

# HEALING AT THE GATES

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**Focus** The Holy Spirit works in us and through us to proclaim the kingdom of God to the world.

**Open** Tell about something you've seen or heard recently that amazed you.

**Read** Pentecost has been celebrated since the time of Moses. Fifty days after the first Passover, Moses climbed Mount Sinai and received from God the Law which the Israelites were required to follow. For centuries, the Jewish people celebrated the Feast of Firstfruits on Pentecost. After Jesus' death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit came powerfully on the Day of Pentecost and filled the disciples, and the Church was formed (Acts 2).

The Holy Spirit established the Church on four foundations: the apostles' teaching, fellowship, communion and prayer. The Holy Spirit also transformed Jesus' disciples into witnesses of God's kingdom as they followed His leading in their lives. They performed many miracles, and one of the first mentioned in Scripture is the healing of the crippled beggar (Acts 3:1–10).

We can learn principles for our lives from this crippled man's story. He was at the same place every day, begging, because his whole life was centered around his brokenness. In the same way, the Holy Spirit finds many of us with our lives focused on pain we've never allowed God to deal with. Just as the crippled man was healed, the Holy Spirit has come to heal our pain.

It's notable that the crippled beggar was outside the temple when he was healed. As believers, we enjoy the presence and power of God when we're at church. We're called to live as ambassadors of God's kingdom by carrying the presence of God with us to those outside the church.

The crippled man was healed in the name of Jesus. This was not a magical incantation. When we pray in the name of Jesus, we're speaking as adopted sons and daughters of God, co-heirs with Jesus. We have authority to release God's kingdom on earth because we know Christ as our Savior and Lord, and He knows us. When people are healed in the name of Jesus, we're announcing that the kingdom of God has come.

**Talk**

1. Which of the following best describes your relationship with the Holy Spirit?
  - a. I've recently been introduced to Him.
  - b. I know Him and try to follow His leading.
  - c. I was raised to stay away from "tongues" and other weird stuff.
  - d. I want to know Him more.
2. Have you ever witnessed or experienced a miracle? Tell the group what happened.
3. Read Acts 3:4–6. Peter spoke with faith and authority when he called out for the man to be healed. How do we learn to walk in that authority in our own lives?
4. How do you know when the Holy Spirit is speaking to you? What has He asked you to do recently? How did it stretch you? What was the result?

**Live**

Write or type Acts 1:8 on an index card, your computer or other device. Meditate (think and pray about) on what it means and how it is being fulfilled in your life. Memorize it.

**Pray**

Thank God for the Holy Spirit—the One who leads us to God, our Helper, our Comforter. Praise God for the miracles He has done—healing, provision, relationships restored. Ask Him to help you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit more clearly. Pray that your spiritual eyes will be opened to the needs around you. Ask Him to give you grace and humility to obey when He speaks.