

Recoding The Brain – Part 9

(Faith To Be Healed)

Pastor Dave Roberson would often say, "Obviously there are things we don't understand yet. Otherwise, we would already be in the revival. God is not withholding His power from us. He is doing all that He can to manifest His power whenever we preach. But there are things we don't understand yet. That is why it is so important that we continue to read the Word of God, meditate the Word of God, worship, fast, and pray much in the Holy Ghost."

I took that to heart, and I know you did also. I am on this journey with you. We are pressing into realms of understanding, and manifestations of the Spirit, that we've not seen before. The Lord has said we are going to see things even greater than the book of Acts.

Acts 14:1-18 KJV And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed. [2] But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren. [3] Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands. [4] But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles. [5] And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them, [6] They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about: [7] And there they preached the gospel. [8] And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: [9] The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, [10] Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. [11] And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. [12] And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. [13] Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people. [14] Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they

rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, [15] And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: [16] Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. [17] Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. [18] And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

At the city of Iconium, we see the Lord working with, co-laboring with, Paul and Barnabus by giving testimony (bearing witness) of the gospel they were boldly preaching by granting (agreeing to do) signs and wonders (attesting miracles) by their hands.

I was taught in a denominational church that the age of miracles had passed away after the first apostles died. They acknowledge that the Word of God says the Lord worked with them (the eleven) to do healings and miracles, as stated in the book of Mark:

Mark 16:19-20 KJV So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. [20] And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

But they say that ended when the last apostle died. Paul and Barnabus were not part of the original twelve, yet we see the Lord continuing to work with those who preached the Word, permitting signs and wonders to be done by their hands when they preached the gospel of Jesus Christ. The promise is to "those who believe."

Mark 16:17-18 KJV And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

I have "boldly" preached the Word of God to the point I have almost drug people out of wheelchairs in the early days. Sometimes they were healed. Sometimes they

were not. That is not how it is supposed to be. Jesus healed all who came to Him. No exceptions. That is the standard and we are not going to lower it.

Many preachers have lowered the standard because of the prayer failures they have seen. Many say it is not always God's will to heal. That lowers the standard because Jesus said if we have seen Him, we have seen the Father. Jesus healed all who came to Him. Not a single exception. It is God's will to heal all that come to Jesus. First time, every time, no exceptions.

Remember our hypothetical man we spoke of a few weeks ago. He decided to go to all seven of the "Jesus meetings" in the book of Matthew where Jesus healed them all. It says Jesus healed them all ... or ... they brought all sick to Jesus and He healed them. Either way ... Jesus healed them all.

Our hypothetical man was not yet born again. In the first meeting, perhaps he saw one hundred people get healed. He saw it with his own eyes. He saw it every time, at all seven of those meetings. He must have seen thousands of people get healed in those seven meetings. After seeing that with his own eyes, what would he go tell his sick cousin? Neural pathways now exist in his natural gray-matter brain. He would say to his sick cousin, "I've seen it with my own eyes. Every person who comes to Jesus gets healed. Every time. All of them. If you go to the next Jesus meeting, you will be healed." Any reasonable person who had seen one hundred percent healing hundreds of times with their own eyes would say that. Isn't that the gospel you would preach? "If you come to Jesus, you will be healed."

After being threatened with stoning at Iconium, the apostles traveled to several other cities. One of them was Lystra, which was about 18 miles from Iconium. It says, "There they preached the gospel." When I read this passage, it makes me wonder how different the gospel was that they preached, compared to the gospel preached in modern times.

This man was born with a birth defect. He was lame in both of his feet. HE HAD NEVER WALKED. He was a grown man. Think of the neural pathways that existed in his brain. He had a lifetime of "evidence" that he was a cripple. He had never walked and there was nothing in the realm of the natural world to give him any hope of ever walking in the future. His case was hopeless.

But he is hearing Paul preach the gospel. How does faith come? Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. By hearing the gospel preached.

Romans 10:17 KJV So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

It says this man had faith to be healed. Healed from a birth defect. How did he get that faith? Faith came while he heard Paul preach the gospel. The gospel is proclaiming the good news about the Messiah, Jesus Christ. It is not only the message of the cross and the resurrection, but it also includes the stripes Jesus took for our healing. Not just healing from sickness and disease, but obviously in this case it includes recovery from all birth defects!

Notice it says when Paul would preach the gospel, he preached it boldly. What would give a man with a birth defect faith to be healed? It would have to be something like, "Jesus Christ will heal your birth defect. Jesus Christ will do a miracle on your feet right now. You do not have to be a cripple anymore."

Romans 1:16 KJV For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Acts 10:38 KJV How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

In modern times, we have not understood the full gospel, much less preached it boldly like Paul did in the book of Acts.

Remember, this man lived in Lystra where they worshiped pagan gods like Zeus. He had not been raised in church. He had most likely never heard of Jesus the Messiah before in his life. This was probably the first sermon he had ever heard about Jesus. Yet Paul proclaimed the truth of the gospel so accurately, and so boldly, THAT A LIFELONG CRIPPLE WITH A BIRTH DEFECT HAD FAITH TO BE HEALED!

That takes some really bold preaching, the likes of which I have never heard preached ... even to this day. And I have heard some pretty strong preachers in my life. But I don't remember EVER hearing ANY PREACHER give an ALTAR CALL FOR BIRTH DEFECTS. "Come to Jesus and He will heal your birth defect, right now, while we all watch." I have not heard that. Not once. Not ever.

The gospel has the POWER to blow up highways of lifelong neural pathways in our natural brain and replace them with truth in a single message! The supernatural power of the Holy Ghost was released through faith to instantly cure the man's birth defect. That is the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

We wonder why we don't see the same miracles that they saw in the early church. It is because we are not preaching the same gospel. Why not? We don't believe it ourselves. We have not heard the gospel preached like that, even though it has been in the Bible this whole time.

WE ARE BELIEVERS and the Lord will co-labor together with us ... IF ... we preach the same gospel they preached! If we believe it ourselves when we preach it! If we believe ... the same Lord works together with His Word today as He did then.

Acts 14:13-15 KJV Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people. [14] Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, [15] And saying, **Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:**

Paul is preaching that they should "turn from these vanities." That's a great insult. Today, if you were preaching the gospel in a Muslim country, you would say, "You should turn away from Alah." You would be in danger of being killed, just as Paul was in that day. They stoned him and dragged him outside the city, leaving him for dead.

Paul was calling their gods "vanities." Vanity means nothing, zero. "You should turn from Zeus, Jupiter, and Mercury because they are nothing. You should turn to

Jesus Christ." They will still stone you today in many countries if you call their gods "vanities." Hindu and Buddhist nations will also kill you today if you call their gods vanities, zeros, nothing. You better know God, be listening to Him, and do as He says so you can incorporate his battle plans and strategies.

The worse that can happen is you will wake up in heaven and live with God forever, or He will raise you from the dead if your earthly assignment is not over yet. We do not fear death.

Let's review. This man had faith to be healed. How did he get that faith? Faith came while he heard Paul preach the gospel. The gospel is proclaiming the good news about Messiah, Jesus Christ. The gospel is not only the message of the cross, Christ and Him crucified. It also includes the stripes that Jesus took on his back that provides healing for us. By His stripes, we were healed. And not just healing from a normal sickness or disease, but obviously it includes the curing of a birth defect.

How would you boldly proclaim that gospel to a cripple? JESUS CHRIST WILL HEAL YOUR BIRTH DEFECT. JESUS CHRIST WILL DO A MIRACLE ON YOUR BODY RIGHT NOW. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A CRIPPLE ANYMORE.

This man had not been raised in church. He had been raised in a pagan religion. This is most likely the first time he has ever heard about Jesus. Yet Paul proclaimed the truth so accurately, and with such boldness, that a life-long cripple, with a birth defect from his mother's womb, received faith to be healed.

In modern times, I don't remember hearing any preacher give an altar call for birth defects. I have not heard any preacher boldly say, "Jesus Christ will heal your birth defect ... and He will do it right now." I have not heard altar calls for birth defects.

Many times, we watched as the Lord would use Pastor Dave Roberson to open deaf ears, fill people's teeth with silver and gold, get people out of wheelchairs, and so forth. But I don't remember altar calls for birth defects.

We are pressing into this. We will be giving altar calls for birth defects ... in Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist countries. We will say your gods are nothing. Turn to

Jesus Christ! He will save you and He will heal you ... right now ... while we watch!

The Lord has told us to expect "instant miracles, instant manifestations." Paul preached the gospel so strong in Lystra that the power of it destroyed a lifetime of neural pathways in a cripple born deformed in his feet. In an instant of time when he stood up, he was a walking man, a jumping man, and a leaping man. And the whole town saw it.

You have come to destroy the devils harvest fields.

Paul preached the gospel.

1. Jesus Christ will save you.
2. Jesus Christ will heal you.
3. Jesus Christ will cure your birth defects.

Paul's gospel had to include item three in order for that man to receive faith to be healed.

And ... item four ... you should turn from these vanities unto the living God.

The Lord will still give testimony, will still bear witness, will still supply evidence of the truth, when we preach the pure gospel of Jesus Christ! If we preach the same gospel as the first church, we will have the same results now that they had then. First time, every time, no exceptions.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!