

## Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Thank you so much for visiting our website! Here is an excerpt of my notes from Pastor A.J.'s sermon, "IT IS NOT OVER FOR ME"

We pray this Message will bless you the way it blessed us! Please come back again next week for more from "LaKesha's Pen" with another inspiring message from our Pastor.

Yours in Christ,

LaKesha Johnson-Lewis

**It's Time to Rise up and declare;**

**"IT IS NOT OVER FOR ME!"**

**Acts 3:7**

*(Background reading Acts 3:1-10)*

In this particular verse of scripture we find Peter and John passing the gate called Beautiful. The disciples had a habit of praying at the three o'clock hour. In **Mark 15:34**, we learn that this is the hour that Jesus took his last breath. Many believe praying at the three o'clock hour is significant for this very reason. Many say that this is the hour of special grace and healing. It also serves as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice to save our souls from the penalty of sin and death. There at the gate we see a man lame from birth a man who is unable to walk. There at the gate he would sit and beg for alms daily. People who were passing would offer up money or food. Now this particular man looked to Peter and John expecting to receive what he always had received from passersby; not realizing God had something different in mind. In **Isaiah 55:8**, God says: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are My ways. His thoughts and ways are higher than your own; for we can only understand and perceive things from a limited mindset, where God sees all and is the creator of all things other known as the Omniscient One. He knew the end from the beginning and all that falls in between. This is sometimes a hard pill to swallow and if you are not careful the enemy will use this to cause you to doubt God. In Genesis, when the serpent approached Eve the trick he used was to get Eve to doubt what God had said and that He was withholding something good from her. Satan wants you to believe that God is not a loving, understanding and caring father who wants only the best for you. Satan uses circumstances and situations to get us to doubt. When doubt is birth you limit your

expectations of God. You begin to seek God and expect God to do things from a limited perspective not from a perspective of God Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth, the one True Living God who has an unlimited supply. Though God cares about your situation and circumstances He cares more about making you entirely complete and whole through a relationship with Him. He will meet your needs on a deeper level but sometimes like the Lame Man you expect surface level answers when God is doing a deeper thing in you. God gave the man what he truly needed! He desired to change this man's situation permanently! Previous passersby would only meet the immediate need and God needed to permanently change things so that this man did not find himself in this position again.

### **The Right Hand**

As you continue to read you see that Peter takes the man by the right hand. In the Bible the right hand is significant. God's right hand is His hand of power and strength. With Peter taking the man by the right hand it signifies strength and in the strength God was able to fully restore this man's body. Initially the thought had to occur to the Lame Man I can't do this. You may find yourself in a position where you believe you are lame and unable to do what God is asking but God is saying take my right hand because I will give you My strength to stand. What you think you can't do on your own; you can do with God!

Taking the right hand of God comes with taking a commitment. For the Lame Man to take Peter's hand there was a certain amount of trust. The man must have been committed to this process and trusted Peter in order to receive what Peter had to give him. When you become committed to taking God's right hand you are letting God know you trust Him in the process of what He is strengthening in your life. When you are committed the grace of God shows up with His favor and His righteousness to do what He has called you to do. You will continue to be strengthened for your journey in life as you do more of God and less of you. God has given us all free will and we all have the right to do with our lives as we choose. In **Deuteronomy 30:19**, God gives us the answer to how we should choose. Living a life without God will lead you down a road of destruction and death. A life with God leads to an abundant life both now and forever! This is a life of blessing for both you and your descendants to come. If you are truly committed to God everything in you will be strengthened. If you look back at **Acts 3** you will see that before the physical change took place for others to see God healed him on the inside first. Don't allow outward circumstance persuade you that God is not in the process of healing you. You are being healed inside first and then your outside circumstances will change. This is your season for change! God wants to get the glory out of what has been crippling you. When you realize that your inner healing has now made it to the physical world you and others around you will rejoice and everyone will know this was the hand of God! Though you may not hold the position as a minister

you still have a ministry. God will use the adversity to create your ministry and this will minister to those God places in your path. You have been fearfully and wonderfully made with a purpose only you can fulfill. Do not look to the right or to the left do not compare yourself or your journey to anyone else's like the lame man fix your eyes on Him! Give your attention to God, seek His face but do not forget to take the limits off of God seek him with expectancy! Fear cannot exist without faith. Let the fear propel you into your destiny not stifle you and hold you in your past. Arise above your situation by committing yourself to the mighty hand of God it's not over for you!

Amen!