

HEALED

July 9, 2017 | Pastor Randy Remington

The Book of Acts was written by a Greek-speaking Syrian who was a doctor. Dr. Luke also wrote a book (Gospel) that carries his name. Luke was a first-hand interviewer of eye witnesses of the events of the life of Jesus and the first century church. He was also a close friend and most likely a disciple of Paul.

Luke wanted us to see Jesus as a “healer”, but as we will see, it was much more than physical healing. In our study we will see that Luke uses four different Greek words translated as “healing”, but each one give us unique insight. We will see that His healing encompasses not only our bodies, but our spirit, our souls, our minds, our cities, nations and eventually all of creation...the universe.

The disciples have obeyed the command of Jesus to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit and empowerment. After that happens in Acts 2, Peter and John go to the temple, where a healing happens that would cause a monumental change in everything from that point on...let’s read;

“One day, Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 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. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

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.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 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”. (Acts 3:1-10)

The Primacy of Jesus in this Story:

- Healing is not earned, nor is it by human ability, but is the gift of Jesus.

“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?” (Acts 3:12)

- Healing brings glory to Jesus

“The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus.” (Acts 3:13)

- Healing is in the name of Jesus

“By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.” (Acts 3:16)

- Healing brings opportunity to witness for Jesus

“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. 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?” (Acts 3:11-12)

This man has been dependent on others for 40 years. He was a beggar in a society with no safety nets. I'm sure there were days he had no food. But he will encounter two men of God and the power of the Holy Spirit of God who will bring "healing". As we mentioned, Luke will use 4 different words to describe healing, let's look together:

1. Healing that Strengthens

"Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong." (Acts 3:7)

"... became strong.": ste-re-o'-ō = to reinforce; to give strength to something that is weak; to make firm what has a tendency to fail.

For some of us, over a certain age, this Greek word may sound familiar. Many of us were fascinated as the "stereo" would take the weak sound, the music and strengthen it...amplify it.

If you were to see this man sitting by the temple, his feet and ankles were probably covered by his robes and would seem normal. But his body had a weakness; a weakness that became debilitating. God, through His servants, addressed this weakness. For us today, what is your weakness? All of our weaknesses need to be brought into the light. Understand that God will meddle in our business; He will get into our space. There is an element of shame that the enemy of our souls will use to keep things in the darkness. God wants to shine His light on it so He can heal it.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin". (1 John 1:7)

2. Healing that Completes

"By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see." (Acts 3:16)

"...completely healed him,...": ho-lo-klā-rē'-ā = unimpaired in every part; all members of the body are fit and healthy, soundness in every part.

Jesus brought a complete work that touched far beyond a physical healing. Many years before it appears that Isaiah was referring to how God would "heal".

"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy." (Isaiah 35:5-6)

3. Healing that Delivers

"If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed (made whole)." (Acts 4:9)

"...healed (made whole).": sō'-zō = to save; rescued; delivered; keep from harm, preserve, rescue, to save from judgment.

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

Our minds go back to the man who was lowered through the roof of a house to be healed by Jesus. Jesus would surprise everyone by saying "your sins are forgiven", this is "sozo"..."made whole".

Although you may have been told differently, miracles is not the suspending of the natural order. Actually just the opposite, God is doing the natural, normal thing. It is the way God intended it to be, the way it was supposed to be.

4. Healing that say's 'God Cares.'

"But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say." (Acts 4:14)

"...healed...": the-rä-pyü'-ō = caring for; to heal; taking care of; nursing back to health.

This is the root word where we get our word, "therapy". This man had to wonder, "does anyone care about me"? In his culture most people would have looked down on him. Many would have believed that he did something to deserve this.

Peter and John's actions said to him, "God cares". It's no different for us with people around us; reaching out with God's healing (with all that means) will tell them God cares!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. After reading our passage in Acts, look at the four points that Pastor Randy gave us concerning; "The Primacy of Jesus in this Story". What do you notice about these, and how does they impact you?
2. Luke used four different Greek words for healing. Our first is under "Healing that Strengthens", where Luke uses ste-re-o'-ō. What did you see in this first point?
3. Under "Healing that Completes", we read ho-lo-klā-rē'-ä. What do we learn from this point and how does our verse in Isaiah 35 relate to what we are seeing in this incident?
4. For "Healing that Delivers", Luke uses sō'-zō. A key to understanding this section may be how one version translates "sozo", "made whole". What do you think?
5. Lastly, our fourth point is "Healing that says God Cares", the-rä-pyü'-ō. After you feel you have a good grasp on the word, think about this man. What might he be feeling with so many people walking by him every day? Maybe even Jesus? What was he thinking, wondering, hoping for after so many years? What did the actions of Peter and John communicate to him? What does this speak about your life today?