

Acts # 27 “The Prancing Paralytic” Acts 3:1-10

Does God heal like this today and if He does, why don't we see it more often and why did Jesus and His apostles heal and was faith in the one being healed a necessary pre-requisite for success?

The signs and wonders in our Lord's ministry are now being seen in His apostles who are used by God to perform supernatural miracles as business cards to demonstrate their authenticity as His messengers.

The concept of divine healing is one of the most confusing Bible doctrines for many people.

So, why would the apostles and other believers go to the temple now that the new Church Age has begun?

Remember they personally accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and they now see the articles of furniture and the ceremonies related to the temple as extremely meaningful.

They didn't have the completed New Testament yet and they found the temple a wonderful place to pray, teach and witness their newfound faith in Messiah.

Believers in Jesus Christ often materially help less fortunate people but the primary mission of the Church for someone like this is evangelization.

Their responsibility to this man is not to simply provide him with physical food or money or even to remove his suffering if possible; it's to provide him with a permanent solution and they have that solution in the Gospel.

This man's greatest problem is his need of salvation and since it's the responsibility of Peter and John and all born-again believers to provide accurate Gospel information rather than anything else, how should they deal with his problem?

Peter and John are going to do some preaching in the temple but first they need a calling card and here the marquis billboard is all set up for them because they not only have the gift of apostleship but the accompanying gift of miracles.

The Word of God is no good to us unless we can concentrate on it.

If we're going to help people, we often have to get tough with them, especially if they won't face the facts. *Many people going into the temple not only gave him money but also gave him sympathy and one of the worst things we can do to people in this condition is give them sympathy; we do not solve people's problems by sympathy or empathy.*

This doesn't negate the need of money in life but God didn't provide Peter with funds; He provided him with His power and Peter had this power because his emphasis was not on money but on relationship with God.

Some hear the Word but do not allow it to take root because the allurements of worldly pleasures and comfort overwhelms them.

Others reject the Word because of persecution or trials but a few hear the Word and open themselves to learn, understand, believe and apply it so that it transforms them.

Those who have ears to hear allow the Word to bear fruit to the glory of God because it's up to the hearer to

decide whether to take the Word seriously and pursue it but only a few are willing; the rest have ears but they do not have ears to hear.

Jesus has been crucified as God's chosen sacrifice to pay for the sins of the world and the Father's satisfaction with His Son's atonement was marked by His raising Jesus from the dead, conquering death for all who believe in Him.

After the resurrection, our Lord met with His disciples and taught them about the kingdom of God, explaining that the prophecies of the Old Testament that had been fulfilled in Him.

With the Holy Spirit's First Advent, the Church was born as one living spiritual organism not organization; to finish the work our Savior began.

He will build His Church as He said and He'll use His apostles by the power of the Spirit to continue the work of evangelism.

God does heal in any age at any time according to His purpose by grace, so we have every right to ask Him to heal us physically but we must remember that healing at this time is the exception rather than the rule.

What God allows to continue, He expects for us to endure with His gracious power.

Everyone wants monetary help but what's needed is what Peter and John gave; not silver or gold but the Name and power of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit leading to a new strength to reach his potential in Christ.

God is offering to spiritually heal anyone who trusts His Son.

In every case where God heals, it doesn't depend upon the faithfulness of the individual, the faith of the individual or the works of the individual; it depends upon the sovereignty of God, never human worthiness.

And God does sovereignly heal people at times but this is more than likely, the exception, not the rule.