

The Extraordinary Church

A Healing Church

I. Introduction

- A. "Most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need, and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life extremely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbors and cheerfully accepting their pains. Many, in nursing and curing others, transferred other people's death to themselves and died in their stead.

The heathen behaved in the very opposite way. At the first onset of the disease, they pushed the sufferers away and fled from their dearest, throwing them into roads before they were dead, and treated unburied corpses as dirt, hoping thereby to avert the spread and contagion of the fatal disease; but do what they might, they found it impossible to escape." (Dionysius)

- B. Acts 3:1-3 (NAS) ¹Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. ²And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. ³When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms.
- C. Acts 3:4-8 (NAS) ⁴But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" ⁵And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!" ⁷And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. ⁸With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

II. What Two Things Are Necessary for Divine Healing?

- A. God's activity
1. Psalm 115:3 (NAS)
 2. II Peter 3:8-9 (NAS)
- B. Human availability
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 2. Acts 3:8 (NAS) ⁸With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

III. What Does Divine Healing Not Depend On?

- A. Our "greatness"
1. Acts 3:9-12 (NAS) ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God; ¹⁰and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. ¹¹While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement. ¹²But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"
 2. Acts 3:16 (NAS) ¹⁶"And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all."

- B. Our great prayers
 - 1. Matthew 6:7 (NAS)

IV. What Must Be Added to Divine Healing?

- A. Acts 3:13-16 (NAS) *¹³"The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. ¹⁴But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses. ¹⁶And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all."*
 - 1. We need to explain miracles!

- B. Romans 10:17 (NAS)

V. Conclusion