



# The Author of Life

Acts 3:11-26 | Mark Foreman | February 8, 2026

## ✂ Peter Seized the Moment (11-12)

- People were interested: *all the people were astonished and came running*
  - When people are interested – go for it! It's a God-moment!
  - Hunger and curiosity are a rare gift from God. It's called prevenient grace.
- Note: the healed man *held on* to Peter and John.
  - Both something you'd expect from someone walking for the first time.
  - Whether for stability, security, thankfulness or all three, he "hangs on."
  - He becomes the billboard for Jesus.
- They gathered *in the place called Solomon's Colonnade*.
  - The temple ritual & sacrifices are over and people now move to the colonnade.
  - The colonnade was at the east end of the temple court of the Gentiles.
  - It was accessible to everyone making it the perfect "hang" spot for Jews and Gentiles.
- When Peter saw this, *he said to them: Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us?*
  - Note: *as if by our own power or our godliness and we had made this man walk.*
  - 3 things to note here in the seeking of miracles: 1. The apostles had no secret method (magic); 2. No power of their own; 3. And wanted no attention.
  - Would to God leaders were this way today.

## ✂ Peter's Clear Proclamation of the Crucifixion, Sin and Resurrection (13-16)

- He speaks in the familiar language of the Jewish culture
  - Paul does this on Mars Hill.
  - Esther and Daniel do this in Babylon and Persia.
  - It's good to honor and respect the culture rather than to ignore it or trash it.
- He is clear about our human responsibility using the term you!
  - *You handed him over to be killed*
  - *You disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go.*
  - <sup>14</sup> *You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.*
  - <sup>15</sup> *You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead.* One of the earliest and strongest statements of the Deity of Christ.
  - Calling out sin doesn't have to be filled with the tone of shame, but it needs to be pointed out and directly acknowledged.
- Note the resurrection is a historical event.
  - It's not a myth. There's no spiritual mumbo jumbo.
  - The resurrection is the focus of most NT sermons in Acts.
  - The witnessed resurrection is one of the most powerful defenses of the gospel to this day. All the apostles were martyred except John because they believed and were witnesses of the resurrection.
- It's by faith in Jesus' name (who he is and what he did) that the healing took place.
  - Name refers to the substance, character and authenticity of who and what Jesus is and did.
  - We trust and surrender to the authenticity of the name of Jesus.

### ✧ **Peter Grounds the Gospel in Scripture - the Prophets (21-26)**

- The Pharisees and scribes expected a rescuing and conquering Messiah.
  - While the majority of 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish scholars expected a triumphant conquering Davidic king, there were a few, less mainstream Jewish traditions and teachers who recognized a messianic figure who would suffer.
  - The ancient Dead Sea Scrolls give us a peak into the Jewish thinking before 200 BC, and there were some who thought the Messiah might suffer.
- “The prophet” like Moses (Deut. 18:15) was often referenced.
  - Israel expected a prophet who would be as powerful as Moses.
  - He might be the Messiah of just a great prophet (Jn 1:21).
- Peter references all the prophets beginning with Samuel.
  - Remember Jesus reference these to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
  - The primary prophecies about suffering are Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22.
  - Like a jigsaw puzzle the Jews wrestled with Messianic passages such as Gen 49:10; Deut. 33:17; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Psa 2:7; 22:2-18; 110:1; Isa 7:14; 9:6-7; 53:1-12; Zech 9:9; 12:10; Mic 5:2.

### ✧ **Peter Calls for a Decision (17-20)**

- Choice is a powerful human ability and responsibility.
  - Agency, choice or responsible choice is key to the Bible. It’s part of what it means to be made in the Image of God.
  - Agency (responsible choice) is how we got here (the fall). The first couple chose to believe the snake, that they could be gods rather than trust God.
  - Agency is how we get to where we are. You and I have made wonderful and horrible choices.
  - You and I are responsible. What’s your choice now?
- Repentance is a full personhood choice to stop and turn around.
  - The best that we know how.
  - There will always be more things we discover about ourselves to repent of.
- *So that your sins may be wiped out*
  - Lit. means: *to plaster over, wipe out, was over.*
  - Wiped out - what a promise!
- “Times of refreshing”
  - Scriptures describe this Millennial joy.
  - Everything is made right by the Messiah!

### ✧ **Taking It Home**

- What part of this sermon grabs your heart? Peter’s cultural appeal? His understanding of the OT prophets? His call for thorough repentance? His promise of our sins being washed clean?
- Have you ever had an opportunity to share the gospel? Describe an instance that you remember.
- What have you learned from Peter’s sermon as to how you might share the gospel differently the next time?
- Can you imagine everything put right by the Messiah. What does that include?