

By Faith in His Name

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Acts 3:11-26.
- B. Subject: the first miracle of the new Christian age.
- C. The people of the day did not really believe in a God who could act in history.

II. Peter's message.

- A. It begins with a series of facts that arouse guilt in them.
 - 1. Christian faith always rests on well-attested facts.
 - 2. Guilt can produce fear and despair and finally destruction.
 - 3. Peter wants to awaken guilt because he will provide the solution to it.
- B. The healed man is testimony to the grace of God received by faith in the name of Jesus.
 - 1. God reacts in love to human guilt based on the name of Jesus.
 - 2. God's answer to guilt is forgiveness and restoration.
 - 3. This goes against our boastful mindset.
 - 4. Whenever there is a turning back to Him, there is an immediate dealing with guilt.
- C. Only when a people turn back again to God will God send His Son again.
 - 1. Each must have to deal with his own sense of inadequacy before Jesus Himself.
 - 2. Peter leaves the issue here.

Application questions:

- 1. Why is a presentation of guilt necessary when sharing the gospel?

- 2. How does the gospel cancel out any chance to boast?

3. What things in your life are living testimonies to the grace of God? Explain.
