

“Jesus People Build a Bridge to Jesus” Acts 3:1-26

BELIEVERS BUILD A BRIDGE TO JESUS. . .

- . . . WHEN THEY HELP PEOPLE SEE GOD AT WORK AND **MAKE HIM REAL.**

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But 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!” ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. Acts 3:1-10 (English Standard Version)

Spiritual gift = a supernatural ability granted by the Holy Spirit.
Spiritual gifts = God’s “special equipment” to help believers get whatever job done that He has planned for them

- . . . WHEN THEIR WORDS **FOCUS ON HIM.**

¹¹While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. Acts 3:11-16 (ESV)

(See Isaiah 52:13 and 53)

- . . . WHEN THEY PRESENT A CLEAR MESSAGE OF **REPENTANCE.**

¹⁷“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. ²²Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ ²⁴And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. ²⁵You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’ ²⁶God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.” Acts 3:17-26 (ESV)

²⁰I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes. ²¹I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus. Acts 20:20-21 (New Living Translation)

Three Blessings for Anyone Who Repents

- Our sins are **blotted out.**
Greek = exalepiho = to wash off, erase, obliterate. (See Eph 1:7; Rom 3:25-26)
- Our hearts are **refreshed.**
“Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matt 11:28 (New International Version)
- We are promised a **final restoration** of all things.
(See Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 1:20; Rev 21:1; 2 Peter 3:13; 1 Cor. 15:28; Romans 8:21)

But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. Acts 4:4 (ESV)