

THE NAME OF JESUS

Acts 3:6-7 NLT says “But Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!” Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man’s feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened.”

In Hebrew culture, a name expressed the essence of a person’s being. Thus, to preach or heal in the name of Jesus was to release the power of Jesus into that situation. The concept of name lay behind magic practiced in the ancient world. People pronounced names as a formula in the hope that the power of the being would be activated.

What a difference in the use of Jesus’ name by Peter and the church. As God, Jesus was actually present in power when the cripple was healed, even as Jesus is present with His people today. It wasn’t magic that healed the cripple. It was the power of God, and Peter’s use of Jesus’ name was an expression of faith that Christ’s essential power could meet the cripple’s need.

For us today, we are to pray, speak and live in the utter confidence that Jesus, the One on whose name we rely, is present with us too. Jesus’ power still flows and is readily available to us and as brothers and sisters in Christ and deeply loved, we can meet every challenge in His name.