

Digging Deeper...

A Study of Acts 3:19

1. Explain Acts 3:19 in its context. Beginning in verse one, Peter and John have come to the temple at the ninth hour, an hour of prayer. There was a man who was unable to walk from his birth that was carried daily to and left sitting at the gate of the temple called “Beautiful” (a gate near Solomon’s Porch; verse 11). This man asked for donations here on a daily basis and on this day asked donations of Peter and John as they were going into the temple. Peter and John set their eyes on this fellow and requested that he look on them. He did so thinking he’d receive something. Peter said he had no silver or gold, but by the authority of Christ Peter enabled him to stand as he thus commanded him to and to walk. Peter helped him up by the right hand and IMMEDIATELY this man was healed. He jumped up, stood, walked, and came with Peter and John into the temple praising God.

All the people witnessed this and recognized this as the man who sat daily unable to walk requesting gifts of the people entering the temple. They were amazed and wanted to know what had happened. The people then ran to this healed man as he was basically hugging Peter and John. They were in amazement of what they had seen. This set the stage for preaching, as miracles were performed to confirm the preaching of the Gospel (**Mark 16:15-20**).

Peter takes the audience by addressing the Jews there asking why they were amazed. Peter acknowledges that this wonder was not done through John or himself. He tells then that the God their fathers served is the God who sent Jesus. He charges them as ones who denied Jesus and kept him from being freed by Pilate. He tells them that they had killed the Prince of life who God has raised from the dead. Peter then tells them that it is faith in Christ that has caused the lame man to walk and be healed. Peter tells these Jews that he knows they killed Jesus through ignorance. However, God has fulfilled all He said through the Prophets about Christ. It is here that the command to repent and be converted is issued so that our sins may be blotted out. The times of refreshing will originate [what the word “from”; Strong’s # 575 means] at the presence of the Lord (cf. **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**). See verse **26** as it is the same point.

2. Do a word study on the following words in this verse:

- Repent (KJV): Strong’s number 3340; “metanoēō”: “to change one’s mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one’s past sins” (*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*; page 405). “To undergo a change in frame of mind and feeling, to repent” (*The New Analytical Greek Lexicon*; Wesley J. Perschbacher; page 273).
 - **(Strong’s, Thayer’s and Tyndale’s can be referenced by clicking [HERE](#))**
 - Other translations: “repent” (NKJV); “repent” (ASV 1901).
 - Tyndale’s Word Study Concordance shows “metanoēō” in the following verses (page 488): See Tyndale’s below or the following link for the complete list:
http://cf.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G3340&Version=KJV&show_strongs=1
- Converted (KJV): Strong’s number 1994; “epistrephō”: “to turn back morally, to reform” (*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*; page 244). “To turn towards; to

turn round, to bring back, to convert” (*The New Analytical Greek Lexicon*; Wesley J. Perschbacher; page 273).

- **(Strong’s, Thayer’s and Tyndale’s can be referenced by clicking [HERE](#))**
- Other translations: “converted” (NKJV); “turn again” (ASV 1901).
- Tyndale’s Word Study Concordance shows “epistrophō” in the following verses (page 287): See Tyndale’s below or the following link for the complete list:
<http://cf.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong=G1994&Version=KJV>
- Refreshing (KJV): Strong’s number 403; “anapsuxis”: “a cooling, refreshing” (*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*; page 43). “a refreshing coolness after heat” (*The New Analytical Greek Lexicon*; Wesley J. Perschbacher; page 26).
 - **(Strong’s, Thayer’s and Tyndale’s can be referenced by clicking [HERE](#))**
 - Other translations: “refreshing” (NKJV); “refreshing” (ASV 1901).
 - Tyndale’s Word Study Concordance shows “metanoēō” appears only in this single verse (page 488).

3. What does it mean to have your sins blotted out? To blot out is to “to obliterate, erase, wipe out, blot out” (*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*; page 221; Strong’s # 1813). We can see what is meant biblically by reading various passages such as **Acts 22:16** and **Revelation 1:5**.

4. What are some of the applications for us to learn from Acts 3:19 and the context in which this verse appears?

- To use teaching opportunities presented unto us (**Acts 3:1**; cf. **5:42**; **20:20**).
- Brethren didn’t walk around distributing money to everyone (**Acts 3:2-6**).
- True miracles had immediate results (**Acts 3:7**; cf. **Matthew 8:3**, **Matthew 20:30-34**, **Mark 1:30-31**, **John 5:5-9**, etc.).
- Through the authority of Christ men did use miracles to confirm who were truly speaking the words of God and to bring glory to Him (**Acts 3:8-11**; cf. **Hebrews 2:3-4** and **I John 4:1**).
- We should never claim the fame for the works God does through us (**Acts 3:12**; cf. **I Corinthians 3:21**).
- We must use what God has said to establish truth and to expose sin so that men and women may repent, be converted, and be saved (**Acts 3:13-19**).
- Our word study should show us that true change causes us to even hate what we use to be (**Ezekiel 14:6**, **Luke 15:17-21**, **Acts 19:18-20**, **Romans 12:1-2**, **II Corinthians 5:17**, **Ephesians 3:8**, and **I Timothy 1:15-16**). This true repentance will allow us to be converted and not to desire to go back to the vomit and mud we once dwelt in (**II Peter 2:20-22**).