**Whatever You Have**

 *Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.****2****And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.****3****Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.****4****And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.”****5****And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.****6****But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”****7****And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.****8****And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.****9****And all the people saw him walking and praising God,****10****and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. (Acts 3:1-10, ESV)*

 If you are a believer, give whatever you have to others to help them.

Greetings in the Lord today as we speak about giving. Peter the Apostle said, “Whatever I have, that is what I give you.” He also said, “Gold and silver I do not have.” It was prayer time, and the two Apostles were probably going to participate as it was their custom to pray regularly.

In those times, there were prayers held at various hours in the Temple, and it was easy for the two apostles to get into the temple precincts because they were not considered outside of the nation of Israel (they were still considered Jews). However, in reality, they had become much different than what they used to be. They had been changed by their own experiences with and because of Jesus. This was both by reason of following Jesus as well as being filled with the Holy Spirit. For these reasons, Peter was ready to speak in faith and give God a chance to intervene in that moment. Peter knew very well that he didn’t have money – but he did know that having the Holy Spirit was very real and permanent. He clearly had the power of the Holy Spirit. For that reason, he was able to declare by faith that the man was to get up and walk.

This is like someone who is a master at their job. If you ask a jeweler, they can speak at length about jewelry. If you talk to an auto-repair guy, you’ll learn a lot about cars. If you speak to a physician, you will learn a lot about health and feel better yourself as you follow the given directives. Thus, when a Christian encounters an unbeliever, it is then that the believer is called to give whatever he or she has within themselves.

In other words, if I’m a believer, and I know that I have the power of the Holy Spirit, it is incredibly important to use what gift I have for the advancement of God’s work in and through my life. Each of us has something to give – and when we give our gifts to others in service to the Lord, peoples’ lives change around us. Without God, what we give remains ineffective and without good fruit.

Therefore, as we think about what we do have to give to others, it is appropriate that we examine ourselves and notice what kinds of gifts each of us have individually. If you are a believer, whatever you have, give it to another to help them. May the Lord bless you, Amen.