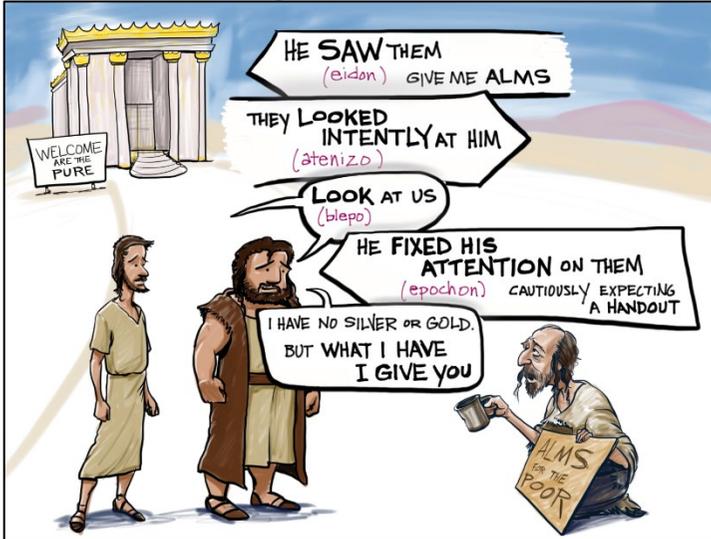




empowered
Life with the Holy Spirit

Church at Home

Sunday 13th June 2021



We meet at The Salvation Army Hall Sunday 10.00 am.

Also Sunday worship on is on  YouTube

The easiest way to find the link to the YouTube meeting each Sunday is to find the link on the Corps web page. Type.....

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate and select **Church on YouTube**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8651865167>

Ramsgate ZOOM 8651865167

AND DVDs of the service are available for those who would like them



What's happening at Ramsgate Salvation Army?

Sunday 13th	10.00 am	Prayer at the Hall (Join by ZOOM)
Sunday 13th	10.15 am	WORSHIP at Salvation Army Hall
Sunday 13th	11.30 am	ZOOM fellowship
Sunday 13th	12.00 noon	Sunday School
Sunday 13th	4.30 pm	ZOOM Children's Church Kids Club (up to 11 years)
Sunday 13 th	5pm	Youth Fellowship (Church) at HALL
Monday to Friday	(6.30am-9am)	Breakfast Drop-in (street homeless only)
Monday 14 th		 <p>Little Fishes Toddler Group 9.30am – 11am</p>
Tuesday 15 th	7.00pm	ZOOM Bible study
Wednesday 16 th	7.30pm	Welcoming the Stranger – the ethics of Migration - see page 4
Friday 18 th	(10am - 12 noon)	War Cry Ministry Ramsgate
Friday 18 th	(10am - 12 noon)	Food Bank



There is a full day of activities on Fortress Radio. <https://www.fortressradio.online/listen-now.html>

And don't forget Songs of Praise Sunday at 13.15pm
Maggie is available with the constant prayer line where you can call or text for prayer. You can contact her on 07840 753 603



Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.



Birthdays

Doreen Dyer	Saturday 12th June
Barbara Osborne	16-June
Peter Ford	17-June
Alan Barrett	18-June
Anne Howard	20-June
Frances Pointer	20-June

Prayers please for

For **Jean Mayton, Chris**, a friend of Gay, **Sam**, step mum to Hollie, **Grant** and **Al** and **David** and **John** McCairn all waiting for medical treatment. For Tracy. For **Archie**, Lisa and Scott.

For all those suffering from **Long Covid** – which include some in our church family



More than 100 litter-pickers were given to volunteers joining a clean up organised by Ramsgate mayor Raushan Ara. She wrote “I would like to say a massive thank you to all those who took part, showing pride in our town. and carry on with making our town the very best place that it can be.”

We hosted the event, providing training and refreshments and a drop off point for what was collected.

Advance Notices

An Online Women's Event
Saturday and Sunday
26th - 27th JUNE
STOLEN
Women and God
2021

Guest Speakers:



Bekah Legg
CEO Restored



Jenine Main Colonel
Territorial Secretary for
Leader Development



Lou Fellingham
International Worship
Leader and speaker

**Come and join us in
Worship and the Word**

Register your interest now! This event is free...
https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/events/women-and-god-weekend-2021



welcoming the stranger

THE ETHICS OF MIGRATION



Host: Lieut-Colonel Dean Pallant

Panel: Dr Lucy Kanya | Rev Israel Oluwale Olofinjana | Nicola Thomas | Representatives from Sutton Salvation Army

With stories from: Captains Dafne de Castro e Lemos and Josh Sefle (Keighley) | Major Nick Coke (THQ) | Victor Mondal (Bangladesh)

Wednesday 16 June | 7.30pm | Webinar
Register: [salvationarmy.org.uk/welcomingthestranger](https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/welcomingthestranger)

To register for this free event

Go to

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/events/women-and-god-weekend-2021>

We are planning a Craft Fair
and Mini Market on.....



Saturday 26th July 10am and to 1pm

New Date – 17th July

We need

Baked goods (cakes, pastries etc.) for sale and to eat for lunch

New items for sale

Hand Made Craft Items

Good quality – as new – gift items

A logo for the craft fair

Volunteers (please see Jacqueline)

Thoughts from Major John

Rekindle the glow

Just a three weeks ago we were celebrating Pentecost Sunday when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers, with fire. The believers left the place and went out empowered by the Spirit to take the gospel out to the world. (Acts 2)

It seems sad if we celebrate the event on one Sunday a year and then perhaps carry on as if it had not happened. For the church to be effective and for us to live Spirit filled lives, it has to be a continuing reality. One commentary on Ephesians 5.18 'be filled with the Spirit' reads 'The command describes a regular pattern of life' rather than a onetime event'. That is, keep on being filled with the Spirit.

Charlie Cleverly in his book 'Epiphanies of the Ordinary' writes, 'Keeping love for God burning and not letting the fire go out is the key to everything, the one thing that Christ is calling for and seeking.' He also speaks of 'first love Christianity', that thrill and enthusiasm we have when we are first saved and filled with the Spirit and the fire burns brightly.

I wonder if the words in Revelation 2 verse 4, to the church at Ephesus might be a challenge to us today? 'You have forsaken your first love'. We might say, 'the fires gone out'.

I love the words of song 295 SASB. What an amazing prayer it is and one in our best moments we would want make our own...

Come down, O Love Divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear'
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn

To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart'
Which takes the humbler part'
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so with yearning strong
With which the soul will long'
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For non can guess its grace till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
(Bianco Da Siena)

When we go into public buildings and even places of worship at the moment, we have our temperature taken. I wonder if we had our spiritual temperature taken what it might reveal?

One of the most chilling lines in scripture comes again in Revelation, this time chapter 3 verses 14-16, words directed to the church at Laodicea. 'Because you are lukewarm – neither hot or cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.' Someone described the Laodicean church as the 'one thing nor the other church'

In shops you sometimes see signs with 'kindling for sale', which of course is used for starting fires. If the fire has gone from our lives, if our experience is cold, make Bianco Da Siena's prayer yours...

O Comforter, draw near,

Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

One of our Salvation Army hymn writers made a similar prayer...
Come to my heart today, come to my heart today,
Rekindle the glow and the glory bestow,
Come to my heart to today.

I remember hearing of one church where their Women's Group was called
'Women Aglow'.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all in the church were 'aglow', filled with the Spirit,
filled with the fire, and that 'first love Christianity'.

Time to Smile

The story goes that some delegates to a church conference in Scotland set off
between sessions for a walk to explore the surrounding country side. They came
to a stream spanned by a rickety bridge and started to cross, ignoring a sign to
keep off.

A local inhabitant ran after them to warn them off. Not understanding his
concern one of the visitors said "It's alright, we are Anglicans from the
Conference".

"I'm no caring about that" was the reply, "but if ye dinna get off that bridge ye'll
all be Baptists!"

A choir that was visiting a Residential Home for the elderly to give a concert. The
organist announced that she was going to play 'Handel's Largo'. An old lady
sitting close by said in a loud voice "Oh, I love a drop of lager".

A cat and mouse died on the same day and went up to Heaven. On his first day
there the mouse was asked 'How do you like it in Heaven?' 'It's great' said the
mouse, 'But it's so big. It would be better if I had some form of transport.'
The mouse was given a pair of roller skates.

The next day the cat was asked how he was liking it in Heaven.

'It's great', said the cat. Just then the mouse went past on his roller skates, 'And I didn't know you did meals on wheels up here!'

Quiz

1. Entomology is the study of what?
2. What is Timon and Pumbaa's catchy refrain in 'The Lion King'?
3. Which international match race yachting competition dates back to the 19th century?
4. What is the world's smallest species of bird?
5. How is the 'Waltz in D flat Major' by Chopin better known?

Numbers

1. How many different topics are there in the game of Trivial Pursuits?
2. How many days are there in the last six months of the year?
3. How many hills of Rome are there?
4. What is 4 cubed?
5. Which number is represented as M in Roman numerals?

Anagram

What is the only English anagram of ASPIRANT?

1. Insect 2. Hakuna Matata 3. America's Cup 4. Hummingbird 5. Minute Waltz
Anagram PARTISAN is the only English anagram of ASPIRANT.

Sunday 13th June 2021 – Worship with Ramsgate Salvation Army

**Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier;
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
Loving, Teaching, Empowering:
Let us worship God.**

Song Number 236

All hail the Lamb, enthroned on high;
His praise shall be our battle cry.
He reigns victorious, for ever glorious,
His name is Jesus, he is the Lord.

Dave Bilbrough



Welcome to worship with Ramsgate Salvation Army.

I'm here at QEQM to introduce the second part of our series on what it is like to be empowered by the Holy Spirit – empowered as individual believers – and empowered as a church.

I want us to consider healing as we look at the first miracle seen in the church just after Pentecost. It's a great story about the man, lame from birth, who, in an instant, was jumping and leaping and praising God – it was a miracle – and it was physical healing.

So here I am at QEQM.

Did you know that this is the largest employer in Thanet?

Did you know that the NHS employs 4 times more people than the second biggest employer in Great Britain – 1.5 million people work for the NHS.

Yes those are the facts. The NHS is this country's largest employer. Why? Because we want to be well.

And we have always wanted to be free from sickness

So when the church started after Pentecost was it a surprise that healing was the first act of kindness that happened?

If Peter's sermon kick started the church – this act of healing made sure everyone knew that Jesus was very much alive – and this act of healing was to set the church on a collision course with the authorities.

Hospitals were started by the Christian Church – although the Greeks and Romans had medical centres it was the Church that established places of healing for all people – not just those with power – which became what we know as hospital.

In Rome the first hospital was built by a wealthy Christian widow, Fabiola, followed in Jerusalem and soon an infirmary became an established part of every monastery. The advent of plague throughout the Western Roman Empire, caused the church to expand its programme of care. At that time the church in Rome was said to minister to 3000 in need, spending 1,000,000 sesterces or over £5 million a year. As the church grew, so did its care of the sick with not only hospitals but also with specialised institutions, like leper houses, and hospices for the dying and care for the mentally sick.

The church led the way in science, training and care. The church was there for those in need. Although the state and the private sector dominate today – the church is still very active in areas where the poor are still in need – the Salvation Army alone has over 200 hospitals across the world and both Eileen and Muriel devoted their working lives to care for others in hospitals here and across the world.

So the church led the way in providing healing – and for those in most need continues to be there – doing what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 25 – when I was sick you cared for me.

But why do we need this place?

This is the question this morning. As an empowered church – a church that allows God’s spirit to provide supernatural power, why do we need the QEQM and the rest of the health care sector?

Song 358

Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own;
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those he came to save;
His glories now we sing
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) (verses 1, 3, 4), Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) (verse 2)

Acts Chapter 3 Peter Heals a Lame Beggar

1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

What did the lame man have to do to receive healing. Nothing. That is grace

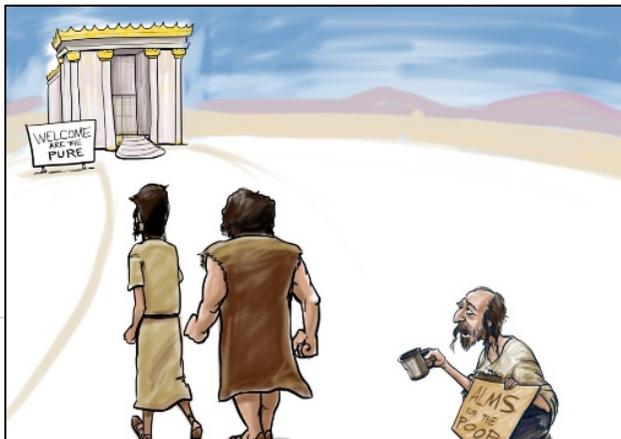
Song Number 526

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can keep me always clean?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow!
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*
2 For my cleansing this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my pardon this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Lets look at this amazing story (the pictures are by Steve Thomson.net)



I was talking with Heather this week about the challenges of leadership - and how on earth a bunch of fishermen were able to suddenly manage a church of 3000 people – and actually after today’s miracle over 5000 people.

Well one thing we learn from this passage is that whilst they were meeting together at home, they continued to go to the temple – prayers happened 3 times per day – but we read they went at 3pm – which would have been after the sacrifice – because they no longer saw any power in that old system – Jesus had come to eliminate the need to kill animals to get right with God – the cross was the once and for all sacrifice.

So Peter and John are going to the temple to pray and pass this man who is begging outside the temple.

Its not a sight we see much here – I don’t mean begging – and we will talk about that later – but outside of churches. Certainly when we have been abroad on holiday there would hardly be a cathedral without someone outside begging. It makes sense – people going into church know full well they must care for those in need. Its should be a great place to beg. Where is best to beg in Ramsgate- Waitrose – why –well I will let you ponder.

But why was this man outside the main gate? Well because he was not allowed in the temple. We have discussed this before. The temple was reserved for Jewish men – which meant that the disabled, or lepers or women, or foreigners or those who did not keep the law – like the shepherds we consider each Christmas; all forbidden to enter the temple – and so separated from God

The understanding of disability was that it was connected with sin – maybe your own - or maybe of you family – but it was a physical sign that you were not right with God -so you had no place in the temple.

This man's place in life was to sit by the gate and beg for spare change his entire life.

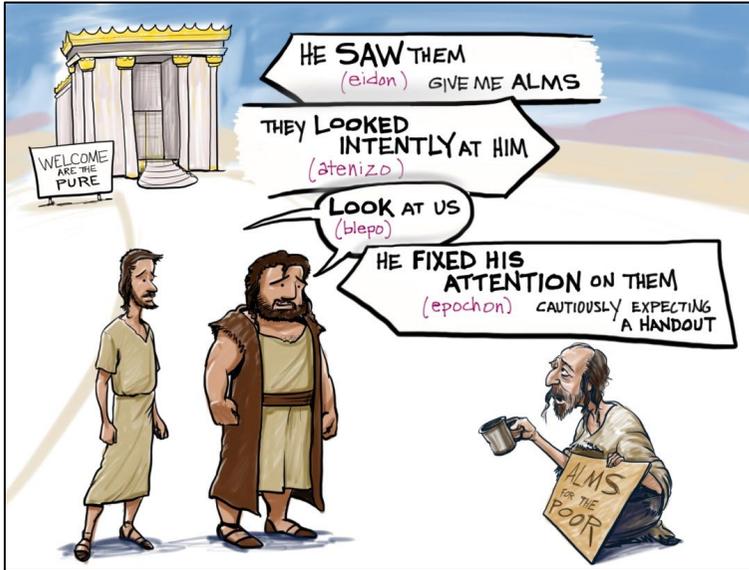
Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)
But do you know that all the dark won't
Stop the light from getting through? (We do)
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)

Is all creation groaning? (It is)
Is a new creation coming? (It is)
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He was David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honour and glory
Is He worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)
And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? (He does)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)



Verse 3 says that he saw Peter and John. The word translated here is eidon. It means the simple act of seeing. Pete and John would have been one of hundreds passing by

the lame man each day. Most would have ignored this poor man – but he will look up at every one and call out for help – just in case.

Verse 4 says, “they looked intently at him.”

This is the word atenizo. It’s where we get the word attention.

Another translation uses this word - gaze

“Peter directed his gaze at the lame man”. Peter blocked out everything around him and focused on this man.

This story is taking place at the busiest time of the day, with hundreds of people crowded around Peter, rushing into the temple. Peter could have been focused on pressing through the crowd to get a good seat in the temple, however he gazed at this man.

Are we “gazing” at people around us? In our fast pace world this could be difficult. We often gaze at our own needs and problems more than others around us. When Peter gazed – when he paid attention, he stopped thinking about himself and thought about the lame man.

So what did you do when you last walked past someone begging?

Did you stop and give your attention?

If you stand and watch people walking down a street and passing someone asking for money I can guarantee that most do not even look towards the person – they avoid eye contact at all cost. Do you?

John Gowans wrote these words

If we close our eyes perhaps they'll go away

But not for Peter – he gazed.

Well he did that day, but had not before

We know this man is over forty years old. He is older than Jesus, and most likely older than Peter and John. He has been sitting next to this gate for years and years. Peter and John have walked past him hundreds of times.

Which also means that Jesus had probably walked past this man hundreds of times as well

So, why didn't Jesus heal this man when he healed all those other people?

And this is crucial.

Jesus doesn't heal everybody. This man needed to wait because he would be part of a much bigger story. The purpose of Jesus' ministry was not healing. The purpose was to reveal the Kingdom of God.

Then they say something curious. "Look at us"

Why did they say that? Well maybe Peter knew that the man was just calling out to the floods of people passing by – he was not paying attention

The word here is blepo and it is often used to mean a deeper, or spiritual insight. "You see us, but really look at us."

Verse 5 says, "and he fixed his attention on them."

This must have been a special moment. Most people pass by and throw their coins. Without looking, without stopping; not these two men. They have stopped and now they want then beggar to pay attention to them.

Do you see what's happening here? What does this man see when he looks at Peter and John? He is a cripple. They are able-bodied.

This must be a special day.

I have spoken with some who sit and beg on our streets and have been told stories of people who will give £10, £20 and in one case, a holiday maker in Broadstairs gave £100

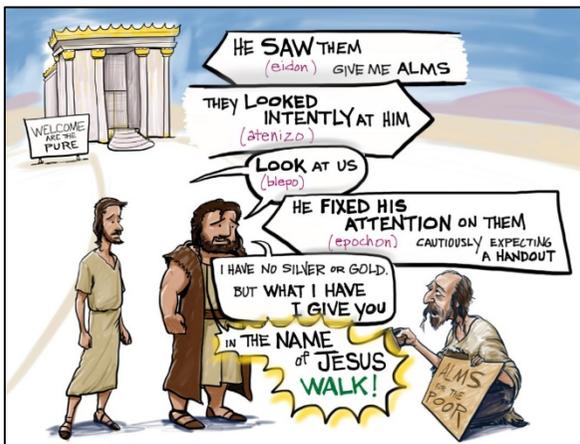
This sort of generosity happens – I expect the lame man was expecting a great deal from Peter and John

But Peter says, “I don’t have silver or gold, but what I do have, I give to you.”

Song Number 935

There are people hurting in the world out there.
They need you, they need me, they need Christ.
There are children crying and no one to care.
They need you, they need me, they need Christ.
And they'll go on hurting in the world out there,
And they'll go on dying, drowning in despair,
And they'll go on crying, that's unless we care!
They need you, they need me, they need Christ.

John Gowans (1934-2012)



Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

Peter really didn’t have silver and gold Why?

Luke 9:3

And He said to them, “Take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece.

Peter was telling the truth, he had no money.

And why was this so important?

The story is told of Thomas Aquinas walking with the Pope around the Vatican around the 12th century. As they walked the Pope pointed out the gold, silver, and ornate buildings and said, “You see, Thomas, the church can no longer say, silver and gold have I none!” To which Thomas replied, “I do see, but I see something further. She also cannot say, Rise up & walk!”

We live in an era that the church has tremendous resources like:

Silver and Gold

Like Food and Clothing

Like programmes

And we go back to last week – this is what I said

So have I made it to Ramsgate High Street with my revised sermon?

Clearly no one will have heard about the prophet Joel to I need to be contemporary.

The last 15 months – you call that suffering – we have seen nothing yet. You think this has been hard just wait and see what happens next. There will be shortages like we have never known, sickness like you can't imagine, poverty that will be your worst nightmare, despair that will be a living hell.

That is the context of Peter's sermon. That is what the people would have understood – and I think that as I stand in Ramsgate High Street – people won't ignore me – but probably want to throw stones at me or kill me.

But wait, I will say

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved

And now I have your attention – and so did Peter.

So where does the sermon go next?

And I think it is quite right to carry on thinking about Britain and Covid in 2021.

I have the attention of the people in Ramsgate High Street

They are not ignoring me – and they don't want to kill me

They want to know what we can give them.

Peter's model definitely does not include comforting stories about all the help you might get at a time of crisis.

It's tempting of course to talk about our church in this way.

Yes the Salvation Army helps with food, and electric, they will give you clothes, or bedding, or a kitchen pack when you move to a new home. They run activities for young people, for old people, they do meals, they help the homeless, they visit people in prison, they do gifts and meals at Christmas; they are always there when you are in trouble – where there's a need – there's the Salvation Army

People will praise us

We can feel good about what we are doing

Its non -confrontational

And it's what people expect to hear – and especially at a time of crisis find very assuring.

Peter definitely did not say this

It is easier for us to give Silver and Gold than to have a relationship with the person or persons we are giving that silver and gold to.

The very thing that God gave us:

John 3:16 NKJV

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

We neglect to give to others... Jesus, we neglect to give others the Gospel

There is a lost and dying world out there and they don't need our Silver and Gold

They need Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!

Song Number 999

Every moment children perish,
Sickness scars the lives of men.
Lacking love, all hope is fading,
Weakened by enduring pain.

*Healing Christ, you are the answer,
Lay on us your broken hands.
Fill us with your Spirit's presence,*

Our lives are healed at your command.

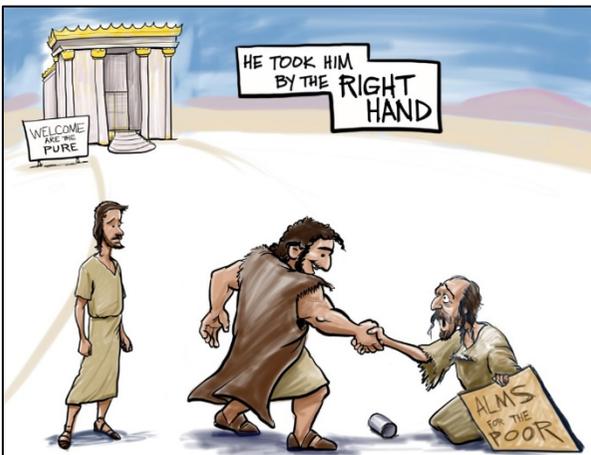
2 Devastated human spirits,
Disillusioned with the world,
Daily from their lives withdrawing,
Loneliness their only shield.

3 All creation slowly dying,
Choking in the grip of sin,
Evil strongholds ever growing,
Unrestrained by fallen men.

*Healing Christ, descend with power,
Fortify our fragile hearts.*

*Every stronghold now destroying,
Come, begin your rule on earth.*

Peter Lee, adapted Malcolm Bale (1934-2012)



He says, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Walk!”

And then it says “Peter took him by the right hand.”

During Covid how many times have you had to pull back from someone who wants to shake your

hand?

I have been in that situation many times and its very embarrassing – almost insulting – and the elbow bump is not really a substitute.

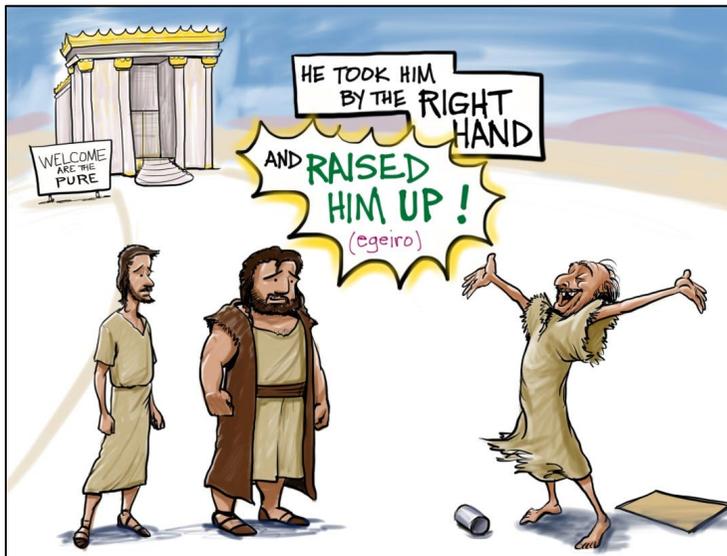
Shaking a hand – your dominant hand – says you are welcome – you are my friend – you are special. It breaks down barriers – in more primitive times it

meant I won't stab with my sword because I am shaking hands with my sword hand.

Peter was offering a powerful sign that they were equals.

And more than that he helped lift the man up

This is the word *egairo* and it can be translated be alert, be awake, and...wait for it...resurrection.



What is resurrection? It is new life – the old gone the new has come Surely this is what has happened to the lame man.

In verse 7. It says, and immediately his legs were healed. It

wasn't until after Peter took him by the hand and raised him up that the physical healing took place.

The fact that he was lame from birth serves to magnify the healing. Ankles never used to supporting his weight were immediately strengthened (v.7). You could imagine his legs are skin and bones. We know the writer Luke was a doctor and his language makes clear just what was happening. The word translated feet is only used by Luke, and occurs nowhere else. It indicates his description of different parts of the human heel. The phrase ankle-bones is again a medical phrase to be found nowhere else. The word 'leaping up' describes the coming suddenly into socket of something that was out of

place, the articulation of a joint. This then is a very careful medical description of what happened in connection with this man.” The process, which today we might achieve through corrective surgery would be followed by months of prolonged healing and physiotherapy. It all took place in a split second. Not only could we walk but he was leaping. Lets be clear – even modern surgery could not do this – it was a miracle.

Prayer for Healing and Comfort

Eternal God, to whom all may come through your Son,
lay your healing hand upon all those who are sick.
Make your loving presence known to those who are lonely.
Give your strengthening power to those who are weak.
May those who lack be filled,
those who mourn be comforted,
those who worry be calmed
and those who seek forgiveness find it in Jesus Christ;
through whom we pray. Amen.
(written by Michael Saward)

Jesus said: Ask, and it will be given; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.
For everyone who asks receives, and those who seek find, and to each who knocks, it will be opened

God knows our needs before we ask and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace. God ministers to us not as one who is absent but as one who is present in human hands, voices and lives full of the Holy Spirit.
Let us open our lives to God’s healing presence among us, working through us, even though we might not understand it.

In the silence

- bring your needs to God
- bring the needs of others

Prayer for Healing

O Lord, healer of all our ills, we bring you our bodies, minds and spirits that are hurting and broken by the violence, illnesses, trauma and cares of a world separated from you. *We ask that you heal us. Send your life-giving Spirit so that we may know the power of your renewing and your peace Come to us now with your healing powers.*

Breathe on us, O God, and make us whole.

O God, we ask that you strengthen and sustain those who seek to alleviate the pain and suffering of this world. Give strength, courage, wisdom and protection to all medical staff and healthcare workers. Send your life-giving Spirit so that their ministries may bring healing and comfort to many. Come to them now with your healing powers.

Breathe on them , O God, and make them whole.

O God, be also with those who work to heal the wounds of societies and nations. Guide, protect and strengthen all those who are working work for economic and social reform. Send your life-giving Spirit that they may promote your love and grace, bringing healing and justice to our world. Come to them with your healing powers.

Breathe on them O God, and make them whole.

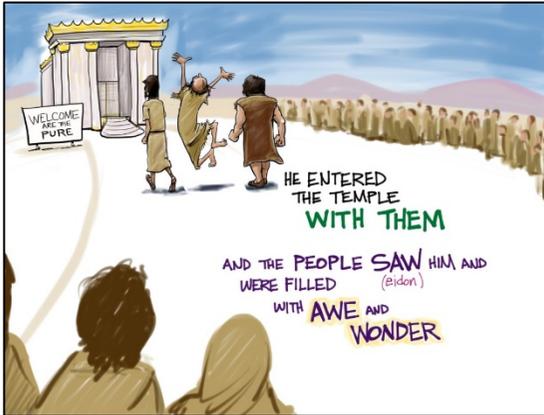
God so loved this world and this people that God sent Christ to suffer and die for us. Accept now that gift of healing. Know that you are forgiven, reconciled, accepted loved and made new.

Breathe on me, O God, and make me whole.

In the name of Jesus

Amen.

(written by Lisa Frenz)



But that was not the only healing – he has never been in the temple and so for the first time this man is allowed in. He is overwhelmed with joy leaping throughout the temple shouting his praise. He immediately joins them in praising God. And when the people saw this, they were filled with awe and wonder.

So there is a lot to say here – before we come to the big question

Peter and John paid attention to this man for the first time.

Filled with the spirit – empowered by the spirit - they now see this man, not as an object of pity, but as a fellow human who deserves the right hand of fellowship.

And the man, for the first time in his life, does not see himself as an outcast – someone who can survive just by begging – but someone who can have friends and family and people he can trust.

And as the empowered church we are called to “look intently” at the world and see it the way God sees it. All people are God’s creation, not objects to be used or ignored.

It is only when we extend the right hand of fellowship to all people that the resurrection power of God’s kingdom can work.

What is so powerful about this story?

It is that Holy Spirit miracles happen – first preaching, now healing – and as we continue the study so much more.

So back to the question

Why do we need hospitals?

Why can't we see this sort of healing as the rule rather than the exception.

I want to say firstly that I do not believe that healing stopped after the apostolic age – some people do believe this – that God used healing to show the early church that the power of Jesus was still with them – and after the church was established – crucially after they accepted the resurrection of Jesus and knew Him and worshipped him as Lord and saviour - the spirit withdrew His healing power. This is the cessationist view and it is held by some Christians today. They argue that the charismatic gifts that were described in the days of the early church were not mentioned later on – they also quote Paul who wrote "Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away."

They reason that the passage explains that gifts will cease at some point. Cessationist believe the miraculous gifts ceased with the end of the apostolic age and the completion of New Testament revelation.

I don't believe this - and one reason is that I have seen the gifts of the spirit and know people who have been healed by God.

The Salvation Army is definitely not cessationist. From the very beginning we have seen God's Holy Spirit working miracles - miracles of the sort we have looked at today.

William Booth could not be clearer when in 1910 he wrote

The subject of Faith Healing, or Divine Healing as it is sometimes called, has of late obtained some prominence, and certain views have been put forward with regard to it which are contrary to our Orders and Regulations and opposed to the teaching of Scripture, and which, if received amongst us, would be calculated to create controversy, and thereby interfere with the peace, power, and progress of the Army.

He then quotes Orders and Regulations for Field Officers. (Part 1. Chap. 4. Sec. 2):

That God should heal the sick after this fashion is in perfect harmony with the views and experience of The Salvation Army from the beginning. Nothing to the contrary has ever been taught by our authority, and numerous instances of Faith Healing have occurred throughout its history.

The teaching of the Bible is in favour of this method of healing. The following passage, taken alone, proves this:

‘Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him’ (James 5:14,15).

If there were no other, this passage alone would be sufficient; but there are numerous texts in the Book to the same effect.

When Jesus Christ sent forth His apostles, He gave them power not only to preach, but to heal the sick.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that we have never discouraged officers, or soldiers, or any other persons, from seeking the intervention of God by believing prayer on behalf either of the healing of their bodies or the removals of any other afflictions which they may have been called upon to suffer. The very opposite has been the case.

He then finishes with this plea.

(a) Bring more faith into your praying. Do not be content with merely telling God about your wants or expressing your desires, or even in reminding yourself of His ability and willingness to supply your needs, but take hold of His word, and believe that He does, there and then, if it be His will, give you the things for which you ask.

(b) Bring more faith into your singing. Follow the rule I have given you for prayer. Oh, what a help our precious songs ought to be to the exercise of faith. Sound the chorus over and over again; not for the mere pleasurable excitement

caused by the repetition of the music, or for stirring up your hearts with holy desire, but because it helps you to forget all the impossibilities of unbelief, and assist you in the task of climbing up into the exercise of all-conquering faith.

(c) Bring more faith into your testimonies. Hunt up the miracles wrought in your life, past and present, describe the confidence you are reposing in God for the future, and tell all out for the glory of God and the encouragement of your comrades.

(d) Bring more faith into your talking. Describe the miracles of the Bible in every-day language; search for the miracles of yesterday, and the day before, wrought amongst you; show what God has done, and what He is doing, which none but God can do for just such people.

We are going to continue next week to look at how as empowered believers we can see healing

We are going to ask what we need to do

We will wrestle with the question why do we not see more miracles of healing.

Richard Foster writes in his book *Prayer finding the hearts true home*.

“In one sense healing prayer is incredibly simple. Like a child asking her father for help. In another sense, it is incredibly complex. Involving the tangled interplay between the human and the divine, between mind and the body, between the soul and the spirit, between the demonic and the angelic.”

We can all think of so many reasons to be afraid to pray boldly for healing

To say to the lame person – in the name of Jesus get up – and take their hand and have the faith to believe they will walk as you pull them off the floor.

Getting it wrong would be the most insensitive thing to do and it is much easier to pray for acceptance and endurance than it is to pray for physical healing.

Francis McNutt in his book *the nearly perfect crime* writes;

Jesus Christ came, in part, to bring healing to the suffering people of the world. And for the first three hundred years of Christian history, healing prayer was fundamental in the life of the church. It even proved the main method of converting the pagans of the day. Then, after the church emerged triumphant, began the long slide of healing prayer into near insignificance. Ironically, Christians themselves were the ones who almost killed this mission so central to the gospel itself.

Why –

Richard Foster. offers this simple prayer.

My Lord and my God, I have 1000 arguments against healing prayer. You are the one argument for it..... You win.

Help me to be a conduit. Through which your healing love can flow to others. For Jesus sake, Amen

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley. . . . I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’” Ezek. 37:1-6

Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, we would do well to meditate on this portion of your Word for it “calls out” our unbelief, it confronts our complacency, it deconstructs every excuse that we offer for giving up on difficult situations and people.

Father, for your glory alone, I ask you to breathe on our dry bones. Where there's little love, joy and peace left, bring a fresh outpouring of affection from above. Fill us with your Spirit again and cause us to share the Name that is above every name the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord we are tired of living a mediocre Christian life, we are tired of being unfruitful for your Kingdom and we want to be Like Peter who shared the Gospel and this lame man who was leaping, walking and praising you while walking into the temple. Lord God we repent and ask that you forgive us our sinfulness and come fill us with Fresh Wind and Fresh Fire to do your bidding. Father fill us with the Spirit that Peter had When he said, Silver and Gold I do not have, but what I do have I give to you, In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Rise up and Walk!

Lord, empower us to rise up and walk as we have been sitting to long doing nothing.

In Jesus Name, Amen

Benediction

Let us go into this new week sustained by our faith in the risen Christ that will make us strong. Whatever troubles we face, let God's love and mercy lift us up. Whatever joy we are blessed with, let God's grace leap in our heart. And may we praise God and witness to His love in each and every moment of our days. May we be empowered by the Spirit to honour God in our thoughts, and words and actions, and serve Him in every aspect of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Go forth from this place refreshed and empowered to do the ministry to which God calls you:
in the name of Christ. Amen.

The songsters sing

In Jesus' name we've gathered here; we've come to worship our Lord.
We stand as one, for we've become a family bound by His word.

We lift our hands in joyous praise united in this refrain.
We found the source for all we need in Jesus' name.

In Jesus' name I stand redeemed; a miracle of his grace.
In Jesus' name I've been made clean for He has stood in my place;
And all my sin He took away, I will never be the same,
I've found the source for all I need in Jesus' name.

In Jesus' name we go from here to tell the world of His love.
In Jesus' name we go to serve, to share His gifts from above.
And as we go we have no fear, for all He's promised we can claim.
We've found the source for all we need in Jesus' name.
Randy Vader and Leonard Ballentine

Thank God for working so powerfully to change your life and ask him to give you the opportunity to talk about Jesus to someone this week.

HE TOUCHED ME

Shackled by a heavy burden,
'Neath a load of guilt and shame.
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.

Since I met this blessed Savior,
Since He cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise Him,
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know
He touched me and made me whole.



Peter heals a lame man

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Beautiful	begging	carried
expecting	feet	gate
God	gold	instantly
Jesus Christ	John	jumping
lame	man	money
name	Nazareth	Peter
praising	prayer	recognized
right hand	silver	strong
temple	walking	wonder



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