In [Acts 3](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts3%3A1-8&version=NKJV), Luke tells the story of disciples Peter and John’s healing of the poor beggar just outside of the Temple in Jerusalem. Think of the day this poor beggar had. Born lame, he had to be carried every day to the temple gate to seek charity from those who would come to the temple. Daily, he endured shame and poverty, having to shout for attention. His efforts shout, “Look at me!” His focus will soon change—had to change. For, on this day, he encounters Peter and John, never expecting that his world is about to change. This encounter is the springboard for Peter’s second sermon. In the context of this story, there is something in particular that over the next few weeks I believe our Heavenly Father would have us unpack. [Verse #6](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts3%3A6&version=NKJV) reads, “In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene . . .” Yes, Scripture has a lot to say about the name of our Lord.

 First, we must be clear: Peter and John were not here promoting “name it and claim it” doctrine. This wasn’t witchcraft or magic. To pray or to invoke the name of Jesus is not a secret formula or good luck charm. It is a declaration that we are praying according to His will and character: **16**And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all ([Acts 3:16](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts3%3A16&version=NKJV)). His is a name more valuable than all the riches of the world. A name that is lovely, powerful, beautiful, sovereign, and threatening to those who don’t receive it. And it is a name that through faith changes destinies and lives. His is the only name we call on for salvation [Acts 4:12](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts4%3A12&version=NKJV). It is a name that scripture says endures forever ([Psalm 135:13](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm135%3A13&version=NKJV)). And if we have been born again, our name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. As the bride takes on the name of the husband, we are representatives of that name. How’s that going for you—being a representative of the Name of Jesus?

 In the Acts story, the beggar is healed instantly. He was in the place of prayer in Jerusalem, but he sought the wrong answer to his condition. Instead of the coins he called for, he received change. All at the name of Jesus. Think of Peter! Not the long before, he was afraid of a maidservant’s learning of his relationship with Jesus. Now, he’s invoking the power of the name of Jesus, all that Jesus was, and all that He is, pointing to Christ as the source of power. Evidence of lives changed in Jesus’ name—Family! That’s our story! And if we are saved by Him, we are to be evidence of the glory and power and salvation found only in the name of

Jesus. The crippled beggar leaped to his feet, and in [verse 9](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts3%3A9&version=NKJV), “all the people saw him walking and praising God.”

William Barclay, the great theologian, wrote,



It is no accident that our Lord was called by the name Jesus. That name sums up the things which He came into the world to do and which only He can do. He came to be divine rescuer who alone can deliver men from the consequences and from the grip of sin; He came to be the divine physician who along can bring healing to the bodies and souls of men.

 There are 256 names given in the Bible for the Lord Jesus Christ. And He is beyond all that any one name or even all those names together could express ([Philippians 2:9-11](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians2%3A9-11&version=NKJV)). Because His is a name above every name, one of authority and power, He deserves our worship and obedience, causing in us joy because we have life. Hebrews 13:15 gives us our response to His name. His name brings wonder and amazement. We serve in His name, give, love, grieve, walk, pray, marry, swear by, and are saved in His name. And born again believers carry than name. We represent the name that is above all names. We experience new life because “God is with us” Emmanuel. It is a Holy name and should be represented as such. His name is our reason for hope and the name in which we place our faith.

 Back to the story of Peter and John’s healing the crippled beggar in Acts 3—Now that he could stand, there was no doubt where he stood. This is our story. We could not walk in a way that was pleasing to God. Jesus has stepped in, healed our sin-sick hearts, and we walk in strength and joy. There will be people who try to identify you as the person you used to be ([verse 10](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts3%3A10&version=NKJV)). But, Praise God! You and I are not those people anymore. The name of Jesus still has power and authority. God is God With Us at Christmas and for all the rest of the year, too.

 Let me leave you with one last scripture, [Proverbs 18:10](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs18%3A10&version=NKJV):

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”