

## PRAYER

- Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to empower us to be His witnesses. Pray that you will always be sensitive to Him when opportunities to minister arise.
- Pray for God to help you step out in faith to minister healing to those who are broken. Pray for the boldness to declare the power of Jesus Christ wherever you go.
- Ask God to show you people who need to experience the healing power of Jesus Christ. Pray that as you preach the gospel, signs and wonders will follow.

## NOTES

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a new hope

## Spirit-Empowered Prayer for Healing

WEEK 4

### WARM-UP

- If you could have any superpower for just one day, what would it be? Why?
- Have you ever met someone whom you never expected to become your close friend? Tell us about it.
- If there was one thing you would want others to know about you, what would that be and why?

### WORD

*<sup>6</sup>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!" <sup>7</sup>And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup>And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ACTS 3:6-8*

(Read also **ACTS 3:1-10.**)

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit during Pentecost was the fulfillment of Jesus' promise that the disciples would receive power to be His witnesses to all the earth (Acts 1:8). Being empowered by the Holy Spirit didn't just mean that the disciples could speak in other tongues. The empowerment of the Holy Spirit caused them to boldly proclaim the gospel and perform signs and wonders, spreading the hope that could be found in Jesus wherever they went. Today, let us look at Peter and John's encounter with a lame beggar to see how the Holy Spirit can work in and through us to heal brokenness.



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## 1 God brings broken people into our lives.

*2And 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. 3Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.* **ACTS 3:2,3**

As Peter and John were walking, they met a beggar who had been *lame from birth*. His condition caused him to be a poor outcast and spiritually broken—since it was believed that infirmities from birth were caused by sin. No one even wanted to be associated with this broken man. But when he begged for alms, Peter and John stopped to talk to him. They didn't just go about their business; they seized this opportunity to minister to him. Have you ever met someone whose brokenness immediately revealed to you an opportunity to preach the gospel?

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## 2 God can use us to bring healing and restoration.

*6But 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!" 7And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.* **ACTS 3:6,7**

Peter and John didn't ignore the cry of the lame beggar for alms. But instead of money, they gave the man something even better—healing in the name of Jesus Christ! The man's situation was hopeless. There was no alternative for him but to beg. But as Peter declared healing through the power of the Holy Spirit, God turned his impossible situation around. The gospel is the answer to all brokenness. As we declare the gospel, we will see God work and move in people's lives. Was there a time you ministered to a friend in an impossible situation? How was the gospel the answer s/he needed?

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## 3 God can use the miraculous demonstration of His power to lead people to worship Him.

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

*10And [the people] were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.* **ACTS 3:8,10**

The display of the power of the Holy Spirit did not just end with this man's healing. He was an outcast, shunned by society. But when Peter and John restored his brokenness, he became a testimony of God's great power so that people would praise and glorify God (Acts 4:21,22). This led people to become so open to the preaching of the gospel that *many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand* (Acts 4:4). All this happened because Peter and John stepped out in faith to perform a Spirit-empowered miracle. What is the result of doing good deeds? (Matthew 5:16)

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## APPLICATION

- How have you experienced the healing that the name of Jesus brings? How can Jesus' healing power help you in other aspects of your life?
- Why is the gospel the answer to all brokenness? How can you grow in your knowledge of the gospel every day?
- Is there a person you can minister God's healing to, whether physically or emotionally? Commit to pray for and proclaim the gospel to him or her this week.