

Acts 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

Analysis

Peter immediately deflected attention: 'why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?' This redirection from instruments to source characterizes authentic ministry. All glory belongs to Christ, not His servants.

Historical Context

Peter's disclaimer prevented the crowd from attributing the miracle to apostolic merit. This contrasted with Simon Magus (Acts 8:9) who sought personal glory through spiritual power.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you deflect honor toward Christ when God uses you?
2. What dangers exist in accepting credit for what God accomplishes through you?

Interlinear Text

ἰδὼν δὲ Πέτρος ἀπεκρίνατο πρὸς τὸν λαόν Ἄνδρες
saw And when Peter it he answered unto G3588 the people Ye men
G1492 G1161 G4074 G611 G4314 G2992 G435

Ἰσραηλῖται τί θαυμάζετε ἐπὶ τούτῳ ἢ ἡμῖν τί¹
of Israel why marvel ye at this or on us why
G2475 G5101 G2296 G1909 G5129 G2228 G2254 G5101

ἀτενίζετε ὡς ἴδια δυνάμει ἢ εὐσεβείᾳ
look ye so earnestly as though by our own power or holiness
G816 G5613 G2398 G1411 G2228 G2150

πεποιηκόσιν τοῦ περιπατεῖν αὐτόν
we had made to walk this man
G4160 G3588 G4043 G846

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 3:5 (Parallel theme): Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Genesis 41:16 (Parallel theme): And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

Acts 2:22 (References Israel): Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Romans 9:4 (References Israel): Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

Acts 13:26 (Parallel theme): Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

Romans 11:1 (References Israel): I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

John 7:18 (Parallel theme): He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

Genesis 40:8 (Parallel theme): And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you.

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