

Verse Analysis – Acts 3:16

Categories:

A	adjective
C	conjunction
D	adverb
I	interjection
N	noun
P	preposition
DA	definite article
DP	demonstrative pronoun
IP	interrogative/indefinite pronoun
PP	personal pronoun
RP	relative pronoun
V	verb
X	particle

Person:

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person

Voice:

A	active
M	middle
P	passive

Case:

N	nominative
G	genitive
D	dative
A	accusative
V	vocative

Gender:

M	masculine
F	feminine
N	neuter

Tense:

P	present
I	imperfect
F	future
A	aorist
X	perfect
Y	pluperfect

Mood:

I	indicative
D	imperative
S	subjunctive
O	optative
N	infinitive
P	participle

Number:

S	singular
P	plural

Degree:

C	comparative
S	superlative

Frequency:

Number of times the word is used in the NT. Words with freq. < 30 are not worth memorizing. They are why God made the Internet.

H	High frequency – used more than 750 times
M	Medium frequency – Used from 101 to 750 times
L	Low frequency – Used from 30 to 100 times
R	Rare – Used less than 30 times

→ Memorizing all words used 150+ times will give you a handle on 70% of the NT.
 → Memorizing all words use 30+ times will give you a handle on 85% of the NT.

Acts 3:16

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Word	Dictionary Form of Word	Meaning	Frequency	Category	Person	Tense	Voice	Mood	Case	Number	Gender	Degree
καί	καί	(as a connective) and; (connecting and continuing) and then, then; (as a disjunctive) but, yet, however;	H	C								
ἐπί	ἐπί	(gen.) on, over, when; (dat.) on, at, in, while; (acc.) across, over, on, to, for, while	H	P								
τῆ	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					D	S	F	
πίστει	πίστις	faith, belief, firm persuasion, 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:1; assurance, firm conviction, Rom. 14:23; ground of	M	N					D	S	F	
τοῦ	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					G	S	N	
ὀνόματος	ὄνομα	name; title; reputation	M	N					G	S	N	
αὐτοῦ	αὐτός	he, she, it; also used as inten.p., himself, herself, itself, themselves; the same one; also an adv. of place: here,	H	PP					G	S	M	
τούτου	οὗτος	this, this one, these; (as object) him, her, it, them; with διά or εἰς it means for this reason	H	DP					A	S	M	

Word	Dictionary Form of Word	Meaning	Frequency	Category	Person	Tense	Voice	Mood	Case	Number	Gender	Degree
δν	ὅς	who, which, what, that; anyone, someone, a certain one	H	RP					A	S	M	
θεωρεῖτε	θεωρέω	to be a spectator, to gaze on, contemplate; to behold, view with interest and attention, Mt.	L	V	2	P	A	I		P		
καί	καί	(as a connective) and; (connecting and continuing) and then, then; (as a disjunctive) but, yet, however;	H	C								
οἶδατε	οἶδα	to know, to possess information; recognize, realize, to come to know; to understand, to be able to use	M	V	2	X	A	I		P		
ἐστερέωσεν	στερεόω	to make firm; to strengthen, Acts 3:7, 16; to settle, Acts 16:5*	R	V	3	A	A	I		S		
τὸ	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					N	S	N	
ὄνομα	ὄνομα	name; title; reputation	M	N					N	S	N	
αὐτοῦ	αὐτός	he, she, it; also used as inten.p., himself, herself, itself, themselves; the same one; also an adv. of place: here,	H	PP					G	S	M	
καί	καί	(as a connective) and; (connecting and continuing) and then, then; (as a disjunctive) but, yet, however;	H	C								
ἡ	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					N	S	F	
πίστις	πίστις	faith, belief, firm persuasion, 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:1; assurance, firm conviction, Rom. 14:23; ground of	M	N					N	S	F	
ἡ	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					N	S	F	
δι'	διά	(gen.) through, by means of; (acc.) because of, for the sake of, therefore	M	P								
αὐτοῦ	αὐτός	he, she, it; also used as inten.p., himself, herself, itself, themselves; the same one; also an adv. of place: here,	H	PP					G	S	M	
ἔδωκεν	δίδωμι	to give; that this can have many different specific meanings and referents depending on the context,	M	V	3	A	A	I		S		
αὐτῷ	αὐτός	he, she, it; also used as inten.p., himself, herself, itself, themselves; the same one; also an adv. of place: here,	H	PP					D	S	M	
τὴν	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					A	S	F	

Word	Dictionary Form of Word	Meaning	Frequency	Category	Person	Tense	Voice	Mood	Case	Number	Gender	Degree
ὀλοκληρίαν	ὀλοκληρία	perfect soundness, Acts 3:16*	R	N					A	S	F	
ταύτην	οὗτος	this, this one, these; (as object) him, her, it, them; with διά or εις it means for this reason	H	DP					A	S	F	
ἀπέναντι	ἀπέναντι	some classify as an improper preposition, opposite to, over against, Mt. 27:61; contrary to, in	R	P								
πάντων	πᾶς	all, every (thing, one), whole; always	H	A					G	P	M	
ὑμῶν	σύ	you, your	H	PP					G	P		

Greek Verse

Acts 3:16 καὶ ἐπὶ τῇ πίστει τοῦ ὀνόματος αὐτοῦ τοῦτον ὃν θεωρεῖτε καὶ οἶδατε ἐστερέωσεν τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἡ πίστις ἣ δι' αὐτοῦ ἔδωκεν αὐτῷ τὴν ὀλοκληρίαν ταύτην ἀπέναντι πάντων ὑμῶν.

Word-for-Word Translation

And by faith in his name has his name made this man strong, whom you see and know.

Proper Translation

It is by faith in Jesus' name that this man whom you see before you and recognized was healed. Yes, faith in the name of Jesus — and through it alone — gave the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

Comments and Questions

My translation is a bit awkward. According to FFBg, this is difficult Greek not just for me but for others as well, who have struggled with how to render it.

Luke was, of course, translating into Greek what Peter spoke in Aramaic. He spent time collecting eyewitness accounts from people, and these formed the foundation of the Gospel of Luke as well as of Acts.

It could be that as Luke was interviewing somebody (maybe even Peter himself, or John) about this episode in the temple area, that he had a little trouble translating the Aramaic of the person talking to him...or maybe he tried to simply do a word-for-word translation from Aramaic rather than doing a "proper translation" into Greek. :-)

Literally, "in his name". I have specified "Jesus' name" for clarity.

In many languages the expression of **his name** is extremely difficult to render since there is no use of "name" as a substitute symbol for the personality. Therefore, the closest equivalent of **the power of his name** is "his power."

Barclay Moon Newman and Eugene Albert Nida, *A Handbook on the Acts of the Apostles*, UBS

Handbook Series (New York: United Bible Societies, 1972), 79.

FFBe: This was not a magical healing at all. "...the cripple would have known no benefit had he not responded in faith to what Peter said."

Yes...but in spite of what FF Bruce says, it is not clear to me that the MAN had much opportunity to express faith before the miracle occurred. He was surely expressing faith in Jesus AFTER he was healed! It is hard to know what to make of this in terms of action steps for us today.

There is an ambiguity in the expression by faith in his name, since the faith may be that of the lame man or that of the apostles.

If one assumes that it is the faith of the lame man, one can translate "What you have seen and know happened because this man believed in Jesus." If, however, one interprets the faith as being that of Peter and John, an appropriate rendering may be, "What you see and know happened because we two believed in Jesus."

The very least we can say is that God is not limited in how he relates to people today. If we think there is a formula that God always follows (faith → healing), we just need to read the Bible to realize that the formula works *sometimes*...and sometimes God turns the formula on its head (healing → faith).

Once again, the "normal" order of the major constituents of the Greek clause to be verb-subject-object. Anything that precedes the verb could be called "fronted." This fronting of τοῦτον tells us that Peter was putting the healed man at the center of his focus.

To: Greek Students
From: Bob Goethe
Date: May 12, 2022
Re: No Class Tonight
Attachment:

Dear Friends,

We are meeting every other week, of course, so there is no Acts-class tonight.

But I did have a thought as I was studying Acts 3:16, which might be helpful for you. I found this verse awkward to translate, and as I looked at various commentaries in the Logos software package, it was clear that others found it awkward to translate as well.

Up to now, I have only thought about “proper translation” as something that WE do today (or sometimes, do not do well). But this had to have been an issue for Luke himself, as he spoke to people who were reporting conversations to him that were originally delivered in Aramaic. Sometimes Luke gives us really good Greek...and occasionally, really difficult Greek.

It will be interesting to see if these instances of “really difficult Greek” fade away in the second half of Acts, when Luke starts reporting not on things that happened in Jerusalem, but rather starts reporting conversations between Paul and other native speakers of Greek.