



## WEEKLY STUDY

### ***The Marks of a Movement - Week Two***

Acts chapter 3 comes after the rhythms of the early church had begun to take shape. We see the disciples demonstrate a focused and humble boldness. Those who had experienced the presence and power of God's Spirit began to act with confidence, not just in their religiosity and doctrine, but in the wild working of God to bring healing and new life. As you study and pray this week, may you also be challenged to live with a focused, humble boldness that will help others to experience the power of God in their lives.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

#### Prayer Focus:

- Pray for our student mission team who is serving this week in West Virginia. Pray that they would both witness and testify to the power of God to work miracles.

## DAILY STUDY

### **MONDAY: ACTS 3.1-5 (NIV)**

*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 who was lame 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.<sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.<sup>4</sup> Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!”<sup>5</sup> So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.*

- Peter and John were going to the temple at the afternoon hour of prayer. The gate was the spot where a beggar could come and ask for money. This beggar had been lame for all 40 years of his life. Someone would carry him to the high traffic area of the gate in hopes of collecting money. As someone who couldn't work, this may have seemed like his only option. A more cynical perspective would cause us to ask about the motivation of those who carried him. Was anyone hoping to capitalize on his infirmity? Either way, it was a rough existence without much hope. When Peter and John appeared he asked them for money. He was merely hoping they might toss a coin his way. He didn't yet know what it was he could have been asking for. Are there times when it is easier just to "toss the coin" to someone in need rather than make eye contact? Where would this man go in your community in order to beg? How would he be received?
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- **Prayer Prompt: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; (Psalm 113.7)**
- *God, help me to see those in need around me today. Give me the courage of Peter to stop and truly see them. Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: ACTS 3.6-10 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do 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. <sup>8</sup> He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup> When all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

- The beggar had asked for the lesser gift (silver and gold), but Peter didn't mess around. He didn't take the occasion to lecture the man on the better thing—he simply commanded him, in the name of Jesus Christ, to walk! We will find that the sermon came later, but it would be aimed at those who were offended by this healing. For now, the message was clear. There is power in the name of Jesus Christ to bring healing. And the healing brings joy, wonder and amazement which is contagious. Have you ever been close to a miraculous healing? Have you ever seen the work of God cause wonder and amazement for a whole group of people?
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- **Prayer Prompt: “I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? (Jeremiah 32.27)**
- *Holy God, I want to live in wonder and amazement. I open myself to see where you are moving in the world around me today. Amen.*

### WEDNESDAY: ACTS 3.11-15 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. <sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. <sup>14</sup> You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

- Peter quickly turns to meaning-making. The crowd is paying attention. They are astonished at the healing of the lame man. Peter and John aren’t about to take a victory lap. This is the kind of moment to point to the glory of God. This is the kind of moment to lift up the name of Jesus. So Peter picked up from his Pentecost sermon and declared that the same Jesus whose life they could have spared, was nonetheless raised from the dead. And if Jesus had been raised from the dead, what’s to keep a lame man from walking?

This is the formula for effective Christian preaching. Attention is drawn away from the lame man, and away from the apostles themselves. Everyone is looking at Jesus together! How can the story of your life ultimately point to Jesus?

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- **Prayer Prompt: And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3.18)**
- *O Lord God, I pray that my life today will reflect the image of Christ to the world who so desperately needs to see his resurrection power at work. Amen.*

### THURSDAY: 2 CORINTHIANS 12.12 (NIV)

*I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles.*

- Paul was concerned about the Christians in Corinth and reminded them of the signs, wonders and miracles they had seen him perform. In what felt like a desperate moment for the church, Paul was pointing back to what God had already done, as an encouragement to live faithfully. What are some of the signs, wonders, and miracles that draw your community back to faithfulness?

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- **Prayer Prompt: when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’<sup>7</sup> tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. (Joshua 4.6-7)**
  - *God, move your Spirit through my entire community. Point us to the many ways in which you have moved and are moving right now. May we live lives of awe and wonder at your greatness! Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: DEUTERONOMY 10.21-22 (NIV)**

*Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name.<sup>21</sup> He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.*

- Miracles have been a part of God’s story from creation to the redemption of God’s people. Over time, we tend to become used to them. Deuteronomy resonates with Peter’s words in Acts 3. It’s God! God has performed so many amazing things. You’ve seen them! So hold fast to the God of miracles. Is there a story of God’s faithfulness that you haven’t shared in a while? Jot it down and ask God to give you a person or people to share it with.
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- **Prayer Prompt: That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. (1 John 1.1)**
- *God, I repent of any minimizing of your miracles I may be guilty of. I want to magnify them and proclaim boldly. Amen.*

#### **SATURDAY: ACTS 14.3 (NIV)**

*So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.*

- At one of their missionary stops, Paul and Barnabas were dealing with great division among the people. Their preaching though, was bold and focused and led to signs and wonders performed through God’s grace. Sometimes we need something out of the ordinary, something clearly beyond ourselves to point to. (Ever hear of [Ed the Zebra](#) of Middle Tennessee?!) Signs and wonders cause us to lift up our heads and see just how small we are—and how big God is. Where are you seeking unity? What moments of collective awe can you celebrate?
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- **Prayer Prompt: The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. (Proverbs 28.1)**
  - *God, would you make me bold in my faith today. Not bold for my own glory, but for yours. Amen.*

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Jacob shared a miracle story from Providence Church. After reading through Acts 3.1-15, share any miraculous stories from your own life.

- How did they impact the people involved?
- How did they impact the community?
- How was God glorified through them?