

## A Miracle and A Message

*Pastor Anthony J. Shetley*

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Acts 3 – Peter and John were going to the temple to pray at the time of the evening sacrifice, and as they approached the gate, they encountered a man who had been brought there by his family or friends because he was crippled. They placed him there in order for him to beg for money. This was the story of this man's life because he had been crippled from birth.

His hope for each day was circumstantial. He had to depend on the generosity of others. Would this be a good day? Would there be a lot of traffic at the temple? Will the people be generous today? Oh, that someone would come along and offer him gold or silver? Even so, no amount of money could buy this man his greatest desire – to be made whole.

This day would forever change this man's life. God had a miracle for him. Today, He would completely place his faith in the name of Jesus Christ, and as a result of his faith, he would receive from God what he could never receive from anyone else!

This man received the miracle of being made whole!

## The Miracle: Acts 3:6–8

### The Means of the Miracle.

**Acts 3:16** <sup>16</sup> 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.

To be made whole was not only the hope of this man but also of the whole nation of Israel. After the Lord's resurrection, His disciples asked Him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" (Acts 1:6 (NLT))

However, the people of God had refused faith in Jesus as the Christ. He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him. (John)

Peter seizing the opportunity afforded by the miracle, preached to them the resurrected Christ. Pointing to the scriptures, to Moses, and to all the prophets he proved how Jesus fulfilled all that was written concerning the Christ. He acknowledged their ignorance and preached to them the need for repentance.

## The Message: Acts 3:19-21

God draws us to His Son, calling us to repentance. If we turn our hearts to Him, He will not only forgive us for our sins, but He will wipe them away – blot them out of the books or records kept in heaven. **With the barrier of sin out of the way, the blessings of His kingdom become ours.**

"Times of refreshing" is only mentioned one other place in the bible. It is found in the Old Testament.

**Exodus 8:11** (NLT) The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials, and your people. They will remain only in the Nile River.

Here the pharaoh was looking for relief from the scourge of frogs sent by God on Egypt. A scourge was a whip used as an instrument of punishment; a person or thing that causes great trouble or suffering. Other similar words: affliction; curse; plague; evil; misfortune; burden; bitterness; trial; nuisance.

Jesus takes away the scourge of sin from our life. He destroys the works of the devil. We too, like the healed cripple, can leap for joy in that Jesus restores us and makes us whole.

**Matthew 11:28–30** (NLT) <sup>28</sup> Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest... you will find rest for your souls.

Sin obstructs the refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Sin is the rejection of Jesus and the way of Christ. We reject Him through our disobedience; our not trusting in His way. We desire to be whole, but we seek another way; our way; the world's way. **It is our lack of faith that rolls up the windows of Heaven.**

God is sending His Son back. He's coming back as the king of kings. He's going to restore all things once and for all. These words are true and faithful!

Who desires a "time of refreshing" from the presence of the Lord? Who desires a home in His eternal kingdom?

If we want the miracles, we must heed the message!!!