It is time for the church to shine for the glory of God. When I want what God wants for the reasons God wants it, I’m unstoppable.

Read with me Acts chapter three, verses 1-10:

**Peter Heals a Lame Beggar**

1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

IN Acts 2:42-47, we see a picture of a church on fire, growing in the power of Christ. Most of the time, we hear sermons on this passage from the perspective of the beggar. I want to preach from the perspective of the disciples. God doesn’t want Christ’s church to be weak-kneed and scared, but He wants us to affect change in the world around us. They were going to the Temple for a time of prayer, but something happened along the way. The same power that flowed through them to heal the lame man flows through you. Peter said to the beggar, “Look at me.” So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. “What I have I give you.” The man expected one thing. God had something else in mind.

Notice WHERE IT HAPPENED. The miracle happened at the Temple Gate Beautiful. We expect for God to do miracles in the church when the preacher preaches. The sermon starts in the parking lot. Don’t depend on the preacher to do all the work of the ministry. In Ephesians 4:11-13, Paul writes:

“11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”
God gave these spiritual leaders to equip THE SAINTS for the ministry work. God could use you to perform a miracle in someone’s life before the sermon ever starts. God has positioned you to participate and be a blessing—a conduit for His power.

Are you making yourself available for God to use you? Repeat these words with me:

“I am a connector to the electrifying power of Christ.” Don’t say “I’m just a volunteer.” “I’m just a church member, etc.” You are something special. God can start with something small. What are people expecting to get from our churches? The beggar was expecting the apostles to give him money. People show up and don’t expect much from God at all. Peter and John had no money at that time. That’s where most of us stop…with what we don’t have. We say,” I don’t have much ____ . I can’t do much.” What DO you have, what can you give. All that you have is all that you need. Why limit the potential you have when the unlimited power of God lives inside of you? It’s not always a good thing to think outside of the box—all the things God could do through us IF….

Acts 3:6: “I’ve got no money, but I give you all I have. I’ll give you everything and when God’s everything connects to my little bit, you’ve got miraculous power.

In the story of the feeding of the five thousand in Matthew 14, Jesus had been ministering all day, and crowds were tired and hungry. Jesus told His disciples, “Give them something to eat.” The people don’t need to go away. You give them something to eat. The disciples responded with an out of the box reply, “We only have five loaves and two fishes. What are we going to do with this little bit?” Jesus said, “Bring them to me.” Jesus says the same thing to us. Will you give Jesus what you have so that He can do what only He can do?

My Dad used to coach my little league team. I’m from a small town in South Carolina. Little league baseball was serious business. Dad didn’t have any experience at baseball, but he read books on baseball, and studied hard every night. Our team was REALLY bad. We were losing—but then he read about “the power of the bunt.” Bunting the ball makes a player make contact with the ball and at least get a player to one base. I had hope. Dad taught everybody to bunt. We actually won some games. Dad said we couldn’t hit in the game until we first made a bunt. Other teams made fun of us. Even some of the best teams couldn’t handle the bunt. Great teams opposed us. I ended up hitting a home run with the bunt one time. My question to you is “Whatcha gonna do with the bunt?” Keep your eye on the ball and make contact.

Stop waiting for God to release His power through you in some sky-splitting miraculous way. Start in your day-to-day life with what you have, with resources God has given you. You may say, “God, it isn’t much, but I’m going to keep my eye on the ball and if you want me to bunt the ball, I’ll bunt the ball. If you want me to give, serve, etc., I will do it.”

Quit telling God what you don’t have and start focusing on what you DO have with His unlimited, unstoppable power.