepared to seek it out.

But when health is restored, like the impotent man whom Christ cured at the pool Bethesda, he was soon found in the temple, John 5:14.

## HIS ENTRY INTO THE PLACE OF WORSHIP

He went into the temple with joy and gratitude, not only to offer up his praises and thanksgivings to God, but to hear more from the apostles of Jesus in whose name he had been healed.

Those that have experienced the power of Christ should earnestly desire to grow in their acquaintance with Christ, and to learn to love him with a pure and everlasting love.

He was there walking, and leaping, and praising God. Do you realise the strength God has given you, to make use of your voice to praise him? We should study how to honour him with our gifts. No matter how small, they are to be used, or you will lose them.

Those that are healed in his name must walk up and down in his name and in his strength,

Zechariah 10:12 And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.

This man, as soon as he could leap, leaped for delight in the Lord God, and praised him. So here was that Old Testament scripture fulfilled in a wonderful way,

Isaiah 35:4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; (reward,) he will come and save you.

v.5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. v.6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Now that this man was newly cured; he was in this abundance of ecstasy and thankfulness. All true converts walk and praise God, but perhaps young converts leap more in his praises.

## Acts 3:9

## And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

### THE WONDERFUL ORGAN OF VISION

Act 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God: They saw, they heard and they were entirely walking in the miracle, for had nothing to object against it. They knew it was he that sat begging at the beautiful gate of the temple. He had sat there so long that they all knew him who entered into the temple, and for this reason he was chosen to be the vessel of this mercy to show the power to heal through Jesus Christ.

Now they were not so stubborn or unbelieving as to have any doubt whether he was the same man, as the Pharisees had questioned concerning the blind man that Christ cured in John 9:9 and John 9:18.

They now saw him walking and praising God and took notice of a change in his whole conduct.

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Body, mind, spirit, and attitude turned to God. He was now loud in worshipping God, which is the best evidence that it was a complete cure, and that is why he is now praising God for it.

Mercies are then perfected, when they are sanctified in Christ. They were astonished at it, they were filled with wonder and amazement, in feeling of intense delight, greatly wondering, what can this mean.

### THEY DISCERNED WITH THEIR INTELLECT

Acts 3:10 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.

How the people that were eye-witnesses of this miracle were influenced by it, we are now told.

They were certain, it was he that sat begging at the beautiful gate of the temple, his actions spoke for themselves. There seems to have been this effect of the pouring out of the Spirit, that the people, at least those in Jerusalem, were much more affected with the miracles the apostles wrought than they had been with those of the same kind that had been wrought by Christ himself.

John 14:12 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.

### THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Act 3:11 all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

They flocked to a part of the court of the Gentiles which Solomon had built for the outer porch of the temple, which Herod had now erected upon the same foundation

Solomon had built the stately porch that bore his name. Herod, being ambitious, seemed to desire to leave a legacy for himself as a second Solomon, but like all things done in pride, it was all destroyed soon after. Here the people met, to see this great sight, for a greater than Solomon was working here.

The word wondering means, utterly astounding, and no wonder, for most of them had never seen anything like this before.

All the people ran together unto them in Solomon's porch, no doubt for several reasons, some only to gratify their curiosity with the sight of the man that was healed and of the men that had such power to cure. Others came with a desire, if possible, to hear Peter or John preach again, concluding that their doctrine must needs be of divine origin, for they were amazed at the apostles preaching just recently, which soon showed a divine approval from the results obtained.

## Acts 3:11

## 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, greatly wondering.

Act 3:12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, when Peter saw the people gathering together in a crowd, he took that opportunity to preach Christ to them, with the temple being the place of their concourse. Let them come and hear a more excellent wisdom than Solomon's, for, behold, a greater than Solomon is working here.

When Peter saw the people affected by and filled with admiration of the miracle, he then sowed the gospel seed in the ground which was thus broken up and prepared of the Lord to receive the gospel and the doctrines of salvation.

It is necessary at this point to ask the pertinent questions: Have you been convicted of your sin enough to cry unto Jesus Christ for salvation? Have you been convinced to turn completely from your rebellion against the Lord Jesus? Be confident that in accepting him as your Saviour, you will be released immediately from a eternal future in the fiery pit of agony.

## Acts 3:12

## 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?

### WHY ARE YOU SO SURPRISED

why marvel ye at this?

Peter humbly disclaims the honour of the miracle as not due to them, who were only the ministers of Christ, or instruments in his hand for the doing of it. The doctrines they preached were not of their own invention, nor were the seals of God's approval their own, but his whose the doctrines were, even Jesus Christ.

In fact, the whole volume of scripture is of God, and not the invention of men. He addresses himself to them as men of Israel, men to whom concerned, not only the law and the promises, but the gospel and the carrying out of the doctrines of God.

### TWO THINGS TO CONSIDER

Why they were so surprised at the miracle itself. Why marvel you at this? It was indeed marvellous, and they justly wondered at it, but it was no more than what Christ had done many a time, and they had not duly regarded it, nor been affected with it.

It was not long before that Christ had raised Lazarus from the dead, and why should this then seem so strange or unusual in comparison? Christ had lately risen from the dead himself.

Why didn't they marvel at that?

### WHY LOOK YE SO EARNESTLY ON US

Why they gave so much of the praise of it to them, who were only the instruments of it? Why look you so earnestly on us? It was certain that through them Christ had made this man whole by which it was certain that the apostles not only were sent of God, but were sent to be blessings to the world, benefactors to mankind, and were sent to heal sick souls and diseased bodies that were spiritually lame and impotent, to set broken bones, and make them rejoice.

Yet they didn't do it by any power or holiness of their own, nor by any might of their own, any skill they had in medicine or surgery, nor any virtue in their word.

# EL SHADDAI

God Almighty

JEHOVAH EL-SHADDI, GOD ALMIGHTY

Psa. 62:11 God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.

The power they did it by was wholly derived from Christ, which he gave them. They had not deserved it, neither had they earned it. It was not by their own holiness. They were weak things, and frail things in the eyes of the world that Christ chose to employ Peter as a sinful man. What holiness had Judas? Yet he wrought miracles in Christ's name.

These are truly wonderful spiritual revivings, and thrilling to the people who know their God and Saviour.

There have been similar revivals during the reformation of true Christian religion in the 1500s and later in the 1850s when thousands were likewise saved from the punishment of their sins by faith alone in what the Lord Jesus did for them on the cross of Calvary, and brought into the kingdom of God on earth.

A truly and unforgettable experience!

But there are better times to come, with tribulations, as we continue in these special times of the Lord, in the developing of the New Testament church.

## Thanks for reading!

We hoped you enjoyed the article

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