

Just Another Normal Day

Acts 3:1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Peter and John were faithful to pray at the appointed hour of prayer, the ninth hour or about 3:00 p.m. The early church continued to be dedicated to prayer (Acts 1:14; 2:42).

Acts 3:2-3 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.

3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

Peter and John met a forty-year-old (Acts 4:22) man who was born crippled. He had to be carried everywhere (no wheelchairs) and had to beg for an income.

A Normal Day: All Peter and John were doing was going to the temple to pray as they normally did. All the lame man was asking for was a financial handout as he normally did.

BUT the Holy Spirit had a different agenda on this Day!

Acts 3:4-6 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

6 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.”

After Peter spoke the word of faith to the crippled man, he helped encourage the man’s faith by taking him by the right hand and lifting the man to his feet. Remember, the man was over forty and had never stood on his own two feet. Immediately after Peter lifted him up, his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Acts 3:8-11 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. The first step may have required Peter’s encouragement, but the second, third, and others didn’t. He leaped up, stood, and walked- but not just calmly walking. He entered the temple walking, leaping, and praising God.

9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, Everyone in the temple saw him! And they praised God. When people see our good works they will glorify our Father in heaven!

10 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.

Tell your story! Share your story! Others need to hear it and be filled with amazement and wonder too!

11 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.

- **How long had this man been begging at the Gate Beautiful?**

We can safely assume it was most of his adulthood. A least 20 years, 7,300 days or more. Begging became his profession and livelihood.

- **How many times had Peter and John walked past this lame man?**

We don’t know exactly. At least a year? Since the Day of Pentecost, they had been going to the temple for daily for prayer. And remember this same man had been sitting there daily.

This is the Day!

So, Peter and John were passing by a man in need daily and that God was fully aware of this man’s need. He was not healed many times. But this day was different. God had chosen that this would be his day! It was time for God’s glory to be experienced and demonstrated!

- Without warning, a day like any other, doing the routines of life, this was the lame man’s day!

One touch from God changes everything! Bill Godwin

Do you realize that today, this could be your day!

You may have a need today. It may seem to you that God has passed you by many times before. You may be discouraged. Things may look like they are getting worse. You may be on the verge of giving up.

God may look at you today and say this is your day! Crippled Man, rise and walk! So, with that knowledge and understanding, we should start each and every day with a sense of expectation!

Live With EXPECTATION!

How many of you believe what Gabriel told Mary in **Luke 1:37? For no word from God will ever fail.” NKJV – “For with God nothing will be impossible.”**

It’s good to believe that God’s word doesn’t fail and God can do anything. We should believe that. We call ourselves believers! But we need to move beyond belief.

James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that —and shudder.

I think we should be on a higher level than the Demons’ belief system. Don’t you?

If we believe God can do anything, and I feel that we do, then the question we should be asking ourselves is do we EXPECT God to do anything? Are we living with EXPECTATION?

Have we lived with our need or needs for so long, over forty years for the lame man, that we don’t really expect God to act on our behalf? Oh, **we believe that He can. But do we expect Him to do it today?**

We need to raise our level of expectation today! We need to believe and expect that today is our day!

Today’s Next Step: Today I will live with belief and expectation, rather than doubt and unbelief!

The Faith Death Spiral

People often have a doctrine in which they believe: God can save my children, heal my body, set me free from my addictions... but they may discover that, in life, their experiences may not match up to their belief standards. Therefore, when people experience less than what they believe is possible, they begin to lower their doctrinal standards, belief levels, and expectations to match their experiences.

- Then, instead of believing for God’s highest and best, people expect less.
- Then due to doubt and unbelief, they experience less.
- After experiencing less, they again lower their belief and expectation levels, resulting in a Faith Death Spiral rather than a cycle of belief and expectation.

We must keep our expectation levels high; not just believing that God is able but expecting to see God move on the behalf of His people according to His Word.

We need to live in an atmosphere of belief and expectation!

Creating An Atmosphere of Expectation

1. Realize that God is not limited.

God is the Supreme Ruler, and He is not limited to any doctrinal box in which we try to put Him. He can do whatever He wants to do when He wants to do it!

Luke 1:37 “For with God nothing will be impossible.”

2. Remember God’s faithfulness.

Joel 2:23 Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.

Psalms 37:25-26 I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

26 They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.

3. **Keep believing in His Word and His promises.**

Do not lower your belief standards to match your experiences. Believe that your experiences will soon match your beliefs. Jesus said. **“Everything is possible for one who believes.” Mark 9:23**

Philippians 1:19-20 for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Numbers 23:19 God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Today’s Next Step: Rather than trusting in what I am currently seeing or experiencing, I will discover and stand on the promises of God! The promises will keep my expectations high!

4. **Don’t shrink back.**

Hebrews 10:38-39 ...“But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.” **39** But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

Keep praying, asking, and seeking.

Matthew 7:7-8 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

5. **Be patient.**

Romans 8:18-19 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. **19** For the creation waits in **eager expectation** for the children of God to be revealed.

Hebrews 6:12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

6. **Repent - change your way of thinking.**

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” In this context, the Greek word used here for ‘repent’ is **metanoeo (met-an-o-eh’-o)**; which means **“to think differently,”** i.e., reconsider; always, when used in the New Testament, involves a change for the better.

Therefore **“Change Your Way of Thinking.”** Change how you think about things. Stop doubting God. Start expecting God to move mightily in your life.

Pray as Jesus taught us, **“your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**
Matthew 6:10

After you have prayed, expect it to happen!

2023 THEME “Today is the Day!”

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 NLT As God’s partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God’s kindness and then ignore it.

2 For God says, “At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.” Indeed, the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation.

TODAY IS SUNDAY, JANUARY TWENTY SECOND, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE AND TODAY IS THE DAY I EXPECT A MIRACLE!