

February 3, 2019

THE GOD I NEVER KNEW – Part 2

## “The Spirit Works Through People”

**Acts 3:1-2** (NIV): “<sup>1</sup>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 crippled 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.”

**Acts 3:6-7** (NIV): “<sup>6</sup>Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I 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.”

**Peter makes it clear that the power for this miraculous healing comes from Jesus.**

**Acts 3:19** (NIV): “<sup>19</sup>Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord”

**Jesus offers us not only forgiveness from our past sins but peace now with God and ourselves, and a hope for the future with Jesus forever, as we, too, “repent” and “turn to God.”**

**Acts 4:4** (NIV): “But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.”

**Acts 4:1-3** (NIV): “<sup>1</sup>The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. <sup>2</sup>They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. <sup>3</sup>They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.”

**Acts 4:7** (NIV): “They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: ‘By what power or what name did you do this?’”

**Ordinarily, we’d expect Peter and John to be cowering, afraid, scared for their lives, but Luke tells us nothing could be further from the truth.**

**Acts 4:8-14** (NIV): “<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: ‘Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup>If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup>then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup>He is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.”’ <sup>12</sup>Salvation is found in no

one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.' <sup>13</sup>When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup>But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say."

## **BIBLICAL TRUTHS HERE ABOUT BEING A WITNESS FOR JESUS:**

### **1. Jesus uses ordinary people, but through his Spirit, enables extraordinary witness.**

**How could Peter stand up before the Jewish leadership and proclaim God's Good News about Jesus?**

- "these men had been with Jesus"
- they were filled with the Holy Spirit

### **2. Some people will try to dismiss our witness for Jesus, but we're not defenseless.**

**Jesus:** "'<sup>12</sup>But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. <sup>13</sup>This will result in your being witnesses to them. <sup>14</sup>But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. <sup>15</sup>For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.'" (Luke 21:12-15 NIV)

**The Holy Spirit enabled Peter to present a defense of his faith in Jesus, including the public healing of the beggar, that left the Sanhedrin with "nothing [to] say," just as Jesus has promised.**

### **3. Realize that Jesus and the Christian faith claim he is the only way to salvation.**

**Acts 3:12** (NIV): "'Salvation is found in no one else [than Jesus Christ of Nazareth], for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.'"

**Jesus:** "'<sup>13</sup>Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup>But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.'" (Matthew 7:13-14 NIV)

**Jesus:** "... 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" (John 14:6 NIV)

**Truth isn't relative, and to withhold the truth about Jesus is ultimately evil and furthers Satan's efforts.**

#### 4. Sharing our witness is a critical way we love our neighbor.

Jesus: “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35 ESV)

We fail to love when we fail to share out witness.

Acts 4:19-20 (NIV): “<sup>19</sup>But Peter and John replied, ‘Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. <sup>20</sup>For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.’”

**Next Week: The Spirit Works Through Community (Acts 2:42-47, 4:23-5:11)**

Get the *Life Journal* Bible Reading Plan at [gateway-community.org/Find-it](http://gateway-community.org/Find-it)

Follow Randy on Twitter @HagemanRandy

## Onscreen Notes

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### (Slide1 - Beautiful Gate)

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**1. Jesus uses ordinary people, but through his Spirit, enables extraordinary witness.**

*(show these three lines as a “build,” starting with question and then adding each bullet point at the appropriate time so all this ends up on the third slide)*

**How could Peter stand up before the Jewish leadership and proclaim God’s Good News about Jesus?**

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**2. Some people will try to dismiss our witness for Jesus, but we’re not defenseless.**

**Jesus:** “<sup>12</sup>But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. <sup>13</sup>This will result in your being witnesses to them. <sup>14</sup>But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. <sup>15</sup>For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.” (Luke 21:12-15 NIV)

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