



WORK OF THE SPIRIT

Acts Chapters 3 and 4

Lesson 3

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Share a way last week's lesson or lecture on Acts 2 touched your life.
2. In Acts chapters 3 and 4, Peter and John are brought before the same council that condemned Jesus to death. The council demanded to know the authority by which Peter and John were able to heal a lame man. Whereas, before the crucifixion of Jesus, Peter and John cowered before this same assembly; they now boldly proclaimed the death, resurrection, and power of the Lord.

As you read these chapters note the difference the Holy Spirit made in disciples. Remember, this same Holy Spirit desires to fill you with boldness to speak in Jesus' name. Give a title to each section below:

- a. Acts 3:1-10
 - b. Acts 3:11-26
 - c. Acts 4:1-22
 - d. Acts 4:23-37
3. Before you delve into this amazing narrative, write a prayer asking the Lord to speak to you through His Word.

*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

SECOND DAY: Read Acts 3:1–10

1. Use Acts 3:1–3 to set the scene for the miracle that occurred.

2. What did Peter do when the lame man *asked for alms*? Acts 3:4
 - a. What was the lame man's expectation? Acts 3:5

3. What did Peter tell him? Acts 3:6a
 - a. Instead, what did Peter *give* to him? Acts 3:6b–7
 - (1) Note in whose *name* Peter did this. Why do you think this was meaningful?

 - b. What do you suppose might have happened if Peter or John had *silver and gold*?
 - (1) Why was this gift better?

 - (2) How does this encourage you?

4. From Acts 3:8–10 note the chain of events that followed.
 - a. What strikes you about this scene?

5. Share a testimony of God's transforming work in your life.

THIRD DAY: Read Acts 3:11–26

1. According to Acts 3:11–12, after *the lame man was healed* an amazed crowd gathered around Peter and John. Seizing the opportunity, Peter made it clear that this miracle had nothing to do with their *own power or godliness*. Instead, he began to speak of Jesus. Using Acts 3:13–15 choose specific phrases from Peter's message that stand out to you.

- a. To what did Peter attribute the lame man's healing? Acts 3:16
 - (1) How does this speak to you? See also Proverbs 18:10.
2. In Acts 3:17 Peter acknowledged that the Jews' mistreatment of Jesus was *in ignorance*. Yet, how did these things fulfill God's plan? Acts 3:18
 - a. Link this with Luke 23:34 and share your thoughts.
 - b. In response to these truths, what did Peter urge the crowd to do? Acts 3:19a
 - c. Read Acts 3:19b–21 (NLT) to remark on what would result from their repentance: *Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and He will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. For He must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through His holy prophets.*
3. Peter pointed out that all the *holy prophets*, including Moses, had testified of the coming Messiah. From Acts 3:22–24 comment on Moses' prophecy.
4. From Acts 3:25–26a record the advantages of the Jews.
 - a. According to Acts 3:26b, why was Jesus *sent* to *bless* the Jews?
5. What impresses you from Peter's message?
 - a. How do you think you would have responded to this message?

FOURTH DAY: Read Acts 4:1–22

1. What happened when Peter and John *spoke to the people*? Acts 4:1–3
 - a. Why were the Sadducees *greatly disturbed*?
 - b. *However*, what resulted from their preaching? Acts 4:4

2. From Acts 4:5-6 note those who gathered *the next day*, and link this with John 18:12-13, 24. What do you see?

3. In Acts 4:7 the Jewish leaders asked Peter and John *by what name* they had healed the lame man. Before he answered them, what happened to Peter? Acts 4:8a
 - a. How do you think this affected his answer?

4. Read Peter's response in Acts 4:9-12 and answer the following questions:
 - a. For what were they being *judged*? Acts 4:9

 - b. How was the lame man made well? Acts 4:10

 - c. What is significant about Peter's reference to Jesus in Acts 4:11? See also 1 Peter 2:6-7.

 - d. What declaration did Peter make concerning Jesus? Acts 4:12
 - (1) Why is this declaration remarkable?

5. From Acts 4:13a note what the Jewish leaders observed concerning Peter and John.
 - a. Based on their observations, what did they realize? Acts 4:13b
 - (1) What does this reveal about spending time *with Jesus*? See also 2 Corinthians 3:18.

6. In Acts 4:14-18 the leaders realized they could not speak against Peter and John openly. After they *conferred among themselves* they decided to *threaten* them to keep the *name of Jesus* from spreading. What was Peter and John's response to this? Acts 4:19-20

7. From Acts 4:21-22 comment on the predicament of the Jewish leaders.

8. How has spending time *with Jesus* made a difference in your life?

FIFTH DAY: Read Acts 4:23–37

1. Upon their release, Peter and John *reported* to the believers all that had happened (Acts 4:23). From Acts 4:24–31, answer the following questions:
 - a. How did the disciples respond to the threats they had just received? Acts 4:24a
 - (1) Why is this a great response?
 - b. What did they acknowledge about God? Acts 4:24b
 - (1) How do you think this acknowledgment encouraged them? See 1 Peter 4:19.
 - c. What did they recall about David’s prophecy in Psalm 2? Acts 4:25–26
 - (1) How was this pertinent to their experience?
 - d. How did the disciples view the fulfillment of this prophecy? Acts 4:27–28
 - (1) In what way do you see this prophecy being fulfilled today?
 - e. In spite of the leaders *threats*, what did the disciples pray for? Acts 4:29–30
 - f. What happened *when they had prayed*? Acts 4:31
 - g. What lesson(s) do you receive concerning prayer?
2. Describe the activity of the believers from Acts 4:32–37.
 - a. How was their activity indicative of the work of the Spirit?
 - (1) Share a way we can still follow these early believers’ example.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Remark on how the following events from Acts 3–4 demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit:
 - a. Healing of the lame man (Acts 3:1–10)
 - b. Peter’s message to the crowd (Acts 3:12–26)
 - c. Peter’s response to the Jewish leaders (Acts 4:8–12, 18–20)
 - d. The prayer of the disciples (Acts 4:24–31)
 - e. The witness and activity of the believers (Acts 4:13, 32–35)
2. How do you long for the Holy Spirit to be manifested in your life?

*When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken;
and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*
Acts 4:31