

# **BEDWELL GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

## **EXPOSITORY SERMON**

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**MAY – JUNE**

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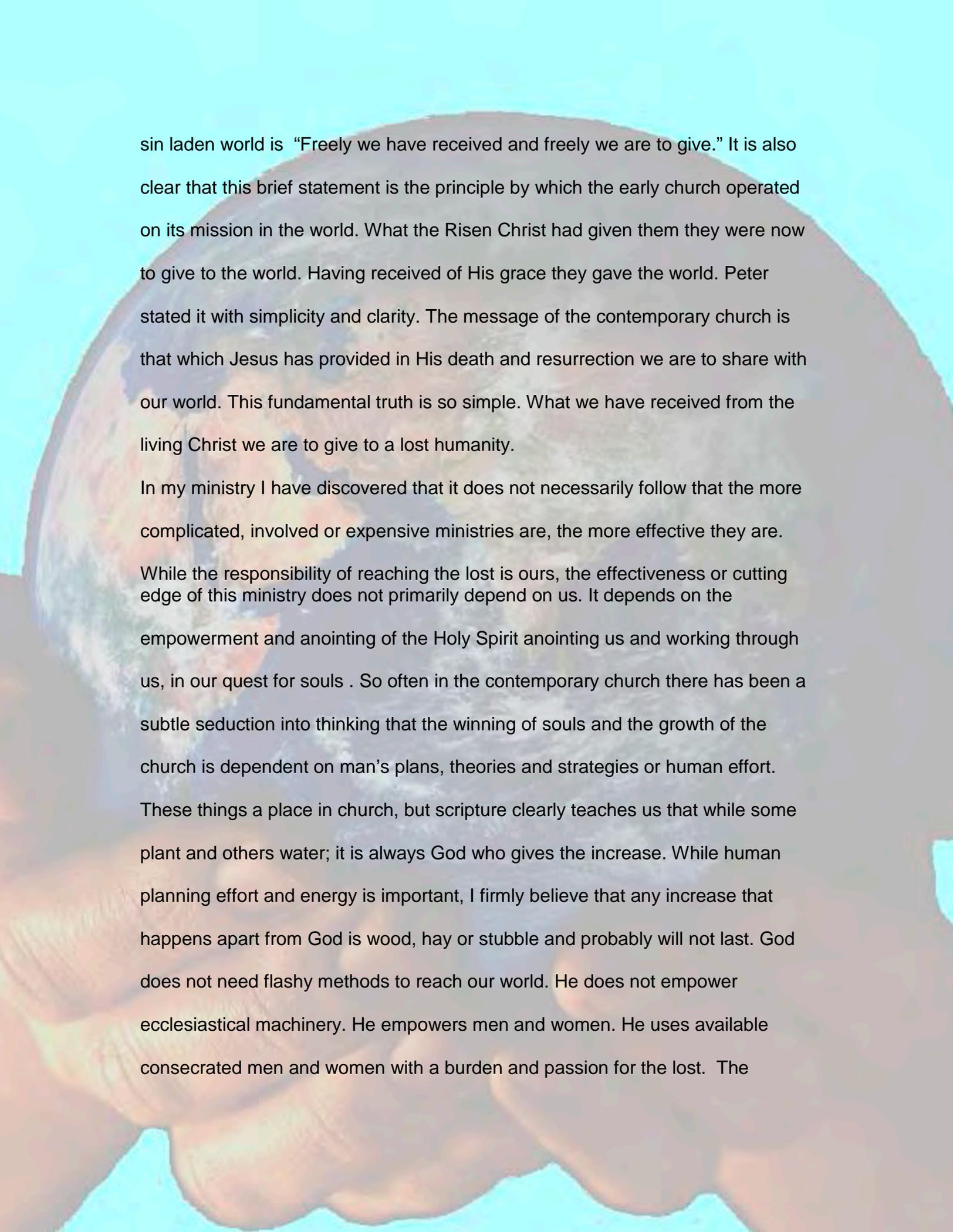
### **WHAT I HAVE RECEIVED I GIVE**

**Scripture Reading - Acts 3:1-13. Text Acts 3:6.**

#### **Introduction**

The words on which we are to focus our attention in this message are found in Acts 3:6. “.....**what I have I give you.**” It was Peter’s response to a crippled man’s plea for money but it was not what the cripple expected. Peter did not have what the infirmed man desired. He did not possess the wealth of this world. What he did have was wealth vested in the resources and person of the Risen Christ. It was wealth that the crippled man least expected and what he most needed.

What strikes me is that Peter’s words state simply what the basic mission and responsibility of the church is. What the Lord Jesus Christ has given us and made possible by His life, death and resurrection, we are to freely give to a desperately crippled and lost world. The scriptural principle of reaching out to our



sin laden world is “Freely we have received and freely we are to give.” It is also clear that this brief statement is the principle by which the early church operated on its mission in the world. What the Risen Christ had given them they were now to give to the world. Having received of His grace they gave the world. Peter stated it with simplicity and clarity. The message of the contemporary church is that which Jesus has provided in His death and resurrection we are to share with our world. This fundamental truth is so simple. What we have received from the living Christ we are to give to a lost humanity.

In my ministry I have discovered that it does not necessarily follow that the more complicated, involved or expensive ministries are, the more effective they are.

While the responsibility of reaching the lost is ours, the effectiveness or cutting edge of this ministry does not primarily depend on us. It depends on the empowerment and anointing of the Holy Spirit anointing us and working through us, in our quest for souls . So often in the contemporary church there has been a subtle seduction into thinking that the winning of souls and the growth of the church is dependent on man’s plans, theories and strategies or human effort. These things a place in church, but scripture clearly teaches us that while some plant and others water; it is always God who gives the increase. While human planning effort and energy is important, I firmly believe that any increase that happens apart from God is wood, hay or stubble and probably will not last. God does not need flashy methods to reach our world. He does not empower ecclesiastical machinery. He empowers men and women. He uses available consecrated men and women with a burden and passion for the lost. The

Gospel He has given them is to be shared with a lost world.

It is important that we be careful not fall into trap in which much of the church has fallen. It is a state or condition vividly described by J. B. Phillips in his hard-hitting introduction to the Book of the Acts. He speaks of the “1<sup>st</sup> century as the period before the church **became fat and short of breath through prosperity and musclebound by over organization.**”

Acts chapter 3 we discover Peter and John on their way up to the temple to pray at three in the afternoon for that was the time for prayer. On their way up they encountered a sick man with

#### **1. A DEBILITATING PARALYSIS. Acts 3:2.**

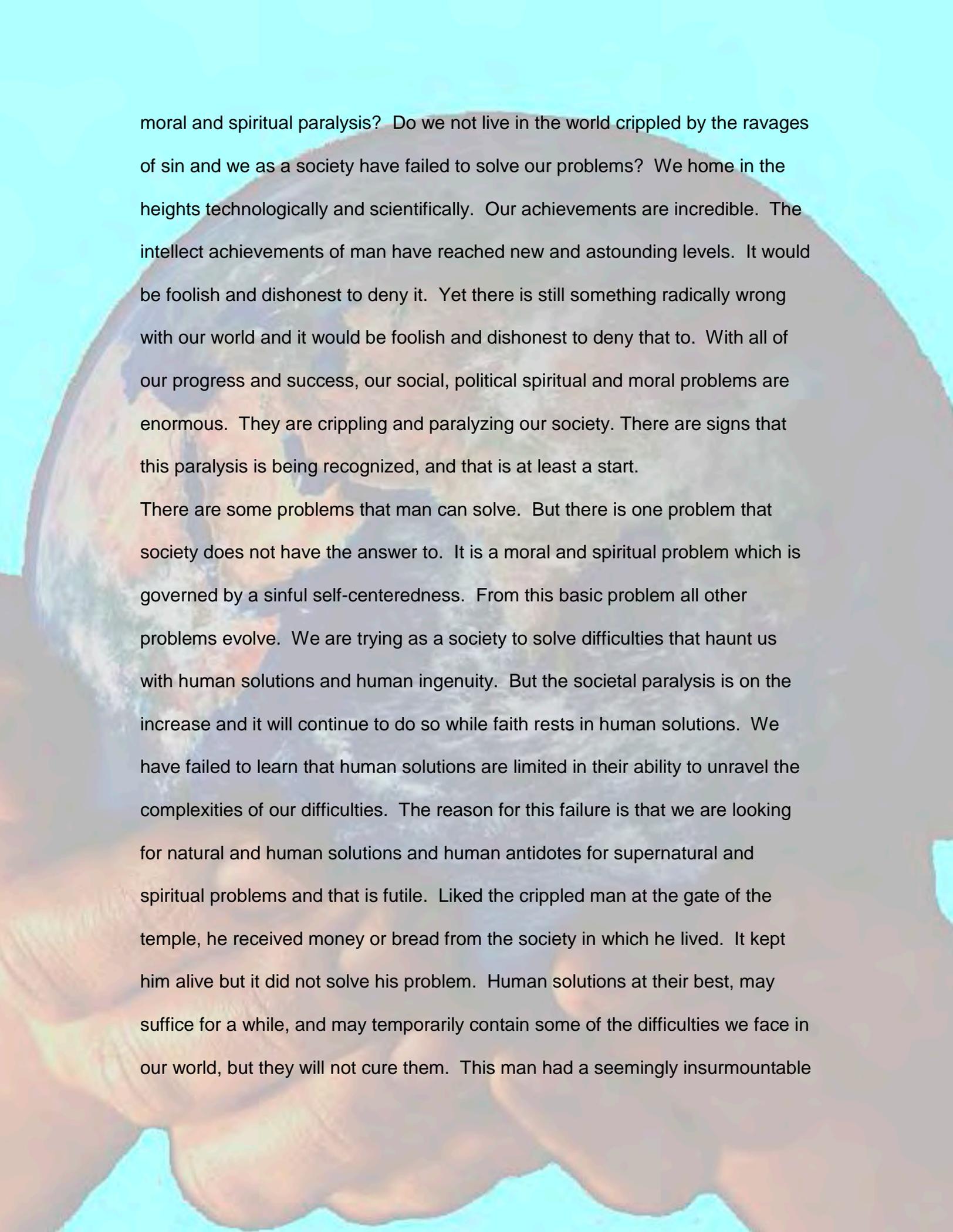
Here was a man who crippled from birth who had to be carried to the temple on a daily basis. The issue was that if no one helped him how would he survive? He was completely dependent. This paralysis produced in him

**a. The Sense of Helplessness. Acts 3:2.** He had to be carried to the temple on a daily basis. He was left there to beg. He was powerless and dependent on those who were willing to help him. Such was the extent of his paralysis. This kind of paralysis is a tragedy. Here was a man born to experience life in its fullness. He was born to enjoy the normal experiences of life. He was born with inherent potential to accomplish the end for which God intended it. But an unwelcome problem had plagued and paralyzed him from birth, destroying all possibilities of success, frustrating any ambitions he may have cherished and inhibiting any potential he may have developed to function as a normal human being. His problem limited him as to where he could go and what he could

accomplish. This paralysis gave birth to the sense of helplessness. But it also gave birth to,

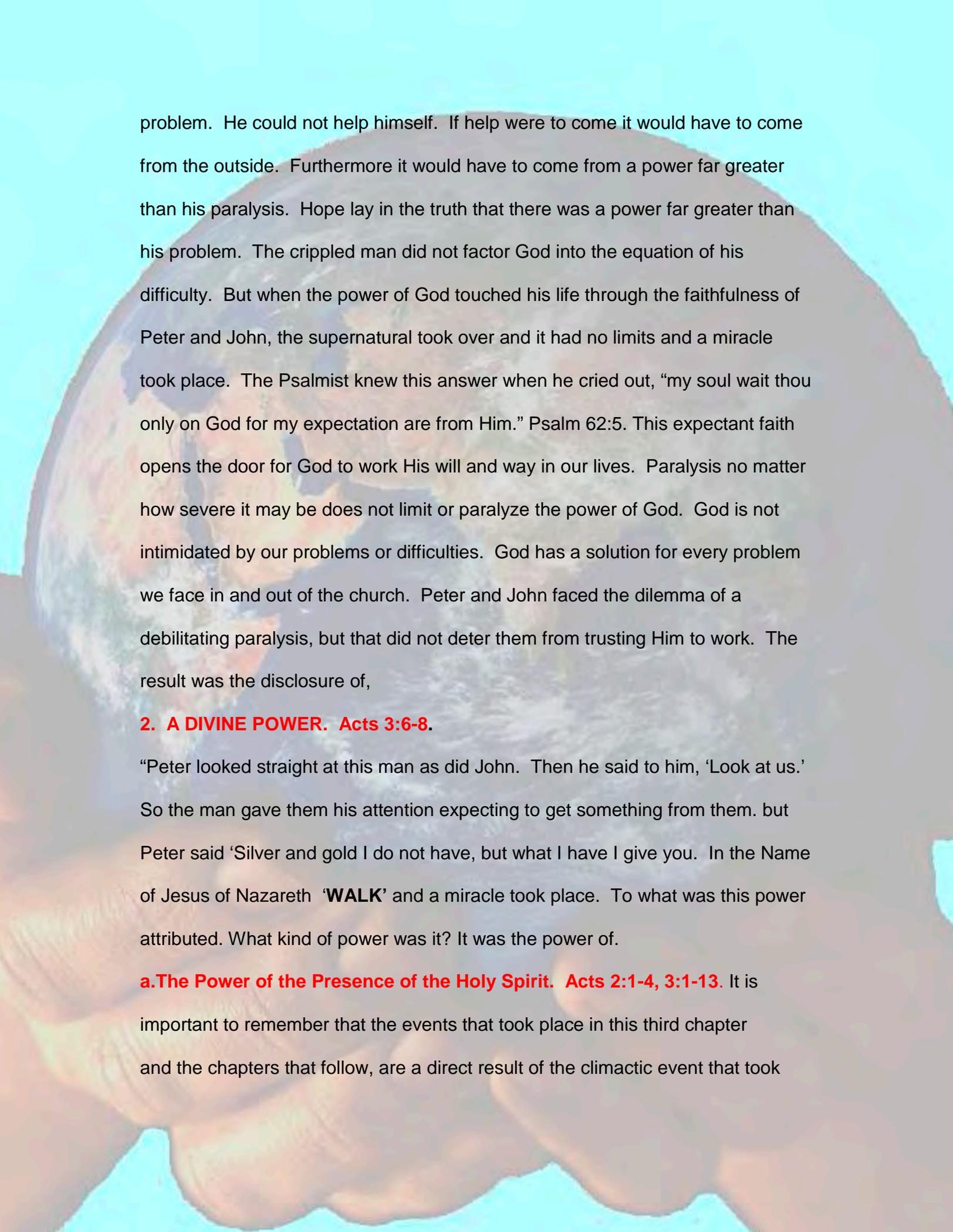
**b. The Sense of Hopelessness. Acts 3:1-10.** It was clear that he had lost all hope. His physical paralysis had paralyzed him within. He obviously resigned himself to endure his physical condition. The crippled man had thought that once a cripple he would always be a cripple. His physical mindset had affected his attitude. He became limited in his expectations. He seemed to believe that all that life could offer him was an opportunity and a place to beg for money. That was the extent of his expectations. That was the limit of his hope in life. It never occurred to him that he would ever walk again, and he evidently believed that the only gifts he would receive would be material and so the level of his expectations was confined to the material things of life. He accepted his crippled condition and lived to preserve it. He could not conceive of the possibility of anything more than that. His paralyzed condition brought him to that state of mind. Society left him there and so had the church of that day and as a result he had no reason for the hope of healing. "Just give me enough bread to meet my need" he seemed to say. My paralyzed condition leads me to believe that I cannot expect any more than that. As this man sat there in this frame of mind, Peter and John went up to the house of prayer. When Peter stopped and got his attention, this man clearly expected to receive silver or gold, because day after day that is what people gave to him. Why would this day be any different?

Now what does this man with his debilitating condition say to us? There is a picture with strong symbolism here. Is it not true that all around us there is a



moral and spiritual paralysis? Do we not live in the world crippled by the ravages of sin and we as a society have failed to solve our problems? We have risen to the heights technologically and scientifically. Our achievements are incredible. The intellectual achievements of man have reached new and astounding levels. It would be foolish and dishonest to deny it. Yet there is still something radically wrong with our world and it would be foolish and dishonest to deny that too. With all of our progress and success, our social, political, spiritual and moral problems are enormous. They are crippling and paralyzing our society. There are signs that this paralysis is being recognized, and that is at least a start.

There are some problems that man can solve. But there is one problem that society does not have the answer to. It is a moral and spiritual problem which is governed by a sinful self-centeredness. From this basic problem all other problems evolve. We are trying as a society to solve difficulties that haunt us with human solutions and human ingenuity. But the societal paralysis is on the increase and it will continue to do so while faith rests in human solutions. We have failed to learn that human solutions are limited in their ability to unravel the complexities of our difficulties. The reason for this failure is that we are looking for natural and human solutions and human antidotes for supernatural and spiritual problems and that is futile. Like the crippled man at the gate of the temple, he received money or bread from the society in which he lived. It kept him alive but it did not solve his problem. Human solutions at their best, may suffice for a while, and may temporarily contain some of the difficulties we face in our world, but they will not cure them. This man had a seemingly insurmountable

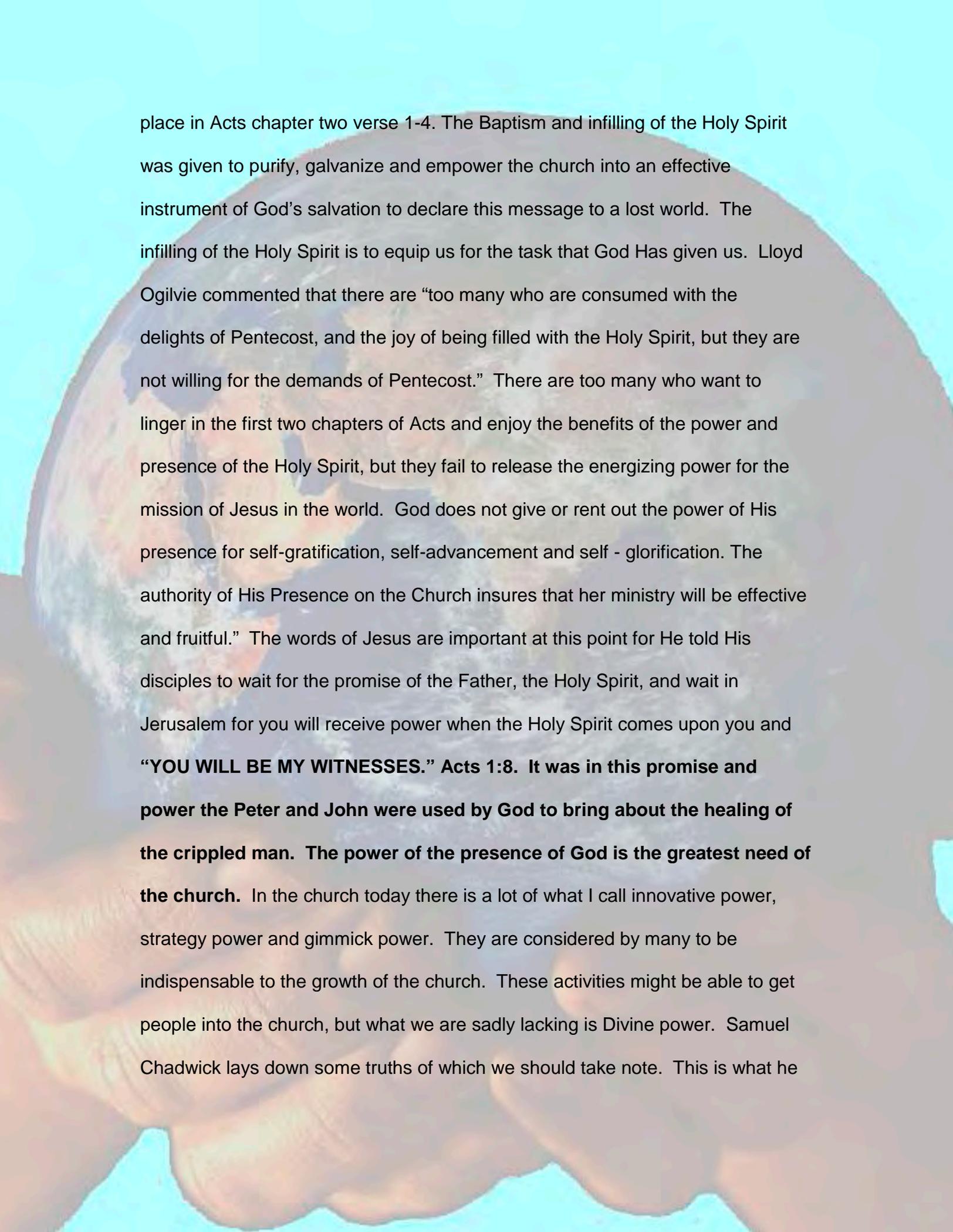


problem. He could not help himself. If help were to come it would have to come from the outside. Furthermore it would have to come from a power far greater than his paralysis. Hope lay in the truth that there was a power far greater than his problem. The crippled man did not factor God into the equation of his difficulty. But when the power of God touched his life through the faithfulness of Peter and John, the supernatural took over and it had no limits and a miracle took place. The Psalmist knew this answer when he cried out, “my soul wait thou only on God for my expectation are from Him.” Psalm 62:5. This expectant faith opens the door for God to work His will and way in our lives. Paralysis no matter how severe it may be does not limit or paralyze the power of God. God is not intimidated by our problems or difficulties. God has a solution for every problem we face in and out of the church. Peter and John faced the dilemma of a debilitating paralysis, but that did not deter them from trusting Him to work. The result was the disclosure of,

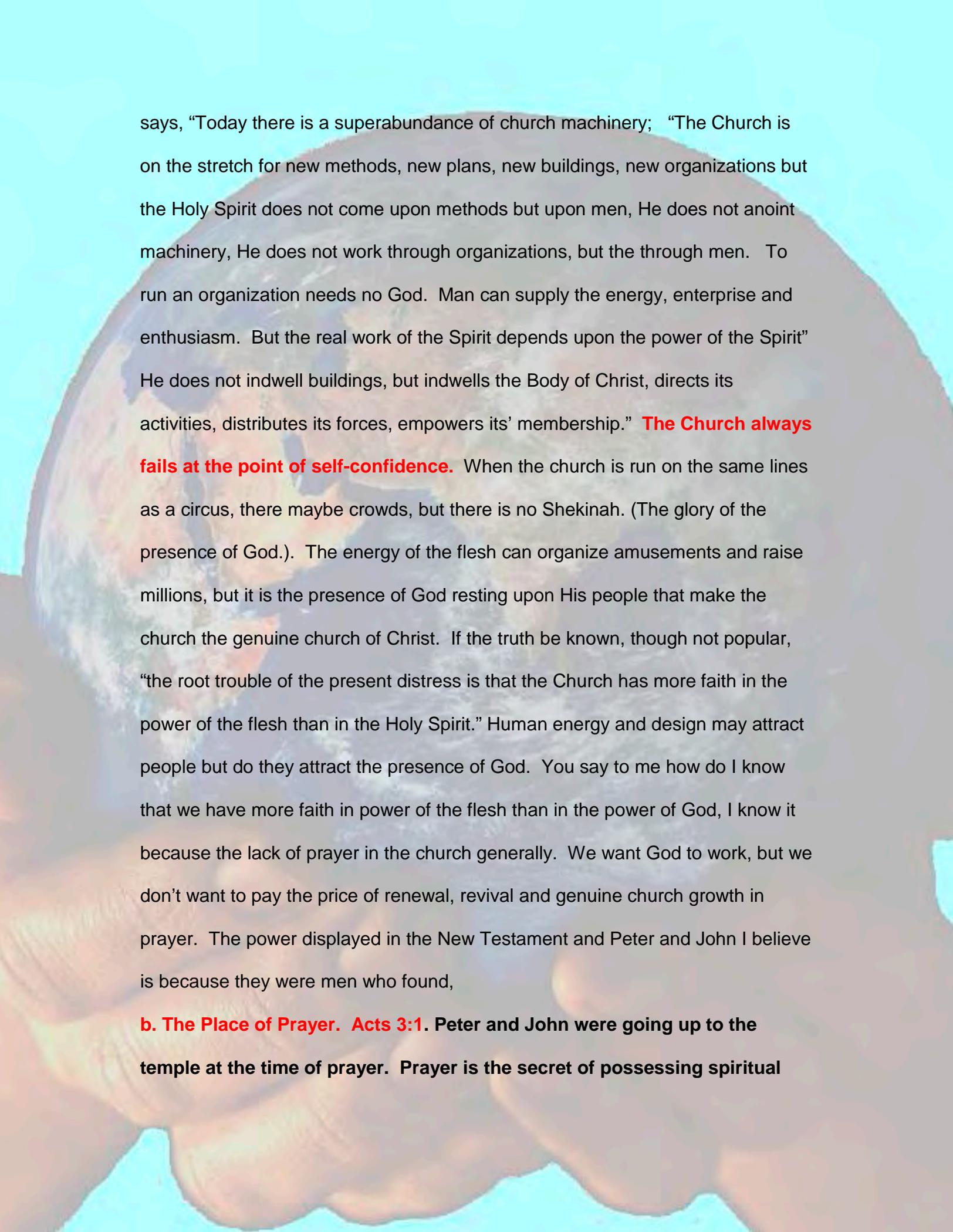
## **2. A DIVINE POWER. Acts 3:6-8.**

“Peter looked straight at this man as did John. Then he said to him, ‘Look at us.’ So the man gave them his attention expecting to get something from them. but Peter said ‘Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the Name of Jesus of Nazareth **‘WALK’** and a miracle took place. To what was this power attributed. What kind of power was it? It was the power of.

**a.The Power of the Presence of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:1-4, 3:1-13.** It is important to remember that the events that took place in this third chapter and the chapters that follow, are a direct result of the climactic event that took

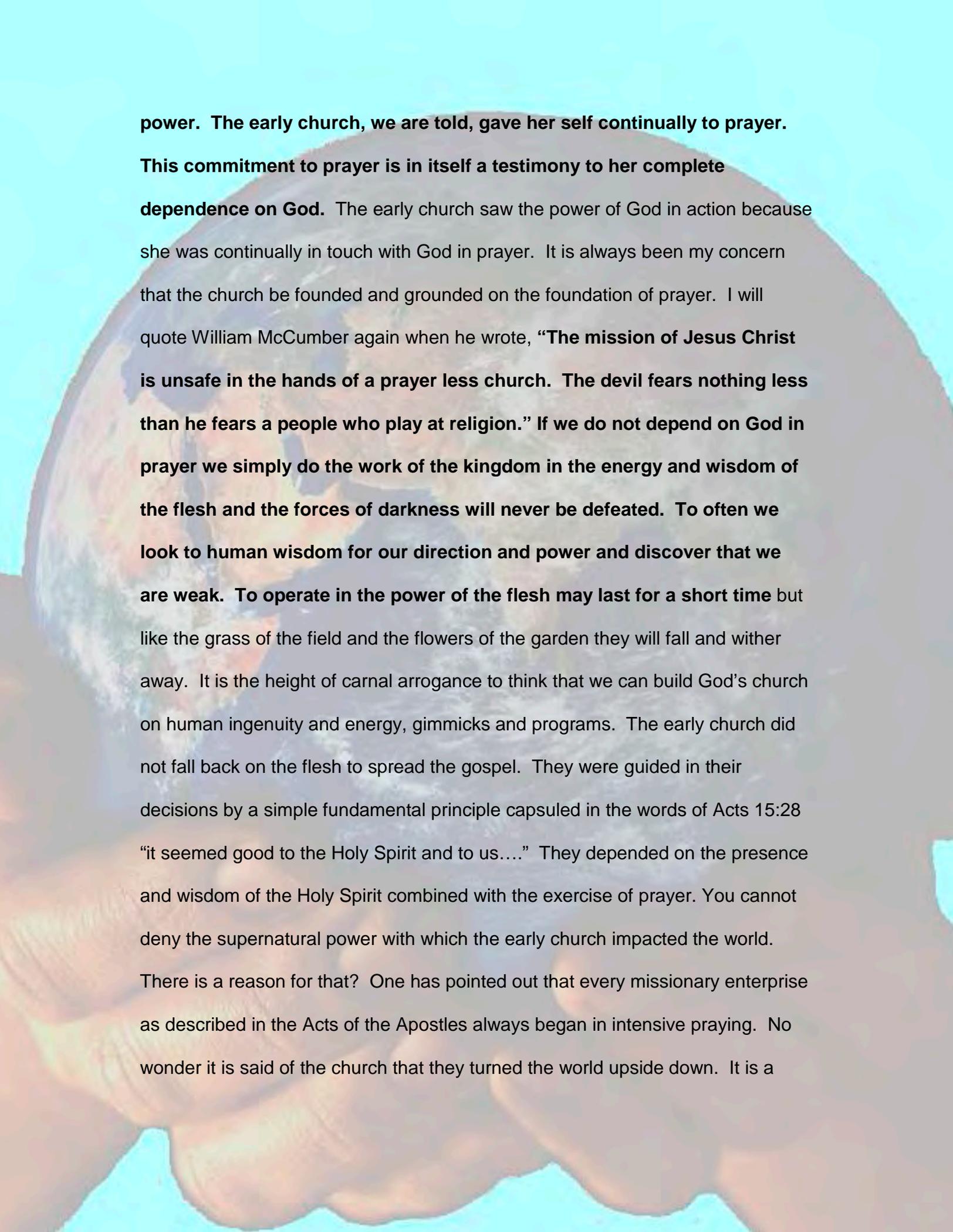


place in Acts chapter two verse 1-4. The Baptism and infilling of the Holy Spirit was given to purify, galvanize and empower the church into an effective instrument of God's salvation to declare this message to a lost world. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is to equip us for the task that God Has given us. Lloyd Ogilvie commented that there are "too many who are consumed with the delights of Pentecost, and the joy of being filled with the Holy Spirit, but they are not willing for the demands of Pentecost." There are too many who want to linger in the first two chapters of Acts and enjoy the benefits of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, but they fail to release the energizing power for the mission of Jesus in the world. God does not give or rent out the power of His presence for self-gratification, self-advancement and self - glorification. The authority of His Presence on the Church insures that her ministry will be effective and fruitful." The words of Jesus are important at this point for He told His disciples to wait for the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, and wait in Jerusalem for you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and **"YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES."** Acts 1:8. It was in this promise and power the Peter and John were used by God to bring about the healing of the crippled man. The power of the presence of God is the greatest need of the church. In the church today there is a lot of what I call innovative power, strategy power and gimmick power. They are considered by many to be indispensable to the growth of the church. These activities might be able to get people into the church, but what we are sadly lacking is Divine power. Samuel Chadwick lays down some truths of which we should take note. This is what he



says, "Today there is a superabundance of church machinery; "The Church is on the stretch for new methods, new plans, new buildings, new organizations but the Holy Spirit does not come upon methods but upon men, He does not anoint machinery, He does not work through organizations, but the through men. To run an organization needs no God. Man can supply the energy, enterprise and enthusiasm. But the real work of the Spirit depends upon the power of the Spirit" He does not indwell buildings, but indwells the Body of Christ, directs its activities, distributes its forces, empowers its' membership." **The Church always fails at the point of self-confidence.** When the church is run on the same lines as a circus, there maybe crowds, but there is no Shekinah. (The glory of the presence of God.). The energy of the flesh can organize amusements and raise millions, but it is the presence of God resting upon His people that make the church the genuine church of Christ. If the truth be known, though not popular, "the root trouble of the present distress is that the Church has more faith in the power of the flesh than in the Holy Spirit." Human energy and design may attract people but do they attract the presence of God. You say to me how do I know that we have more faith in power of the flesh than in the power of God, I know it because the lack of prayer in the church generally. We want God to work, but we don't want to pay the price of renewal, revival and genuine church growth in prayer. The power displayed in the New Testament and Peter and John I believe is because they were men who found,

**b. The Place of Prayer. Acts 3:1. Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer. Prayer is the secret of possessing spiritual**



**power. The early church, we are told, gave her self continually to prayer. This commitment to prayer is in itself a testimony to her complete dependence on God.** The early church saw the power of God in action because she was continually in touch with God in prayer. It is always been my concern that the church be founded and grounded on the foundation of prayer. I will quote William McCumber again when he wrote, **“The mission of Jesus Christ is unsafe in the hands of a prayer less church. The devil fears nothing less than he fears a people who play at religion.”** If we do not depend on God in prayer we simply do the work of the kingdom in the energy and wisdom of the flesh and the forces of darkness will never be defeated. To often we look to human wisdom for our direction and power and discover that we are weak. To operate in the power of the flesh may last for a short time but like the grass of the field and the flowers of the garden they will fall and wither away. It is the height of carnal arrogance to think that we can build God’s church on human ingenuity and energy, gimmicks and programs. The early church did not fall back on the flesh to spread the gospel. They were guided in their decisions by a simple fundamental principle capsuled in the words of Acts 15:28 “it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us....” They depended on the presence and wisdom of the Holy Spirit combined with the exercise of prayer. You cannot deny the supernatural power with which the early church impacted the world. There is a reason for that? One has pointed out that every missionary enterprise as described in the Acts of the Apostles always began in intensive praying. No wonder it is said of the church that they turned the world upside down. It is a

Biblical truth that to maintain the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit upon the church, she must be rooted in prayer. A praying church is the church of spiritual and supernatural power. Finally note that this man was healed because the church possessed a,

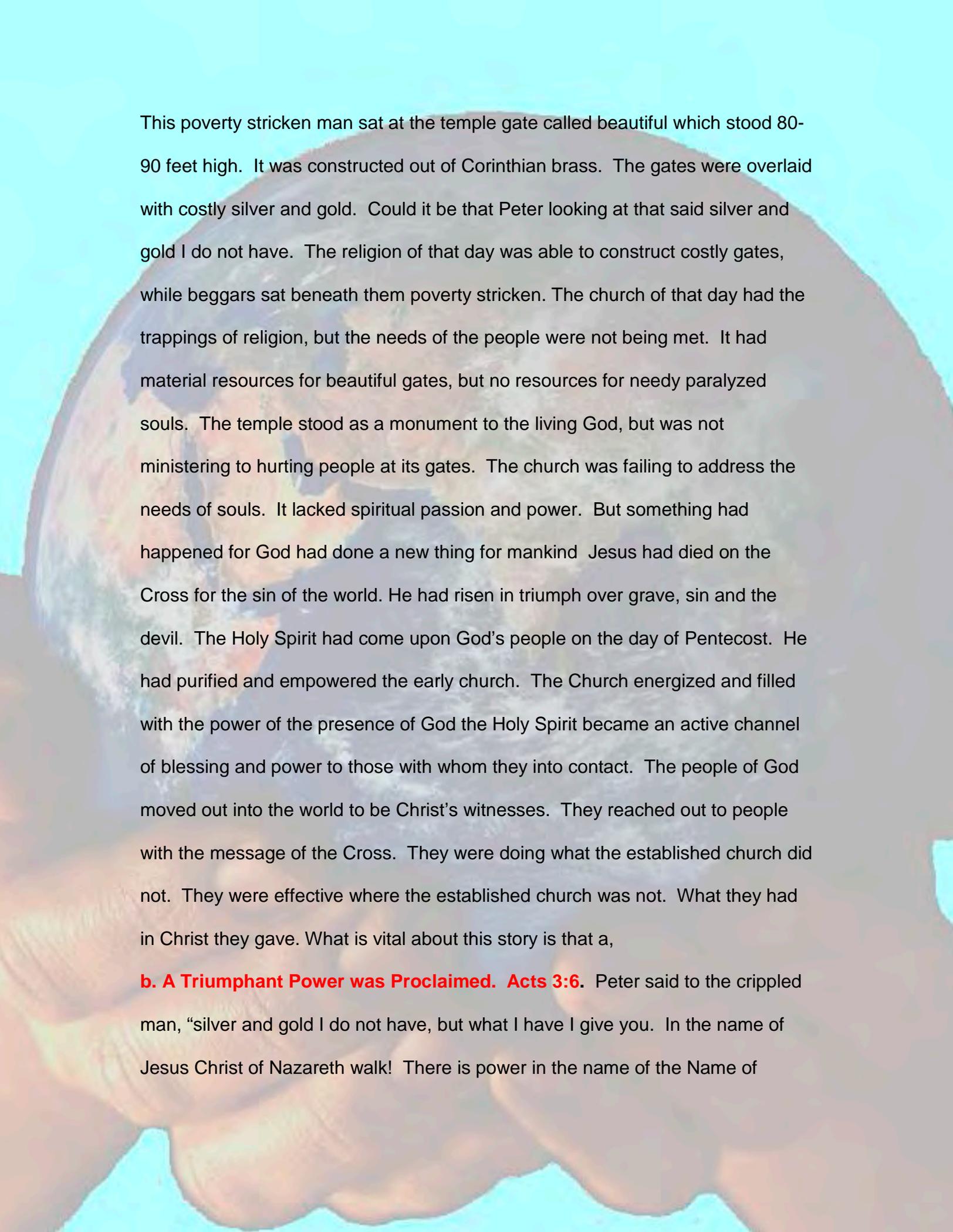
### **3. A DYNAMIC PROCLAMATION. Acts 3:6-8.**

There was a crippled man in desperate need and there were not enough human resources to deal with that need. His real need was deeper than just receiving silver and gold. Silver and gold were not the answer to his paralyzed condition. The answer came when Peter and John arrived on the scene with the power of the Holy Spirit on their ministry, and the authority of the Gospel of God burning in their hearts combined with dynamic proclamation on their lips. **Note what Luke tells us in verses 6-8. “Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk. V7. Taking him by the right hand he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. V.8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk.” As you study this story, there is a,**

#### **a. A Tragic Picture Portrayed. Acts 3:1-8.**

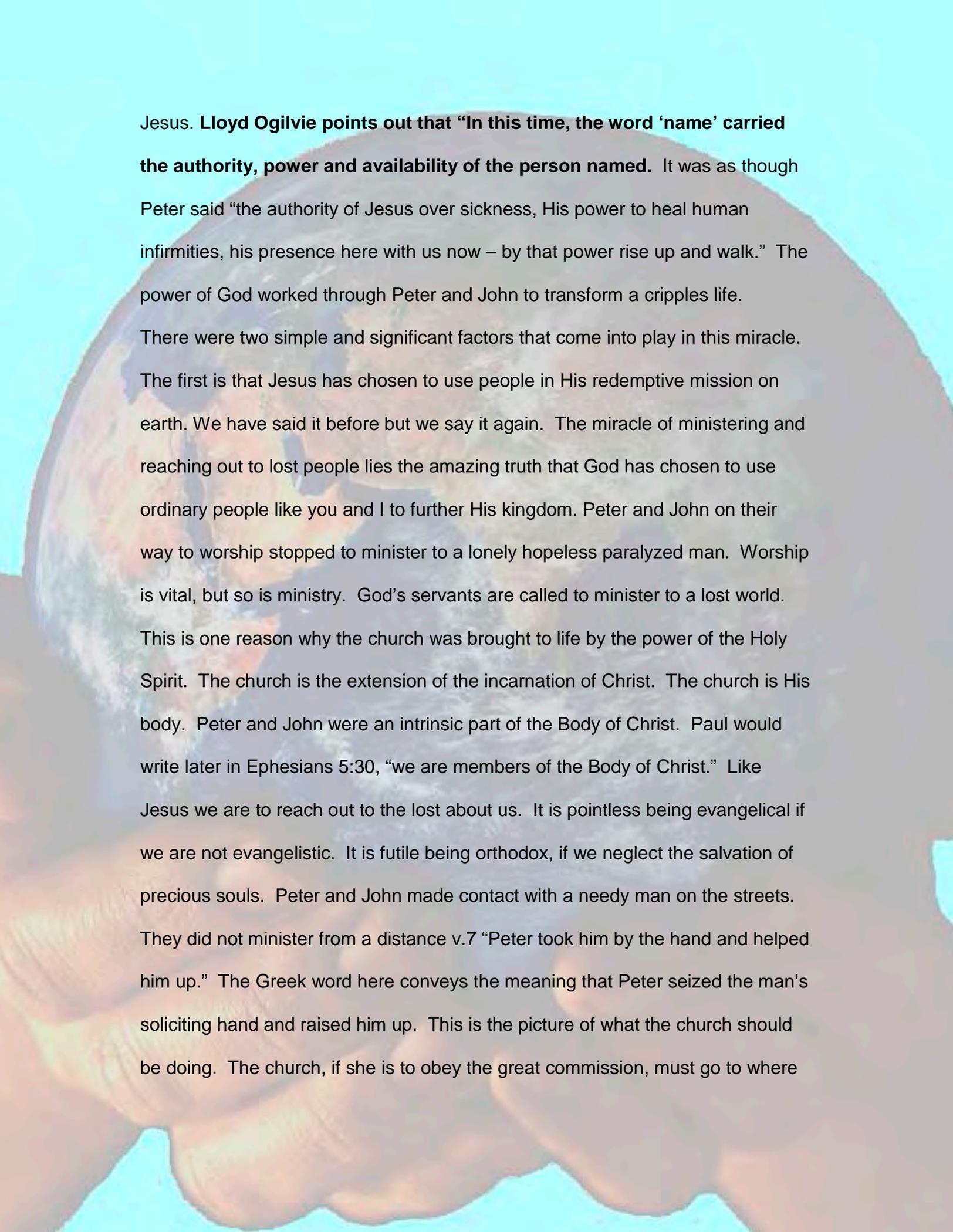
i. First there is a needy man unable to help himself, and with no hope for a dynamic positive change in his paralyzed condition. Acts 3:2. He was a crippled man from birth man who was being carried to the temple gate. That was his helpless and hopeless condition.

ii. **He** sat at the gates of temple of the Living God and received no help for his plight. Acts 3:2. He was carried to the temple gate where he begged for food.

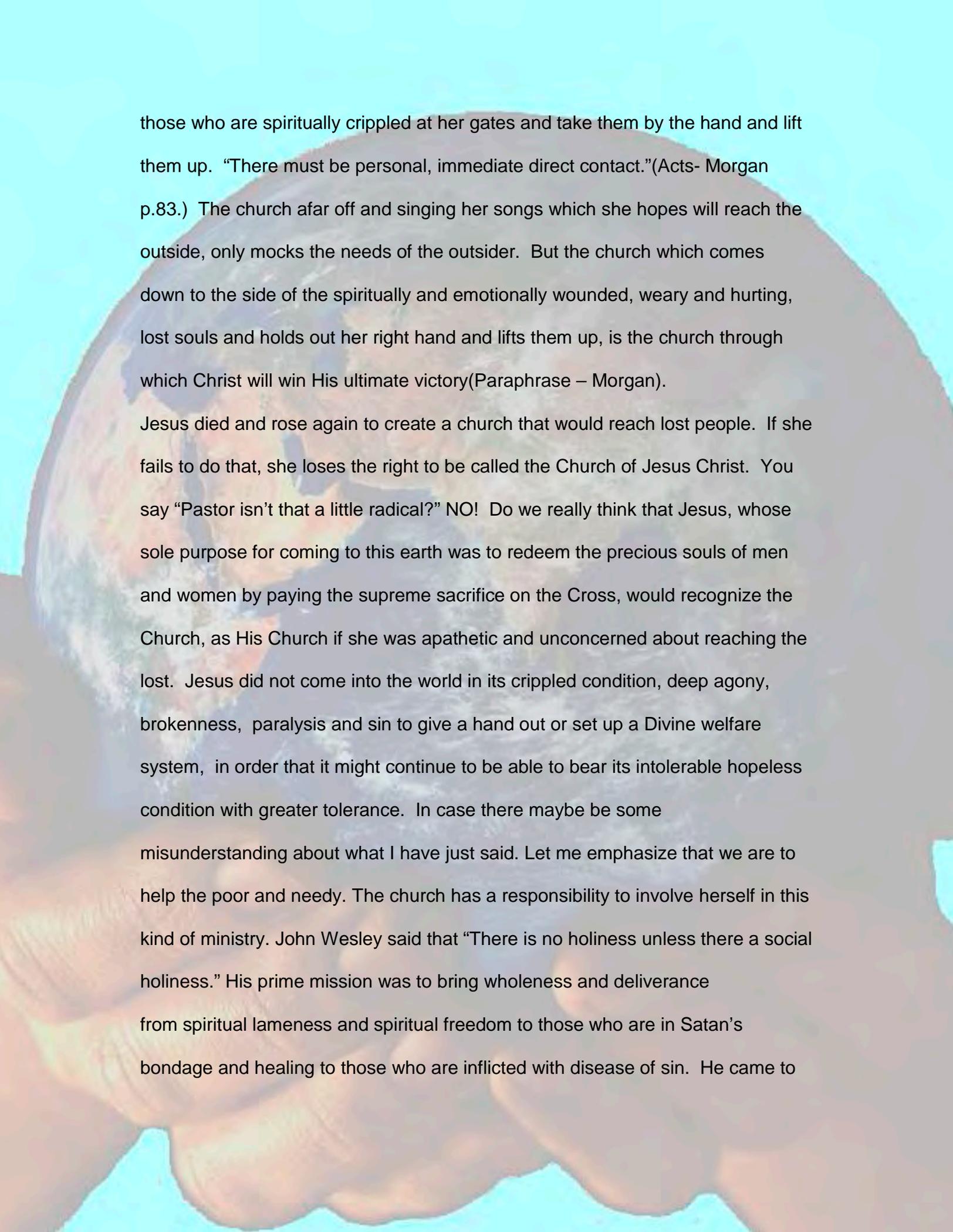
A faint background image of a globe with a hand holding it. The globe is centered and shows the Americas. A hand is visible at the bottom, holding the globe. The text is overlaid on this image.

This poverty stricken man sat at the temple gate called beautiful which stood 80-90 feet high. It was constructed out of Corinthian brass. The gates were overlaid with costly silver and gold. Could it be that Peter looking at that said silver and gold I do not have. The religion of that day was able to construct costly gates, while beggars sat beneath them poverty stricken. The church of that day had the trappings of religion, but the needs of the people were not being met. It had material resources for beautiful gates, but no resources for needy paralyzed souls. The temple stood as a monument to the living God, but was not ministering to hurting people at its gates. The church was failing to address the needs of souls. It lacked spiritual passion and power. But something had happened for God had done a new thing for mankind Jesus had died on the Cross for the sin of the world. He had risen in triumph over grave, sin and the devil. The Holy Spirit had come upon God's people on the day of Pentecost. He had purified and empowered the early church. The Church energized and filled with the power of the presence of God the Holy Spirit became an active channel of blessing and power to those with whom they into contact. The people of God moved out into the world to be Christ's witnesses. They reached out to people with the message of the Cross. They were doing what the established church did not. They were effective where the established church was not. What they had in Christ they gave. What is vital about this story is that a,

**b. A Triumphant Power was Proclaimed. Acts 3:6.** Peter said to the crippled man, "silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth walk! There is power in the name of the Name of

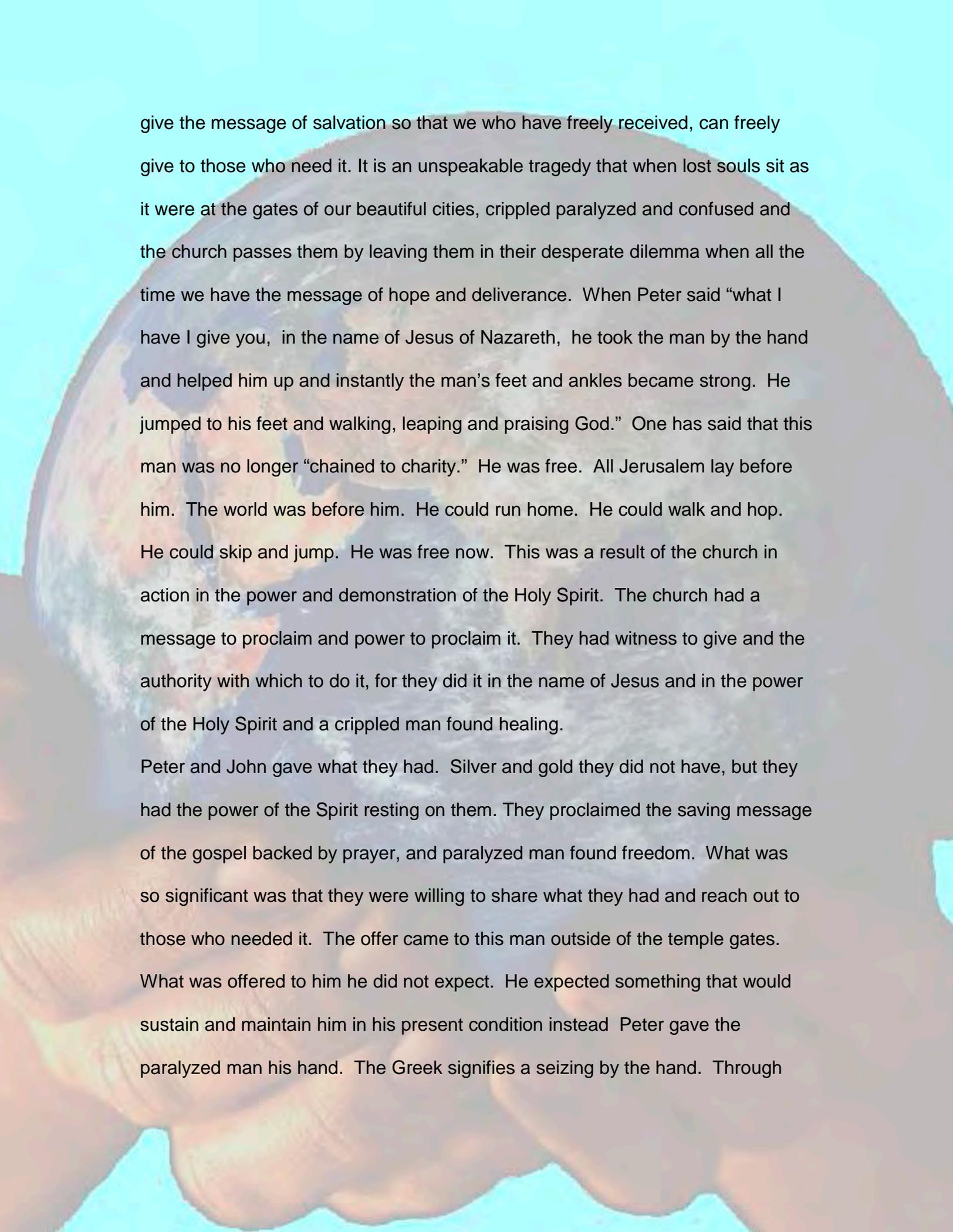
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Jesus. **Lloyd Ogilvie points out that “In this time, the word ‘name’ carried the authority, power and availability of the person named.** It was as though Peter said “the authority of Jesus over sickness, His power to heal human infirmities, his presence here with us now – by that power rise up and walk.” The power of God worked through Peter and John to transform a cripples life. There were two simple and significant factors that come into play in this miracle. The first is that Jesus has chosen to use people in His redemptive mission on earth. We have said it before but we say it again. The miracle of ministering and reaching out to lost people lies the amazing truth that God has chosen to use ordinary people like you and I to further His kingdom. Peter and John on their way to worship stopped to minister to a lonely hopeless paralyzed man. Worship is vital, but so is ministry. God’s servants are called to minister to a lost world. This is one reason why the church was brought to life by the power of the Holy Spirit. The church is the extension of the incarnation of Christ. The church is His body. Peter and John were an intrinsic part of the Body of Christ. Paul would write later in Ephesians 5:30, “we are members of the Body of Christ.” Like Jesus we are to reach out to the lost about us. It is pointless being evangelical if we are not evangelistic. It is futile being orthodox, if we neglect the salvation of precious souls. Peter and John made contact with a needy man on the streets. They did not minister from a distance v.7 “Peter took him by the hand and helped him up.” The Greek word here conveys the meaning that Peter seized the man’s soliciting hand and raised him up. This is the picture of what the church should be doing. The church, if she is to obey the great commission, must go to where

A background image showing a hand holding a globe of the Earth. The hand is positioned at the bottom, with fingers wrapped around the globe. The globe is centered in the upper half of the image, showing continents and oceans. The overall tone is warm and spiritual.

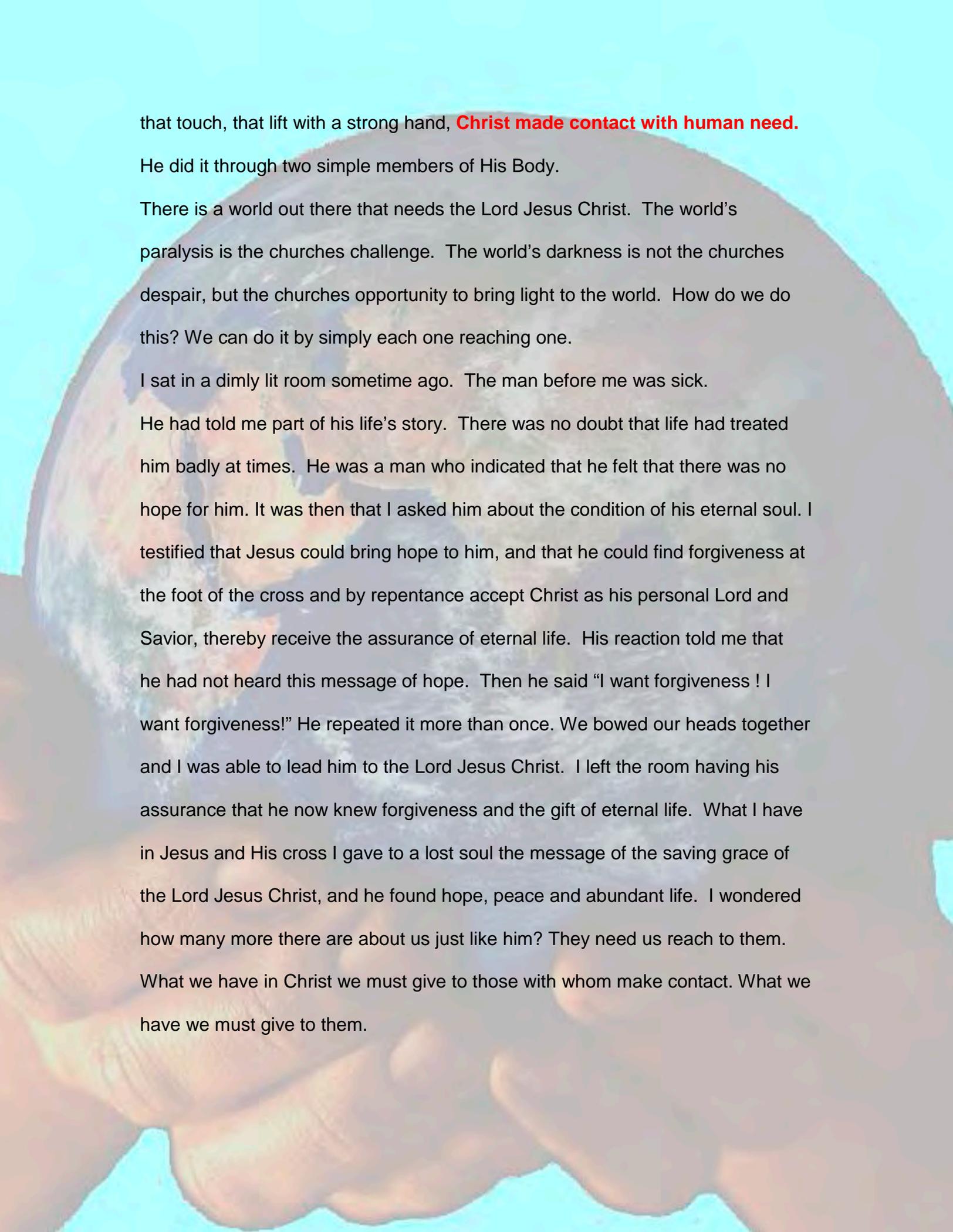
those who are spiritually crippled at her gates and take them by the hand and lift them up. "There must be personal, immediate direct contact."(Acts- Morgan p.83.) The church afar off and singing her songs which she hopes will reach the outside, only mocks the needs of the outsider. But the church which comes down to the side of the spiritually and emotionally wounded, weary and hurting, lost souls and holds out her right hand and lifts them up, is the church through which Christ will win His ultimate victory(Paraphrase – Morgan).

Jesus died and rose again to create a church that would reach lost people. If she fails to do that, she loses the right to be called the Church of Jesus Christ. You say "Pastor isn't that a little radical?" NO! Do we really think that Jesus, whose sole purpose for coming to this earth was to redeem the precious souls of men and women by paying the supreme sacrifice on the Cross, would recognize the Church, as His Church if she was apathetic and unconcerned about reaching the lost. Jesus did not come into the world in its crippled condition, deep agony, brokenness, paralysis and sin to give a hand out or set up a Divine welfare system, in order that it might continue to be able to bear its intolerable hopeless condition with greater tolerance. In case there maybe be some misunderstanding about what I have just said. Let me emphasize that we are to help the poor and needy. The church has a responsibility to involve herself in this kind of ministry. John Wesley said that "There is no holiness unless there a social holiness." His prime mission was to bring wholeness and deliverance from spiritual lameness and spiritual freedom to those who are in Satan's bondage and healing to those who are inflicted with disease of sin. He came to



give the message of salvation so that we who have freely received, can freely give to those who need it. It is an unspeakable tragedy that when lost souls sit as it were at the gates of our beautiful cities, crippled paralyzed and confused and the church passes them by leaving them in their desperate dilemma when all the time we have the message of hope and deliverance. When Peter said “what I have I give you, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, he took the man by the hand and helped him up and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and walking, leaping and praising God.” One has said that this man was no longer “chained to charity.” He was free. All Jerusalem lay before him. The world was before him. He could run home. He could walk and hop. He could skip and jump. He was free now. This was a result of the church in action in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit. The church had a message to proclaim and power to proclaim it. They had witness to give and the authority with which to do it, for they did it in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit and a crippled man found healing.

Peter and John gave what they had. Silver and gold they did not have, but they had the power of the Spirit resting on them. They proclaimed the saving message of the gospel backed by prayer, and paralyzed man found freedom. What was so significant was that they were willing to share what they had and reach out to those who needed it. The offer came to this man outside of the temple gates. What was offered to him he did not expect. He expected something that would sustain and maintain him in his present condition instead Peter gave the paralyzed man his hand. The Greek signifies a seizing by the hand. Through

A background image showing a close-up of a hand holding a globe of the Earth. The hand is positioned at the bottom, with fingers wrapped around the globe. The globe shows the Americas and parts of Europe and Africa. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the details of the globe.

that touch, that lift with a strong hand, **Christ made contact with human need.**

He did it through two simple members of His Body.

There is a world out there that needs the Lord Jesus Christ. The world's paralysis is the churches challenge. The world's darkness is not the churches despair, but the churches opportunity to bring light to the world. How do we do this? We can do it by simply each one reaching one.

I sat in a dimly lit room sometime ago. The man before me was sick.

He had told me part of his life's story. There was no doubt that life had treated him badly at times. He was a man who indicated that he felt that there was no hope for him. It was then that I asked him about the condition of his eternal soul. I testified that Jesus could bring hope to him, and that he could find forgiveness at the foot of the cross and by repentance accept Christ as his personal Lord and Savior, thereby receive the assurance of eternal life. His reaction told me that he had not heard this message of hope. Then he said "I want forgiveness ! I want forgiveness!" He repeated it more than once. We bowed our heads together and I was able to lead him to the Lord Jesus Christ. I left the room having his assurance that he now knew forgiveness and the gift of eternal life. What I have in Jesus and His cross I gave to a lost soul the message of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and he found hope, peace and abundant life. I wondered how many more there are about us just like him? They need us reach to them. What we have in Christ we must give to those with whom make contact. What we have we must give to them.



