

Acts 14:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

Analysis

A certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet—Luke's medical precision appears in his description: *adynatos tois posin* (powerless in the feet), **being a cripple from his mother's womb** (Greek *cholos ek koilias mētros autou*), **who never had walked**. This threefold emphasis—congenital condition, lifelong disability, complete inability—establishes that only supernatural power could heal him. The detail parallels Peter's healing of the lame man (Acts 3:2), showing Paul possessed equal apostolic authority. The man's condition symbolizes humanity's spiritual helplessness apart from divine intervention.

Historical Context

Lystra was a Roman colony established 6 BC, populated by retired military veterans and locals. The presence of this disabled beggar reflects the harsh realities of disability in the ancient world, where no social services existed and begging was the only survival option for the severely handicapped.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this detailed description of the man's condition heighten appreciation for God's power in salvation?
2. What 'congenital conditions' in your spiritual life can only be healed by supernatural intervention?

Interlinear Text

Καί	τις	άνήρ	έν	Λύστροις	άδύνατος	τοῖς	ποσὶν
And	a certain	man	at	Lystra	impotent	G3588	in his feet
G2532	G5100	G435	G1722	G3082	G102		G4228
ἐκάθητο	χωλὸς	ἐκ	κοιλίας	μητρὸς	αὐτοῦ	ὑπάρχων,	ὃς
there sat	a cripple	from	womb	mother's	G846	being	who
G2521	G5560	G1537	G2836	G3384		G5225	G3739
οὐδέποτε	περιπεπατήκει						
never	had walked						
G3763	G4043						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 3:2 (Parallel theme): And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

Acts 4:9 (Parallel theme): If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

John 5:7 (Parallel theme): The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.