

Acts Part 16 Faith For Wholeness Through Preaching

Pastor John Carmichael

[Act 14:7-10 NASB95] 7 and there they continued to preach the gospel. 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.

- New studies show that most people believe that our country is headed in a wrong direction. Yet many people in their lives know that they themselves are not exactly what they should be.
- The reality is that God has more for us than we're walking in today. Yet, we need to learn how to tap into God's best for our lives.
- And X14 we see a story of a man who is lame. This story of this healing becomes central to much of what happens in this chapter. Yet we learn some very important principles about how that God brings wholeness into our lives through faith.

How can we have faith that brings wholeness in our lives?

There are three principles from Acts 14 that show us how to develop faith that brings wholeness in our lives.

- I. **God wants us to understand the real condition we are in today.**
 - a. [Act 14:8 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.
 - b. This verse describes in almost repetitive detail the condition of the man.
 - c. Too many times, we think we are "ok", or we have accepted our condition without realizing just how bad it is.
 - d. **Repentance doesn't come until we know that we need it. We are not to be in a place of self loathing. We just need to understand that we are less than optimal.**
 - e. Until we get tired of our condition and see it as it really is, we will not pursue something better.
 - f. People who pursue God are those who realize their absolute need of Him.
- II. **God uses preaching to ignite faith that connects us to wholeness and effectiveness.**
 - a. [Act 14:7, 9, 21 NASB95] 7 and there they continued to preach the gospel. ... 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, ... 21 After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch
 - b. **Notice: "faith to be made well"... it was faith for total wholeness. It was FOR SOMETHING. Yes, he likely had faith IN Jesus, yet it was FOR SOMETHING.**
 - i. [Heb 11:6 NASB95] 6 And without faith it is impossible to please [Him,] for he who comes to God must believe that He is and [that] He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
 - ii. Faith in God's existence and for His reward.
 - c. **How does that faith come? Preaching.**
 - i. [Rom 10:16-17 NASB95] 16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" 17 So faith [comes] from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
 - d. **The man listened to preaching. Faith came for healing.**
- III. **God will ask us to continually act on that faith.**

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- a. **[Act 14:10, 21-23 NASB95] 10 said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and [began] to walk. ... 21 After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and [saying,] "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." 23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.**
 - b. **In this chapter we see two things about faith:**
 - i. **Action**
 - 1. **Acts 14:10**
 - 2. **[Jas 2:22-24, 26 NASB95] 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God. 24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. ... 26 For just as the body without [the] spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.**
 - ii. **Endurance**
 - 1. **Acts 14:21-23 – here established people and churches.**
 - 2. **[2Ti 3:12 NASB95] 12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**
- **God works in our lives through faith that comes through us receiving His Word through preaching and us acting on the faith with endurance for what God has promised to us.**