

pt.7 - Healing Acts

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C. Elijah Bronner: Never be defined by where you are and never be defined by what has happened to you, but be defined by what God has set about you.

Female: You are listening to BrothersofTheWord.com. This is Part 7 of the series titled, "Healing Acts" by C. Elijah Bronner. This sermon is number 7886.

(Music Playing: 00:00:17- 00:00:29)

And now for, "Healing Acts Part 7".

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, always a wonderful delight and joy to have you to tune in and join us.

Well, we'd like to share just a little humor. A woman went on vacation leaving her husband behind and before she left she told him to take extra special care of her cat and the next day she called her husband and asked if the cat was all right and her husband said the cat just died. She burst into tears and said, "How could you be so blunt? Why couldn't you have broken the news gradually? Today you could have said that it was playing on the roof. Tomorrow you could have said that it fell off the roof and had broken his leg. Then on the third day you could have said that the poor thing had passed away in the night. You could have been more sensitive about the whole thing. And by the way, how is my mom?" He replied, "She's playing on the roof."

Well, we've been taking a look into the book of Acts. We've been studying the Healing Acts and this is part 7. Looking at healing accounts in the book of Acts, I really have been enjoying them. I had never really taught on the healing accounts in the book of Acts and so I've been really having a wonderful time taking this special look into several accounts in the book of Acts, looking at healing and also looking at things that God speaks to us today through His word. And so we'll look at one account at least, we'll look at one account, maybe two but definitely one. Let's look at one over in the book of Acts chapter 14, Acts chapter 14. We'll look at an account here in the book of Acts chapter 14.

And Acts is a very powerful book. This is really the life of Christ in his rawest form. It was right after the ascension of Christ Jesus and outpouring of the Holy Spirit and so Jesus has left the earth and he's left the ministry into the hands of these men. And so we get a look at the early church. This is the first time the gospel has been preached since Jesus has ascended to Heaven. This is the first time that they're on their own so to speak but the interesting thing is they look just like Jesus. It looks just like he never left because he hasn't. He's in them now. He has multiplied himself. The Holy Spirit is coming. So even greater things are happening and so there are some things that even happened in the book of Acts that did not happen even in the ministry of Jesus himself.

And so it's really exciting to look at because this is the operation. This is the dispensation in which we live today. This is the dispensation where the Holy Spirit has been poured out and Jesus is living in us. And so the book of Acts is the present day ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. Since I've been having a wonderful time walking through the book of Acts and looking at different accounts, and so today let's look at Acts chapter 14, Acts chapter 14, and it's interesting to note that as they tried to put out – you know, as a religious leader and other leaders try to stamp out this message of Jesus, they tried to quench the fire and instead of quenching it they begin to spread it even more. So just when they thought they were stamping out Jesus they were literally dispersing and spreading and so it was like a fire and so they thought they would dispersing the fire but it was actually spreading. So the more they tried to stamp it out, the further is spread, the faster it spread, the more exciting is -- it was spreading and so it was God's plan all along. They couldn't quench the fire. They couldn't put it out and it begin to spread.

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I'm so excited about it.

Acts chapter 14, let's look at this account here, Acts chapter 14. We will just begin with verse 7. We'll read verses 7 through 10. Acts Chapter 14 verse 7 through 10. Notice it says, "And there they preached the gospel." There they preached the gospel. And it was a very simple gospel that they preached. They were alive with the resurrection. And so, they preached a very simple

gospel. They basically preached Jesus who was crucified. God has risen. He's alive. He is the Son of God. He died for your sins, believe on him and you will be righteous. You'll be saved. You'll be filled with the same Holy Ghost. You'll have his life. You'll have new life. It will change your life. You have eternal life.

And so it was a very simple gospel. It's a very simple gospel and that's all they preached. They just preach Jesus, they preach Jesus and miracles begin to happen as they preach Jesus. They preach this wonderful gospel, this wonderful gospel of grace. That God loves you so much, that he sent his son to die for your sins and if you believe on him, you'll be forgiven, you'll be healed and you restored the favor with God. God's not angry at you any longer. He's put away the sin that separated you from God. You're now invited to be a part of his family. So it was a very simple gospel. It was a message of love. It was a message of grace. It was a message of Christ Jesus that if you put your trust in him, you too will have eternal life. You too will be made righteous. You too will be adopted in his family as sons and daughters of God. So it's a very simple message that they preached. They preached the gospel that he bore your sin, that he bought your sicknesses and he's eager to do you good. He's eager to bless you and he's eager to heal you. And so it was just a simple gospel they preached.

So look at verse 7, "And there they preached the gospel." There they preached the gospel. They preached the gospel, very simple gospel. In verse 8, "And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: And the same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him and perceiving that he had faith to be healed. Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked."

And so that was one man there who heard Paul preaching this gospel that Jesus has come to save and to heal and to deliver and that God loves you and he wants to do you good and he'll change your life. And so, this man heard that and Paul begin to look at him steadfastly. So that says to us to take the time to notice people, take the time to notice people. Slow down, slow down and acknowledge people, recognize people. Notice this, Paul began looking at this man to say that you matter to say that I see you, say that your life is significant. And that's a

message to us to slow down and acknowledge people. Let people know that you care, that they are noticed, that they make a difference and it's a simple message there, but that's what Paul did. Out of everybody he preached. He just looked at this man to let him know that you matter and I see you. You're precious in the sight of God. You don't go unnoticed. I see you. You're on the heart of God. He looked at him steadfast and gave him his full attention. John Maxwell said, he said people need three things. He called it the triple A. Give people the triple A treatment. Attention, affirmation and appreciation.

So, Paul gave this man is full attention. He looked at him undividedly. He looked at this one man. Slow down. Let people know that you care. Listen to their story. Let them know that you see them let them know that they're valuable, they're important, that they matter, they make a difference. Let them know that they're significant in life. And I love that, so that's the message that we receive from that. Give people attention. Give people affirmation, affirm them. Appreciate people. Appreciate people. Life is all about relationships. Relationships are the basis of life. Relationships are the basis of life. People are the basis of ministry. Without people there is no ministry. So Paul was letting this man know that you are important, you're valuable. God sees you. God cares about you. I acknowledge you and I love that, I love that.

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And so he looked at him, notice that in verse 9. "The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him." He just looked at him and kept his attention, gave him his attention. Give people attention. Listen to people, listen to people. Look at people. Give them your undivided attention. Put your cellphone down and let them know they have your full attention. Give people your attention. Give people your attention. And so we learned that simple principle there that he looked at him and gave him his full attention. And notice that, "and perceiving that he had faith to be healed." So he even understood him. He even understood. He took time to understand him, to discern him, to feel him and I love that. We learn something about how to treat people here, how to treat people. Take time for people, care for people. Show them that you care. Listen to them, understand them, see them, hear them, love them. Take time for people, take time for people, take time for people.

And there are some other things that we learn from this account. Notice that this man had. He was impotent which actually means having no strength. He had no strength in his feet and he was cripple, verse 8, from his mother's womb. So, have been -- he had never walked. He had been this way all of his life. He had been this way all of his life. And once again, it says to us that it's never too late. It's never too late to change your life. He had been this way all of his life. He'd been this way from his mother's womb and so it lets us know that even though he had never walked he had never walked but yet he was about to do something that he had never done in his life.

It lets us know that there are times and places we have to stretch beyond our comfort zone. Stretch beyond what you already know and what you've already mastered, what you already know how to do, what you've already experienced. There are times we have to stretch beyond the place where we are comfortable. He was comfortable where he was because he had never walked. He had been that way all of his life. He was used to it. This was life. He was now comfortable in this life, but I love the fact that he was willing to stretch beyond his comfort zone when it didn't seem like life could ever be any different. He was willing to go for it. He was willing to change his life. And so it's never too late, never too late to change your life.

Let me give you some things that is never too late to do. It's never too late to change your life. That's number one. It's never too late to change your life. It's never too late. Here's another one. It's never too late -- and this actually relates to number one, it's never too late to accept Christ as your Lord and as your Savior and as your best friend, and as your Master. It's never too late. You'll be surprised of the countless number of stories who even received Christ at the last minute on their deathbed. Before they take their last breath they received him and so it's never too late as long as you have breath in your body. It's never too late to receive Christ. Now, it's better the earlier you do it because now you can enjoy a fulfilled life in Him and you can enjoy life as He intended and you enjoy all of His blessings and all of His fellowship and all of His communion. You enjoy His presence and His power and favor and all of these things in your life if you accept them early on, but it's never too late, it's

never too late, it's never too late to accept Christ. Never too late to change your life. It's never too late.

It's never too late to forgive someone, never too late to forgive someone. It's never too late to forgive someone. I've seen people that even had to forgive someone even after the other person had already passed, had already transcended this life and yet the other person will be on earth still holding something, but yet it was not too late. And once they released and forgave, a new world opened up for them. So it's never too late to forgive. Never too late to love, it's never too late to love someone. It's never too late to love. It's never too late to learn. Never too late to learn something new or try something new. It's never too late to learn, never too late to learn.

It's never too late to be you. It's never too late to be your authentic self. It's never too late to find out who God made you and you discovered your identity in him. It's never too late to be you. So often people live their lives trying to measure up to other people or imitate other people or they live in someone else's mode or expectation for the life and they never are uniquely themselves who God created them to be. So it's never too late to be you.

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God made you unique. He made you unlike anyone else on earth and God wants you to live out the full expression of who you are. Stop trying to be somebody else. He already has somebody else. God made you to be you. He needs your unique expression in the earth. You are uniquely made of God as a unique expression of God in the earth and so stop trying to be other people and just be the best version of yourself. Be the best version of yourself.

So those are some things that is never too late. Never too late, never too late to change. Actually, here's another. It's never too late to apologize. Never too late to apologize. Never too late to forgive. Never too late to love. Never too late to learn and try something new. Never too late to change. Never too late to be you. Never too late to accept Christ. Never too late to do something good with your life. Never too late, it's never too late. Never too late to make a difference in someone else's life. Praise God.

And so we kind of glean that from this man here who had been crippled from birth, but he realized it was not too late to change his life. He also says to us that this man crippled from his mother's womb had never walked before. He also says this to us. Don't be defined by what has happened to you or by where you are. Don't be defined by what has happened to you. Notice, this happened to him. It was his lot in life. He was born this way. He had no choice. That's the way he came into the world. He had no say-so. That was his lot in life. And so he says to us never allow what happened to you to define you. Never allow where you are to define you, but rather be defined by what's within you. Be defined by your potential. Be defined by where you are going, who you are becoming. Be defined by what God has said about you.

See, when this lame man heard the gospel, he realized God had other plans for him. God had set something else about him. He wasn't just an old lame, crippled man that God -- he was unique and he was especially made and that Jesus had come for him and Jesus have brought healing and deliverance and a new life for him. Never be defined by where you are and never be defined by what has happened to you, but be defined by what God has set about you. Be defined by where you're going and by the potential that's within you.

Then we find -- I love this part. So Paul after he had perceived that this man has faith to be healed, Paul said, "Sir arise." Paul says, "Stand on your feet." Paul says, "Stand up." And I want you to see what the verse said. Let me find the verse that actually says something very interesting, chapter 14. We'll just read it again, verse 7, "And there they preach the gospel." Verse 8, "And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked." Verse 9, "The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed." Verse 10, "Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet."

Now, Paul said it with a loud voice. He didn't whisper this to him. He said it with a loud voice because number one, He wanted everyone to hear it. He wanted everybody to hear him because that holds you accountable. When other people know what you're setting out to do it holds you accountable. So that's why it's good to have people on your journey that you've told your dream to and you told them what you're working on and

you told him what your goals are because they'll hold you accountable. And so he said it out loud. This is nothing secret. He said it out loud also to let the devil know that they were taking authority over the devil. He said it out loud also to remove this man's own doubt and fear. He said say it out loud.

Sometimes you have to get in front of the mirror and say some things out loud to yourself. Say some things out loud for yourself so you can hear it, so that you can hear it. You have to give yourself confidence. You got to be able to hear yourself. You got to be able to hear yourself say you can do it. You got to be able to hear yourself say you're a winner. And so he said it out loud. Sometimes you just can't think things, you got to say it out loud. Say it out loud. I will do this. I am better than that. I will accomplish this. I am such a -- you got to say it out loud, because you're the first person that hears it. Say it out loud certain things you don't whisper about.

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You say out loud. You say it out loud. You say it out loud. Say it out loud. Say it out loud that I'm no longer a sinner. I'm the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. That's who I am. Say it out loud so you can hear it. Say it out loud.

So there are certain things that you say out loud. Notice that Paul said it out loud and then he said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on thy feet." But notice this, the man did not stand, he leaped. I love that. I love that. He leaped. He leaped. He leaped. The faith in his heart was so strong he couldn't stand, he leaped. He was just about to explode. He was exploding with faith because he'd been hearing the word. Now, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word. He'd been hearing the word. His faith was so strong. We release our faith in primarily two ways. You release your faith by what you're saying. You release your faith on what you do. That's how you release faith. You have to say something, you had to do something.

And notice this, he leaped. He released his faith when he leaped and so he moved into action and lets us know you have to do something. You have to take action. Just take one small step. Just do anything. Just one small step in the right direction. When you take action, that releases the faith that's in your heart. You got to do something. You have to do something. He

leaped and so when he took action, he moved into action. He moved into action. That's the first thing that it tells me. He moved into action. I'm trying to think of a quote that says that a turtle on the move is more powerful than a dozing ox. And so, it doesn't matter how small the action is. You're more powerful than someone who's standing still and not doing anything. So he leaped into action. So we have to leap into action. We have to leap into action. We have to do something. We have to take action. We have to take action.

Now the other thing that leaped out of this into my heart and spirit is that leaping represents passion, excitement, joy. I mean is enthusiasm. And so this man is saying to us God -- the Holy Spirit through the scripture is saying to us live life with enthusiasm. Don't forget to be excited. Don't forget to be enthused about life. If there is no enthusiasm you can't accomplish anything. You got to be enthused. You got to have passion to do anything great. You got to first be enthused. And so he leaped, he didn't stand up. He leaped. He was excited about getting healed. He was excited about changing his life. He was excited about being a new man. I want you to see this. This man was excited. He couldn't wait he couldn't wait for the opportunity. We live with enthusiasm. Live with passion.

Are you waking up every day embracing the day, embracing your life with enthusiasm? You can't wait for the alarm clock to go off. You can't wait to get out of bed to go at it. Are you living life with enthusiasm? Are you excited about the day? Are you excited about what life holds for you? If you aren't, if you don't have any enthusiasm, if you don't have any passion, here are a few things you need to do. Number one, you need to spend time with God because he's the fire that burns your passion because when you get with Him he'll be able to show and uncover and discover your greatness and potential that's within you and help you to develop, so God becomes our burning passion.

And if you don't have any other passion, he is your passion. He is your passion. If nothing else, you'll be out in the street telling others about Jesus. He becomes your passion. He becomes your passion. He becomes your passion. Paul said to live is Christ. That was his passion, to live is Christ. As long as I'm alive I'm going to tell somebody about Jesus. As long as I'm alive I'm going to preach this gospel to somebody, that was his passion, to live is Christ. What is your passion? What are you excited

about? Is there any enthusiasm? Notice this, he didn't just stand he had never walked in his life. He went from now walking to leaping. Man, that's excitement. He couldn't wait. He couldn't wait. He couldn't wait. He couldn't wait. That's enthusiasm. That's enthusiasm. So number one, if you need to re-stimulate your passion, your enthusiasm, get with God, get with God.

Number two get around other passion to people. See he was around the Apostle Paul somebody who had already said to live is Christ. He saw somebody preaching with passion. He saw a man who was unashamed. He saw a man there preaching the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was around somebody with passion and the passion that was on Paul leaped on him. So if you need to stimulate your passion get around somebody else who's passionate and if you don't have your own passion get involved with somebody else's passion.

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Help somebody else build something. Help somebody else fulfill their dream. Get involved with somebody else who's doing something. It stimulates your passion. Be a part of the mission. If you don't have a passion, hey get excited about the Brothers of The Word. Get excited about The Ark of Salvation. Look at all these things here so you can be a part on the wall right here. Be excited about sharing 2/42. Be excited about saying the 40-day Miracle. Be excited about sharing Coach Bronner. Be excited about telling somebody about God Heals. Be excited about (00:25:38). Folks if you don't have a passion, we got a lot of passion for you to plug into right there. Get involved with somebody else's passion if you don't have passion. Get around somebody else.

I remember a story of a -- there were some seagulls, actually they were pelicans and these pelicans were -- they were living on this little seashore and they were eating all of their fish from the scraps left over from the canneries, from these fishing canneries and operations, so these pelicans didn't have to fish. They were just eating scraps left by the canneries from this fishing operation. Well, the economy got bad and all those canneries closed and so now the Pelicans have been eating so long they have forgotten how to fish and so they would no longer fishing.

And so they were starting to starve and they were starting to die.

And somebody said, "We got to do something. All the pelicans are dying because they forgotten how to fish." And so what they did, somebody had a bright idea. They imported pelicans from another place that were used to diving, that were fresh catching fish. And so when these new pelican came in and begin to dive and catch fish it stimulated the old pelicans who have forgotten what that felt like and what it look like. And all of a sudden something rekindled on the inside of them and before they knew it they were diving and they would now catching fish and now they were living and alive and vibrant again. And so if you don't have your own passion, get around somebody that has some passion. Get involved with their purpose. Get involved with their mission and it ignites something in you. It ignites something with you. That's number two.

So if you don't have your own passion, number one, get with God. Number two, get around other passionate people. Number three, you know, you always got to have something in front of you. Always got to have something you're working on. You got always have a goal. You got to always have a project. You got to always have something you're building, something you're doing. You got to always have something.

A friend of mine, he sent me a video footage he was breaking ground on a new facility that he was building and he sent it to me and he was just so exciting. You got always be working on something. You got to always be building something. You got to always have some goals you're going after. You got to always have something you're doing. You got to always have something in front of you that's pulling you, that's stretching you. You got to have something that excites you so much you couldn't hardly sleep at night. That's your passion. You got to live with enthusiasm. He went from never walking to leaping into life. his enthusiasm. That's the Holy Spirit saying to us through a lame man. Don't lose your enthusiasm. Don't lose your passion for life. Don't lose your passion for living. Praise God. Give the Lord a hand. I must stop right there. Amen, amen.

I have preached all over time, but that's all right, all right. I had a good time. I had a good time. I had a good time. Praise God. Amen. Amen. Glory, glory, glory. Thank you Jesus.

Aren't you glad that Jesus gives us new life. Jesus gives us new life. He picks us up when we were lame. When we've never done anything, we feel trapped and limited. He releases us into new life, newness of life. He excites us so much that we leap, we leap into action. We leap into gratitude and joyfulness because we're so grateful for the grace of God that comes into our lives that changes our lives. Oh man, God is so good. God is so good. He picks us up. He picks us up. He notices us when we feel no one notices us and he breathe fresh life into us and causes us to leap, to be excited again, to have passion again, to have enthusiasm about life, about him and living again. Praise God.

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