

Power of Jesus' Name: Acts 3-4

Acts was designed to be God's training manual for modern Christians.

Please hear these sermons as not just historical information, but instruction. You will receive training in how to share the Gospel, and then everything that supports sharing the Gospel; that is, how to walk in the Spirit, how to exercise biblical faith, how to pray, how to heal the sick, how to engage in spiritual warfare. This is basic training – Christianity 101. I didn't learn about spiritual warfare until after I completed by MDiv! I joined YWAM and read Dean Sherman's book *Spiritual Warfare for Every Christian: How to Live in Victory and Retake the Land*.

Read 3:1-10: lame beggar healed. Focus on 3:6: *But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"*

Summarize 3:11-26. Focus on 3:16: *"By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see."*

This healing miracle performed in Jesus' name is an infallible proof that Jesus Christ is alive and exalted to the right hand of God.

Read 4:1-14. Peter filled with the HS to speak boldly to the Jewish Council. Focus on 4:10: *"Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well... And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

In order for us to understand what happened in this incident and receive training I need to explain some concepts.

The Power & Authority of Heal

I must introduce you to two GR words: δυναμις = *dunamis* and εξουσια = *exousia*. *Dunamis* is power and *exousia* is the authority to use the power in the name of Jesus Christ.

The healing miracle was performed by the use of delegated authority.

Acts 1:8, Jesus said, “You shall receive power when the HS comes upon you.” GR *dunamis* = power: the disciples received the indwelling *dunamis* power of the HS, but the power could only be used by the authority given by Jesus.

GR *exousia*: the power to heal is not inherent (Acts 3:12), but delegated by a higher authority. Analogy: the power of an ambassador given by the President of the US. A US ambassador would not be able to do anything by presenting himself in his own name. The ambassador has delegated authority and says, “I come in the name of the President of the United States of America.”

The disciples had already experienced delegated authority when Jesus sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God, heal the sick, and cast out demons (Luke 9 & 10). Every believer receives the same power and authority in his/her union with Jesus Christ.

The religious leaders couldn't deny the miracle, but asked a very important question, 4:7: *They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”* They wanted to know the source of Peter & John's power and who authorized the use of that power. (Police are authorized to use lethal force or power when necessary.)

The authority to heal considers the timing.

The name of Jesus must be used according to the WILL of Jesus. It can only be used according to His revealed will to demonstrate His love and resurrection for His glory. It isn't a magic wand to get whatever you want. If I allow you use my credit card then you can only buy what I authorize you to buy.

The lame man was put beside the Beautiful Gate of the temple every afternoon. It is safe to assume that Jesus Christ walked past this man when he entered the temple and that Peter & John had walked past him several times and dropped some coins in his bowl. The sovereign will of Jesus Christ determines the timing. A key to ministering with divine healing is to be sensitive to God's timing. This means hearing the voice of the HS. Peter & John heard the voice of the HS and received the faith to heal the lame man

in Jesus' name. I think the HS said to Peter, "Now is the moment. Heal him in the name of Jesus of Nazareth."

Authority commands. The healing was accomplished by a command. (The GR verb is imperative tense - a command.) Peter didn't pray, "If it's your will then heal this lame man." Peter knew it was Jesus' will and commanded, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, GET UP and WALK!" Then he pulled the lame man up on his feet. That's HS-empowered faith! When the lame man felt the healing power in his legs, he jumped up.

Faith for Healing

The NT has examples of three different possible agents of the faith necessary for divine healing to take place.

First, the faith of the sick person. Read Matthew 9:27-31.

Second, the agent of faith may be an intermediary. Refer to the Roman centurion's faith, Matthew 8:5-13. We pray for people to be healed, but we don't do it with the faith of a command.

Third, the agent of faith may be the person who performs the healing. Peter & John were the agents of faith for the healing of the lame beggar. 3:16: *"By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see."* The healing power is associated with the name of Jesus and the power became effective through Peter's faith in the name of Jesus.

Peter & John used spiritual gifts of faith, healing, working of miracles. See 1 Corinthians 12:7-11: *⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

When I worked as a chaplain I practiced James 5:14-15: ¹⁴ *Is anyone among you sick? 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.* ¹⁵ *And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

This scriptural command combines first and third. The sick person calls for the elders (that's a demonstration of faith) and their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick. They pray *believing* it is God's will to heal the sick person. (If the sick person is involved in any unrepentant sin then there must be confession and repentance.) This isn't just for chaplaincy; this is more for CHURCH.

Boldness to Declare the Name of Jesus Christ

The reason for the healing miracle is to support and confirm the preaching.

The main event is the preaching of the Gospel.

"Signs and wonders" don't save anyone; belief in Christ saves.

Peter preaches to the amazed crowd in the temple: 3:12-26.

Peter preaches to the Jewish council: 4:8-12.

Peter preached a simple message: "You murdered the Messiah. God raised him from the dead and set him at his right hand in heaven. Repent and believe in Christ."

Focus 4:13: *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*

Does this description represent your Christian faith? Do people recognize that you have a relationship with Jesus?