

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 3:11-26

Let's Give Thanks by Making the
Most of Every Opportunity

*Three imperatives for making our gratitude more
than just words this Thanksgiving*

Acts 3:11-26

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹² 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? ¹³ 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.

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¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

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¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ 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.

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²² 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. ²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' ²⁴ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.

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²⁵ 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.’ ²⁶ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

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1. Believers, make the most of your opportunities to act according to the power and authority Jesus provides.

- Peter acted by the authority of Jesus. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Peter acted out of the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of Jesus.
- Peter's faith here was a tremendous blessing to others.
- Our faith, or lack thereof, will impact others one way or the other.

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2. Believers, make the most of your opportunities to share the Gospel with others using words the Holy Spirit will give you.

- The Holy Spirit will provide the opportunities and the words to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Peter's message wasn't necessarily planned, but he was always prepared to speak of Jesus and people's need for Him.
- When Peter had the people's attention, he didn't waste the opportunity to turn their attention to Jesus' saving grace.

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2. Believers, make the most of your opportunities to share the Gospel with others using words the Holy Spirit will give you.

- A breakdown of Peter's message:
 - Anything good in me or from me is not me...
 - All my good is all because of all of Jesus...
 - You are currently in peril because you crucified and have rejected Jesus, the Messiah, as prophesied by God's Word...
 - It is not too late until it is too late to turn to Jesus for salvation...

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3. Unbelievers, make the most of your present opportunity to trust Jesus for forgiveness and salvation while you still can.

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