



There is power in the name of Jesus

Acts 3 to 4:31

The last year or so has caused many to feel helpless and powerless against an enemy we can't even see. We have been required to watch the daily news to keep up-to-date with changing rules and regulations for public safety. However, constant bombardment with negative information from around the globe, has left many feeling even more helpless and powerless.

Keeping informed (knowledge in itself is not a bad thing) can be overwhelming and the issues of public health, changing climate and failing economies all take their toll and challenge our faith. The consequences of such huge problems are crippling world's economy and disabling the very freedom we have enjoyed for decades in the West.

So as believers in, and followers of Jesus, how are we respond to the confusion the world seems to be in? How are we to overcome the feeling of helplessness and powerlessness?

If fear (which can be healthy thing) has become a phobia (which always consumes) then let us turn to the word of God, where we will always find truth, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.

We are going to look at the story of a man crippled from birth, found in the Book of Acts chapter 3 & 4, which I hope you are already familiar with.

This man was unable to do anything for himself and was without God and without hope until that beautiful day when he was completely healed in the name of Jesus.

This helpless individual was looking for man to meet his needs. He had no idea what he truly needed, was not found in gold or silver but by faith in God's One and only Son, Jesus.

As we study the scriptures together, let us ask the Lord to encourage, enable and empower us to leap up and praise Him; to live free from the crippling effect of sin, and to not stop speaking about Jesus.

I would like to highlight 3 points from our study in the Book of Acts this morning, reading from chapters 3 & 4.

First let me summarise the story

- The man was crippled from birth;
- This was Peter's 2nd sermon;
- The accusation came from the Sadducees;
- The Apostle's response to the Sanhedrin's warning and command was to challenge them;
- The believer's gathered in prayer, to ask for more power and more opportunity to speak the word of God boldly.

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The name of Jesus has:

I) Power to heal II) Power to forgive III) Power to save.

I) By faith in the name of Jesus, there is healing:

Complete healing (Jesus proclaimed prophesy in Isaiah, recorded in Luke 4:18) *He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...*

3:16 *By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.*

II) Through repentance in the name of Jesus, there is forgiveness:

Forgiveness for sin (repentance is often left out of the gospel message of Good News)

3:19 *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*

III) By confessing the name of Jesus, there is salvation:

Salvation (**Romans 10:9** *if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*)

4:12 *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.'*

let's take a look at what else is going on in this miraculous account, which will help us live the Christian life in power.

The story began and ended with prayer (Acts 2:42 they met daily).

1) PRAY

3:1 *One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer*

4:24 *...they raised their voices together in prayer to God...*

2) GOD'S KINGDOM POWER NOT OUR OWN (*dunamis* - the root word in Greek for dynamo, dynamic and dynamite)

3:12 *Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?*

3) BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

4:8 *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit...*

4) SPEND TIME WITH JESUS

4:13 *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

5) EXPECT OPPOSITION

4:17-18 *But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.’ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.*

6) SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

4:19-20 *But Peter and John replied, ‘which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.’*

7) ASK TO BE FILLED AGAIN WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SPEAK THE WORD OF GOD BOLDLY

4:29-31 *... enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness...After they prayed...they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

The main point our study: the name of Jesus has power

I) Power to heal II) Power to forgive III) Power to save.

7 helpful points to remember from our study:

1. Pray always
2. It’s God’s Kingdom Power not ours
3. Be Filled with the Holy Spirit
4. Spend time with Jesus
5. Expect opposition from the religious and the rulers
6. Share your testimony
7. Ask to be filled again with the Holy Spirit to speak the word of God boldly

AMEN