

Q: (vv.21-24) Peter reminds these Jews that the Old Testament prophets foretold Jesus as Messiah (Gen 3:15; Duet 18:15; 2 Sam 7:10-16; Ps 22; Isa 53; Zech 12:10). Why is it necessary (especially to the Jews here) to demonstrate the connection between the OT and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus?

Q: Repentance can be difficult as well as turning back to God (v.19). Sometimes like stated in Hosea 6:1-2, God has to break us (“He has torn us”), break our stubborn selfish will, so He can heal us, bind us up, and revive us. He can lead us to repentance so we can truly find forgiveness (our sins are “blotted out”) and find “times of refreshing” from a restored relationship (presence) with the Lord. Describe a time God had to “break you” to lead you to repentance so you could experience His healing and mercy.

Q: (v.25) God’s covenant with Abraham in Gen 12:1-3 was that all people would be blessed through him. As a descendant of Abraham, Jesus fulfilled this covenant (and all the OT covenants). Jesus was sent to reach the Jews (Israel) first (so they could be a “light to the nations” - Isa 49:6). Then the Gospel would spread to the ends of the earth. How would this give these people hope?

PRAY: Lord, thank you for your Holy Spirit’s presence in my life. Thank you for your mercy. Please increase my faith. Help me to be a willing instrument of your grace, mercy and your power. There is power in your name, Jesus! Extend your healing and forgiveness through me and your people, your willing servants. May Your gospel light shine in and through me. May we give you all glory and honor and praise, in Jesus name, Amen!

In the Old Testament God promised that through the coming Messiah (Jesus) God would be “with us.” Jesus then promised His disciples that through the Holy Spirit, God would live “in us.” In Acts 2 the Holy Spirit came upon the believers, empowered them to witness for Christ, and many were added daily to their fellowship. They met in homes, ate, fellow-shipped together, learned from the Apostles teaching, met needs together, discipling one another along the way. All the work done in the early church was done in the power of the Holy Spirit. Here in Chapter 3, God would continue to work powerfully to draw many to find salvation through Christ, repenting and turning away from sin, receiving Christ as Lord.

In WWII in the Pacific, the US engaged in what was called an “island hopping strategy.” Essentially, the Marines would invade one island at a time, establish a “beachhead” allowing more reinforcements to enter through the breach and ultimately push the enemy off the island. Once the Marines established a beachhead, they were never pushed off the island throughout the war. In a similar way, when the Holy Spirit comes into the life of a new believer, He establishes a permanent foothold and day by day, helps push the enemy (Satan, lies, reoccurring sin, ungodly thoughts, words, attitudes, etc.) out of our lives (Phil 1:6) to make us more like Christ.

Q: Read the following verses and list some of the ways the Holy Spirit is currently at work in the life of every believer: (John 16:7-9, 13-14; Rom 8:16, 26-27; 1 Cor 6:11; 12:11-13; Eph 1:13-14; 2:4-5; 4:1-3; John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5; Acts 1:8; Gal 5:22-23; 1 Jn 4:7)

Q: (3:1-10) How does this reflect Jesus’ words in John 14:12-14?

Q: This 40+ year old man (4:22) was lame from birth and without help and hope. Hanging out at the Temple gate with many pious Jews entering would provide many donations. But it made no real difference in his life. How have you (or someone you know) felt without hope or any help to fix your situation? How did God show up in that situation?

Q: (v.3-5) The man saw Peter and John and asked for money. He had a natural desire, but instead, God through Peter, gave the man what he really *needed*. Think about a time you asked God for something you wanted, didn't receive it, but instead received something you really needed? (*Ask God each day to meet your true *needs*, not your selfish *wants**)

Q: How does the physical healing of this helpless, hopeless man, compare to our spiritual salvation through Jesus' work on the cross? How were we helpless and hopeless apart from Christ? (John 5:24; Rom 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; Titus 3:3-7); (also compare with Luke 4:18-19; 5:17-26; 7:20-23)

Q: Sometimes God's greater purpose is not physical healing, but in the amazing things God wants to do through that individual (see Exo 4:10-12; John 9:1-3+). What greater purpose does this physical healing serve? (see vv.8-13, 16, 4:4-14). What does the Holy Spirit do next through Peter?

Q: How can we the church, *speak hope* into broken lives (Ps 147:3) and *give practical help* to meet needs in our community?

Q: (3:1-10) How does this passage help refocus our mission today? Led by the Spirit, what do we have to offer to those in need? The man could now provide for himself and *praised God for His mercy*.

Q: (vv.11-16) Peter took advantage of the gathering crowds in the Temple and made it very clear this miraculous healing was not done by their own strength or piety, but he clearly gave all credit and glory to Jesus. In what ways throughout our daily activities can we publicly give glory to God for all He has done?

Q: (vv.13-15) How did Peter describe Jesus to the gathered Jews?

Q: (vv. 17-20) The people "acted in ignorance" when they crucified Jesus, their promised Messiah. God gives them another chance to repent (turn from sin and turn to God for mercy, grace, forgiveness and new life). Describe what will happen if they do? Why is it necessary for everyone to truly *repent* of their sins and *then* receive Christ? (Christ did all the *work*; we need to believe, repent and receive).
