



## **A Testimony of Healing (Acts 3:1-10)**

*Notes: Week Seven*

### **Acts 3:1-10 (NIV)**

#### **Peter Heals a Lame Beggar**

**3** One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. <sup>2</sup> Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. <sup>4</sup> Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” <sup>5</sup> So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

<sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” <sup>7</sup> Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. <sup>8</sup> He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup> When all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

### **Acts 3:1-10 (HCSB)**

#### **Healing of a Lame Man**

**3** Now Peter and John were going up together to the temple complex at the hour of prayer at three in the afternoon. <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup> And a man who was lame from birth was carried there and placed every day at the temple gate called Beautiful, so he could beg from those entering the temple complex. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple complex, he asked for help. <sup>4</sup> Peter, along with John, looked at him intently and said, “Look at us.” <sup>5</sup> So he turned to them, <sup>[b]</sup> expecting to get something from them. <sup>6</sup> But Peter said, “I don’t have silver or gold, but what I have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!” <sup>7</sup> Then, taking him by the right hand he raised him up, and at once his feet and ankles became strong. <sup>8</sup> So he jumped up, stood, and started to walk, and he entered the temple complex with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup> All the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> and they recognized that he was the one who used to sit and beg at the Beautiful Gate of the temple complex. So they were filled with awe and astonishment at what had happened to him.

#### **Footnotes:**

- a. [Acts 3:1](#) Lit at the ninth hour
- b. [Acts 3:5](#) Or he paid attention to them

## Holman Christian Standard Bible - Study Bible<sup>1</sup>

### Acts 3:1-10

**3:1** Peter and John continued to participate in Jewish rituals and worship, and early Christians regularly gathered in the **temple complex** ([2:46](#)). This is fitting, for Christianity began as a form of contemporary Judaism that accepted Jesus as Messiah. The beginning stages of the church's separation from Judaism are recounted in Acts as Christian leaders such as Peter and Paul continued boldly to proclaim Jesus as Messiah. The full and final split of Christianity from Judaism came by the time of the first Jewish revolt against Rome (A.D. 66-70).

**3:2** This is the first healing miracle in Acts. The man was **lame** from birth and was daily carried to the **temple gate called Beautiful** so he could beg for money. In the era before governmental aid for needy persons, it was the kindness of strangers and loved ones that kept men such as this alive.

**3:6** It is good for the lame man that Peter and John had neither **silver or gold** to hand out, for what they did have to offer was of far greater value—healing power through **Jesus Christ**. Rather than a temporary fix, the man was given a permanent remedy for his physical and spiritual problems.

**3:7** The book of Acts recounts several healing miracles (e.g., [9:32-34,36-42](#)). During the Hellenistic period, knowledge of science and medicine was advanced enough that the bystanders recognized without a doubt that Peter had enacted a miracle. The mention of the strengthening of the lame man's **feet and ankles** may provide indirect support for the traditional view that the author, Luke, was a physician.

#### onoma

**Greek Pronunciation** [AH nah mah]

**HCSB Translation** name

**Uses in Acts** 60

**Uses in the NT** 231

**Focus passage** [Acts 3:6,16](#)

The Greek noun *onoma* means *name* and has several uses, such as the following: (1) Used for proper *names* of persons and places. (2) In [Revelation 3:1](#) *onoma* is rendered "reputation," as in the expression *he has made a name for*. (3) It also occurs in the sense of *title*, as in [Matthew 10:41](#) (the literal *in the name of a prophet* means "because he is a prophet" or "because he has the title *prophet*"). In [Hebrews 1:4](#) *onoma* refers to "Son" as the *name* or *title* that is more excellent than the angels' (see [vv. 2,5,8](#)), and in [Philippians 2:9](#) the "name that is above every name" is the *title* "Lord" (*kurios*), as explained in [verse 11](#). (4) Finally, the NT often demands that believers act for, or in the *name* of, Jesus Christ. The phrase "in Jesus' *name*" is not a mystical formula attached to the end of a prayer. It's an expression of faith that identifies the Person whom believers serve ([Mt 18:20](#); [Ac 2:38](#)).

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1. Jeremy Royal Howard, ed., *HCSB Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Acts 3".

## English Standard Version - Study Bible<sup>2</sup>

Acts 3:1-10

**3:1-10 Peter Heals a Lame Man.** The healing of a lame man at the temple gate provides an example of an apostolic miracle ([2:43](#)) and attracts a crowd to hear Peter's second sermon in the temple area. In Acts, actions often lead to an explanation about what God is doing; word and deed go together.

**3:2 alms.** Gifts of money or goods given to the poor.

**3:6** To heal **in the name of Jesus** was to invoke his power and presence.

**3:8** The reference to the man's leaping employs a rare word (Gk. *hallomai*), which is found in the Septuagint (Greek OT) of [Isa. 35:6](#) with reference to the messianic age.

## NLT Life Application Study Bible<sup>3</sup>

Acts 3:1-10

**3:1** The Jews observed three times of prayer—morning (9:00 AM), afternoon (3:00 PM), and evening (sunset). At these times devout Jews and Gentiles who believed in God often would go to the Temple to pray. Peter and John were going to the Temple for the afternoon prayer service.

**3:2** The Beautiful Gate was an entrance to the Temple, not to the city. It was one of the favored entrances, and many people passed through it on their way to worship. Giving money to beggars was considered praise worthy in the Jewish religion. So the beggar wisely placed himself where he would be seen by the most people who were on their way to worship at the Temple.

**3:5, 6** The lame man asked for money, but Peter gave him something much better—the use of his legs. We often ask God to solve a small problem, but he wants to give us a whole new life and help for all our problems. He may say, "I've got something even better for you." You may ask God for what you want, but don't be surprised when he gives you what you really *need*.

**3:6** "In the name of Jesus Christ" means "by the authority of Jesus Christ." The apostles were doing this healing through the Holy Spirit's power, not their own.

**3:7-10** In his excitement, the formerly lame man began to jump and walk around. He also praised God! Then others were awed by God's power. Don't forget to thank people who help you, but also remember to praise God for his care and protection.

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2. Lane T. Dennis, ed., *ESV Study Bible, The: English Standard Version*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Bibles, 2008), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Acts 3".

3. *Life Application Study Bible*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1988), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 1820.

## Life Essentials Study Bible<sup>4</sup>

### A Principle to Live By Acts #6: Honoring God

*from Acts 3:1—4:12*

**When God uses us to minister to others,  
we are always to give glory and honor to Jesus Christ.**

The apostles had exceptional and supernatural gifts and abilities. When describing the three vital experiences of a growing church, Luke also recorded that “many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles” ([2:43](#)). Paul later defended his own apostleship when he wrote, “The signs of an apostle were performed with great endurance among you—not only signs but also wonders and miracles” ([2Co 12:12](#)).

This unusual giftedness is also a specific fulfillment of what Jesus said would happen to these men after they returned to Jerusalem. They would “receive power when the Holy Spirit” came upon them, enabling them to be His witnesses ([Ac 1:8](#)). Throughout the book of Acts, this power Jesus spoke of is frequently associated with supernatural abilities and, most often though not always, is related to the specific ministry of the apostles who are identified as the “men of Galilee” ([1:11](#)).

In the opening chapters of the book of Acts, Peter and John emerged as the most prominent apostles who used this supernatural power. After they healed the lame beggar, the religious leaders asked them “by what power or in what name” they had performed this miracle. As spokesman, Peter responded by giving all glory and honor to Jesus Christ ([4:7-12](#)).

### Reflection and Response

*Even though we may not have the same miraculous gifts as these men,  
why must we still be on guard against the temptation to honor ourselves rather than Jesus Christ?*

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4. Gene Getz, *Life Essentials Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2011), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 1485.