

itself cannot release healing power; it must be a faith intimately connected to that name: *Jesus!*

**TRANS:** *Disease & dysfunction diminish life.* Jesus still proclaims His identity as “*the author of life.*” His ministry restores what sin *disrupts or destroys* in our lives. Through the Holy Spirit, He continues to show who He is—the *provider of healing*—and when He does, doubters get another chance to discover this. But works of healing are temporary, just glimpses of the future. Those healed still face *bodily death*. But Jesus brought another kind of healing that *lasts beyond death*....

## II. Jesus Is the Provider of Holiness

- A. After *scolding them* for killing God’s Son, Peter gives them *hope*—v.17, “*Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders.*”
1. Peter was surely thinking of what Jesus had said from the Cross: “Father forgive them, for they don’t know what they were doing.”
  2. He told them the truth in love: “*You didn’t know what you were doing, but are you ready to learn what your act of ignorance accomplished?*”—v.18, *...this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.*
- B. Peter knew they awaited a *prince who would defeat their political enemies*. But by His suffering on the Cross, Jesus, the Prince of Peace, conquered the sin that turns us into God’s enemies.
- C. Jesus died to “wipe out” the sin problem—v.19, *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord... (People want sins forgiven, but God wants more.)*
1. God wants *changed minds* [metanoia= repentance]—Psa 51:10 (ESV), Create in me a **clean heart**, O God, and renew a **right spirit** within me. (We need not only a *clean slate*, but a *changed will*.)
  2. To “*wipe out*” sins is to cut them off at the source: *the sinner*.
  3. Christ’s calls in Mat 11:28, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you **rest** (“*times of refreshing*”),” but that “rest” is found in His Cross—His surrender to the Father’s will.

**TRANS:** For us, *holiness* isn’t a *status* or *state of being*. It is relational surrender to God. We become *holy* by our union with the *Holy One*. But *healing* and *holiness* are not Christ’s only provisions. In the midst of the seeming hopelessness of the fallen human condition...

## III. Jesus Is the Provider of Hope

- A. *Physical healing* and *progress in holiness* are “*times of refreshing*” on our earthly journey, but they are tokens of a hopeful future.
1. *Christ’s 1st Advent* brought a substantial but partial salvation. (It may include *physical healing* but it always includes holiness.)
  2. *Christ’s 2nd Advent* will consummate this partial salvation by full bodily healing in resurrection, and fulfillment of holiness by complete union with Christ.
- B. *Disease, dysfunction* and *death* are among the elements in our fallen human condition that bring *despair*.
1. Right now, in the *midst* of that despairing condition, Jesus is still identifying Himself as the Provider of healing—brief, temporary “*times of refreshing*” that point to a *final, eternal refreshing*.
  2. And right now, at the Cross, people can still meet the Provider of holiness, who delivers us not just from the *penalty of sin* but from the *sin’s power*, both of which point to a coming heavenly complete deliverance from the presence of sin.

## CONCLUSION:

—Many Christians dream of living in the days when Jesus ministered in Palestine. Physically—v.21, *He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets*. But through the Holy Spirit, He’s still here, still working, **still proclaiming His identity through the ministry of healing**—sometimes *healing bodies* but always *healing souls*.

—Sometimes we might imagine life in the days of *the early church*, seeing the miraculous acts of the apostles. Well, the church across the centuries is one church. *Jesus said He would build His church*, and since the Day of Pentecost, He’s not stopped. He’s building it right now, right here in this village. For those who don’t know who Jesus is, or who have doubts about Him, He’s still proclaiming His identity through healing hurts and healing hearts. *Jesus is not done yet!*

**Acts 3:11-21 (NIV)**

11 While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.

12 When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go.

14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.

15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

17 "Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders.

18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

21 He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

44-03-03-Times of Refreshing

healing, testimony, ignorance, repentance, restoration

Acts 3:11-21

Jesus is still proclaiming His identity through the ministry of healing.

**INTRODUCTION:**

–Jesus came to earth *with a mission*: to bring hope for the dysfunctions of the human condition. *Humanity* was damaged and needed healing; the *human will* was lost in its rebellion against God and needed *not just teaching about the nature of that rebellion, but salvation from it*. His *Cross* provided that. God's motive behind that *Cross* was *to restore the creation that sin had deformed*. **2 Pet 3:13** says He promises "a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."

–Starting with the Day of Pentecost, the stories in Acts keep telling us that *Jesus is not done yet*. His *Kingdom will come, but it has already started*. The *returning King* is continuing to make Himself known.

**HOM.idea.** In this passage, *Peter lets everyone know that...*

**I. Jesus Is the Provider of Healing**

A. Peter asks the crowd in **v.12**, "...*why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?*"

1. Then he tells them in **v.13-15** that "*God... glorified his servant Jesus,*" but they had "*disowned*" and "*killed the author of life.*"

2. However, that didn't stop Him, because "*God raised him from the dead.*" (In fact, says Peter, "*we are witnesses*" that Jesus is alive from the dead, continuing to teach and heal. *He is not done yet!*)

B. Jesus told them He was *sent from the Father*, and His miracles of healing proved it, yet they had rejected Him. Now Peter tells them they're getting *another chance*, because they are witnesses that He is still proclaiming His identity through the ministry of healing—**v.16**, *By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.*

1. Notice, it wasn't the crippled man's "*faith in his name*" but Peter's faith in Christ (*Faith's power doesn't begin with the needy but with believers who are sent to minister to them.*)

2. The emphasis is on "*the name of Jesus,*" because of its meaning [**Jesus** = "*Jehovah saves,*" "*Jehovah heals,*" "*Jehovah delivers*"] Faith by