

Answer and Witness (Ac. 3:1-10)

I believe that God will answer us and bless us at this time of worship. Today's message is entitled the answer and the witness. He received that answer and stood as a witness. Today's bible passage is the time in which it became an evidence that Jesus is the Christ after he ascended to heaven. May Jesus be your Christ once again. From the start mankind did not have the answer. God possesses the answer and mankind could never make the answer on their own. It is impossible for mankind to make the answer on their own that is why they are called the creation. You have been created by God, you are not the creator. It is mankind to which their life is in God's hands. Without God it is impossible for them to live but what is important is that you must acknowledge this truth. There are many cases where many do not acknowledge this. They live their lives without thinking of this truth. However, the world teaches the opposite of this. The world taught mankind that you can do it. To a certain extent mankind can do it with their own strength because God has given them the condition to do so. Mankind are capable of doing it to a certain extent however, they believe that they can do it. It is the world that emphasizes that you can be like and you can do it. The conclusion of buddhism is that you can be like buddha. We all know a renown monk who was lost within his own life seeking after the answer that is why he began to believe in buddhism. Later on he gave a testimony that he could not find the answer he was seeking after and passed away. He emphasized many times that if I just seek and find the answer I will leave buddhism. Later on, he confessed that Siddhartha is Satan himself and he passed away. It is such a pitiful state that he was not able to lie on the ground for 8 years. His determination was tremendous. To that extent he was so desperate to receive the answer. Of course, he is one step ahead of others. Of course people of the world do not seek the answer to their lives. They seek after a living yet they never question what is the purpose of my life. In the end they took the wrong and incorrect path and they failed within their lives. Then what about you? You possess the answer not only that every week you listen to the message that emphasizes the answer. However, continuously when you take a look at yourself you possess the answer but yet you do not live according to the answer. Of course, you know what the answer is but yet you do not act according to the answer. Of course, you learn to live according to the answer but yet it's not easier said than done. May the grace be upon for you to uncover the answer. If you are able to uncover the answer you will live according to the answer. Of course, even if you may take the incorrect path and you may live heading towards something else but yet, as long as you hold to the answer it will be done. Of course, the answer is the center to the fundamentals of your prayer. When you continue that it will become your nature. Rightfully, you yearn to relay this answer to others because it is the answer. Many are seeking the answer. They are seeking the answer to their lives problems and their future. After original sin mankind has lost the answer and before original sin they possessed the answer. Before original sin they were in the state to live with the creator God without the answer. It is only Christ who is the way for you to go back to that state before original sin. This is the only way that is why we emphasize only Christ. Jesus replied

I am the way. May you not speak of anything else may you just simply follow the way. When you enjoy continuous evidence of conquest and victory will be upon you. Just like today's passage may that blessing be upon you today.

1. The Answer and Witness

He is a man who had the answer and stood as the witness. He became a very important witness. We know this bible passage very well. He was a man lame from birth at the temple called the Beautiful Gate as he was to ask alms of those entering the temple. He was born as a lame from birth. He was in the fate and destiny to which he was homeless. But one day, he met Christ and was able to stand. His life was completely overturned. The answer is contained in the Word. That is why every week we look at the bible from the beginning. For us to read this passage, God is telling us that He will do just as in the passage in your life. May you hold to that as your covenant. All those who entered the temple knew of this man who was lame. There was a miracle that arose. The miracles arose through the people who were considered heresy to the Israelites. Even the Pharisees and religious leaders could not do this miracle work. They were able to give alms to this lame man, but were not able to let him stand. Peter, who was considered heresy, was able to do this miracle work. Verse 8 states, "And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God." He never once walked in his life, or even entered the temple. In Leviticus 21, it states that anyone with blemishes is not allowed to enter God's sanctuary. Leviticus 21:22 states, "He may eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy and of the holy things." Of course, in the theological perspective, there must be an explanation; however, there is no limit to salvation. The sanctuary is the most perfect and complete place which is why God did not allow those with blemish to enter. Those who were born with blemishes had no choice but to suffer for the rest of their lives. For women, it is alright because they would never enter the sanctuary, but he was a man. He would desire to even crawl into the temple, but he was not able to do so. It is Christ who resolved this all at once, so it is true liberation. It says that he was walking and leaping and praising God. He will never forget the fact that he was liberated from fate and destiny as Satan was completely destroyed. Through his incident, he was able to relay to the entire world that it was Jesus Christ who crushed the serpent's head. He became a historical witness of that age. If you take a look at it, there was an uproar in Jerusalem. They were in an uproar, especially those who were able to enter the temple, because they witnessed it. Three thousand disciples arose and that was the beginning of the Antioch Church, as this was the first step of God's word evangelism. He became a historical figure. A man lame from birth has completely overturned his life. How do you think he felt the moment he was able to walk? How do you think his family felt? Of course, he had no choice but to sit in front of the temple and ask for alms. He had no other choice. For Israelites, it is a curse to be born a lame man and never enter the temple. All of Israelite men had to appear before the Lord at least three times a year. That was the way for them to keep the Feast. That was their method of salvation. That is what they believe in, and that is the ideology of the Israelites. Yet, the man that was born lame was not allowed in

the temple. How do you think he felt? Then, one day, by the name of Jesus Christ, he was able to stand. All the thoughts he had diminished. He was liberated, and the very first thing he did the moment he was able to stand was entering the temple, leaping and praising God. He used to be seized by the law. Yet, by the name of Jesus Christ, all the legalism was completely diminished. In other words, the legalism itself was completely finished. It is a message to not be discouraged just because of the hardships you go through. We all face hardships. Among us, there might be those that question why their life is full of curses. Today's message is the main point through the Bible passage. When you hold to Jesus Christ as the covenant, your life of all things being overturned will come. That is why you must not be concerned about why your life is in that state. God's message is, "If you are in concern, you must be able to hold on to Jesus Christ as your answer. And when God's time schedule comes upon you, all things will be overturned. Not only that, but you'll be able to receive the answer and stand as a witness for it. May it be your covenant. May you be able to place inside of your heart the moment when great work arose when the name of Jesus Christ was testified.

2. Prayer

The second point we'll look at is prayer. It says that they were in the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. In our terms, it'd be 3 pm. The Israelites would pray three times a day. It was a prayer during the afternoon. And during the time of prayer, that is when the work arose. That means it is very important. After you have received the Gospel, the next thing to do is pray. If the covenant is the promise, prayer is the method to enjoy the promise. God has commanded us to pray. Not only did He command us to pray, but He also promised to fulfill his covenant. We all know 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." This is one of the main scriptures of Apostle Paul's spiritual realm regarding prayer. Not only that, but when he went out to the field of evangelism, he would always find a place of prayer first. If you look at the Book of Acts, Apostle Paul saw the importance of the content more than location of the prayer. And the first evangelism circuit in Europe was the region of the Philippines. If you look at Acts 16, as he was going to the place of prayer. That means that he stayed in that region for a couple of days. As an evangelist, he should be going out, but he stayed and prayed. He wasn't just enjoying his meal or other's company. He went to pray. This means he prayed so that God will attach disciples so that it will continue on the movement. I do believe that was his prayer. Of course the Bible doesn't mention exactly what it is, I believe that was his prayer. It is because his God-given commission was world evangelization. He was in the city of Damascus and met the Lord Jesus Christ. That was the commission he received. If there was anyone who was able to see the work that has taken place in Acts 9, they will be fixated on the vision they have received from God. Think about it. He was on his way to persecute those who believe in Jesus, yet the Lord himself appeared before him. He said, "Who are you, Lord," and Jesus replied, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." At that very moment, Paul stood speechless, hearing the voice. And he came to realize that He is the Christ. Of course, in the city of Damascus, he was on his way to persecute those who believe in

Jesus, yet he went to that city and proclaimed that Jesus is the Christ. From that moment on, he received God's word. That was his lifelong covenant, nailed in his heart. The Lord said that he was his chosen instrument for the sake of world evangelism, to stand before the Gentiles. That is when Apostle Paul was able to go all in. He was married as he was a Pharisee. He expressed that he may not be like Peter as he was able to take his wife along his journey. Paul was able to confess that he does not have the same authority as Peter, so that meant he had a wife. The Bible never records his family. It is not that they look down on his family, yet, he was able to entrust his family to the Lord. He never emphasized his family, but even his time in Jerusalem was not recorded. To that extent, he was able to entrust all things to the Lord and concluded all things. He truly believed that the Lord would watch over his family more than he could do for them, so he entrusted everything to the Lord. The way for him to go to Those was blocked, that is why he went to the region of Phillipi. However, do you think he went there just to enjoy his time? He sincerely and earnestly prayed to meet the disciple that God had prepared for him. It was the day of the Sabbath and he was heading towards the place of prayer and he met his disciple Lydia. For Paul's gospel movement, prayer was the core of all things. We are all those who possess the gospel. We have heard many times that those who possess the gospel must pray next. All the biblical figures who partook in the gospel movement were people of prayer. Joseph received the covenant and continuously prayed focusing on the covenant. Joseph's life story is very long, but the Bible never once records that he complained about being taken as a slave. Moses was a person of the covenant, but even for his age, there was no one like him who was a person of prayer. Whenever problems arose, he held onto the word as the answer and relayed it to the people. Elijah was able to raise many miracles. That all took place with prayer alone. It was the message that without prayer, nothing can take place. Take a look at David. For David himself, his prayer became praise and poems to God. What about Daniel? He understood and knew the reason for the gospel, so he resolved it in his heart. In the midst of crises, he staked his life and prayed. May you be a person of prayer. It is because you are the person of the gospel. We have heard many times that once we possess the covenant there is nothing left to do but to pray. May you be a person of the covenant, not only that, may you enjoy the covenant inside of prayer to the extent that you will never depart from the covenant. May you receive many answers and stand as a witness. May this authority of the covenant truly be shown within your life. You may pray to the Lord, but there is one thing you must keep inside your heart. You must place the covenant at the center of your prayers. Because the name of Jesus Christ was proclaimed, the great works arose. You must hold to the covenant as you pray. That is when the covenant will be at work upon your life. It is the covenant that will bind the forces of darkness. That is when you will see liberation upon all curses upon your life. That is the kingdom of God. It is God's kingdom, the moment you held to the covenant and prayed, all forces of darkness diminished. It is God's kingdom to which your life has been liberated from all curses. That is the power of the throne. May this blessing be upon us all. I bless you all in the name of the Lord that you will hold onto God's word as your covenant.