

Reflections on the Character of God

The reflection section has 5 scriptures that pertain to this week's aspect of God's character. Take one passage a day and reflect on it in the context you find. Note your insights.

The life response sections give you 2 more verses to ponder. These passages relate to your response to the name, title, or attribute of God. Write down practical responses.

God's Patience

Reflection: Nehemiah 9:28-31; Romans 2:3,4; 1 Timothy 1:15-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22; 2 Peter 3:8,9

Life Response:

Psalm 40:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:14

A Discipleship Journey - Acts of The Holy Spirit Spiritual Lameness - February 20, 2022

Primary text: Acts 3:1-10

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. -vs. 1

The hour of Prayer or the ninth hour is at 3 pm. It's the time of the daily temple sacrifice.

And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. -vs. 2

This man is lame from birth and 40 years old.

Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. -vs. 3

And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. -vs. 4, 5

But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" -vs. 6

Too many Christians are praying for stuff when God wants to change them.

When the name of Jesus is applied at the direction of the Holy Spirit, you are speaking with God's authority.

"By what power or by what name did you do this?" - Acts 4:7

The word name is associated with the word power.

The power in the name can only be used by a person who has a connection to the name.

You cannot give away what you do not have.

And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. -vs. 7

We have a generation stuck in spiritual lameness that needs "Peters and Johns" to raise it up.

And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. -vs. 8

"then shall the lame man leap like a deer" - Isa. 35:6

And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. -vs. 9 & 10

Healing can be an amazing witnessing opportunity!

Are you spiritually walking and leaping and praising God?

Discussion Questions:

Begin by reading Acts 3:1-10

1. Why were Peter and John going to the temple? How did temple worship change for them?
2. Why was the beggar there at the gate? What do we know about him?
3. In speaking to him, why did Peter say "In the name of Jesus"?
4. Why was the miracle of his healing so amazing? What took place physiologically?
5. What would his "leaping" remind Jews of?
6. Why does God use healing miracles? Why don't we see more of them in the West?
7. Spiritually are you walking, leaping, and praising God?

Close in Prayer:

Pray for our church that we would be a place where the spiritually lame are healed and raised to their feet. Pray also that the "Peters and Johns" would speak the name of Jesus and take people by the hand.