

## What Faith Gets You (Part 1)

Acts 3:1-8

Youth Director Jesse Huro 9 September, 2018

West Valley Presbyterian Church

I enjoy camping, even though I never went as a kid. The first time I camped was with the Youth Group in High School. Everyone ended up filthy dirty, and I went swimming with my shoes on. I remember a lady pushing a bike up the hill, muttering to herself, "You have to walk the path by faith, not by sight. You need to kick the devil in the teeth!" It was a scary, weird situation.

So, let's look at Acts chapter 3. Acts 3:1 tells us that Peter and John dedicated a time every afternoon to pray. What are we usually doing at 3 in the afternoon? Maybe trying to beat traffic or go pick up our kids? By giving up a crucial time of the day to pray, Peter and John exercised an act of faith.

Acts 3: 2-3 tells us that a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. By people helping him get to the Temple gate to beg, all it did was maintain the status quo. They were helping him out, but it meant that he would forever be begging. There was no faith being exercised. So, you can see that there is this tension building between acts of faith and maintaining the status quo.

When the man saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Acts 3: 4 tells us that Peter and John looked straight at him, and said, "Look at us!" Now, Peter was a bit intense, as if he knew that something was about to happen. God gave him boldness and a sense of urgency. Stepping out and saying "Look at us!" was an act of faith.

Acts 3:5 tells us that the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. He was expecting money. But again, that would just maintain the status quo. There would be no faith being exercised. Peter had something more

valuable than money to give to the beggar. He had the power of God to help the beggar walk. You see, Faith overcomes the status quo.

Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you." Can you imagine what it would be like if we all gave what we have to others? Not based on what we don't have, but on what we do have?

Then, Peter said " 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. He went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

Church, we cannot live this life being separate from others. He reached out and physically helped the man up. Not only was he physically healed, but he received something he had been wanting for a long time. The man was now able to join others going into the Temple to worship God! He was filled with joy, praising God with all his heart!

How are we supposed to walk this path? We need to walk the path by faith. If you can't see how something will work out, you are in a good place. If you can always see how it will work, then you are status quo. And I'm sorry to tell you that.

We need to overcome the odds and always pay attention to the status quo. To some people, the status quo would result in death. By faith, we can overcome adversity. I'm challenging you. If you can't see it, JUMP! If you can't catch it, then run FASTER. God requires us to live by faith, not merely resign to the status quo.

Come what may, we need faith. Whatever the obstacle or challenge. We need to stay faithful. Faith gets you healing, it gives God worship, and it kicks the devil in the teeth.