

# Pt.10 - Healing Acts

Sermon Title: **Pt.10 - Healing Acts**

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Elijah Bronner: The world is changed by our example.

Female: You are listening to [brothersoftheword.com](http://brothersoftheword.com). This is Part 10 of the series titled, "Healing Acts" by C. Elijah Bronner. This sermon is number 7890.

(Music Playing: 00:00:15 - 00:00:27)

Female: And now for, "Healing Acts Part 10."

Elijah Bronner: Well, 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](http://brothersoftheword.com) or social media, thank you for tuning in and welcome. Always a wonderful delight to have you to tune in and join us. I would like to share just a little humor. Earl and Bob, both obsessed with baseball, never missed their favorite team's game, and they promised whoever died first and went to heaven would come back to earth and tell the other if there was baseball in heaven. And one day, Earl died and Bob waited for him to come back. Finally, Earl did. He said to Bob, "I have good news and bad news. I'll tell you the good news first. There is baseball in heaven." Bob said, "That's great news. What's the bad news?" Earl said, "You're pitching tomorrow night."

When we are having such a wonderful time, we've been sharing in the Book of Acts and we've been looking out of the healing accounts in the Book of Acts and gleaning from them. We've been so blessed that this is my first time really teaching through the Book of Acts like this and I've learned so much. The spirit of God has just shared so much with us to bless our lives in so many different wonderful ways. And today we'll look at the 8th chapter of the Book of Acts, Acts chapter 8.

Just to give you a little review from last time, we looked at something where special miracles or uncommon miracles were worked by the hands of Paul. Remember that it said to us that we are special, that God loves us and God does special things for us because we are loved by him and that makes us special. It also said to us to have an uncommon approach to life because you are uncommon. You are uncommon because of the touch of God on your life and that makes you uncommon. So have an uncommon

attitude, have uncommon faith, have uncommon integrity. Love more than the ordinary person, be uncommon in making people feel special. Pray more than the ordinary person. You are special. You are uncommon. And so we learned that from Acts, I believe it was chapter 19 we dealt with last time.

Today I want to deal with Acts chapter 8. We can read verses 5 through 8, Acts 8:5-8. It says, "Then Philip went down to the City of Samaria and preached Christ unto them." Verse 6, "And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits crying with loud voice came out of many that were possessed with them and many taken with palsies and that were lame were healed. And there was great joy in the City."

And so here, Philip is simply preaching the Gospel. He's preaching a very simple Gospel. He's simply preaching the fact that God loves you. He sent his son to die for you. He became sin for you that you might become the very righteousness of God. He bore the curse so that you can be blessed, that God was personally present in Christ Jesus restoring you to favor with himself, not adding up your sins but canceling them. And so he just preached this simple Gospel that God is not angry at you.

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God forgives you, believe on his son, this gift he sent for the world, believe on him, have your sins forgiven, have your bodies healed. This is God's favor, is unearned, is undeserved. It is unmerited as God's free gift, it's his grace. Receive Jesus as your savior, your healer, receive him into your heart and let him live in you. Philip, he went on and he simply said in Jesus' name be healed and in Jesus' name evil spirits you go from them in Jesus' name. It was a very simple Gospel, but the power of God was operating in Philip's ministry and miracles began to happen. And so, sick people were healed, demonic spirits were cast out and the Bible says there was great joy in that City. Oh man, isn't that wonderful? When Jesus is preached and when Jesus manifest his presence and his power and his glory, wonderful things happen, and there's great joy in that City.

We learned five things from this account. Number one, we learned that Jesus brings joy, Jesus brings great joy. There was great joy in that City because of Jesus, Jesus brings great joy.

Number two, Jesus brings deliverance. Those who were demonically possessed were delivered from those evil spirits. Number three, we learned that Jesus brings healing. Number four, Jesus brings forgiveness. They were forgiven of their sins. Number five, Jesus brings salvation. They were now saved and they received eternal life and they were brought into the family of God. So those are five powerful things that we learned from this account where Philip ministered the life of Jesus Christ here in Samaria.

We see three other things here. We see the word mixed with faith. If you noticed back in the text where we read, it says that they gave heed unto the things which Philip spoke. They were listening and they were believing and they were hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. So, we see the word being mixed with faith. They heard the word and they begin to believe that word, and we see the power that was in Jesus' name as Philip ministered in Jesus' name. So we see the power, so we see the word, and faith mixed with that word we see the power release in the name of Jesus. And number three, we saw the operation of the Holy Spirit.

And so, all three of those things were working together. The word going forth being mixed with faith, the authority of Jesus' name and the operation of the Holy Spirit. So all three of those things were all working simultaneously together. They were all working in concert together. The word was going forth, the people release their faith. They heard it, they believed it. The name of Jesus exercised all of his authority and then we saw the Holy Spirit in operation doing miracles. Isn't that wonderful? And so, that's the model that we get and that's what we receive from that.

So you have to understand that miracles are simply signs to get people's attention. And miracles simply point to the truth of the message. The miracles happen as a sign to say, this message is true. Jesus is the son of God. Jesus is salvation. And so miracles merely point to verify, to authenticate the message. So, God allowed miracles to happen to point to the message. He's preaching the Gospel. Jesus, he is salvation. He is the Son of God, he is alive and well, God loves you. And so, miracles point to the message. Miracles always bring attention to the message. Miracles confirm the word. The Bible says that they preach the word with signs and wonders following the word. So Miracles always confirm the word. You hear it, you believe it and God

confirms it with miracles. So miracles happen to authenticate the message to let you know that this is the message, this is the right message, this is the real message, this is the true message. And and so we learned those important points there from the life of Philip there in Acts 8:5-8.

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Now, let's do another one. We are simply going through different scriptures in the book of Acts looking at these healing accounts and we're gleaning from them. Flip over to Acts chapter 9 verse 33 through 35. Here's another one here at Acts 9:33-35.

Verse 33, it says, "And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years and was sick of the palsy. And Peter said unto him, 'Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole. Arise and make thy bed.' And he arose immediately and all that dwelt in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord."

Now, I want you to get this, I had never seen this before. Peter ministered the Lord Jesus Christ to Aeneas, Aeneas received his healing. He had been paralyzed for eight years and after eight years, he got up, picked up his bed, and then went on about his life. He lived a wonderful life. And as a result of people seeing Aeneas, two cities came to the Lord. From just seeing one man, two cities, the City of Lydda and Sharon, they saw him and turned to the Lord. Isn't that powerful? His life changed in such a wonderful way that it inspired others. What does that say to us today?

It says to us that God changes the person and uses the person to change the place. God will change the person and he uses the person to change the place. The world is changed by your example. Two cities came to the Lord because they saw this man whose life had been changed, and it was such a powerful testimony. Two cities, two entire cities came to the Lord. It's awesome. They didn't come to the Lord because they heard Peter preach. They came to the Lord because they saw evidence on a man's life that had been changed and they said, "This had to be the power of God" and they gave their lives to the Lord. So two cities came to the Lord because they saw a man's life changed. It lets us know the world is changed by our example. Don't have a

to-do list, have a to-be list. Be kind, be grateful, be happy, be caring, be sharing. The world is changed by our example.

Listen to what Paul wrote in Philippians 3:17. He said, “Brethren, be followers together of me and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample,” or example. He said, look, follow my life, use my life as an example. You have us as an example. Look at us, let us be examples for you. The world is changed by our example.

Philippians 4:9, listen to this. It says, “Those things which ye have both learned and received and heard and seen in me, do, and the God of Peace shall be with you.” Paul says, look at my life. What you’ve seen, heard, those things that you see in me, you do them. Follow my example and God will be with you, the peace of God will be with you. Follow my example.

And so, notice this, the world is changed by our example. In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul writes to Timothy. He says, “Let no man despise thy youth but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation or conduct, in charity or love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” Notice that he didn’t talk so much about preaching, he talked more about being. Being. He didn’t instruct him about preaching, he instructed him about being. No, be. Let them see the sermon, be faith, be love, walk in purity, walk in charity, walk in the word, walk in all these things, be these things and let your example make a difference, let your examples change those around you.

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Does the way you live inspire anyone? Aeneas’ life inspired two cities to come to the Lord. Two cities, they just saw Aeneas. That’s all. They saw Aeneas and they said that’s it, I’m turning my life over to the Lord. Because this man’s life had been changed so dramatically, he was such an example of the power of God. They knew that had to be the power and the grace and the goodness of God and they came to the Lord when they saw Aeneas. Does your life inspire anyone? Does the way you live inspire anyone? Oh man, and you know, think about this. We have to discipline ourselves before we can effectively lead others. We have to discipline ourselves before we can effectively lead others.

One day, this mother, she brought her son to Gandhi and she said, “Gandhi, would you please tell my son to stop eating sugar because it’s bad for him.” Gandhi looked at the woman and he said, “Bring him back next week.” She came back next week. She said, “Gandhi, would you please tell my son to stop eating sugar because it’s bad for him.” Gandhi looked at the little boy and he says, “Stop eating sugar, it’s bad for you.” And this little boy’s mother said, “Why can’t you tell him that last week?” Gandhi said, “Because I was eating sugar last week. I had to get myself straight before I could instruct him.” And so we have to discipline ourselves before we can effectively lead others. We have to be an example. The world is changed by your example.

John Wooden said this. He said the most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example. Now, John Wooden was deemed the greatest coach of the 20th century in all sports. John Wooden was the Premier Coach. John Wooden was it. He was he was the Premier Coach of the 20th century. And John Wooden shared. He shared that his father shared six things with him that kind of gave him the creed for his life. It was the creed of his life, he shared six things with him. His father entitled it “Making The Most Of Oneself.” John Wooden shared that this creed that his father taught him, he wrote it down and he carried it in his wallet with him wherever he went and this was the creed that he lived by, making the most of oneself.

Number one, he said his father taught him to be true to yourself. Be true to yourself. Meaning be who you are, be authentic, be genuine, be who God made you, be true to yourself. There’s an African proverb that says be what you is, not what you ain’t because if you ain’t what you is, you is what you ain’t. And so you be true to yourself. That was the first principle that his father taught him, be true to yourself.

Second principle his father taught him, he said make every day your masterpiece. What he meant by that is every day is a new slate, you have an opportunity. If you could do everything right for one day, what would that day look like? What would it look like? What goals would you achieve? What habits would you have in place? What would you say? What would you do? Make every day your masterpiece, live each day as of new blank slate. And I have the opportunity to make a masterpiece here. What would I do with my time, who would I love, what would I say, what would I do? Every day make it a masterpiece. And he lived with this

consciousness making every day a masterpiece. In that day, you have the opportunity to do your work, to do your priorities, to love to laugh, to matter, to grow, to nourish, to play. You have all of these wonderful things that you can do in this day, so make every day a masterpiece. Make every day your masterpiece. That was the second thing his father taught him. Number one, be true to yourself. Number two, make every day your masterpiece.

Number three, he taught him to help others. To be others minded. To help others. Terry Force(ph), she said, "Leave people better than you found them."

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I always make it a goal to leave people better than you found them. It doesn't matter where or how. Just leave people better than you found them. That can cover a wide range of things. Leave people better than you found them. Help others. That was the third thing that his father taught him.

The fourth thing that his father taught him was to drink deeply from good books. To drink deeply from good books. Someone said that your life is the same in five years except for the books you read, people you meet, the experiences you have. Your life is only changed by what you're consuming. Your life is changed by the information going into your mind, your heart, and your spirit. Your life is changed by your input from the people you meet, from the relationships you have. Your life is changed by the experiences you have. And you know, even now we have so many more ways that we can impact our life because of technology. Now, you can listen to podcasts and now you can watch YouTube videos. Now, technology is so much more. Your life is changed so much more now than merely books because now you can watch seminars and lectures from the brightest minds on Earth. Right now there are so many podcasts and YouTube videos. All this stuff is free of charge now. Drink deeply from good books was what John Wooden's father told him. That was the fourth. Number one, be true to yourself. Number two, make every day your masterpiece. Number three, help others. Number four, drink deeply from good books.

Number five, make friendship a fine art. Value, cherish, strengthen relationships. Make friendship a fine art. Relationships are the basis of life, the essence of life. It's the

opportunity to share life with someone and to share life's experiences with someone, to love someone, to have fun, to laugh with someone. Cherish good friendships. Make friendship a fine art. There's such a value in having a good friend, such a wonderful value in having a good friend to share life with, to share life's experiences with, to share life's ups and downs with. Make friendship a fine art. Value, cherish, strengthen and nurture good relationships. That was the fifth principle that John Wooden's father taught him.

The sixth principle he taught him was build shelter against a rainy day. In other words, plan ahead, save, invest. Sow seeds today for future harvest. Think about your future. Be future-oriented. Always have a thought, a plan toward the future. Don't consume everything in today's moment. Don't live just for today, but always plan ahead. Always plan ahead and prepare and save and invest and sow seeds today for future harvest. Make shelter against a rainy day. So those are the six principles that John Wooden's father taught him about making the most of one's self.

I heard Bishop Dale say this. He says, we don't live life merely to be the best version of our self. That's great and that good, but that's not why we merely live. We actually live to be the greatest reflection of him. We're not living merely to be the best version of our self. We are actually living to be the greatest reflection of him. We reflect Christlikeness. We reflect God living on the inside of us. We reflect all of that goodness. We reflect all of that love. That's the greatest aim of life. We reflect him. Christ would be formed in us, that we would be shaped and molded into his image, conformed to his image where we look like Christ. That's really the ultimate goal in life is to look like Christ. To look like Christ. Oh man, so we don't really make the most of ourselves. We want to have the highest reflection of him. The highest reflection of him. Praise God. Praise God.

So those are the six things that John Wooden said and it's no accident that he said the most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example.

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And so, John Wooden became one of history's most winning coaches because he first learned to win with himself. He first learned to discipline himself, and so he had instilled these. He

had these principles instilled in him so he won privately before he could ever lead a team to championships and to victories. He first won with himself a private victory before he can lead others.

And so Aeneas, in this account in the Bible, in his personal example changed two cities and brought two cities to the Lord because of the way his life had been changed and what his life reflected. The power of Christ so mightily, two cities came to the Lord. Because Aeneas had such a powerful life transformation, they came to God. Let your example change the world.

Since we're talking about coaches, I'll just throw this in as a bonus. Lou Holtz, another great coach. He said his father taught him three things: Do your very best, do what's right, treat others the way you want to be treated. Very simple, but very powerful. Do your very best, do what's right, treat others the way you want to be treated. Praise God. Praise God. Praise God.

Well, those of you who are watching us by television, I want you to go to [brothersoftheword.com](http://brothersoftheword.com). You can listen to this message and this entire series absolutely free of charge, Healing Acts. 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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