

# Pt. 3 - Healing Acts

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C. Elijah Bronner: Let our lives be so transformed that other people can see Christ through us.

Female: You are listening to BrothersOfTheWord.com. This is Part 3 of the series titled, "Healing Acts", by C. Elijah Bronner. This sermon is number 7882.

(Music Playing: 00:00:16 -- 00:00:29)

And now for Healing Acts - Part 3.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you 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. It's always a wonderful delight and joy to have you to tune in and join us.

Well, I would like to share just a little humor. Two guys are walking through a game park and they come across a lion that has not eaten for days. The lion starts chasing the two men. They run as fast as they can and the one guy starts getting tired and he decides to say a prayer. "Please turn this lion into a Christian, Lord," and then he looks to see if the lion is still chasing and he sees the lion on his knees. Happy to see his prayer answered, he turned around and headed toward the lion. As he comes closer to the lion, he hears the lion saying this prayer. "Thank you Lord for the food I am about to receive."

Well, we are still sharing over the Book of Acts. This is part 3 of Healing Acts, taken from the Book of Acts, healing acts, and we're still in Chapter 3, the Book of Acts Chapter 3. The Book of Acts is the first book after the dispensation of the Holy Spirit that came to rest upon the church and to feel the early believers and it's actually the age in which we live now. So, this is the dispensation in which the Holy Spirit came to live on the inside of us. And so, we are getting the opportunity to look at the early church after the filling of the Holy Spirit and notice how they looked so much like Jesus. They look just like Jesus. They operated like Jesus, and that's who we are today. That's who we are today. That's who we are today.

So, I love the Book of Acts because it's wonderful to see great signs and wonders, and miracles in action. Praise God. So,

we've been going verse by verse just **exiting** the Scriptures in Acts Chapter 3, and we'll just read down then we'll pick up where we left off.

So, now, Peter and John went up -- Verse 1. Now, Peter and John went up together into the temple after our prayer, being the ninth hour, and a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple, who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms, and Peter fastening his eyes upon him with John said, "Look on us." And this is where we will pick up and begin with Verse 4 today.

Peter fastening his eyes upon him with John said, "Look on us. Look on us." And this says to us today to let our lives be so transformed that other people can see Christ through us. So, our lives are to reflect the very life and the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ himself. They weren't saying look on us as mere men. They were saying look to the power of God. Look to the Holy One of Israel. Look to the almighty God, the one who desires to heal his people. He's here. His power is present, is on the inside of us. We're his representative. We are representatives of his grace. We are representatives of his Spirit. We are representatives of his power. And look to that one, look to that one. And so, our lives are to be so in union with him and our lives really become a part of sharing him, sharing his life with others. And so, we share Christ with others. We share Christ with others.

Now, this is actually one of the five purposes of man according to Rick Warren, who wrote the great book, God's Five Purposes for Your Life.

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He gave five purposes of life. One of the purposes of life is to share Christ. That's why you're on Earth. You're born, you're here, you're living. One of the major purposes of life is to share Christ. Another one is to know Christ. So, you first you know him, and then number two is to become like Christ. We become like him then we reflect his nature. We reflect his character. We reflect exactly who he is. Number three is to share Christ. So, we know Christ, we become like Christ. We share Christ.

Number four is to serve and love others, the fourth purpose of life. And number five is to develop and use your gifts, develop and use your give gifts.

Those are the five major purposes. So, I agree with Rick Warren. I believe those are great purposes for Life, the five great purposes of life, to know Christ. To know Christ, to know him is to love him, to know Christ, to become like Christ, to share Christ, to serve and love others, and to develop and use your gifts.

And so, when he said, "Look on us. Look on us," he's saying we are ambassadors for God. So, think about your life. You live life as an ambassador for God and you share the message, you share the life, you share him. You share him. That's one of your purposes of life, to share him. We are ambassadors for God. And so, we are to be ambassadors for God. When he said, "Look on us," he's saying look at what God has. Look at what God has.

Now, notice, the lame man would never have been healed if he'd have been looking at his legs. Don't look at infirmity. No. You look at what God provides, and that's the message here and we see that all through scripture. Never look at your condition. You look at what God provides. So, it would have been futile for him to sit there looking at his legs because there was no answer there in his legs. No, he needed to look to the one that had answers. He needed to look to the power of the Holy Spirit, to the name of Jesus. He needed to look what God provided. "Look on us." And so, we look at what God has provided, not looking at the infirmity.

If you remember in the Old Covenant, when the people of Israel had been bitten by poisonous snakes and many were dying, well, God gave the Word. He says, "Put a snake on a pole and hold it up, and those that look upon that pole shall live. Look and live." Look and live, which is a symbol of Christ, look at Christ Jesus and what he provides. Look at the Salvation he purchased, look at the healing he purchased, look at the fact that he became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God. You look and live, you look and live, and this is what Peter and John were saying to this crippled man. "Look on us. Change your focus. Stop looking at your problem, and start looking at what God has provided. Start looking at God as your source." It

matters everything where you look. It matters everything where you look.

I've gone into hospital rooms and I've seen people watching soap operas, and they are terminally ill. I just want to -- sometimes I get so frustrated, I just want to say, "Cut that TV off. This is no time to be watching soap operas. You need to be studying God's Word. You need to be listening to words for healing. You need to be finding out what God says about you. Look and live. Look on us. Look at what God has provided." Look at what God has provided. Look at his covenant benefits. Look at The Almighty One.

And so, the principle is that we become what we behold. We become what we behold. You know, Proverbs 4:20 says, "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings." Notice what it says. "Let them not depart from before thine eyes." Keep looking at God's Word, keep them in the midst of thine heart for they're life to those that find them and health to all their flesh. So, you keep looking at God's Word. Keep looking at Jesus. Keep looking at his sacrifice. Keep looking at his redemption. You keep looking at the price that he paid for your healing. And so, we look to The Almighty. We look to The Almighty. You become what you behold. That's the principle. You become what you behold.

Remember in the Old Covenant when Jacob was working for Laban and he made a deal with Laban. Hey says, "Look, you've changed my wages." And so, he said, "We'll just make an agreement. I'll take all of the cattle that's spotted and ringstraked," and so forth, "and you have all of the solid-colored cattle." But you know what Jacob did? He put a rod in the water and he stripped it. So, he really put strips and spots on these rods and put them in the water.

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And so, as the cattle would drink and water themselves, they would be looking at these rods and their children would come out with spots on them. And so, that's the principle. You become what you behold. You become what you behold. And so, that's why we want to keep looking to our Savior. We keep looking at the healing He provides, we keep looking at His

righteousness and His grace, keep looking at what God provides us, because we become what we behold.

Listen to 2 Corinthians 3:18. It says, “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass,” or mirror, “the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” Let me read it from the Amplified Bible and you will see this principle. “We reflect what we behold. We reflect what we behold.” 2 Corinthians 3:18 in the Amplified Bible says, “And all of us, as with unveiled face because we continue to behold in God’s Word as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, and are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever-increasing splendor and from one degree of Glory to another for this comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

And so, as we look at the face of God in the face of the Scriptures, the more we look at it, the more we are changed into that image? And so, the more you look at the Word and the more you study the Word and read the Word and meditate on the Word, the more you start looking and reflecting the character of that word. You start being changed into the image of Christ, and you start looking like him. And then, like Peter and John, we will be able to say, “Look on us,” because we’ll be reflecting the very life of Christ himself. Look on us. Look on us. Look on us.

And then in Verse 5, so notice Verse 4 he tells -- and Peter fastening his eyes upon him with John said, “Look on us.” And then in Verse 5, he says, “And he gave heed unto them expecting to receive something of them.” Now, what does that say to us? That says to us, “Live life with expectancy.” Live with expectancy. Expect good things. Expect good things.

Every day, you should pray and say, “Father, thank you for the good things that are happening to me and in me, and through me, and around me, and for me. Thank you, Lord, that I’ll be good to others. Thank you for Your goodness.” And so, every day, you’re excited and you’re expectant. You know, expectancy is like a child on Christmas Eve, and that child can’t wait until Christmas morning. That’s living with expectancy, where you’re eager and you’re excited about life, you’re excited about the good things, you’re excited about the wonderful prospects of life, all the wonderful things that God has for you in life. So, we are to have a happy anticipation of good things to come.

Stay on the lookout. When you're expecting, you're on the lookout, so stay on the lookout for opportunities. Stay on the lookout for good things coming into your life, new opportunities, and new ideas, and new association, and the right breaks, right people, at the right time. Look to Heaven and expect good things. Expect good things from God.

I remember Charlie Brown in one of the Charlie Brown cartoons. Lucy said to Charlie Brown, she said, "Would you go to the kitchen and get me a glass of water," and Charlie Brown replied. He said, "Why should I?" He said, "You've never done anything for me," and Lucy replied. She said, "Well, I'll bake you a cake when you're 75 years old." He headed happily on into the kitchen to get the water. He said life is more pleasant when you have something to look forward to. And so, we all need to expect good things.

You need something to look forward to in life. You know, the four needs of man, they said that you need something to do, you need someone or something to believe in, you need someone to love, and you need something to look forward to. You need something to look forward to.

Did you know that most seniors die after Christmas or after their birthday? Because they were looking forward to Christmas, or they were looking forward to their birthday and once that event is over, now they have nothing to look forward to and they die. And so, it is vitally important to always be expecting, always be expecting good things, always excited about life's prospects and life's opportunity, to always be doing something new and you're excited about what God is going to do in your life.

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No matter what age or stage, be excited about the good things that God has in store for you. Live life with expectancy, live life with expectancy. Live life with expectancy. -- AV, if you have the video clip, this is one of my favorite motivators.

(Video Playing 00:15:34 -- 00:17:40)

Male:

Yeah. Are you like, “It won’t be that simple.” Look, number one, I need you to expect the win. When you wake up in the morning, “I expect to win. I expect it to be a great day.” Listen to me very closely, I do not get up at three o’clock in the morning to lose. I used to be a loser, a high school dropout. I used to be a loser and homeless. I used to be a loser eating out of trash cans.

Listen to me, this ain’t no feel-good stuff. I used to be a loser. Now, listen to me. All I do is win, and the first thing I did I said, “Look. It’s unacceptable. I will not be a loser.” All I did was say to myself I expect to win. Listen to me, when I get up at three o’clock in the morning I expect it to be a great day. When I grind, I expect to win. When I wake up, I expect a miracle, I expect that phone call. I expected to have (00:16:25). I had a kid, I expected to have a great relationship with my kid. When I went to school to get my Ph.D., I expected to pass. Are you hearing what I’m telling you?

I wake up every day and I expect it. All I need you to do is don’t practice to fail. Are you practicing to fail? Are you going to class all the time, doing all your homework to fail? So, number one, mental toughness. Everything you put your hands forth to do, expect to be successful, expect it to be positive. When you set out for a goal, expect that it’s going to happen. That’s all I need you to do. Number one, expect it to happen. What have I told you that you never, ever have to come up short to get?

So, this is all I need you to do for me today. Listen to me, this is all I need you to do for me today, is to declare that it’s over, that yesterday was the last day that you were a loser, like yesterday was the last day you expected to lose, like yesterday was the last day you expect to listen to me, to come up short. Like, all I need you to do is declare for me like, “Losing is over.” All I need you to do is speak up and say, “I expect to win.” All right. So, I’m going to ask you to do something this year like I never asked you to do before.

C. Elijah Bronner Okay, you can – Praise God. That’s Dr. Eric Thomas, ET. Praise God.

Expectancy is powerful. Expectancy is powerful. Jesus actually said -- in one translation, Jesus said, “You will have what your faith expects. You will have what your faith expects.” And so, always expect good things. Always expect good things. Always

look forward to the good things that God has in store for you. Don't I think your life is stuck the way it is for the rest of your life. No, God can do some wonderful things to change your life and use you in ways you never dreamed of or imagined. Praise God. Expect good things. Expect good things. Expect good things.

I love this verse here in Romans 12:12, and this is actually my own alliteration. This is my own translation. You know, I've been in ministry for over 30 years. I deserve to translate one scripture. Don't you think so? I think I've earned that right. But actually, I was reading Romans 12:12 one day and the Holy Spirit, he gave me the verse and he changed the words around it and he gave it to me with his insights, and he gave it to me. And so, I'm going to read it in the King James and then I'll read it to you the way the Holy Spirit gave it to me one day.

Romans 12:12 says, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer," and this is the way the Holy Spirit gave it to me. He said, "Don't quit in the middle of hard times. Increase your prayer life and look forward to the good things God has in store for you."

Praise God. Praise God. He interpreted that verse. He interpreted that verse. Don't quit in the middle of hard times. Increase your prayer life and look forward to the good things that God has in store for you.

So, many people commit suicide or give up because they're not expecting any good things, they don't have a good outlook on life. No, but look forward to the good things that God has. God loves you so much and God is so good. God wants to do us so much good.

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Let me read this verse. This is Isaiah Chapter 30 Verse 18. This is in the Amplified Bible. It says, "And therefore the Lord [earnestly] waits [expecting, looking, and longing] to be gracious to you; and therefore He lifts Himself up, that He may have mercy on you and show loving-kindness to you. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are all those who [earnestly] wait for Him, who expect and look and

long for Him [for His victory, for His favor, His love, His peace, His joy, and His matchless, unbroken companionship]!”

Expect God’s favor, expect God’s goodness, expect His love, expect His peace, expect His Joy, expect His matchless, unbroken companionship. Expect great things in life. Expect great things from the good things of God that he has in store for your life. You want to ask God to do something big in you.

Our little prayers are sometimes so puny and small and weak. Ask God to do something big in you. Ask God to do something big in your life. That’s what Jabez did. Jabez, he was a simple man. He prayed a very simple prayer, and the Bible says that God answered his prayer, but Jabez just said, “God bless me in an unusual way. Do something big in my life.” That’s what Jabez prayed. He said, “Lord bless me, use me. I don’t want to leave this earth like this. Do something with me that’s uncommon and big, Lord,” and the Bible says God heard his prayer and answered it. He had the guts to pray a bold prayer.

Ask God to do something big and meaningful and purposeful in your life. You’re not here to just shrivel up and die and waste away. You are to be excited about the good things that God has in store for your life. You should be happy to bound out of bed and walk with the Lord. So, “Lord, what are we going to do today? Who are we going to bless? Who we going to touch today? Lord, what’s going to happen today? Good things are happening to me every day,” because that’s where your expectancy should be. Expect good things. Expect good things. Expect good things.

I was reading that little verse, The Prayer of Jabez is found over in 1 Chronicles 4:10, and I was reading a little verse that says, “Oh, that you would bless me indeed and enlarge my territory!” So, he was tired of living a limited life, small life. He was like, “God, there has to be more to life than this. I’m here for something bigger, something more that you could fill it and scratch it on the inside of me, Lord. I’m not at the capacity for which you’ve created me and I know it. Lord, do something big,” and he goes on and says, “that Your hand would be with me.”

And so, God granted him what he requested. I love that. “Enlarge my territory. Bless me indeed. Enlarge my territory.” Enlarge means to increase or expand, or add on, and it means

that it's something new you haven't seen before. See, when you add onto a house, you haven't seen that room. If you add on, when you increase, this is something new you haven't seen before, and I like that. The good things of God, God is saying, "I'll do some good things you've never seen before. I'll do things you've never thought possible before. I'll do some good things you've never experienced before." That's the goodness of God.

Praise God. God has something in store for you better than you've ever seen or experienced before. Expect good things, expect great things, expect God's goodness in your life. Praise God. Praise God.

Let me finish with this last point and I'll stop for the day, and we'll come back to Verse 6, but skip down to Verse 7. "And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up." So, this was Peter. He took the lame man by his right hand and lifted him up and immediately, his feet and ankle bones received strength. And notice this, here's Peter reaching down, lifting him up. What does that say to us? That we should be lifting others. We should be lifting others. We should be lifting others.

I want to give you ten ways to lift others, ten ways to lift others, and that's what Peter did. He didn't give him a hand out. He gave him a hand up. He lifted him. He lifted him. So, we should be lifting others. We should lift others. Number one, we should lift others by encouraging others. Encouraging others. Encouraging others. Encouraging others.

00:25:00

Number two, complimenting others, finding something good to say. Compliment someone. John Maxwell, he said use the 101 Percent Principle. He said, "Find one thing about a person, then pour 100 percent encouragement behind." So, 101 Percent Principle. Find one positive thing and then pour 100 percent encouragement behind that.

He said whenever you encounter a person for the first few moments of encountering that person, find one thing, and then pour 100 of encouragement behind it. Mother Teresa said never leave people the way you found. Always leave people better and happier than when you first encountered them. So, that's a lifter. That's a lifter.

And so, we are to lift others by encouraging others, number two complimenting others. Number three, smile at others. Let's share joy with others. Smile and share joy with others. Smile and share joy with others.

I was in the grocery store one day and the cashier, she was a little older lady and she was just as funny as she can be, and she just had me laughing and she said, "Why are you laughing?" The more she asked me, the more I laughed, and I just laughed and I thanked her. I said, "Thank you for making my day." But she had that as a principle, that was a part of her life. She shared joy with others.

I love to have people, especially in the service industry, I love people that are upbeat, people that are joyful, people that are just serving with enthusiasm. Share joy with others, smile. Smile. Brighten someone's day. That's number three.

Number four, make people feel good. Life is all about making people feel good. That's what you are when you're a lifter, when you lift up other people, you're making people feel good. You make people feel good. Find creative ways to make people feel good about themselves.

Here's number of five, listen and understand others. It does so much to a person just to listen to them and understand them. Listen and understand. That's a way of listening others.

Number six, say something positive about a person behind their back. That's a twist in it. Say something positive about a person behind their back. We're used to gossiping about people behind their back. No. Find something positive to say about a person behind their back. That's a way of lifting others.

Number seven, don't speak things that cause unnecessary hurt. Don't speak things that cause unnecessary hurt to others. So, don't say things that are hurtful and unkind. That helps to lift others.

Number eight, do something kind for others. Do something kind for others. That lifts a person when you do something kind. You know, just a small act just to show someone you were thinking about them or you do something just to surprise them. That lifts

others when you do something kind, if you do something kind for others.

And then, number nine, share something useful. Share something useful. It could be an article or a book, or an opportunity, or an idea, or an introduction or connection to meet someone. Share something useful. Share something useful. That lifts someone when they know that you were thinking of them and you thought enough about them to share something that would benefit them, something that would be useful and beneficial to them.

And then, number ten, the tenth way to lift others is to pray for others. Whenever I encounter someone in public and I can see that they're struggling or dealing with something, I'll always say a small, quick prayer under my breath. I always pray for them. Always pray for them. You never know the power of your prayers when you're out and about and you bathe everyone you meet with just a small word of prayer. That's a way of lifting others.

So, those are just ten ways to lift other. Praise God. Those of you who are joining us by television, I want you to go to [BrothersOfTheWord.com](http://BrothersOfTheWord.com). You can listen to this message series in its entirety, absolutely free of charge. You can also email it to a friend.

Thank you so much for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the Word.

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