

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

Psalm 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 ἀνὴρ ἐν Λύστροις ἀδύνατος 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 being who
G2521 G5560 G1537 G2836 G3384 G846 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.