

ACTS

*THE GOSPEL
ON THE MOVE*



Study 4

The power of the Spirit in
the early church

Acts 3

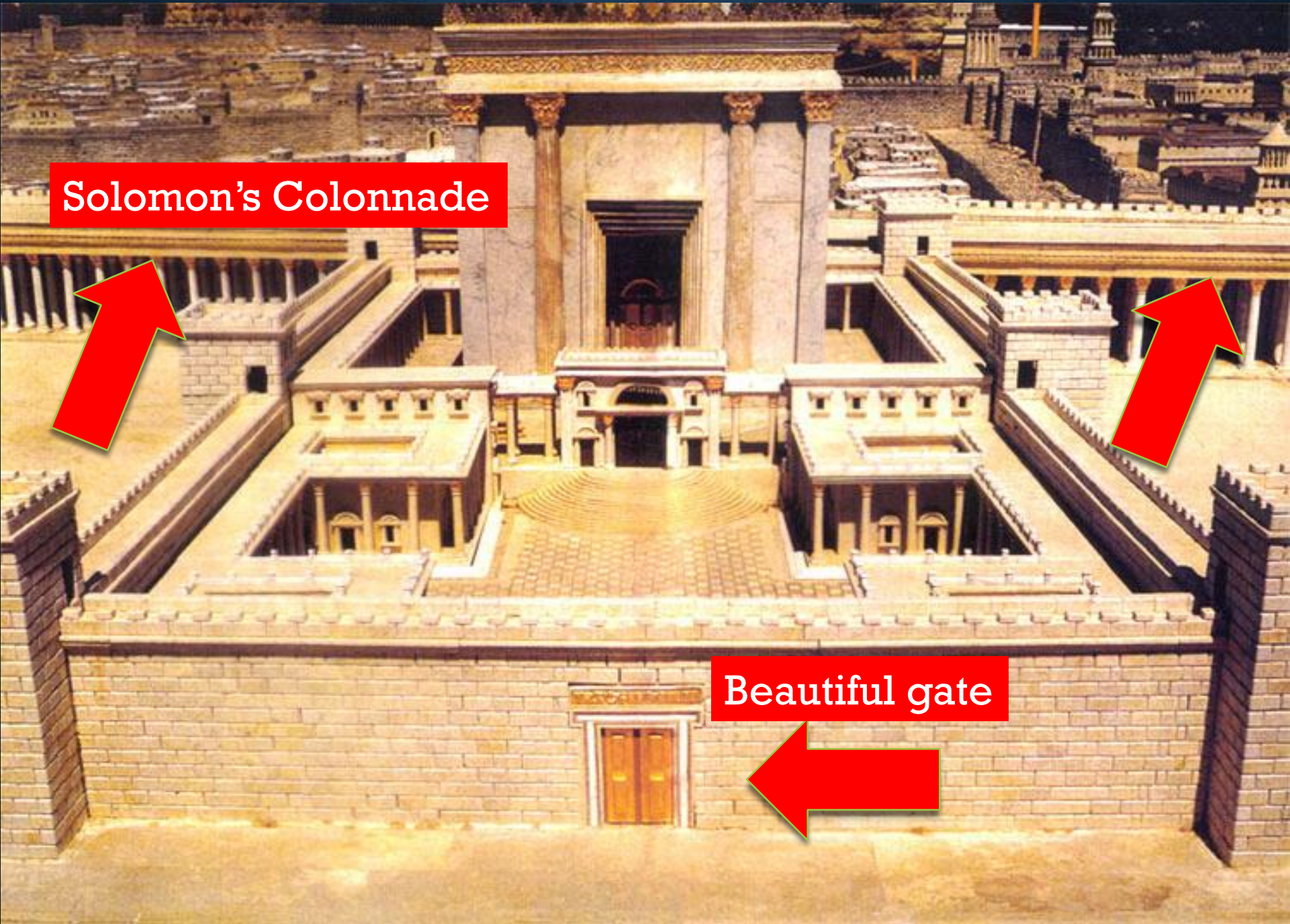
ACTS 3

Acts 3:1-3 ESV Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms

Solomon's Colonnade



Beautiful gate



Solomon's Colonnade





Acts 3:4- ESV And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong

Acts 3:8-10 ESV And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him

DEFINITIONS OF MIRACLES



Does not include God
Assumes God does not use some natural causes
Minimises actual miracles which are answers to prayer but not impossible to explain by natural means



Assumes world independent
But God causes rain to fall and grass to grow



Very few miracles
Feeding 5 000 no means means no fish

DEFINITION

"A miracle is a less common kind of God's activity in which he arouses people's awe and wonder and bears witness to himself"

Wayne Grudem (*Systematic Theology*, chapter 52)



Greek : Simeon

MIRACLES POINT UPWARDS

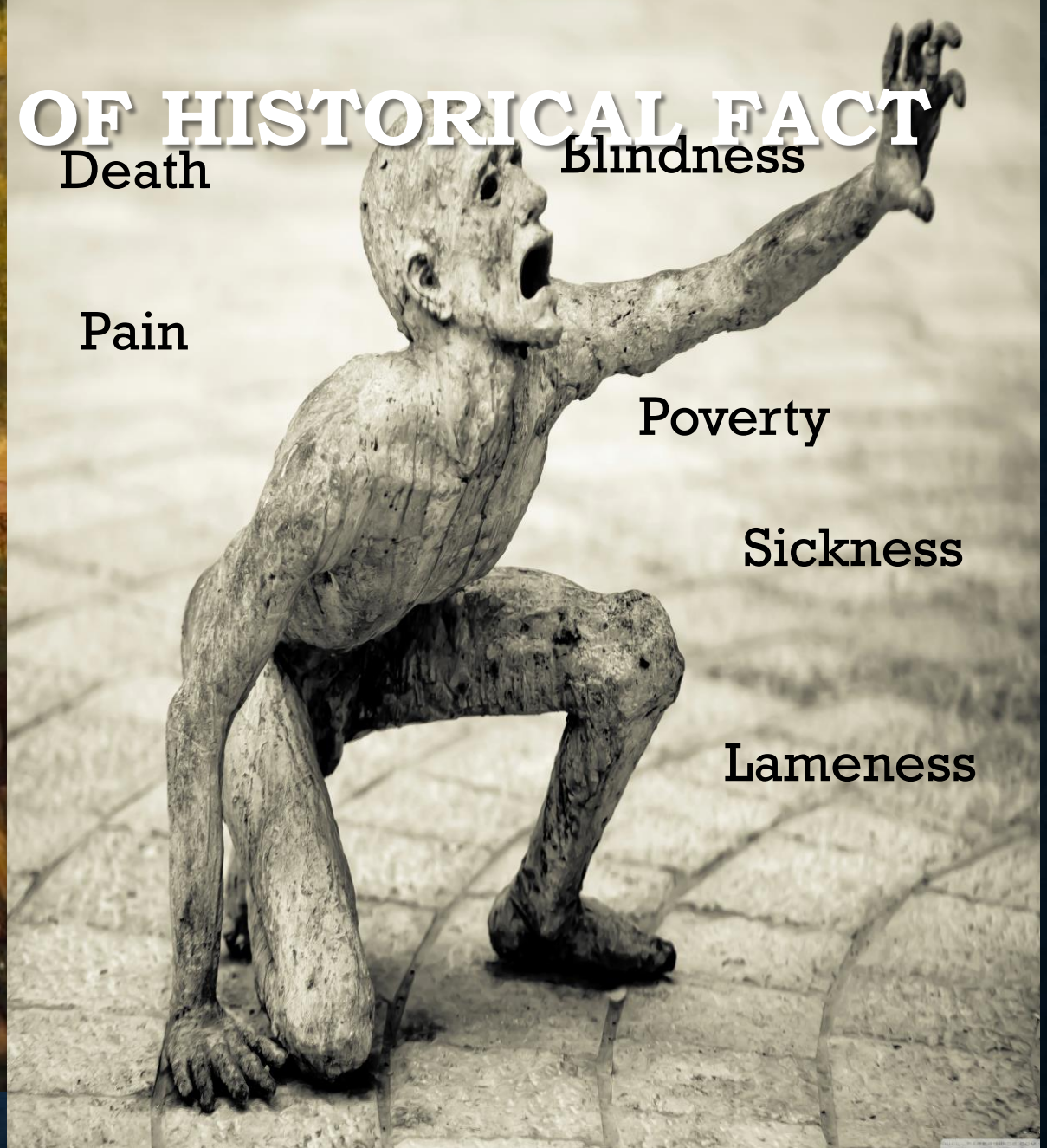
Authenticity of the gospel and the witness of the apostles.

Acts 3:16 (ESV) And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

MIRACLES POINT FORWARD

Acts 3:16 (ESV) And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

SUFFERING THE RESULT OF HISTORICAL FACT



Death

Blindness

Pain

Poverty

Sickness

Lameness

WHY DIDN'T JESUS



FINAL HEALING

Isaiah 35:3-6 **God is against the pain**
firm the feeble **He did not invent a world of misery** and make
heart, **He hates them as much as we do** an anxious
with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will
come and save you.”

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears
of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like
a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters
break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert

MIRACLES

- Jesus healings were the only natural things in a world that is unnatural ,demonised and wounded.
- We are enemies of suffering and will alleviate it whenever we can
- We can handle suffering knowing it will be vanquished in the future..we are the winning side

He did not invent a world of misery
He hates them as much as we do

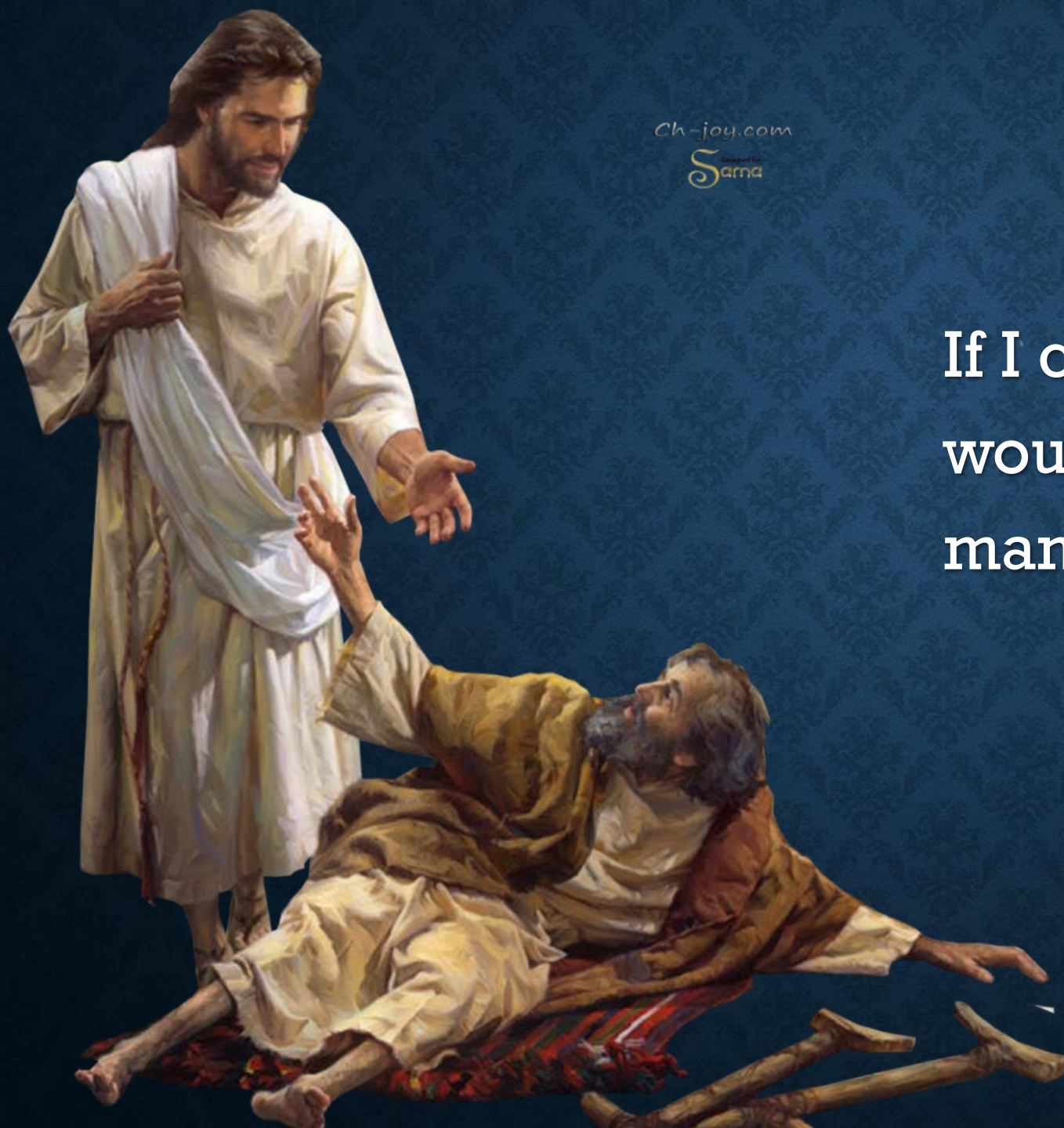


MIRACLES POINT INWARD

Acts 3:6 But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk

Look for something deeper..giving him what he really needed

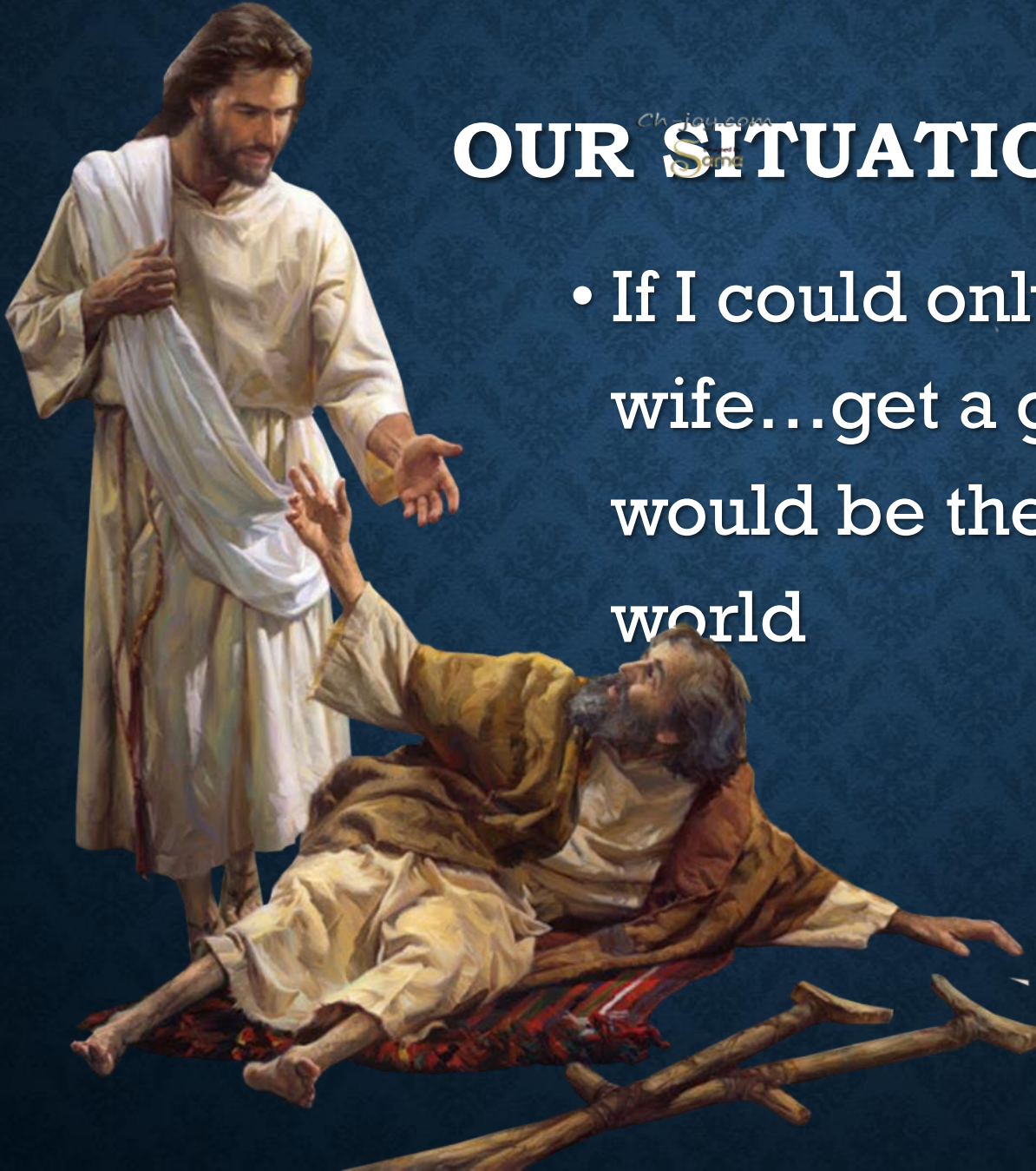
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If I could only walk then I
would be the happiest
man in the world

WALKING PEOPLE ? HAPPY?





OUR SITUATION

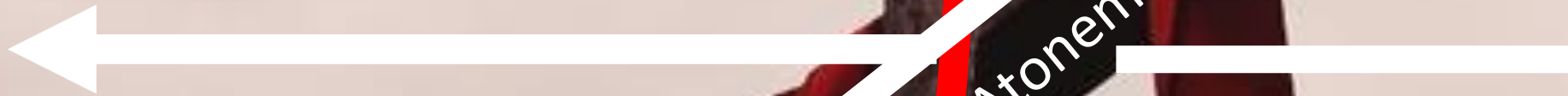
- If I could only ..get a job....have a wife...get a good house then I would be the happiest man in the world

HE FOUND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR

Acts 3:11 ESV While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's

MIRACLES MAKE US WEAKER

Resurrection/forward-back.



Atonement/inside-out

Incarnation/upside-down

Persecution

God became vulnerable

If Jesus came in strength all judged

His power comes into our lives

through weakness

We too have to become weak ..trust him

His power won't go into the world without our weakness

The way we minister in this world is not through power, legislation or political activity, we actually minister the world through weakness and that is what this miracle teaches us.





DO MIRACLES HAPPEN TODAY?



Yes



No



How



CESSATIONISTS

- Miracles died out with apostolic age because they were associated with apostles



Jonathan Edwards



Martin Luther



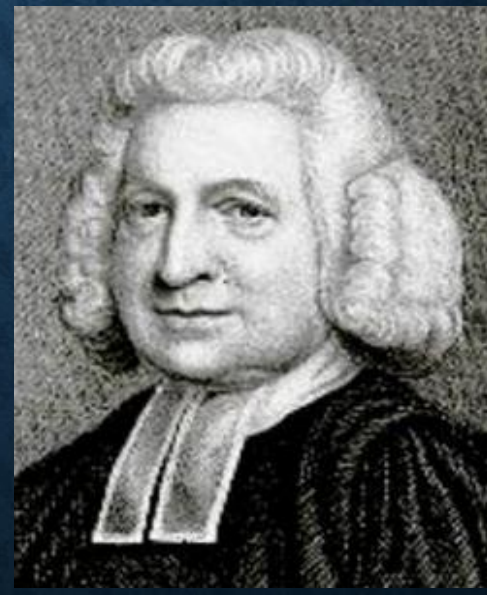
John Owen



John Calvin



Charles Spurgeon



George Whitfield

NON APOSTOLIC MIRACLES

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people

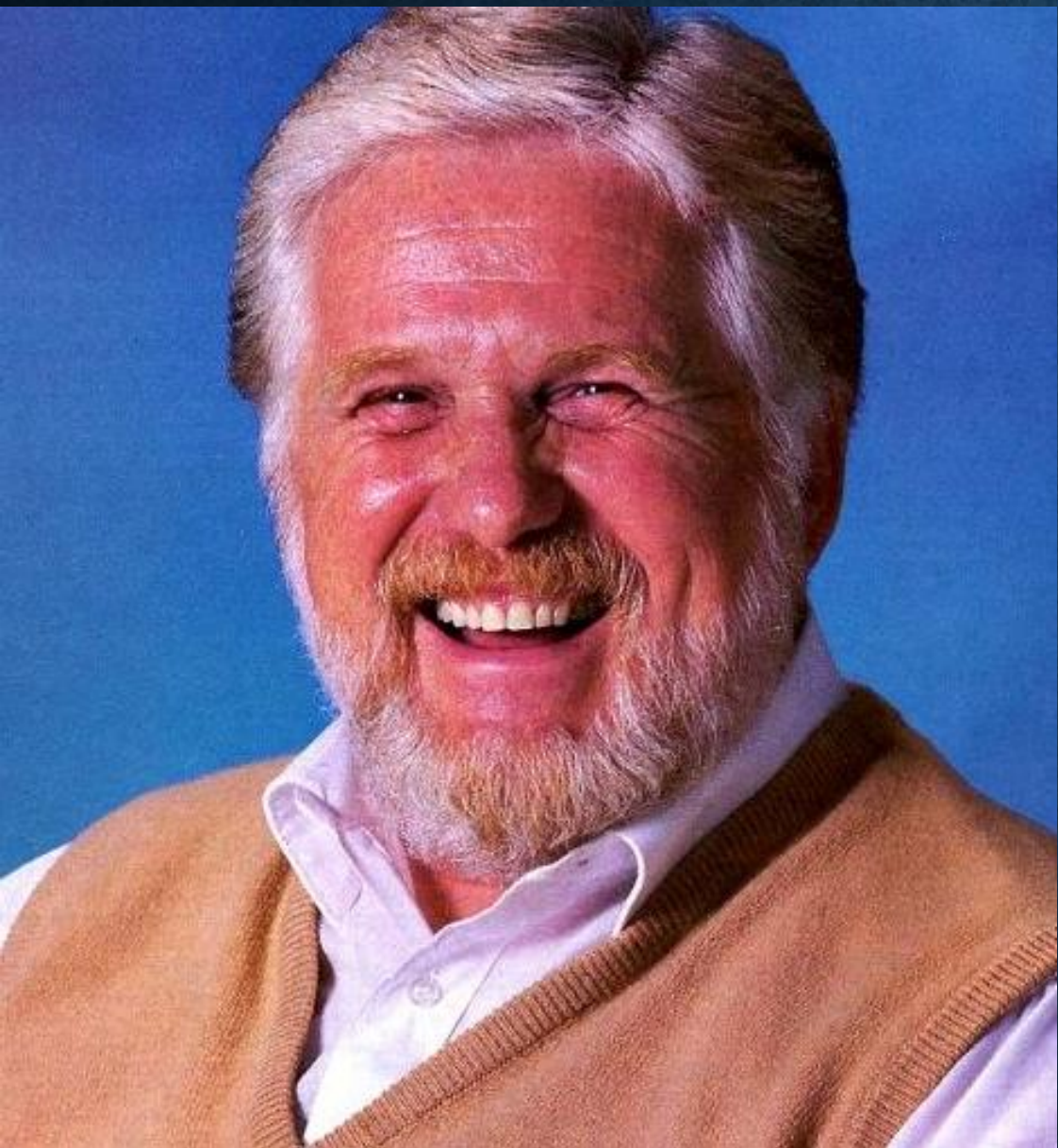
Acts 8:39-40 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea

GALATIAN CHURCH

Galatians 3:5-6 Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— 6 just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”

NOT ALL HAVE GIFT OF TONGUES

1 Corinthians 12:27-31 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?



JOHN WIMBER POWER EVANGELISM MOVEMENT

**“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever
believes in me will also do the works
that I do; and greater works than these
will he do, because I am going to the
Father
(John 14:12 ESV)**

Church does not expect them

CLUSTERS OF MIRACLES IN BIBLICAL TIME LINE

Moses and the Law

Elijah and Elisha

Introducing prophets

Jesus and apostles

CAN INCLUDE MIRACLES

Cannot mean all believers in all eras based on 1 Cor 12

John 14:11-12 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father

THE MEANING OF PERFECT?

- 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known

OPTIONS

Perfect



In the new
heavens and
new earth

Bible completed



Knowledge,
tongues and
prophesy pass
away

See face to face

Know fully

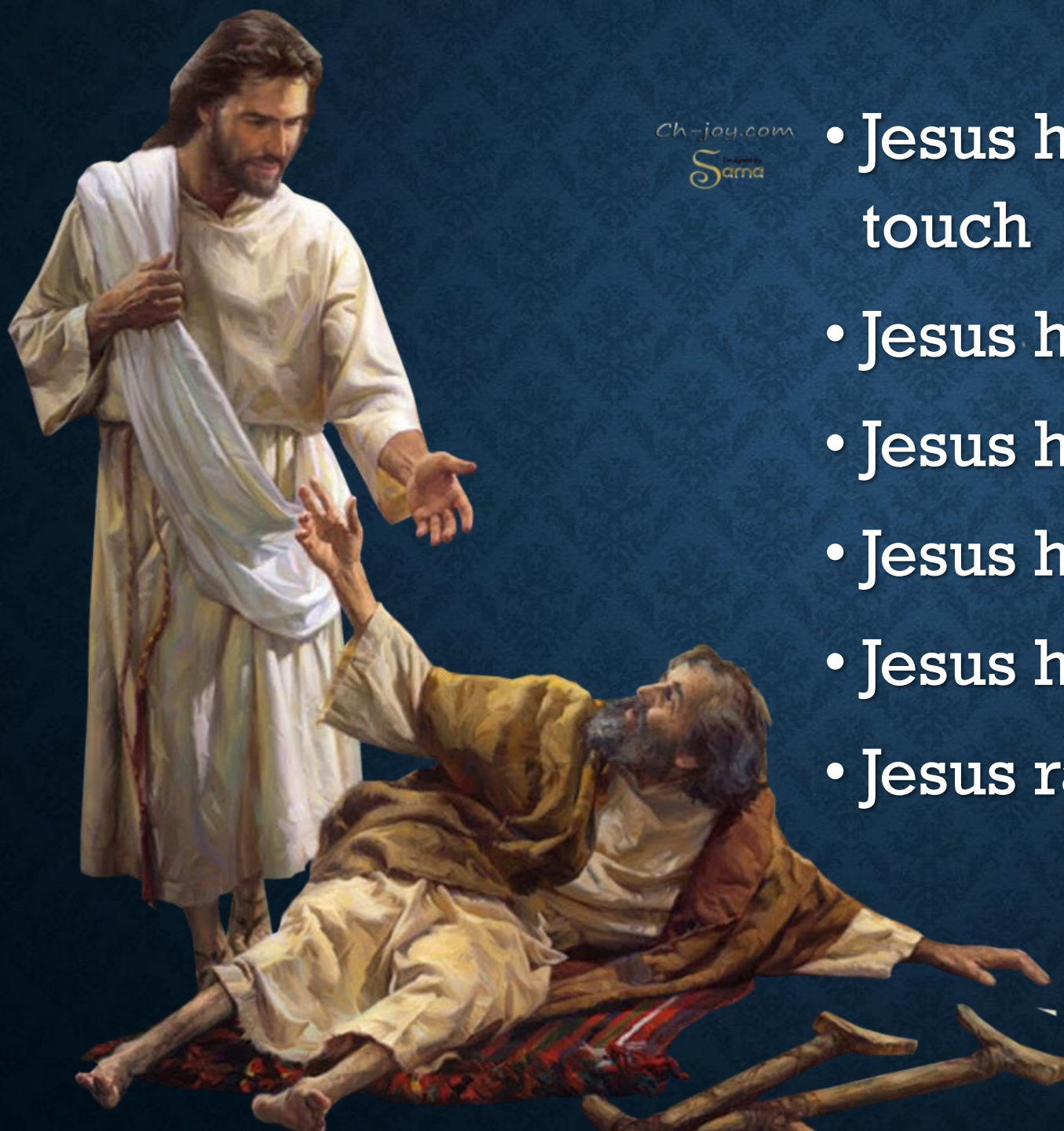
EVANGELISM

Power Evangelism

Proclamation Evangelism

MIRACLES

- Occur at sovereign will of the Father through the Son
- It is not a right or power wielded by people
- Must authenticate the gospel in the eyes of unbelievers
- By themselves are insufficient to convert
- Should follow biblical patterns



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- Jesus healed with a word or a touch
- Jesus healed instantaneously
- Jesus healed totally
- Jesus healed anybody
- Jesus healed organic disease
- Jesus raised the dead

MIRACLES TODAY



Gift of healing



Prayer for healing

CHARLES S PRICE



Revival at British Columbia

350 "healed"

6 months later 301 remained
sick

39 died

5 insane

WHY AM I NOT HEALED?



Never ever ever go to the Lord and say "if it be they will." Don't allow such faith-destroying words to be spoken from your mouth. When you pray "if it be thy will, Lord," Faith will be destroyed with God.

MATT 8 :28-34



Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction

APOSTLES HEAL

Acts 9:40 But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up

Nader Mikhael

Third Edition

The Toronto
Blessing and
Slaying
in the Spirit
the telling wonder

A compelling new approach to the
**Pentecostal
Charismatic
Signs &
Wonders
debate.**

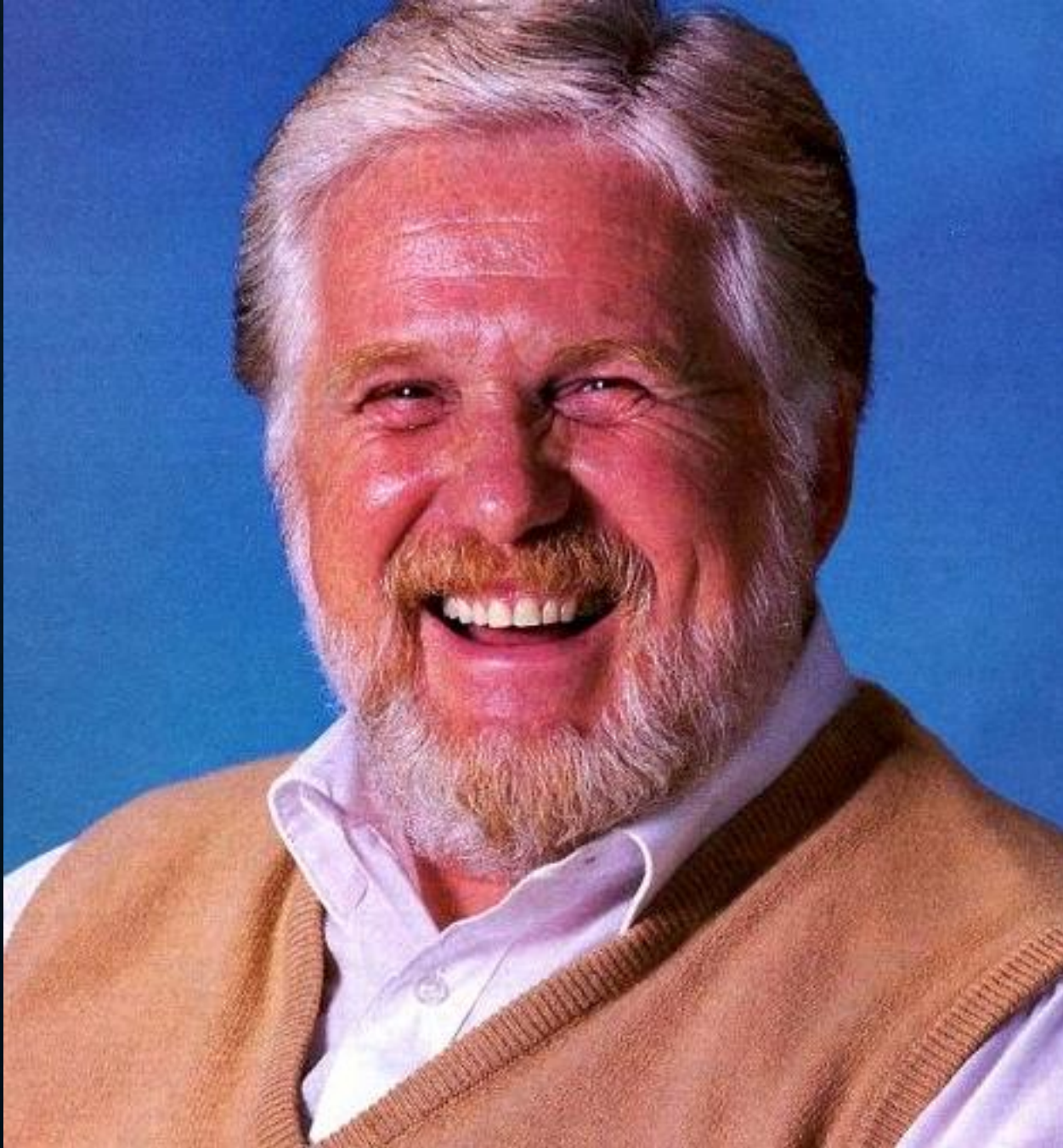
OF A MORMON MISSIONARY

During the 1800's, cripples, paralytics and the blind were healed "as in the days of old, by laying on of hands in the name of Jesus," under a New York missionaries ministry.

Healing recipients, praising God, rushed to gather ill friends and neighbors who were also healed. Seeing the miracles, converts clamored to receive baptism and join the church

MIRACLES ARE NOT PROOF OF SPIRITUALITY

Matthew 7:22-23 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? ' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness



1981 At one point, it looked like a battle field, bodies everywhere, people weeping, wailing, speaking in tongues, much shouting and loud behavior



**"SISTER MARIA
WOODWORTH ETTER
ST LOUIS 1920**

statue for three days and
three nights

JOHN MACARTHUR

A photograph of John MacArthur, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and patterned tie. He is speaking at a wooden podium with his arms outstretched. The background is dark.

- The truly spiritual person is not someone who sweeps away into trances, ecstasies, emotional frenzies or falls over in a dead faint. When a person is out of control, it is never the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is self control



**MARY BAKER EDDY
FOUNDER OF
CHRISTIAN
SCIENTOLOGY**

NATURE OF THE FAITH

Historical events

Evidence

Death



Apostles -
Witnesses

Resurrection

Prophets-Biblical

PETER PREACHES THE GOSPEL-EYE WITNESS

Explains the healing

Jesus Christ

Life and ministry

Death

Resurrection

Exaltation

Acts 3:11-13 ESV

12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus

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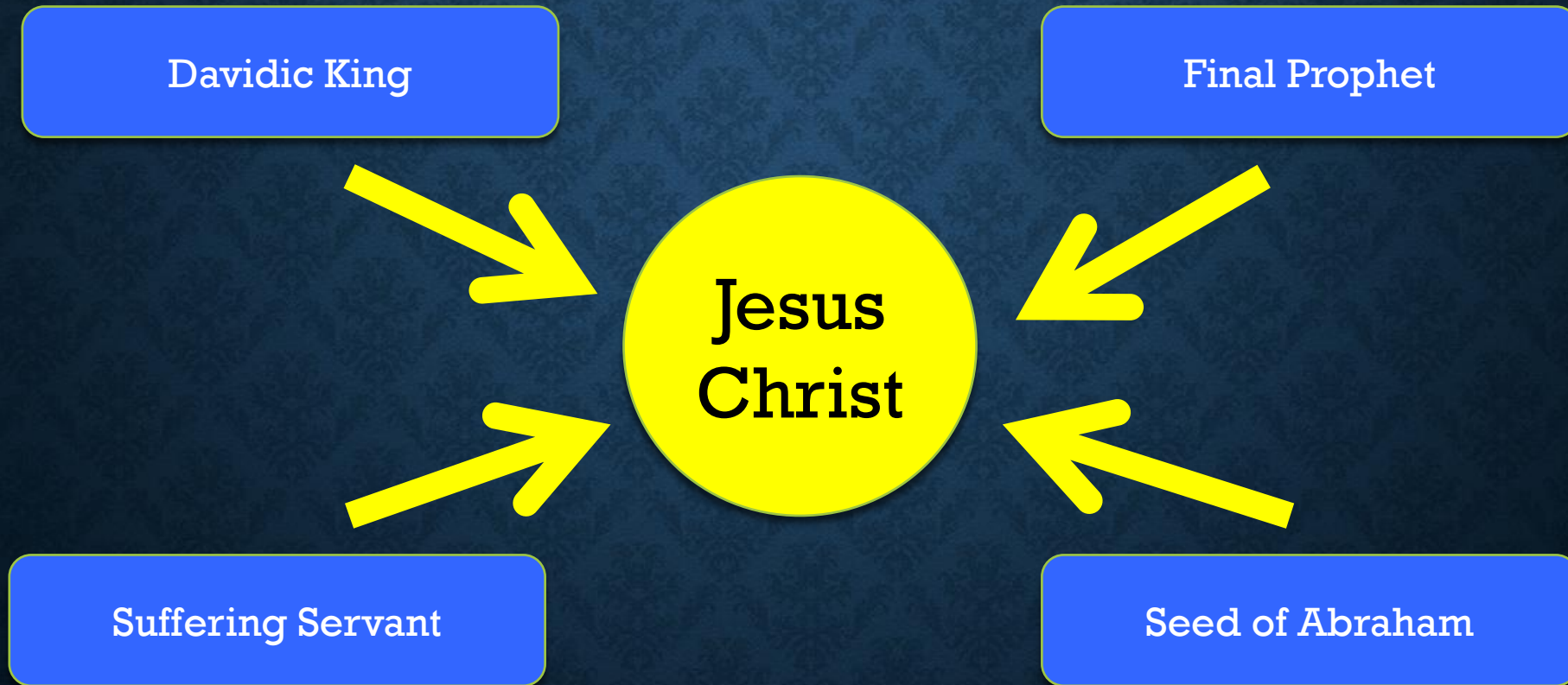
Ressurrection

Exaltation

Acts 3:13-15 ESV

The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him, 14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses

PETER PREACHES THE GOSPEL-BIBLICAL EVIDENCE-JEWISH AUDIENCE



RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Acts 3:19-20 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus



Repent



Faith

Metanoia –change of mind
towards God
Approach based on Jesus work
not ours

Turn back to God
go to God in reliance on the basis of
Jesus death. Saving faith is a real
“turning” and thus a going to God to
seek him, know him, love him, and
serve him.

RESULTS OF REPENTANCE AND BELIEF

Infuse His Spirit and Power to transform life-character, heart and behaviour
New affections

- Acts 3:19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come for you. Jesus will return to restore all things –regeneration ..nature reborn he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago
Obliterate without a trace
Social, psychological and physical healing