

A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a white t-shirt and dark trousers, is speaking into a microphone. He is holding a laptop in front of him. The background is dark.

Finding Your True Identity: Lessons from Acts 3

In Acts 3, we find a powerful story of transformation that speaks directly to our modern struggles with identity and purpose. The narrative of the lame man at the Beautiful Gate offers profound insights about how God sees us versus how we see ourselves.

What does it mean to be stuck in a broken state?

The story begins with a man who had been lame from birth. Every day, people would carry him to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he would beg for money from those entering to worship. This was his routine, his identity, his life—sitting in a broken state, asking for just enough to survive another day.

Many of us find ourselves in similar situations. We've been in broken states for so long that we've accepted them as our identity. Perhaps you've heard voices telling you:

Because your mother struggled with addiction, you can't make it.



Because your father didn't finish school, there's no way you can graduate.

Your brother has been in jail half his life—you're going next.

These negative affirmations become the soundtrack of our lives, playing on repeat until we believe them.

How does your environment affect your breakthrough?

Despite his brokenness, notice where the lame man positioned himself—at the temple gate. He could have been laid at the entrance of a club, a shelter, or surrounded by scammers, but he chose to be at the house of God.

Your environment is crucial to your breakthrough. If you struggle with alcohol, hanging out at bars won't help. If you feel academically challenged, surrounding yourself with underachieving peers won't elevate you. If you feel aggressive, joining a gang won't bring peace.

No matter what broken state you're in, position yourself at the house of God. This man's strategic positioning placed him directly in the path of his miracle.

What happens when God looks at you intentionally?

When Peter and John approached the temple, they saw the lame man. But they didn't just glance—they “fastened their eyes upon him” and said, “Look at us.” This wasn't a casual interaction but an intentional engagement.

God looks at you with the same intentionality. It wasn't by mistake that God called you. He was already watching over you in your broken situation. His gaze is purposeful, seeking to transform you from the inside out.

Are you asking for the wrong things?

The lame man expected to receive money from Peter and John. He had a limited vision of what his breakthrough could look like. Many of us do the same—we ask God for things we think we need rather than what He knows we need.

We pray for:

A relationship that might be toxic

A job that would limit
our growth

Material possessions
that would lead to
financial strain

Meanwhile, God has
something far greater
in mind.




What does God want to give you instead of what you're asking for?

Peter's response is profound: "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

God isn't withholding blessings from you. Often, He's saying, "What you're asking for isn't what you need. I have something better." The man wanted money for temporary relief, but God offered complete restoration.

Too many times we praise God for what we want and forget about what He has already done. We focus on small requests while God is preparing transformational breakthroughs.



How should you respond to God's gift?

After receiving healing, the man's response is instructive. The scripture says he:

Stood up (he accepted the gift)

Walked (he used the gift)

Entered the temple praising
God (he gave glory for the
gift)

God has gifted each of us
uniquely, but having a gift
and sitting on it is like the
servant who buried his
talent. When God tells you to
stand, don't remain seated.
When He gives you a voice,
speak. When He blesses you
with abilities, use them—not
for self-promotion but for His
glory.



What impact does your transformation have on others?

The final verse tells us that “all the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. They were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”

Your transformation isn't just for you—it's a testimony that causes others to marvel at God's power. There are people who knew you “before,” who will be amazed at what God has done in your life. Your story becomes evidence that leads others to believe.

Life Application

God is calling you to rise up and walk into the fullness of who He created you to be. This week, I challenge you to:

Identify the negative affirmations you've been telling yourself. Replace them with God's truths: I am a new creation in Christ, I am chosen, loved, and accepted by God, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Evaluate your environment. Are you positioning yourself where breakthrough can find you? Make intentional choices about where you spend your time and who you spend it with.



Examine what you're asking God for. Could He be trying to give you something better? Open your hands and heart to receive what He actually wants to give you.

Use your gift. Whatever talent, ability, or blessing God has given you—stand up, walk in it, and use it to praise Him.

Ask yourself:

What broken identity am I clinging to that God wants to heal?

Am I asking God for small things when He wants to give me complete restoration?

How can my transformation become a testimony that leads others to Christ?

Remember, God doesn't just want to give you what you ask for—He wants to restore you to who you were always meant to be.

