

# The Book of Acts

## Chapter 3

Growth of the New Testament Church

# Quiz

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- What is another name for Pentecost?
  - Feast of weeks
- How long after Passover was Pentecost?
  - Seven weeks or 50 days
- What is a clearer word for Biblical “tongues”
  - Languages
- Why were those who heard the “tongues” amazed?
  - They heard God’s Word in their native language

# Quiz

3

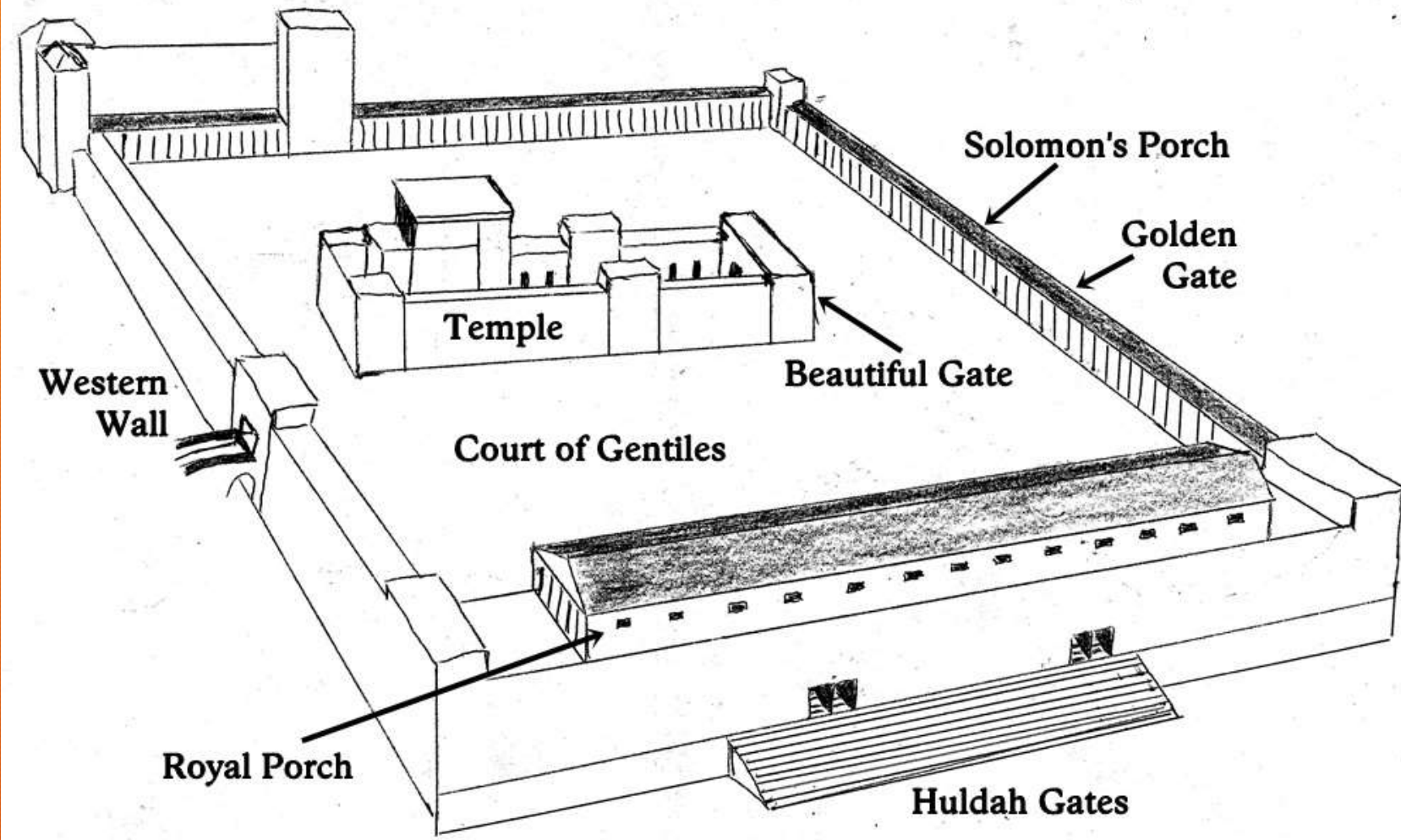
- How many languages were spoke on Pentecost?
  - Fourteen plus to those of Judaea
- What minor prophet did Peter quote in his sermon?
  - Joel
- Give a Bible proof that baptism is not part of salvation.
  - Many Scriptures promise salvation but do not mention baptism
- The Christians continued steadfast in what for things?
  - Doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer



# Peter and John meet a lame man, v.1-3

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- They were entering the temple at the hour of prayer, v.1
  - At the ninth hour is 3:00 p.m., they entered by the gate Beautiful.
  - The gate Beautiful was the main entrance.
- A lame man sat daily at the gate begging, v.2
  - He was born lame. He was now over 40 years old (**Ac 4:22**).
  - Family or friends carried him to the gate each morning.
- Seeing Peter and John, he asked an alms.
  - The word translated “alms” means mercy, pity or a donation for poor.
  - He was asking for a donation. No government help in those days.



# Diagram of Herod's Temple

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Peter was seeking to open a door to be a witness for Christ. God had obviously spoken to his heart about doing this. This was another of the transitional authentication miracles of the book of Acts to prove to the unbelieving Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. It was also to prove that a New Testament had begun.

Though God is not using miracles of this nature today, we too must seek to open doors to be witnesses for Christ. Purposefully start conversations with strangers, looking for an opening. Put in a word for Christ or our church whenever you can. Watch for lonely or hurting people you may encourage and point to Jesus.

**Note carefully what Peter was doing.**

6

# God healed the lame man, v.4-10

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- Peter asked the man to look at him, v.4
- He turned his attention to them and held out his cup, v.5
- Note Peter's words in verse 6
  - I have no silver and gold
  - Here is what I can give you. In Jesus' name rise up and walk.
  - Peter took him by the hand and lifted him up, **healed**, v.7
- He leaped, stood, walked, entered, walked, leaped, praised God, v.8. Imagine his thoughts!
- The people saw him, knew him, and were amazed, v.9-10

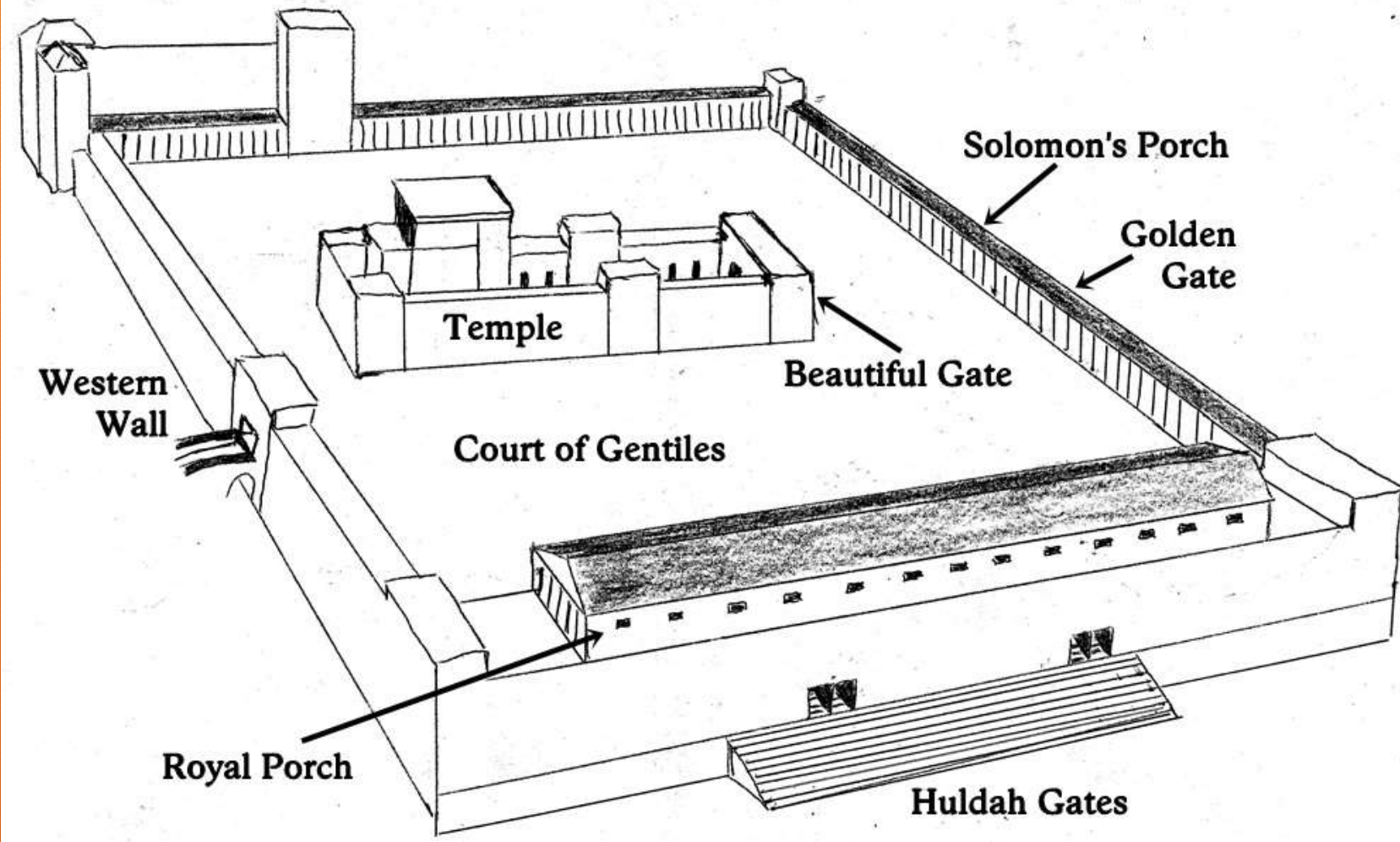


# They went to Solomon's Porch, v.11-12

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- Solomon's Porch was a covered area on eastern side of the Court of Gentiles, v.11.
- Crowd gathered, greatly wondering.
- Peter gets the attention of the crowd and begins his explanation, v.12.
  - He did not claim any credit for the miracle.
  - He gave all the glory to the Lord!





## Diagram of Herod's Temple

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# Peter's Sermon, v.13-18

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- He identified God as of our fathers ... v.13
  - He said that God glorified His Son Jesus whom you delivered, v.13
  - You denied (rejected) the Holy and Just One, desiring a murderer, v.14
  - You killed the Prince of Life; God raised Him to life, v.15
- Through faith in Jesus' name, this man was healed, v.16
- You did that in ignorance, v.17
- God's prophets foretold that Christ must suffer. This He fulfilled, v.18



# Peter's Invitation, v.19-26

11

- Peter challenged the crowd to repent (change of heart and mind) and be converted (turn to Christ), v.19.
  - “Times of refreshing” may refer to all the good things that can be known by experiencing His indwelling presence and blessing. <sup>P. Pett</sup>
  - Some believe it refers to the peaceful Millennial Kingdom.
  - Christ will now live in believer's hearts as King, v.20
  - One day He will come again, v.21
  - This was foretold by the prophets, v.22-24
  - Jews are the seed of Abraham from whom all are blessed, v.25
  - God offered Christ to the Jews first, v.26

**Repenting** is changing the heart and mind about sin (I deserve to go to hell) and salvation (only Christ can save me from hell). It is not possible to truly make that change without believing that you are a condemned sinner and that Jesus is the only way of salvation. **Believing** is placing one's faith in Christ's atonement to save his soul from sin's damnation in hell. It is not possible to truly believe without a repentant heart about your guilt of sin and God's only way of salvation through Christ. **Repent** and **believe** are two sides to the same coin. **Any "professing" believer who wants a home in heaven but does not want God to change his sinful life is not a true believer at all.** He is still lost. An unrepentant sinner's prayer is nothing but empty words.

Repent and Believe, are both necessary?

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Peter's preaching called for repentance and conversion. Preaching repentance is not popular. Paul wrote these words to Timothy. (2 Timothy 4:2) "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove (convict), rebuke (forbid), exhort (beg, comfort, encourage, instruct, warn) with all longsuffering and doctrine." When we do wrong, God's truth is painful, but preaching God's Word is SUPPOSED to convict, forbid and instruct. Sadly, many preachers preach information without application. God says we are to preach for transformation. Preaching that fails to reprove, rebuke, and exhort is not proper preaching. Preachers need both patience with the stubborn and doctrine that does not waver. Pray for your preacher!

## Proper Preaching

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# Applications for us today

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- As Peter and John did, we ought to be looking for opportunities to share the Gospel with the lost.
- Authenticating miracles ended long ago, but God still heals in answer to prayer when it best glorifies Him.
- Peter gave all the glory to God. We too must give God all the glory for the things He enables us to do.
  - Without God we can do NOTHING!
- Remember, claiming to believe without repenting is empty words.
  - Such “belief” has a wrong focus.
  - You cannot go to heaven without first admitting you are justly going to hell.
  - Salvation is not saying a prayer but seeking forgiveness and a changed life through Christ.
- God offered salvation to the Jews first, but thankfully later to the Gentiles!