

Powerlines

Acts 3:1-10

Offering the Power of Christ

The Beautiful Gate?





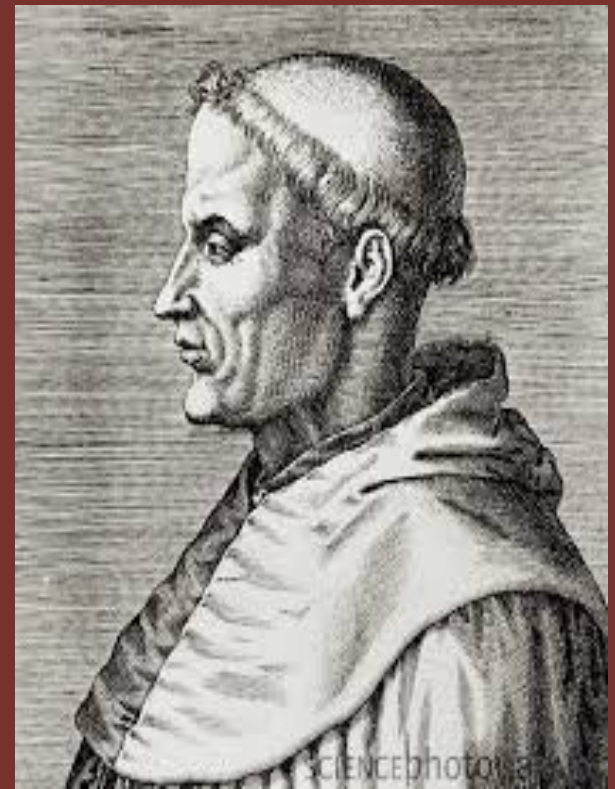


Notice the Particulars

- Place – Temple and Gate
- Time – 3PM – the hour of prayer
- Person – Lame since birth
- First miracle of the Church – healing
- Healing without overt evangelism

The Spirit's Offer to Everyone

- 120 – thousands – one lame man
- Ascension – Temple – daily beggar
- Forty days – ten days – 40 years sick
- Signs and wonders – a lame man
- Angels – awe – one free, praising God



*"True holy father, **BUT** neither
can she NOW say, 'RISE and walk'"*

-THOMAS AQUINAS 1225-1274

1. Living in the Name of Jesus

- The God who is Named
- The Name is the Person
- To be 'in' a name is to be relationship with
- To belong to Another

1. Living in the Name of Jesus

- Meaning of 'in the name'
'called by My name'

Someone else's responsibility

'in whose name?'

Under someone's authority

'ask in my name'

In someone's character

2:21 “everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

2:38 "Repent and be baptized...
in the name of Jesus.”

3:6 “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”

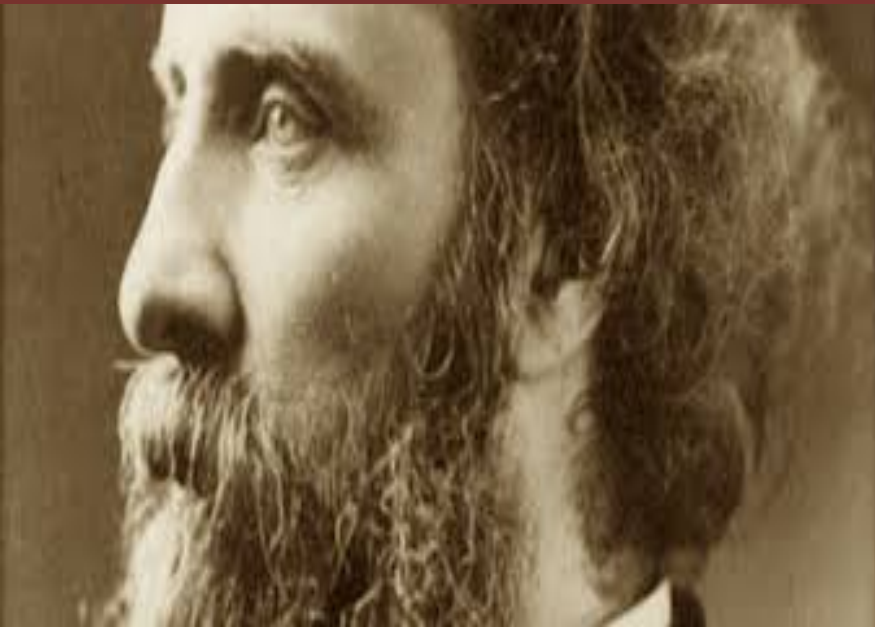
3:16 And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong



Our Scientific Reservations

- Suffering and evil persists
- Science trumps faith
- Experimentation rejects trust
- Miracles are 'crutches' for illiterate
- Skeptical of religious emphasis

George MacDonald



“The miracles of Jesus were the ordinary works of his Father, wrought small and swift that we might take them in.”

Miracles still occur

- The power of God is just as available
- The whole Gospel is still applicable

For body AND spirit

- Jesus never told anyone not to seek healing
- God desires us to trust Him fully

2. Expressing Normal Belief

- Acts 1 – Ascent to the Father
“what are you looking at?”
- Acts 2 – Descent of the Holy Spirit
“sharing as any might have need”
- Acts 3 – Consent to walk in the Spirit
“what I do have I give you”

The Spirit in Normal Life

- Peter and John!
- 2X2 – ministry always in pairs – never an individual thing
- Health connected to relationships
- Community offers grace to culture

3. Offering His Name

- Willing to engage with deep needs (4)
- Point beyond normal expectation (5)
- Always clarify the Source of Healing (6)
- Take the risk of radical faith (6)
- Personally act in belief (6)
- Never separated from the Gospel (12-26)

The Line of His Power

Body filled with the Holy Spirit

Obey - 'In My Name'

Gaze

Offer

Touch

Believe

Praise

Inseparable elements to the display of the Power of Jesus

- Prayer – Spirit-vitalized power

Prayerlessness is powerlessness

- Persecution – Rejection of Power

Presence reveals powerplays