

# Daily Bible Habit

## The Acts Of The Apostles

Thomas F. Fischer, M.Div., M.S.A.

### Focus Points...*For Acts 3*

#### Stop And Consider...

- \* Peter and John's ingrained habit of praying in the Temple; and
- \* The hysterically frenzied joy of the healed man, jumping up and down and praising God.

#### Look...

- \* At the high-profile area at which the crippled man was healed; and
- \* At the real reason for the healing: to proclaim Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

#### Listen...

- \* To Peter's bold, eloquent message, similar in so many ways to his Pentecost sermon; and
- \* Peter's rich witness of fulfilled Old Testament prophecy relating to Jesus' ministry.

#### Prayer:

Jesus, at Pentecost You unveiled the remarkable power of the Holy Spirit. As I read Acts 3, enable me to see how, by the same Spirit, the work and proclamation of Your forgiveness continued to work powerfully in so many lives. Work powerfully through me so that I, by the same Spirit, may impact other's lives by sharing Your words of forgiveness and grace with others. Amen.

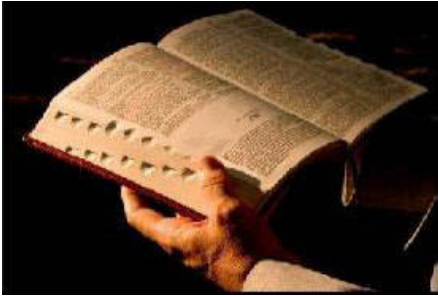
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#### Commentary:

In Acts 3 Luke noted the continuation of the partnership of Peter and John. However, Luke made no mention of James, the other disciple in Jesus' inner circle and John's brother. Peter and John, however, began their early apostolic ministry in the Temple Courts of Jerusalem. There, beginning in Jerusalem (cf. Acts 1:8), they continued doing what Jesus' had done: teaching in the Temple.

Maintaining their daily custom of prayer, they went to the Temple for the Evening Oblation, held at the ninth hour (three o'clock in the afternoon).





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Peter and John were walking through the beautiful and spectacular “Beautiful Gate.” Also known as the Nicanor Gate, this temple passageway connected the Women’s Court with the Court of the Gentiles. Josephus, a prominent Jewish historian, remarked that this gate featured incomparably priceless Corinthian bronze.

Charitable organizations often put volunteers at places of high crowd flow (e.g. traffic intersections, store fronts, etc.) to gather donations. In the ancient world, the poor and sick did essentially the same thing for the same reason. Without any means of financial support, the sick and poor relied almost exclusively on the donations of the faithful as they entered the Temple. The crippled man, like so many other beggars, was probably a regular fixture at the gate.

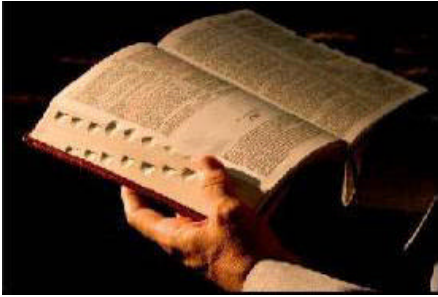
As Peter and John walked by, he asked them for a donation. Instead of providing a donation, the crippled man and all in the Temple were “filled with wonder and amazement” when Peter and John healed him (Acts 3:10). Note how Doctor Luke provided precise medical insight about the crippled man’s healing. “Instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong,” Dr. Luke reported in Acts 3:7.

Of course, the crippled man was so overjoyed that he exuberantly embraced Peter and John. Doing so, he caused quite a commotion in the Temple court as crowds gathered for the Evening Oblation.

Large crowds gathered in Solomon’s Columnade, a place where Jesus had often taught (e.g. John 10:23; et al.). There Peter and John demonstrated the real reason for the healing: to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, in whose name the miracle was performed.

Luke recorded this event for a number of reasons. Perhaps the most important reason was that it demonstrated that the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was not a one-time phenomenon. Though not explicitly mentioned as a cause for the healing or impetus for preaching in Acts 3, the Holy Spirit was there, with the disciples, empowering the Kingdom of God to continue just as Jesus had promised.

The sick were healed, the lame were made to walk, and people were called to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. The Kingdom of Christ was truly present—and marching on in an unstoppable manner.



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### Prayer:

Holy Spirit, Your power is the only power which can bring hearts to repentance and bring them to faith in Jesus Christ. Continue to work today in my life and in my church so that all may know the power of Jesus' love for us. Continue to move me to read the Word You have inspired. Change my heart and redirect my will to seek Your power each day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Thomas F. Fischer

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St. Peter And St. John At The Beautiful Gate Gustave Dore  
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