

**Acts 3: Service of the Church**

**I. Characteristics of the Service of the Church — Life and Power (vv. 1–10)**

- A. The temple represents the pitiful nature of *religious* service
  - 1. The lame man — a man with true difficulty and need
  - 2. The temple gate called Beautiful — having outward forms and orderly rituals
  - 3. The man being carried daily to the gate — having compassion
  - 4. This service has no power, cannot allow people to receive life, cannot solve real difficulties
- B. Peter and John represent the nature of *church* service — a new type of service
  - 1. “Silver or gold I do not have” (v. 6) — represents doing away with the power and methods of the world
    - note: “*silver and gold I do not have*” does not mean that money cannot be used, but it does not have control or influence over our hearts
  - 2. “But what I have” (v. 6) — all that the Lord’s name encompasses
    - a) the full knowledge of the revelation of Christ
    - b) being filled with the Holy Spirit — the glorious filling of the resurrected Lord (the name of the Lord represents His person and all His work on earth)
  - 3. It is God appearing in the flesh
    - a) Christ is all and in all
    - b) the normal manifestation of the church — the apostles represent the condition of the church at that time
  - 4. The lame man being healed — a glory-filled service

**II. Peter’s Second Sermon Explains the Secret to Power in Service (vv. 11–26)**

- A. It is not by our own ability and piety
- B. The reason we lose our power is that we do not glorify the Lord Jesus
  - 1. “Disowned the Holy and Righteous One” (v. 14) — denial of the holiness and righteousness of the Lord
  - 2. “Killed the author of life” (v. 15) — represents destroying the sensation of life
  - 3. “Acted in ignorance” (v. 17) — represents being deceived through ignorance and not believing in the name of the Lord
- C. Path of restoration
  - 1. Repent and turn to God (v. 19) — turn one’s heart back to God
  - 2. “Times of refreshing may come” (v. 19) — there is refreshing in the Lord’s presence
  - 3. The Lord will descend — the Lord being in our midst is power
  - 4. Receive Him daily — during restoration, only that which is from the Lord is acceptable
- D. Raise up a prophet (v. 22)
  - 1. The Lord is the greatest Prophet
    - a) a prophet is one who directly expresses the heart of the Lord
    - b) a prophet faces every failure and is the most reactive in spiritual matters
  - 2. “You are heirs of the prophets” (v. 25)
    - a) inherit all that the Lord has already established
    - b) ought to receive all the teachings of the prophets, each person repenting of and turning from sin

**III. Message Full of Life and Power (4:4)**

- A. Do not only talk *about* power — the message *is* power
- B. The number of men who believed was about five thousand