

Faith: From Potential To Activated

Pastor John Carmichael

[Act 14:8-10 NASB95] 8 At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. 9 This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, 10 said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and [began] to walk.

- Randy Clark recently posted that we could have “an expectation that you can do it (sic: live in the power of God) as a heaven-and-earth person, bringing God’s power to bear every day.” FB 06/08/2021
- FB Notes: God intended His message to be accompanied by miraculous signs confirmed to the truth and power of His Word.
- It does not always convince but it does confirm. (Funny story about Greek god legend: Zeus Hermes – beggars – 2 kind people – everyone else killed.)
- We are called to preach the Gospel of Jesus and release the power of the Holy Spirit.
- While there is more to experience than we are currently experiencing, we can grow.
- In Acts 14, Paul and Barnabas are used to bring healing to a man.
 - V. 8 – insignificant city (Lystra) destitute condition (lame, birth, never walked)
 - V. 9 – Man hears the Word of the Gospel.
 - V. 9 – His faith was observed by Paul (through the Holy Spirit?)
 - V. 9-10 – His faith was potential and needed to be activated.
 - V. 10 – He was totally healed (jumped up, walk).

What can we learn about God and experiencing His miracles in our lives from Act 14:8-10?

Here are five things we can learn about God and how to experience His miracles in our lives from Acts 14:8-10.

- I. **God is interested in fixing insignificant and destitute situations.**
 - a. 8 At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked.
 - b. No name but mattered greatly.
 - c. Just because you have had it for a long time... or you whole life... does not mean it does not matter to God.
 - d. He is ready to fix your situation.
- II. **God wants us to preach and hear the Gospel.**
 - a. 9 This man was listening to Paul as he spoke
 - b. LITS Commentary: likely to include some teaching on healing ministry of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. [Act 14:7 NASB95] 7 and there they continued to preach the gospel.
 - d. [Act 14:3 NASB95] 3 Therefore they spent a long time [there] speaking boldly [with reliance] upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.
 - e. Gospel:
 - i. Recreated
 - ii. Victory over sin Satan
 - iii. Price paid
 - iv. Example – a healed healer
 - f. There is something about hearing the Word.
 - i. Methodology of Jesus’ Ministry – Teach, Preach, and Heal

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1. [Mat 4:23 NASB95] 23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.
2. [Mat 9:35 NASB95] 35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

ii. Manifested Together – Hear and Be Healed

1. [Luk 5:15 NASB95] 15 But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear [Him] and to be healed of their sicknesses.
2. [Luk 6:18 NASB95] 18 who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured.

g. Your ability to receive healing, many times, is tied to your hearing of the Gospel.

III. **God, at minimum, meets us at our faith level.**

- a. 9 who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well
- b. How did Paul know? Holy Spirit?
- c. Here, the man had faith to be totally healed.
- d. In most instances in Scripture, faith had to be present for the miracle to manifest.

IV. **God wants our potential faith to be activated.**

- a. 9 This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, 10 said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet."
- b. [Act 9:34, 40 NASB95] 34 Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed." Immediately he got up. ... 40 But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.
- c. Do the Word you hear... [Jas 1:22 NASB95] 22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
- d. Faith is an action. Wigglesworth. Couple James' argument: 1:5 – Ask in faith for lack; 1:17-18 – God is good and gives good all the time; 2:26 – Faith without works dead.

V. **God can turn any situation around.**

- a. 10 And he leaped up and [began] to walk.
- b. Full miracle for full faith.
- c. God will work in your life, too!

- No matter how insignificant or destitute our situation is, when we allow faith to be built by hearing the Word of God and activate that faith, God will turn that situation around.
- Never give up on your situation. Declare and receive God's Word in your situation. Be honest with your faith level. Act on your faith.