

CHAPTER THREE

Acts 3

A Call to Repentance

Overview

1. Lame Man Healed: (Verses 1-11)

Sometime after the Day of Pentecost, Peter and John were heading to the temple when a lame man asked them for money. This man was well-known because he had been brought to the temple gate for many years to ask alms of the people entering the temple. This day, however, would be different. Although Peter and John had no money to offer the lame man, Peter, operating in the working of miracles, offered him the healing power of Jesus Christ. When the people saw the man walking, they gave glory to God and stood amazed at his healing.

2. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: (Verses 12-17)

When Peter sees the amazement of the crowd over the lame man's healing, he directs their attention away from him and onto God. He explains that the Messiah had already come, but they had rejected Him. He also informs them that the lame man's faith in God brought healing to his physical body.

3. The Messiah Has Come: (Verses 18-22)

Peter exhorts the people to stop looking for the Messiah because He has already come. He then calls them to repentance and conversion, so their sins will be blotted out. He points out that repentance and conversion open the doors to the infilling of the Holy Spirit, which will bring "times of refreshing." Peter encourages the crowd to take heed to what Moses had spoken concerning Jesus.

4. Foretold by the Prophets: (Verses 23-26)

Peter brings the crowd to a place of decision. They must now choose whether to accept or reject Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. He highlights the fact that Jesus was given first to the Jew and all have an opportunity to turn from sin to receive eternal life.

The Challenge of Chapter Three:

The whole purpose of miracles, healings, signs and wonders is for people to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. As born-again, Spirit-filled believers we are exhorted to “*desire spiritual gifts*” (1Corinthians 14:1). But the operation of the spiritual gifts is not intended to draw attention to ourselves, rather to cause the unbeliever to repent and receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We must never seek the gifts for our own glory, but our motive should always be to glorify the One Who made salvation possible and sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to abide with us forever—Jesus Christ!