

5-31-26 Consumer - In and Through You

Overview

This message uses Peter and John's healing of the lame beggar at the Beautiful Gate to show how God calls every believer to move from *consuming* to *contributing* in His kingdom. Peter didn't have silver or gold, but he acted on what was already inside him (compassion, courage, faith) and stepped out in the name of Jesus. God met that step with divine power, producing a miracle that changed one man's life and opened the door for thousands to hear the gospel. The core truth: God partners with us—He has placed something inside us to act upon, and He works *through* us with His Spirit when we take the step of faith.

Main Points

1. **There are moments when contribution comes “from within you” and moments when it comes “through you.”** God has already planted abilities, gifts, and character in us (like the land producing vegetation in Genesis 1:11). We simply need to act on them.
2. **Peter modeled two key actions:**
 - He *humanized* the man (“Look at us!”) instead of ignoring or dehumanizing him.
 - He honestly named what he *didn't* have (“Silver and gold have I none”) but didn't let it stop him.
3. **Faith steps combine the natural and supernatural.** What's inside us + Holy Spirit inspiration and power = miracles. Peter reached out his hand in faith; God supplied the healing.
4. **God is often playing chess while we play checkers.** Our immediate situation (stress, conflict, inadequacy) is usually a doorway to something bigger He wants to do through us for restoration.
5. **Two beliefs are required to contribute effectively:**
 - Believe there's something beautiful and valuable inside you (you are God's masterpiece).
 - Believe God will work *through* you (put a comma where fear puts a period—Ephesians 3:20).

Reflection Questions

1. When have you felt inadequate or paralyzed by what you *don't* have in a moment God was calling you to contribute?
2. In the story, Peter humanized the beggar. Who in your life have you unintentionally dehumanized (a difficult person, coworker, stranger)?
3. What is one thing you know God has already placed “inside you” (a gift, passion, personality trait, past experience) that He wants you to use?
4. Where in your life right now might you be putting a period where God wants a comma (“I can't...”)?

Application

- **Today:** Open your phone notes and write down *five things* God has put inside you that He wants you to act on. Then write down anything keeping you from believing He will work through you.
- **This week:** Identify one practical moment (at work, Walmart, church, home) where you can take a small faith step—humanize someone, speak encouragement, or offer what you *do* have in Jesus' name.

- **Prayer:** If unbelief is holding you back, pray the father's prayer: "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

Group Discussion Prompts

1. Share a time you felt inadequate to contribute yet saw God move when you stepped out anyway.
2. How does the distinction between "from within you" and "through you" change how you view everyday opportunities to serve?
3. Read Acts 3:4-6 together. What does Peter's response teach us about honesty and boldness?
4. Looking at the "spiritual life hack" (God playing chess), what current struggle in your life might actually be an opportunity for God to do something bigger through you?
5. End with accountability: What one specific step will each person take this week to contribute "in and through" what God has given them? Pray for one another.