**ACTS IN ACTION**

What can we learn from Acts that we can apply to our everyday lives?…

* After Pentecost...
* The smoke clears, dust settles...
* But they were still “*Spiritually Radioactive”*

**Holy Spirit Nuclear fallout -** the residual **radioactive** material propelled into the upper atmosphere following a **nuclear** blast, so called because it "falls out" of the sky after the explosion and the shock wave have passed.

**Acts 2:43** “Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.”

They went on with their lives, but they were different…

**ACTS 3:1-13** *Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o’clock prayer service.* **2**As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the *Beautiful Gate*, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. **3**When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.

**4**Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, “Look at us!” **5**The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. **6**But Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. *In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!”*

**7**Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, *the man’s feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened.****8****He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God*, he went into the Temple with them.

**9**All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. **10**When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! **11**They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon’s Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

**12**Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. “People of Israel,” he said, “what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? **13**For it is the **God** of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this…”

**“Do the best you can with what you have, and who you have, and God will do the rest.”**

Important Points:

1. They continued going to temple as they usually would. They were still Jews, Messianic Jews but they identified with their Jewish traditions, so of course they would go to the Temple to pray at the appointed time. Only now, they were Jews who received the Messiah and were filled with the Holy Spirit. 9They did not became sectarian or seclude themselves. They went to thr place where the people were.
2. They recognized that they were “On Mission”. In other words, they were doing exactly what Jesus said they should do in Acts 1:8, “Receive power, then…be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth” (this was Jerusalem).

The two went out together just like they did when were being trained by Jesus in Mark 6. Jesus sent them out two-by-two along with the other apostles, without any money, but told them to go and heal people.

1. They *only* offered what they had, not anything more, not anything less, and that was *more than enough*!
   1. They didn’t have money so could not rely on their own resources.
   2. They did not try to bring in an expert. (Dr. Luke wasn’t around yet), but they did not try to bring him help, NOR did they try to bring him TO the house where the others were, and the power had manifested.
   3. They completely engaged him, and gave him what they had; their time, their attention and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.

***“They did the best they could with what they had, who they had…and God did the rest.“***

They went out completely unequipped without anything other than the Power of the Holy Spirit.

* If they had money, they might have given it and not seen the miracle.
* If they were trained physicians or physical therapists, they may have relied on their own education and knowledge to help the man, and perhaps would not have seen the miracle.
* If they viewed themselves as gifted, powerful godly miracle workers, they may not have seen the miracle take place and would have not been able to tell those who were rushing at them, in amazement at this man’s healing ;

“why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? **13**For it is the **God** of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this!” (Acts 3:12-13)

This healing at the hands of Peter and John, clearly shows us what God can do through any of us if we are willing to allow Jesus to work through us to bring healing, deliverance and help to those who need it most. (if you notice, they didn’t even pray for the man, they just lifted him up.)

God is eager to show us all that He can do through us if we completely rely on His strength, power and abilities and not our own.

Paul, one of the most powerful of all the apostles writes;

**Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"**

This is a recurring theme throughout the Bible.

God repeatedly uses unlikely people, in unlikely circumstances to do great things.

**Moses:**

God tells him to go to Pharaoh and tell him that God says “Let my People go”.

Moses was afraid and “ what if he won’t listen to me or believe me?” I am slow in speech and not very eloquent.” (Exodus 4)

So the Lord gave him a staff in his hand, and Aaron by his side and said “go”.

God did tremendous miracles through Moses and his staff, and spoke directly to Pharaoh through Aaron, and Pharaoh let God’s people go.

***“He did the best he could with what he had, who he had…and God did the rest.“***

**Gideon** – A young wheat thresher from Manasseh.

The Israelites were hiding in caves and the Midianites were trying to starve them out be destroying their crops and herds.

An angel of the Lord came to him with a message from the Lord;

**Judges 6:14-15**

**14**The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

**15**“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

He starts with an army of 32,000 against 135,000 Midianites.

**Judges 7:2-4**The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength. **3**Therefore, tell the people, ‘Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go home.’” So 22,000 of them went home, leaving only 10,000 who were willing to fight.

**4**But the Lord told Gideon, “There are still too many! Bring them down to the spring, and I will test them to determine who will go with you and who will not.”

He then reduced the army to 300 men, against an army of 135,000!

When the battle took place, the Lord confused the Midianite army and they turned on each other. Gideon emerged victorious.

Gideon is the quintessential example of a man who leads an army into victory against unbelievable odds, not by his own power, but by the power of God.

***“He did the best he could with what he had, who he had…and God did the rest.“***

**David**

David was also the lest of his clan. The youngest of the Sons of Jesse

When Goliath, the giant of the Philistines came out and cursed the God of Israel and challenged them to a fight, David was the only one willing to go up against him.

King Saul objected, thinking that David would easily be slaughtered by the giant.

**1 Samuel 17:33**

**33**And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you *are* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.”

**1 Samuel 17:37-40**

**37**Moreover David said, “The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”

**38**So Saul clothed David with his [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+17&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-7657c)]armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. **39**David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them.* And David said to Saul, “I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested *them.*” So David took them off.

**40**Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

**1 Samuel 17:47-50**

[David said] **47**This is the Lord’s battle, and he will give you to us!”

**48**As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him.**49**Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

**50**So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.

David not only had no sword, he had no armor. Saul offered David the king’s own armor and David rejected it. He was determined to go about this with God’s protection and in God’s strength, Not his own, King Saul’s or anyone else’s.

He was greatly overmatched in size, strength and experience. All he had was a sling, and 5 smooth stones. He only needed one.

When David defeated Goliath, it not only gave the Israelites victory over the Philistines, it launched David into prominence among his people that eventually lead to him becoming the greatest King Israel has ever known.

No armor, no sword, no superiority of strength…

***“He did the best he could with what he had, who he had…and God did the rest.“***

Other examples:

Jesus with Loaves & Fish (John 6)

**5**When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” **6**He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

**7**Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26265a)] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

**8**Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, **9**“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

The rest is His-Story

Paralytic on the pallet in Capernaum (Mark 2)

He couldn’t walk to Jesus, his friends couldn’t carry him into the house, so they lowered him through the roof and Jesus healed him.

***“They did the best they could with what they had, who they had…and God did the rest.“***

CLOSING:

This is how we must approach our challenges. Not by trying to conjure up our own strength and ability, but clearly understand what God is asking you to do, then DO IT regardless of your own level of strength and ability and regardless of your resources.

Accomplishing things that I’m good at, or well-equipped for, is basically just me “doing what I do”.

Accomplishing things that are *beyond my ability*, and so requires God’s intervention *is special and brings greater glory to Him.*

{Planting a church on the Rumson peninsula}

* I was told that it’s an extremely difficult place to plant a church.
* There had not been a successful church plant in 100 years.
* We had no building, no staff, and only a small budget to start with.
* God sent a group of 14 Adults (and a bunch of kids) to join us in the mission.

We didn’t wait until we had everything in place before we began having church.

We hit the ground running, and have been running and growing ever since.

We have a thriving church on the Rumson Peninsula and another location that is getting ready to launch in a big way at Bell Works Holmdel.

What did we do, did we rely on our own strength and abilities?

Did we wait until we had a fully out-fitted, well-staffed, buttoned-up plan to execute?

No. What did we do???

***“We did the best he could with what we had, who we had…and God did the rest.“***

Even our move to Bell Works, clearly requires us to rely on **His** strength not our own,

**His** power and wisdom, not **OUR** abilities and good ideas.

Back to Peter and John at the gate, speaking to the lame beggar…

**Acts 3:6-7**

Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. *In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!”*

**7**Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, *the man’s feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened.****8****He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God.*

*God wants to use you and I to do miracles in the lives of others. Perhaps they are amazing physical healings that he wants to do through you. Maybe He just wants to use you to bring them from a place where they are desperate and hopeless like the man at the gate…*

*to filled with joy and strength because of God’s power in their lives IN ANY AREA.*

*There are many people out there that are just as desperate and hopeless as the beggar at the gate that are not necessarily physically crippled.*

God wants to use you and I to reach out to them, and lift them out of their desperation and hopelessness.

Out of darkness, into the light (1 Peter 2:9)

Out of the pit, onto the rock. (Psalm 40)

You may feel that you can’t do it.

You’re not equipped, you’re not strong enough, you’re not trained enough.

The truth is, You can’t do it. But God can do it through you.

***All you need to do is ….***

***“Do the best you can, with what you have, and who you have…and God will do the rest.“***

**Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"**