"Faith, Unity, & Presence Leads To Miracles, Awe, & Praise!"

Acts 2:37-47 & 3:1-10

And They All <u>Continued Steadfastly</u> in the Apostles' <u>Doctrine</u> and <u>Fellowship</u>, in the <u>Breaking</u> of <u>Bread</u>, and in <u>Prayers</u>. Then <u>Fear</u> (Awe) came Upon Every Soul, & Many <u>Signs</u> & <u>Wonders</u> were done through the Apostles. Now All Who Believed <u>Were Together</u>, and had <u>All Things in Common</u>, and Sold Their Possessions and Goods, and Divided Them Among All, as Anyone Had Need. So, <u>Continuing Daily With One Accord</u> in the Temple, and <u>Breaking Bread</u> from House to House, they ate Their Food with Gladness and Simplicity of Heart, <u>Praising God</u>, and <u>Having Favor</u> with all the People. And the <u>Lord Added</u> to the Church Daily Those Who Were <u>Being Saved!</u>

Acts 2:42-47 (NKJV)

Now Peter and John went up together to the Temple at the Hour of Prayer, the ninth hour (3 pm). And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the Gate of the Temple which is called "Beautiful", to ask alms from those who entered the Temple, who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the Temple, asked for alms. And Peter fixing his eyes on the man, with John, said, "Look at us!" So, the man gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Rise Up and Walk!" And Peter took the man by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So, the man leaping up, stood, and walked and entered the Temple with them, Walking, Leaping, and Praising God. And All the People saw him Walking and Praising God. Then They All knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the "Beautiful Gate" of the Temple; and They were Filled with Wonder and Amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:1-10 (NKJV)

Context

Then <u>Fear</u> (Awe) came Upon Every Soul, & Many <u>Signs</u> & <u>Wonders</u> were done through the Apostles ... So, <u>Continuing Daily With One Accord</u> in the Temple ... <u>Praising God</u> and <u>Having Favor</u> with all the People... Now Peter and John went up together to the Temple at the Hour of Prayer, the ninth hour (3 pm).

Timing Of The Day
The Ninth Hour – 3 PM
Time Of Evening Prayer Before The Evening Sacrifices
Location

"Beautiful Gate" – Gate Dividing The Outer Court Of The Gentiles
& The Court Of The Women

"Nicanor Gate" – Gate Dividing Court Of The Women
& The Inner Court Of The Israelites

Overview Picture Of The Temple (See Last Pages)

Close Up Picture Of The Temple (See Last Pages)

Q: Why The Name "Beautiful Gate"?

A: Because It Was Unusual In That It Was Made From

"Fine Corinthian Bronze Workmanship"

According To The Historian Josephus,

"This Gate Above All The Others Far Exceeded In Value
Those Other Temple Gates That Were Merely Plated With Silver & Gold!"

Paul Speaks Of Bringing Together Everyone: Man & Women, Slave, & Free, Jew & Gentile!

"For you are all Sons of God through Faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were Baptized into Christ have Put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither Slave nor Free, there is neither Male nor Female; for you are All One in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's Seed, and Heirs According to the Promise."

Galatians 3:26-39 (NKJV)

Paul Speaks Of How Jesus Broke Down All The Walls & Barriers That Separated Us From God

"Therefore, remember that you, once Gentiles in the Flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the Flesh By Hands, that at that time you were without Christ, being Aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel and Strangers from the Covenants Of Promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were Far Off have been Brought Near by the Blood Of Christ. For He Himself Is Our Peace, Who has Made Both One, and has Broken Down The Middle Wall Of Separation, having abolished in His Flesh the Enmity, that is, the Law of Commandments contained in ordinances, so to create in Himself One New Man From Two, Thus Making Peace, and that He Might Reconcile Them Both To God In One Body Through The Cross, thereby Putting to Death the Enmity. And He Came and Preached Peace to you who were Afar Off and to those who were Near. For through Him We Both Have Access By One Spirit To The Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer Strangers and Foreigners, but Fellow Citizens With The Saints and Members of the Household Of God, having been Built On the Foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself Being The Chief Cornerstone, in Whom the Whole Building, being fitted together, Grows Into A Holy Temple In The Lord, in Whom you also are being built together for a Dwelling Place Of God In The Spirit." Ephesians 2:11-22 (NKJV)

Ancient Prophecies Of King David Are Fulfilled In The Dawn Of This New Age! "Open to me the Gates Of Righteousness; I will go through them, And I will Praise the Lord. This is the Gate of the Lord, Through which the Righteous Shall Enter. I will Praise You, For You have Answered Me, And have become My Salvation. The Stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone. This was the Lord's Doing; It is Marvelous In Our Eyes. This is the Day the Lord has made; we will Rejoice and be Glad in it."

Psalm 118:19-24 (NKJV)

Ancient Prophecies Of Isiah Fulfilled In This New Age!

"The Wilderness and the Wasteland shall be Glad for them, and the Desert shall Rejoice and Blossom as the Rose; it shall Blossom Abundantly and Rejoice, even with Joy and Singing. The Glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the Excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the Glory of the Lord, The Excellency of Our God. Strengthen the Weak Hands and Make Firm the Feeble Knees...

... Say to those who are Fearful-Hearted, 'Be Strong, Do Not Fear! Behold, Your God will Come with Vengeance, with the Recompense of God; He will Come and Save You!' Then the Eyes of the Blind shall be Opened, and the Ears of the Deaf shall be Unstopped. Then the Lame Shall Leap Like A Deer, and the Tongue of the Dumb will Sing. For Waters shall Burst Forth in the Wilderness, and Streams in the Desert. The Parched Ground shall become a Pool, and the Thirsty Land Springs of Water; In the Habitation of Jackals, where each lay, there shall be Grass with Reeds and Rushes. A Highway shall be there, and a Road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The Unclean Shall Not Pass Over It, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the Road, even a Fool, Shall Not Go Astray. No Lion shall be there, Nor shall any Ravenous Beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the Redeemed Shall Walk There, and the Ransomed of the Lord Shall Return, and Come to Zion with Singing, with Everlasting Joy on their Heads. They shall obtain Joy and Gladness, and Sorrow and Sighing shall Flee Away."

Ancient Words Spoken By Jesus Fulfilled In This Present New Age! "The Spirit of the Lord God Is Upon Me, because the Lord Has Anointed Me to Preach Good News (Tidings) to the Poor; He Has Sent Me to Heal the Brokenhearted, to Proclaim Liberty to the Captives, and the Opening of the Prison to those who are Bound; To Proclaim the Acceptable Year of the Lord, and the Day of Vengeance of our God. To Comfort all who Mourn, to Console those who Mourn in Zion, to Give them <u>Beauty for Ashes</u>, the <u>Oil of Joy</u> for Mourning, the <u>Garment of Praise</u> for the Spirit of Heaviness; that they may be called <u>Trees of Righteousness</u>, the <u>Planting of the Lord</u>, that <u>He May Be Glorified!"</u>

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NKJV)

Q: "What Is Required Of God's People
To Be Able To Live & Serve In This New Age?"

A: Everyday Prerequisites

- 1) Having A Teachable Spirit, 2) Continued Curiosity & Learning,
 - 3) Sharing Everything Together 4) Praying Together In Unity,
 - 5) Coming Together To Praise & Worship God,
 - & 6) Finding Favor With The Community,

Acts 2:42-47

A: Everyday Actions

7) Acting In Faith & Obedience As A Bold Witness & As A Faithful Servant To God & Others

Acts 3:1-10

A) Authority & Power To Proclaim Healing In Jesus' Name Given To His People Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you:

In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Rise I In and Walk!"

In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Rise Up and Walk!"

B) Response Of Cooperation & Faith, Are Needed By His People

"And Peter took the man by the right hand and lifted him up,

and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength."

C) Response Of Faith, Obedience, & Praise Are Needed By His People "So, the <u>Man Leaping Up, Stood, Walked and Entered the Temple</u> with them, <u>Walking</u>, <u>Leaping</u>, and <u>Praising God!"</u>

Q: "What Is The Response Of The People Around Us?"

A: Amazement & Wonder About The Reality Of God In The World!

"And <u>All the People</u> saw Him Walking and Praising God. Then <u>They All</u> knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the "Beautiful Gate" of the Temple; and <u>They were Filled with Wonder</u> & <u>Amazement</u> at what had happened to him."

Our Covenant Of Faith

"Let Us Truly Be God's Chosen People
Willingly Surrendered To Him
As His Faithful Followers & Servants
Ready To Do His Will,
That We May See His Miracles, Signs,
& Wonders Displayed In Our Lives,
That As Many Who Do Yet Believe In Our God,
Are Moved From Darkness To Light,
And From Unbelief To Faith
In Jesus Christ, Our Lord!"