**HOPE in Hard Seasons**

Message #3 “Beautiful Truths to Live By”

Acts 3:1-10

Pastor Phil Whetstone

November 25 & 26, 2017

*“One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer — at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John.* ***Then Peter said, ‘Look at us!’*** *5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6* ***Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’*** *7* ***Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong****. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”*

**BEAUTIFUL LIFE TRUTHS**

**#1. LIVE FROM THE PLACE OF AUTHORITY**. (vs. 4, 6)

*“Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, ‘Look at us!’… ‘But what I have I give you…’”*

*Eph. 1:16-23 “I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, 20 which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.”*

***“The riches that are yours in Christ…”***

*“I HAVE BECOME A TARGET AND A TARGET MAKES A POOR IMPRESSION-”*

 Lt. John Dunbar (Kevin Costner) Dances with Wolves

**Target factors:**

1. **Fear**
2. **Negativity**

*Phil. 2:12-18 “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose. 14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life — in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. 17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.”*

1. **Fatigue**

*Matt. 16:18 “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*

**#2. LIVE IN A PLACE OF DEPENDANCE.**

*“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”*

**#3. LIVE WITH A CONSTANT SENSE OF GRATITUDE.**

*“What I have…I give to you…”*

*Phil. 4:8-9 “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”*

*It is amazing how you find what you are looking for. If you are looking for beauty, you tend to find it; if you are looking for problems, you generally find them. If you look for blessings and grace, it is amazing how you see the blessing and grace in life. If you are looking for curse and hopelessness, you will find it.” Pastor Phil*

*“People are either thermometers or thermostats. They will merely reflect the climate around them or they will set it. Leaders develop values and principles to live by and set the tone for others… My challenge to you is to move from being a thermometer to a thermostat.” Tim Elmore Habitudes*