



Decade of Availability The Spirit & The Gospel

When the Gospel is preached it causes faith to arise. Does hearing the Word preached cause your faith to arise?
Be expectant today!

Background: The healing miracle that takes place in this passage is parallel to Acts 3:1-10. In the former passage Peter and John are used by the Spirit in the healing of another person who was born 'lame.' That was a miracle to the Jews, the passage here is a miracle to the Gentiles (Pagans).

A. The Spirit And The Messengers *Be led of the Spirit in the moment*

1. Jews and Gentiles: If there was a Jewish synagogue in a town, Paul went to it first and then to the Gentiles. Since there was no synagogue in Lystra Paul preached outdoors.

B. The Spirit And Faith *vv. 8-10*

Listen to the voice of the Spirit as you share with others

1. Expectant Word: "And there they preached the gospel." Acts 8:7 The 'crippled' man sat under Paul's preaching of the Gospel. Expectation and faith is raised in the hearing of His Word.

2. Expectant Messenger: *v. 9* As Paul looks upon this man—the Holy Spirit reveals to Paul the faith that is in the man. Is it possible to look at someone and have the Holy Spirit reveal what He is doing in someone's life?

3. Expectant Hearing: *v. 10* In this case for 'faith' to be manifest and healing to be received, a word of command was needed. Faith was working in Paul and the man—and all that was needed was for Paul to command "stand up."

Is this normative? There is no formula for healing—except believing in the finished work of the cross for salvation and healing. However, the Word, perceiving faith and receiving healing are three things that appear many times in Acts.

C. The Spirit Sustains the Work *vv. 11-20*

Be ready for the Spirit to lead you out or lead you through

1. The gods have come down: *v. 11* A Pagan legend said that the gods had come to this city disguised as beggars. Two old people fed them—but no one else. The gods destroyed the city except for the two old people. Seeing what Paul and Barnabas had done they were not going to make that mistake again.

2. Message to the Pagans: *vv. 15-18* Notice that this message is different than Peter's message to the Jews in Acts 3. The Pagans had little to no knowledge of the Old Testament.

3. Left for dead: *vv. 19-20* The Jews followed them to Lystra and turn the Gentiles against Paul and he is stoned and left for dead.

The disciples: *v. 20* These were believers that had come with Paul and Barnabas and some that had believed because of Paul's preaching—and probably included the crippled man. Was Paul really dead? We don't know for sure but the stoning was so severe that the town thought so.

What's your expectation for today?

Acts 14:8-20 (KJV)

8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

10 Said with a loud voice, stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

12 And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.

13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

14 Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,

15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

18 And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

19 And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

20 Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

