

Acquiescence

“And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all”, Acts 3:15-16.

John, in chapter nine of his Gospel records how a man, blind from birth had his sight given that those around him would glorify God’s Name. It is not recorded that the man asked for his sight, or that Jesus offered to heal the man.

God was not physically present, but was spiritually there in His Son. The man received his sight in God’s timing that God’s Name would be glorified.

Jesus, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey a week before His Crucifixion, said to Peter. “...What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them”, Mark 11:24.

Peter and John, on their way to the Temple to pray, and were about to pass a man who had been lame since his birth. Again, God was not physically present, but spiritually there in His People.

As for this person, he had taken his place to ask for alms as he had in the past. That day would be the same, and tomorrow was still to arrive. His great hope then was that he would be a little richer at the end of the day.

Allow me to rewrite that above paragraph again, and bring it into present times. For many people, they go to church on Sunday, and hope it will be better than some previous Sundays.

They sing a few songs, the guy at the front says ‘Let us pray’, and they kneel.

He says 'Amen', and they sit back up.

Many sit with an attentive look on their faces, and their minds are saying, 'I was hoping it would be better than this!'

Let us now return to the guy asking for alms. He had taken his place to ask for alms as he had in the past. That day would be the same, and tomorrow was still to arrive. His great hope then was that he would be a little richer at the end of the day.

The disciples, possibly with Jesus present, would have walked past this man often.

If we now re-look at the lead Scripture, the Name of Jesus is alluded to three times without actually being said.

Jesus had already taught them, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it", John 14:14. The disciples said,

'His Name',

'They confessed His Name',

'They stated it was His Power'.

They did not hope - they expected that the result would produce the result that they were proclaiming would happen.

Hope is that the event might happen. Expectation is faith in a full result. A full result blesses the person, the person asking, and lift's God's Name.

When many people enter a church, their mind set that they hope to be blessed.

Hope remains a wish that might be fulfilled. Expectancy is the fulfilment of a desire.

The lame man's hope was of survival through other peoples generosity. His hope became a desire when he was offered a healing. His expectancy was

revealed in his dancing. In his leaping. In his praise to God.

The offer of Peter and John took him from hope to expectancy, to fulfilment, to public display. God's Promises to man are full on.