

Life-Sharing Lesson 1 Power For Living :The Holy Spirit-- Faith

ACTS 14:8-20

1. What do you think faith is and what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the exercise of faith?
2. What was one act of faith that you took and it seemed not to have worked? Did that seeming failure inspire you to exercise your faith again or did it make you more cautious in the future?
3. What do we mean when we sing the song "we walk by faith and not by sight?"

Acts 14:8-20 (NIV)

- ⁸ In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked.
- ⁹ He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰ and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.
- ¹¹ When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!"
- ¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.
- ¹³ The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting:
- ¹⁵ "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them.
- ¹⁶ In the past, he let all nations go their own way. ¹⁷ Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." ¹⁸ Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

¹⁹ Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. ²⁰ But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

4. How do you think Paul knew the man had faith to be healed?

5. When it comes to miracles, who has to have the faith for it to be accomplished, the person wanting the miracle, the person being used to do the miracle, or a person praying for the miracle to happen?

6. How does Paul put himself on the line in exercising his faith toward this man?

7. We often think that if we have great faith, God will get the glory from it. What goes wrong in Paul's exercise of his faith in the healing of this man?

8. How are Paul and Barnabas showing the power of the Holy Spirit in rushing into the crowd?

9. What do you think was going through Paul's mind as he goes from being used to do a miracle one moment, defending the gospel the next, and then being stoned by the very people he had tried to help? How would you have felt?

10. How are we to receive power for living when things do not go our way in the midst of us exercising our faith?

11. Do you believe that faith can block some things from coming into our lives? Why or why not?

12. What was the last act of faith you would say our church has taken recently?

13 . How can we tell if our faith is telling us to go through a situation or our faith is telling us to avoid a situation?

14. Recently in the news, there has been discussion that a blood test can tell very early in a pregnancy if a baby has downs syndrome. Many people are urged to abort the baby? There has been a plunge in the number of children being born with downs syndrome because of the abortions. How would you counsel a couple biblically if they told you they had received this report and didn't know what to do with it?

15. Spend some time praying for those who have to make the difficult kind of decisions listed in question 13.

16. How do we receive power from the Holy Spirit to increase our faith during the difficult choices we have to make?

Life-Sharing Lesson 2 Power For Living :The Holy Spirit-- Healing:

ACTS 9:32-43

1. What do you think Jesus meant by the following verse in John 14:12 (NIV) ¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

2. In the book of Acts we find numerous physical healings taking place. Should we expect the same kinds of things to be happening each time we hold worship services? Why or why not?

Acts 9:32-43 (NIV)

³² As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints in Lydda.

³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. ³⁴ "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up.

³⁵ All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor.

³⁷ About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.

³⁸ Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.

⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers

and the widows and presented her to them alive.

⁴³ Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

3. What can we learn from Peter's interaction with Aeneas?

4. Why does Peter seem to have available to him a power for healing that most of us do not seem to possess?

5. Last week in Lesson 1 Acts 14:8-20, Paul and Barnabus healed a man and the people turned to idols to worship. Here Peter does the same thing and a revival seems to break out in the hearts of people and they turn to the Lord. What can we learn from comparing these two situations.

6. Peter goes forth and deals with Dorcas in pretty much the same way as Jesus dealt with Lazarus. Which story should have the greater impact, Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead or Peter raising Dorcas from the dead?" Why?

7. If it were reported back to you that one of the pastors had gone away for a week, and while away raised someone from the dead, would you believe it were true? Why or why not?

8. When we think of healing by the power of the Holy Spirit, we often think of physical healings, but God brings about other types of healings as well. The Holy Spirit empowers us to heal relationships. Look at the following passage of Scripture:

Acts 15:36-41 (NIV)

³⁶ Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." ³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. ³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Why do you think Paul found it hard to overlook what John Mark had done?

9. Is there someone you are at somewhat a distance with today in the body of Christ because you felt they let you down or betrayed you by not having your back or leaving you to do the work? Are you more like Paul or Barnabas in the situation? Could the Holy Spirit be asking you to do more in the situation to bring about healing?

10. One thing we don't know is what the future is going to bring and how we might need someone in the future that we don't think we need today. Paul writes the following from jail in his last book before he dies, **2 Timothy 4:9-11 (NIV)** ⁹ ***Do your best to come to me quickly,*** ¹⁰ ***for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.*** ¹¹ ***Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.*** What do you think took place between Paul and Mark between this period in his life and his disagreement with Barnabas over Mark?

11. Although we find Mark and Paul reconciled, we never hear of Barnabus again, why might that be? What might we learn from this in terms of the power of the Holy Spirit to equip us for living?

12. There are times when the Holy Spirit needs to grant us healings from our past guilt and shame: Why did Paul consider himself the worse of sinners?

13. Looking at the following passage, how did Paul view his past in the eyes of God. **1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NIV)** ¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

14. How does knowing that Christ Jesus has an unlimited amount of patience for you give you power for living?

15. When we refuse to forgive ourselves for the wrong we have done or we refuse to believe God forgives us for the situation, how does that affect the power that is available to us for living?

16. What kind of healing do you need most today?

Life-Sharing Lesson 3 Power For Living Boldness

2 Timothy 1:5-10 & Acts 4:1-20

1. What comes to your mind when you think of having a boldness for living in your life?
2. What's the difference between being bold for Christ and being obnoxious?
3. How does our society today attempt to silence us in our faith?

2 Timothy 1:5-10 (NIV) ⁵ I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

4. If we want people to come to know Jesus and we want our church to grow, what keeps us from sharing our faith?
5. If God did not give us a spirit of timidity (fear) but a spirit of power of love and of self discipline, where does the spirit of fear come from?

6. How do we overcome the spirit of fear that finds its way into our lives?

Acts 4:1-20 (NIV)

¹ The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

³ They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand. ⁵ The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem.

⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!

⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone". ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵ So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶ "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it.

¹⁷ But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name." ¹⁸ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But

Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. ²⁰ For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

7. Peter & John had far less education than most of us, but they went and challenged the Pharisees and Sadducees who had all kinds of degrees. Why would they do this?

8. Do you think we as believers really want to have a Holy Ghost boldness about our faith to the point of it getting us into trouble? Why or Why not?

9. It is being said that more Christians are being put to death for their faith today than at anytime in the history of the church. What preparations are you making now to be prepared for when persecution truly hits this country?

10. In the passage we have been given a spirit of power (boldness in the King James) of love and of self-discipline. How should a spirit of power be connected to a spirit of love in our ministering to people?

11. What might a ministry centered on boldness and love look like?

12. Why do you think we as Christians think we can get by with most people liking us when Jesus said, **Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)** ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

13. Do you think there were times when Jesus's boldness, was interpreted as arrogant and obnoxious. Why or Why not?

14. If God gave you a greater power of boldness today, how would it change your upcoming week?

15. Do you think the growth of New Life At Calvary is any way related to the power of the boldness of our members? Why or why not?

16. Pray that we as a church would accept the spirit of Boldness the Holy Spirit is trying to give us as a church.

