

ACTS: I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH (PART 6)

Peter has just preached the first sermon in church history, and multitudes are responding. Since the early church had no "New Testament" yet, he has appealed to the Old Testament – **his sermon starts with JOEL and ends with JESUS**. And he has preached (1) WHO the Lord is, and (2) HOW we are to call on Him for salvation.

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

v. 40 – "many other words" / "untoward generation" – this is not the end of Peter's preaching, because the new birth is just a BIRTH into the Kingdom of God – we still have to GROW UP and obey God's commandments to be saved from our own "untoward generation"!

Acts 2:42-47 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing **daily** with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church **daily** such as should be saved.

The early church did more than make **converts** – they made **disciples**! These people literally invested everything they had into the church!

The Christians you meet in the Book of Acts were not content to meet once a week for "services as usual." They met daily (Acts 2:46), cared daily (Acts 6:1), won souls daily (Acts 2:47), searched the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11), and increased in number daily (Acts 16:5). Their Christian faith was a day-to-day reality, not a once-a-week routine.

When we do what we're supposed to do EVERYDAY, then God does what only He can do EVERYDAY!

Acts 3:1-3 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. 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; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

This is a JEWISH prayer meeting, not an Apostolic prayer meeting!

Psalm 55:17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

These events are a fulfillment of Acts 2:47 – EVERYDAY living for God!

In Acts 3 & 4, immediately after the Day of Pentecost, the emphasis is on the NAME of Jesus Christ. This is NOT a coincidence! A name is much more than just identification; it carries with it AUTHORITY and POWER. The first concern of the first Christians was to give glory to His NAME!

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Peter and John are often found together in the Gospels. They were partners in the fishing business (Luke 5:10); they prepared the last Passover for Jesus (Luke 22:8); they ran to the tomb on the first Easter Sunday morning (John 20:3-4); and they would later minister to the Samaritans who believed on Jesus Christ (Acts 8:14). Now that they were filled with the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were no longer competing for greatness, but were at last working faithfully together to build the church.

They are on their way TO prayer, not on their way FROM prayer. But prayer meeting is not the only time that Christians pray! The lame man is expecting a good deed, but instead receives a great miracle.

Acts 3:4-11 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, 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. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God: 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. 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.

"Silver and gold have I none" = "and had all things common" (Acts 2:44)

John 10:23 – Jesus walked past this man but didn't heal him!

John 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

The lame man went with them into the Temple (v. 8) – it is ALWAYS the purpose of miracles (and alms!) to bring people into church fellowship. We are only interested in CROWDS so we can PREACH the gospel!

Peter turns the temple into a courtroom and lays out all the evidence for everybody to see. How could two ordinary fishermen perform such a great miracle? Through the NAME of Jesus Christ!

Acts 3:12-16 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? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

“LOOK ON US” (v. 3) / “WHY LOOK YE ON US?” (v. 12) ... They are saying, “We will minister TO you, but we don’t want the attention FROM you!” (Sometimes the modern church gets this backwards!)

v. 12 – it’s not our own POWER, and it’s not our own HOLINESS!

“WE didn’t do this – HE did this!” / “HIS NAME through faith in His name”

Old Hebrew saying: “Himself is His Name and His Name is Himself.”

Acts 3:17-18 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

Numbers 15:28 And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him.

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

The disciples had a revelation of the ONENESS OF GOD!

HE IS (Aaron Jeoffrey)

In Genesis, He's the breath of life. In Exodus, the passover lamb.

In Leviticus, He's our high priest.

Numbers, fire by night. Deuteronomy, He's Moses voice.

In Joshua, He is salvation's choice.

Judges, lawgiver. In Ruth, the kinsmen redeemer.

First and Second Samuel, our trusted prophet.

In Kings and Chronicles, He's sovereign. Ezra, a true and faithful scribe.

In Nehemiah, He's the rebuilder of broken walls and lives.

In Esther, He is Mordecai's courage. In Job, the timeless redeemer.

In Psalms, He is our morning song.

In Proverbs, wisdom's cry. Ecclesiastes, the time and season.

In the Song of Solomon, He is the lover's dream.

In Isaiah, He's the prince of peace. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet.

In Lamentations, the cry for Israel.

Ezekiel, He's the call from sin. In Daniel, the stranger in the fire.

In Hosea, He is forever faithful.

In Joel, He is the Spirit's power. In Amos, the arms that carry us.

In Obadiah, He's the Lord our Savior.

In Jonah, He's the great missionary. In Micah, the promise of peace.

In Nahum, He is our strength and our shield.

In Habakkuk and Zephaniah, He's the leading for revival.

In Haggai, He restores the lost heritage.

In Zechariah, our fountain. In Malachi, He is

The Son of Righteousness rising with healing in His wings.

Acts 3:19-21 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

REPENTANCE is a “turning from” / CONVERSION is a “turning to”

1 Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

Times of Refreshing: REVIVAL (first coming of Christ)

Times of Restitution: RESTORATION (second coming of Christ)

Isaiah 28:10-12 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

Daniel 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Acts 3:22-24 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

Peter is quoting Deuteronomy 18:15-22 (about Moses), and pointing to Jesus Christ as a prophet "like unto Moses." ALL the prophets pointed to Him! Later on, Peter will write these words about the prophets ...

1 Peter 1:10-12 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Acts 3:25-26 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Peter says to the Jews: "If anyone should get this, it should be YOU!"

John 1:11-12 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

The best defense of Christianity is a CHANGED LIFE (the lame man)! Do we say "I am increased with goods" or "Silver and gold have I none"?