



**“Not by our godliness!”**

**Acts 3:12-16**

The lame beggar at the gate of the temple had been healed! Lame from birth for over forty years!

Fishermen John and Peter had been used by God as instruments for the healing. The people of Jerusalem gathered around them, wanting to know what had happened. How had this man been healed? What power had been used? Were these some sort of God-men through whom the healing had come?

Peter's reply was simple. “Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ... By faith in the name of Jesus, this man... was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing.”

“Not by our godliness!”

Very interesting statement from Peter, particularly when we consider that less than two months ago, Peter had sworn, perhaps in front of some of these same people, that he did not even know Jesus!

Peter had to have been aware of his own ungodliness. The godliness and the power belonged to one Man only – to Him Who has taken our sins and given us His righteousness and His power.

What if Peter had allowed the shame of his own sins to have thwarted God's purposes in him? There would have been no Pentecost sermon by which the 3,000 were saved. There would have been no lame beggar healed.

Are we to wait until we have at least one year without sin before we launch forth in God's work? Are we to wait until we feel the power of God flooding through our veins before we start praying for people?

We are flawed people. As one of my friends recently said, "We are imperfect people sent out to do the perfect will of God." But Peter and John were men whose hearts were surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus. That was their secret.

Do not allow the shame of sin to hold you back from God's call. Confess the sin, repent (which means to turn around and go the other direction), get up, and walk on in strength. As Proverbs 24:16 says, "The righteous man falls seven times, but rises again."

One of the great differences between those who walk in strength and those who do not, is the rapidity with which the man/woman of strength owns the sin, gets up quickly and walks forward in the strength of the Lord.

It is not through your godliness that God works. It is the Name and the power of Yeshua the King. That was true of Peter. It is true of you and me.