

Healing Acts

Sermon Title: **Healing Acts**

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C. Elijah Bronner: Don't allow what you have been through to define you.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is the sermon titled, "Healing Acts," by C. Elijah Bronner. This sermon is number 7880.

(Music Playing: 00:00:15 - 00:00:25)

Female: And now for, "Healing Acts."

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you so much for joining Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word. We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at brothersoftheword.com or social media. Welcome to today's service. Always a wonderful delight and joy to have you to tune in and join us.

I would like to share just a little humor. This is humor regarding COVID-19 and the pandemic. Not making light of it but just laughing in spite of it. So, laughter is good medicine and so not making light of it, but I understand it's a serious, serious thing affecting a lot of people and so certainly not making light of it but learning to laugh in the midst of challenging circumstances. Here, a few quarantine and pandemic jokes. One man said, he says, "I spent 75 percent of my childhood grounded." So he said, "This quarantine is a piece of cake." One man said, "My mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day, but look at me now, mom. I'm saving the world."

Quarantine has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told, "no" if we get too close to strangers and we get really excited about car rides. One lady said, "We ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg. Tomorrow, romaine's to be seen." And the last one, "The World Health Organization or WHO for short announced that dogs cannot contract COVID-19. Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released to be clear, who let the dogs out?"

Praise God. Well, we've been walking through the healing scriptures throughout the entire Bible and I think I have pretty much covered most of them outside of the Book of Acts. And so we're going to start in the Book of Acts and we'll start taking a look at the healing scriptures in the Book of Acts. We also did a

little refresher on faith. And so, we renewed our minds to some of the foundational concepts of faith and the principles of faith where believing God's word is concerned and applying it to our lives. And so that we can walk in divine health and wholeness and soundness, and healing, and blessing and so forth.

But today I want to just start over in the Book of Acts, the Book of Acts and I want to use as a subject, Healing Acts because we're looking at acts of healing in the Book of Acts. So Healing Acts is my subject, Healing Acts and we're starting in the book of Acts, just to begin looking at some of the healing scriptures in the Book of Acts. We will begin over in the Book of Acts, the chapter where Peter and John they go up into the temple at the ninth hour. Flip over to Acts Chapter 3.

Like I was saying flip over to Acts Chapter 3. It says in Verse 1, he had notices now Peter and John. "Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer being the ninth hour." I'm going to kind of walk through these verse by verse just kind of exegete the scripture. So I'm just going to take it verse by verse and walk through it.

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"Now Peter and John went up together" notice that word together. "Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer being the ninth hour". And the ninth hour is around 3 p.m. So this is the afternoon prayer time. So what I can glean from this when I saw the word together and I saw two of them and I saw they were going to pray, this is what I gleaned from it. And this is kind of how the Holy Spirit led me the message to us is be on the right path with the right company. Beyond the right path with the right company. Notice this, they were going to a good place. They were going to pray and it was two of them together. So it speaks of having good associations, speaks of having good friendships. Good camaraderie. We all need a Paul. We all need a Barnabas. We all need a Timothy in our lives. Paul represents the mentor. Should all have a mentor in life. Barnabas represents someone on the same level, a running buddy, someone whose striving going in the same direction, somebody on your level.

So Barnabas represent someone on your level and associate. And then Timothy represents someone that you are mentoring,

somebody that you're helping. And so, we should all have a Paul. We should all have a mentor. We should all have a Barnabas. We should all have a Timothy. And so here, Peter and John, they're kind of like Paul and Barnabas. They are so serious on the same level, they're running together. They have similar goals. They have similar aspirations. And so their buddies together on the journey, the journey of faith and the journey through life. And so, they're traveling together. So to me, this is what the holy spirit said, "Be on the right path with the right company. Be on the right path with the right company."

Your associations are really important. So this speaks to our associations being on the right path with the right people. The quality of people that you have around you will determine the quality of who you are. The quality of people that you have around you will eventually determine the quality of who you are. And so this is what this verse is saying, "Be on the right path and have the right associations." Be on the right path and have the right association.

You heard Pastor Nathaniel talking about and have an accountability partner and you know, I remember my father as a mantra, work hard, be honest and keep good company. And so, that's to keep good company part. So we see it right here in scripture. They were keeping good company and they want a good path. They want a good path. So be on the right path and be with the right company, have the right associations. Then now, let's look at Verse 2, Verse 2 and Verse 2 says, "and a certain man" actually "and a certain man lame from his mother's womb." Let's just stop right there, "and a certain man lame from his mother's womb." What does that say to us?

That speaks of the fact that he's been in this condition all of his life. He's been in this condition all of his life and let us know that no condition or no SIDCHA is hopeless. Nothing is impossible. No matter how long you've dealt with something, it's never too late. You never too old to change. You're never too old to try something new. Don't allow what you have been through to define you. Don't allow where you have come from to define you. And so, this is what this verse says, "He had been in that condition all of his life. He was lame from his mother's womb."

And it lets us know that it's never too late. We are never too old to change. We are never too old to try something new. So I just

love that that was the condition of this man. He'd been this way all of his life. This is all he knew but man his life was about to change forever. His life was about to change forever. I love that. I love that when people feel stuck and impossibility. When people feel stuck like I have to live this way to rest of my life or this is it. I have to settle here and I think the Bible gives us these little Parables and it gives us these accounts to just let us know that no, change is always possible. Nothing is impossible and you can always change. You can never lose hope and no SIDA is impossible or hopeless. I love that.

So he had been in that condition all of his life. Robert Schuller said, "Attitude, not age determines energy." So we don't know how old he was, but he had been this way since his mother's womb and since the womb and he just felt you know, sometimes we feel like we might be too old. We've been a certain way so long we're too old to do anything.

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No, attitude not age determines energy. Attitude, your attitude, not your age determines energy. I've been really excited lately. I've been watching these old boxers getting ready to come back onto the circuit. And so, you know, Mike Tyson and Roy Jones, they're coming back onto the circuit. Holyfield is training again. And I love that. I love that. You know, a lot of people think they shouldn't do it, but I love that. Attitude, not age determines energy. And so Tyson, you know, he has an attitude that he'll still knock you out. I love that and if you've seen them on the pass, he does look like he'll still knock you out. They actually say in the boxing world that your power is the last thing to go. So he still has punching power. So Roy Jones has to be very careful. Attitude, attitude, not your age determines energy. So we're never too old, is never too late to change. We are never too old. We're never too late to try something new. Never too old. You're never too old.

I was reading recently about a woman 96 years old graduated from college. 96 and she majored in history and she was offered a job because she knew she lived through all of it. Of course, we knew the history. History was the perfect subject. She had been living long enough to have seen everything. So she can teach on all of the presidential administrations and all of the world events. She had been through World War II. You know so she had been

though all of that stuff. Of course, she's a great historian, but 96 years old. I love that. That's awesome. I saw one lady was 111 and she just graduated from high school, 111. I love that.

So you're never too old to try something new. You're never too old, never too old to change, never too old to try something new and I think that's what we get from this. "He was lame from his mother's womb." So it seemed useless, seem like a wasted life. Been that way too long, seemed like he was stuck. No, he never too old. You never too old. It's never too late to make a change. Notice this, "he was carried. He was carried." Let us know that you will need the help of others and you will need to give help to others. You will need the help of others and you'll need to give help to others. He was carried.

Also thought about the fact that Jesus himself carried our infirmities. He bore, to bear means to take up, to put it on oneself and to carry. Jesus bore our sicknesses. He bore, he carried our pains and so they carry this man. I think it's a picture of Christ that we even see in the book of Acts. They carried him in his illness because Jesus himself took our infirmities and he bore our diseases. He carried them. Oh, man. He bore our infirmities and carried our pains and our diseases and he carried them away from us. He bore them away from us. And so, "they carried this lame man. They carried him."

And then look at the next word. The Holy Spirit highlighted to me is daily. Notice this, "and a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried whom they laid daily, they laid daily at the gate of the temple." Notice that, daily and here's some things John Maxwell said about the consistency of doing things daily. He said, "You'll never change your life until you change something you do daily". So you change something you do daily. The secret to your success is found in your daily routine the secret to your success is found in your daily routine. You are what you do daily. You are what you do daily. Success doesn't come in a day, success comes daily. Success comes daily. Success is a daily thing. Every day that you live, you are in the process of becoming.

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Whether you're becoming better or worse depends on what you give yourself to daily, daily. They took him daily, every day. Day in and day out. There was a consistency there. That was a

consistency there. He did it every day. He did it every day. I like the fact that at least he was going somewhere every day. He was trying to do something every day. He could have been -- he was lame. He could have just said leave me at home. You all go on. I just hang out here. No, every day. He said, "Get me to the gates. Get me to the gates." He wanted to go somewhere. He wanted to see somebody. He wanted to see what was going on. He wanted to be in a place where things were happening. "Take me to the gates" because people were coming and going. It was a busy place. Prominent people came that way. So he said, "put me in a place, take me." So I love the initiative. I love the initiative. He still did something even in his lateness. It was daily, it was consistent. What if he has stayed home the day Peter and John went that way.

No, he got healed because he was there. He got healed because it was daily. I believe that this consistency got the attention of God. Here's a guy that is lying but yet he won't quit. Here's a guy that is lying, but yet he's here every day. He shows up every day, show up every day. No matter how hard life gets, never stopped showing up, show up every day because you don't know that the day of your deliverance is at hand. You don't know which day it'll be so you show up every day. I like that. They brought him daily, brought him daily. So your life changes because of something you change daily because the power lies in consistency of doing it daily.

If you do small things on a daily basis, they turn into large results over time. You can take a plane, if a plane takes off, it just a small degree when it takes off, that small degree turns into thousands of miles by the time is airborne, the direction. Just a small, small changes, small little things that you do on a daily basis, they compound. They have a compound effect. And so, even if you're just reading one paragraph a day, you look at that over there a year's time, you've read several books. And so small changes repeated over time consistently turning the large changes in our lives. They brought him there daily and they brought him there daily. Somebody came up with the phrase and I immediately gravitated toward it. I can't remember where I read it or heard it, but they came up with the phrase, SIDCHA. I will tell you how to repeat it, but it's too much wind than that.

SIDCHA, SIDCHA, S-I-D-C-H-A, SIDCHA and SIDCHA stands for self-imposed daily challenging healthy activity SIDCHAs. So

you have to ask people, what's your SIDCHA? What's your SIDCHA? How are you doing with your SIDCHA, your self-imposed daily challenging activity. That's your SIDCHA. How are you doing with your SIDCHA? I'm on my SIDCHA today. You want to just tell people as you see them throughout this man. I'm on my SIDCHA today. They won't know what you're talking about. It opened up the room for conversation. Then you can teach. You can teach them, SIDCHA means, self-imposed daily challenging healthy activity, SIDCHA. How's your SIDCHA? How's your SIDCHA?

Because they brought this lame man daily. I think the Lord is saying something to us by that. They brought him daily. They brought him daily. They brought him daily. Even though it was lame, he wouldn't miss a day. They brought him daily. They brought him daily. Now, I sat down and I just wrote down on a daily list. This is a good SIDCHA list. This is a good daily list. This is self-imposed daily challenging healthy activity. These are some things I just sat down and wrote down and I'm just want to share them with you. Number one, pray daily. Pray daily. Romans 12,12 says, "steadfastly maintained the habit of prayer." Someone said that a day hemmed in prayer is less likely to unravel and I love this. Guess he said this, he says, "we need to pray daily as our response to God's outrageous extravagant love for us. Think about it. He had us in mind as his companions before he created anything.

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Then, he unfolded this vast universe of a hundred billion, trillion stars so that on this lovely little planet, he could enjoy fellowship with you and me. Imagine what we are missing of God's love and affection if we just pray when we feel like it. Pray daily. Pray daily. We get to receive God's love and affection on a daily basis. So we don't pray that day. You have no idea what you just missed out on, maybe God wanted to tell you something. Maybe he wanted to embrace you. Maybe he wanted to heal you but because you didn't pray that day, you missed out possibly on an expression of love and affection that God had reserved for you that day. But because you didn't meet with them, you missed out.

And so it's our way of interacting with the outrageous. Love of God on a daily basis. Pray daily. That's a good SIDCHA to have. Number one, pray daily. Number two, read your Bible daily.

Keep God's word fresh in your heart. I pulled this from The Book of Proverbs. It says, "Your life will be better. Your life will be good. Your life will be fulfilled and your life will be long by keeping God's word fresh in your heart". That's a great SIDCHA. That's a great SIDCHA. Keep God's word fresh in your heart. Pray daily. Number two, read your Bible daily. Number three, learn daily. Learn daily. Learn daily. Make a commitment to grow daily. Make a commitment to grow daily. Read something, read a portion of a book or listen to a podcast journal.

I recently put together a couple of notebooks and I call them my learning journals. And so, whenever I learned something new I recorded in my journal because I want to make a habit of trying to learn something new every day and I recorded in a notebook. So get a learning notebook, get a learning journal and just jot down any insight, anything you learn. You know and you keep that. You keep that because it catalogs your growth. It catalogs things that you're learning. Always learn something new. Always learn something new. So learn daily. That's number three. Learn daily.

Number one, pray daily. Number two, read your Bible daily. Number three, learn daily, learn daily, daily learn. Number four, this is another good SIDCHA is exercise daily. Move your body daily. Invigorate yourself daily. Take a walk daily, do something daily to invigorate. Move your body. Doesn't have to be the same activity but just make sure you do something to invigorate yourself. Exercise has so many benefits from relieving stress to lowering blood pressure and cholesterol and all these things have a wonderful holster. It just makes you feel good. It releases feel-good endorphins in the body and it clears the mind. It gets your blood flowing. It's never late. Your oxygen increases, your oxygen level. So there are so many wonderful, you have no idea how many diseases it prevents just some exercises.

How much arthritis leaves your life because you exercise, because you're moving exercises. So that's a great SIDCHA. It's a great SIDCHA to have is the exercise. So number one, pray daily. Number two, read your Bible. Number three, learn daily. Number four, exercise daily. Number five, nourish daily. Nourish daily, nourish daily. You want to eat nutrient-rich food, eat nutrient-rich food primarily coming from the Earth, from fruits, from vegetables, from nuts and seeds and grains and you know good proteins and so forth. So you want to nourish yourself

daily, nourish. That's a wonderful SIDCHA to have. How have I nourished myself today? How have I nourished myself today?

Your body is a machine. You have to take care of it. Your body is a machine. And so you want to have good SIDCHA. Here's another one. This is number six, get plenty of sleep daily. That's a great SIDCHA. Get plenty of sleep daily. Get plenty of sleep daily. You need at least no less than six hours, at least six hours. Preferably seven to eight hours of sleep, but you want to get good sleep daily. Why? Here's what Dr. Mark Hyman said about it. He says, "Sleep is one of the cornerstones of a life full of energy, full of joy and health. Sleep is one of the cornerstones of a life of energy, full of joy and of health." So get plenty of sleep daily. That's a grate SIDCHA.

Here's number seven, laughs daily. Laugh daily. That's a great SIDCHA. That's a great SIDCHA. I've taught you before, one minute of laughter boosts the immune system for 24 hours. So laugh daily, laugh daily.

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Make sure you laugh daily, laugh daily. Great SIDCHA. This is number, I think this is number eight or nine but show love. Be good to people daily. Oh, what a great SIDCHA that is. Show love. Be good to people daily. Benjamin Franklin, before he would go to sleep at night. He would ask himself the one question. "What good did I do today? What good did I do today? So you want to show love. Be good to people and start at your own home. That's what you start, start at home, be good and show love at home first. Then let that shed abroad. That's a great SIDCHA to have.

How can I love and be good to people in my own home? How can I love and be good to people out in the world? What a great SIDCHA if you make up your mind and do that every day. I want to love. I want to show love and be good every day. I was going to see my mother not long ago and I was getting off the exit. There was a man seated on the side of the highway and I could tell he was probably there to try to get help but he wasn't asking. He just sitting on the highway ramp, just sitting on the rail there. I didn't see him holding the sign and he wasn't at anybody's window. He was just sitting there. And so, I felt impressed with

the Lord to give him something. I was just I don't know. I was just full of the Holy Spirit, full of joy.

So I wanted to do something. And so, I motioned to him to come to me and he did like this, you know, as he say, "you mean me?" I said, "Yeah. You come here." I said, "Come here. I want to do you good. I want to do you good." But he came to me and I looked at him and I had five dollars. I just put five dollars in his hand and he started crying and he started praising God. He just went into a complete Hallelujah. He just started praising God just, you know, he just wanted to complete praise and it was as if I had answered the prayer I can tell he had prayed for that because of the way he rejoiced and thank God. It was like, he began to cry and I almost cried because I felt so good doing it as I rejoice because he was rejoicing and that's what the Bible teaches us. The Bible actually talks about that over in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 9, how giving causes praise to God and then it blesses the giver, then it blesses the recipient, then it causes praise to God.

And so, there's a lot going on there when you operate in generosity and doing good and showing love, man is powerful. But that's a powerful daily sit you to have, show love and be good to people. All right, then the last two and I'm closing up. Give thanks daily. Give thanks daily. Gratitude is a magnet for miracles. Gratitude is a magnet for miracles. Give thanks daily. Give thanks daily. And then the last one, review your goals and do something towards your dream daily. Review your goals and do something toward your dream daily.

So they brought this lame man daily. He went daily and show that consistency, showed up power, showed a small action that he was willing to do daily, and it changed his life forever, changed his life forever because he ended up being in the right place at the right time. He met the right people and he received something that changed his life forever. Well, I'm going to stop right here, and we'll pick up next time. But those of you who are watching by television. I want you to go to brothersoftheword.com. You can listen to this message in its entirety. Absolutely free of charge and you can also email it to a friend, but thank you so much for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word.

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