

# The Ordinary Spirit-Empowered Life

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October 2, 2022

**Open:** How do we know if we're living a Spirit-empowered life?

**Read & Discuss:** Acts 3:1-26

1. What amazes you about Peter and John's response to this man who was begging at the gate of the temple (vv. 1-7)? What could have given these men confidence that God would act upon their speaking in the name of Jesus?
2. How would you explain what Peter means in verse 6 when he says, "what I do have I give to you"? What do we have that we can give to others in need? Why is it more common for us to think of meeting needs in material ways rather than meeting needs that require reliance on God's definite presence and power?
3. Note the response of the lame man to his healing (vv. 5, 8, 11) and the response of those who saw it (vv. 9-11). Share about an occasion when you also were filled with amazement at God's intervention.
4. How would you summarize the main points of Peter's message in verses 12-26? How do you typically build a bridge to the Gospel? Is there anything in Peter's model that might encourage you to try something new?
5. In verses 14-15, Peter condemns the Jews for their crucifixion of Jesus. Is this guilt-inducing strategy relevant in our current culture? Why or why not? Since people today are much further removed from the literal condoning of Jesus' crucifixion, how would you help them see their need for embracing the gospel?
6. In what ways is Peter's presentation of the Gospel hopeful? Often men like Peter spoke using Old Testament Scriptures, which were familiar to the Jews. How do we help people today who are unaware of such promises understand the beauty of God's plan for redeeming mankind?

**Apply:** What aspects of Peter and John's Spirit-empowered life should be normal for believers today? How can we cultivate such a life in ourselves?

**Prayer:** Ask God to give us confidence in Christ in our encounters with people who are in need. Pray for our church family to develop greater skill in building conversational bridges to the Gospel.

## **Acts 3:1-26.**

<sup>1</sup> Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup> And 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. <sup>3</sup> Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. <sup>4</sup> And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> But 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!" <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup> And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> and 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.

<sup>11</sup> While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. <sup>12</sup> And 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? <sup>13</sup> The 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. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And 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.

<sup>17</sup> "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup> But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup> Moses 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. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' <sup>24</sup> And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. <sup>25</sup> You 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.' <sup>26</sup> God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness." (ESV)

# **The Ordinary Spirit-Empowered Life**

Acts 3:1-26

What did a Spirit-empowered life look like in these early believers?

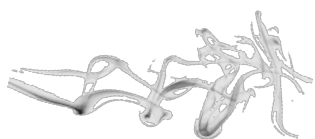
They were moved by the needs of those around them. (vv. 1-4a)

They were confident that in Jesus they had what the world needed. (v. 4b-6a)

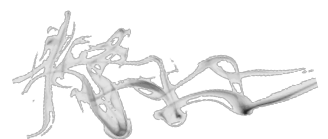
They believed in the power of Jesus' name. (vv. 6b-8, 16)

They were eager to turn conversations toward Jesus. (vv. 9-16)

They proclaimed the message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus. (vv. 17-26)



EMPOWERED  
WITNESSES



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