

APOSTOLIC PEOPLE

LESSON 3 - ABC

READ JOHN CHAPTER 9

QUESTIONS

What spiritual application can you make from John 9:1 "blind from birth" in terms of the new birth?

2. Jesus said "I must work the works of Him who sent Me". What is this work?

3. What did Jesus mean in vs. 3
" that the works of God should be revealed in him."

Using vs.6 and 7 show the differences between the CHARISMATIC and the APOSTOLIC movements.

Using John 9 list the works of God revealed in the man and show what works should be evident in apostolic people. Use the underlined verses to draw your conclusions.

John 9:8-41

8 Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"

9 Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."

10 Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

11 He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

12 Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.

14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

17 They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.

19 And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

21 "but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."

22 His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."

25 He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

26 Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

27 He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

28 Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples.

29 "We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

30 The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!"

31 "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

32 "Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.

33 "If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

34 They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"
36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"
37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."
38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.
(NKJ)

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ANSWERS

Born again but blind to the next revelation of God. Lazarus came forth from the grave, a picture of the born again experience, but was still blind because the grave clothes covered his eyes.
The Ephesian believers knew about the baptism of John but were ignorant of the baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit baptism. They knew of one experience with God but were ignorant of the next.

Acts 19:2-6

2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."
3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."
4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."
5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.(NKJ)

A similar situation existed with Apollos. Fortunately, he submitted to being enlightened by Priscilla and Aquila.

Acts 18:24-26

24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.
25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.
26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.(NKJ)

2. The work of God is that you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6:29

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."(NKJ)

3. That through the blind man others may believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Difference between the APOSTOLIC AND THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENTS.

John 9:6-7

6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.(NKJ)

The charismatic flamboyance displayed by Jesus in vs. 6 did not open the eyes of the blind man. The spit(water) is symbolic of the Spirit. Spit and dust make clay which is symbolic of the flesh. The Charismatic movement started in the Spirit but ended in the flesh. Charisma entertained, but brought no revelation of purpose. It nevertheless set individuals on the path to Siloam (SENT) – THE APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT. This movement demands personal responsibility for your sight. The blind man had to walk to a specific pool, not the Red Sea, the dead sea or Jordan but the Pool of Siloam to receive his sight. The Pool of Siloam is symbolic of an Apostolic Church or Apostolic resource. It waters (dimension of the anointing) brings clarity of vision and purpose.

THE WORKS OF GOD

The word Apostle means one who is sent forth. Apostolic refers to the position of being sent. Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest.

Heb 3:1

1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,
(NKJ)

He is sent by the Father.

John 5:36-37

36 "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish-- the very works that I do-- bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

37 "And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.
(NKJ)

The Holy Spirit is also a sent one.

John 14:26

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
(KJV)

Apostolic people live under the mentality that they are sent.

John 20:21

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."(NKJ)

The sent one recognizes that:

He is connected to the sender - God.
He carries the message from God.
He is accountable to the sender.
He represents the sender.

In John 9 the man's life was transformed after he washed in the Pool of Siloam. Siloam means Sent. As a pool of sent waters it is symbolic of the Apostolic anointing.

The features of the blind man's transformation after his visit to the Pool of Siloam, reveal characteristics that should be evident in an individual who has connected with the Apostolic anointing. These individuals are herein referred to as APOSTOLIC BELIEVERS/PEOPLE and the characteristics revealed in them are called THE WORKS OF GOD:

5.1 LIFESTYLE TRANSFORMATION

"Is not this he who sat and begged?"

The neighbours and those who had previously seen that he was blind did not recognize the blind man after his visit to Siloam. Note that Jesus did not change his appearance in any way. The only thing different about him was that he received sight. How is it that his neighbours and acquaintances did not recognize him anymore? ANSWER: HIS WALK CHANGED - His walk was no longer that of a blind man. He was now more sturdy, purposeful, confident and directed in his walk.

When you connect with the apostolic anointing your walk will change - your lifestyle will change. You will become more purposeful, confident, directed and clear. You will walk with wisdom and circumspection in the illumination of God's light, HIS WORD.

5.2. INSTANT WITNESS

"A Man called Jesus"

The man testified of Jesus in his own neighbourhood immediately. Apostolic believers become instant witnesses of Jesus Christ. This is the underlying purpose of the apostolic anointing - attention is always directed to Jesus. The apostolic Holy Spirit always directs believers to be witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:8

8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."(NKJ)

John the Baptist also demonstrates an Apostolic Spirit.

John 1:8

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.(NKJ)

John 3:30

30 He must increase, but I must decrease.(KJV)

5.3 INSPIRATION OF A CHRIST - PURSUING MENTALITY "Where is He?"

After they had seen the man who was once blind, they began looking for Jesus. Apostolic believers are not only witnesses, their lifestyle provokes others to look for Jesus.

5.4 SEVENTH DAY MINISTRY "it was a Sabbath"

The healing took place on the Sabbath day - the seventh day. This was a seventh day illumination.

2 Pet 3:8

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

(NKJ)

We are into the 7 th millennium since Adam. If 1000yrs are as one day then we are into the 7 th day - the Sabbath day. Apostolic ministry is for the 7 th day - a ministry necessary for today.

5.5 CLARITY OF MESSAGE

"He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Apostolic believers have a clear message. They have clarity about divine command and human responsibility.

A MINISTRY OF DIVISION

"And there was a division among them".

Apostolic believers bring division in the house of religion.

Matt 10:34-36

34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.(KJV)

The nature of the apostolic message conflicts with that of a religious house where laws and traditions are exalted above Christ. Thus divisions between those who follow laws and traditions and those who follow Christ are inevitable.

5.7 RAPID UPGRADE

"He is a prophet."

In vs 11 he called Jesus a man.

In vs 17 he called Jesus a prophet.

Rapid upgrade is a feature of Apostolic believers who are open to proceeding revelation.

5.8 MATURITY

"He is of age"

Apostolic believers are recognized for their mature spiritual stature - they are able to discern and explain.

5.9 SOUGHT OUT

"ask him"

Apostolic believers are sought out because they have answers to tough questions.

Isa 62:12

12 And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.(KJV)

5.10 AUTONOMY

"He will speak for himself"

Apostolic believers are delivered from addiction to leadership. They can answer for themselves. They can contend for the faith and explain the faith to others because of their illumination.

Jude 1:3

3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.(NKJ)

1 Pet 3:15

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who

asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
(NKJ)

5.11 CLARITY OF FOCUS
"One thing I know"

The minds of Apostolic believers are not muddled with a multitude of visions - its one thing at a time.
Phil 3:13-14
13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,
14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
(NKJ)

5.12 CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT
"I was blind, now I see."

Apostolic believers have a clear perception of what is past and what is present. They have a clear understanding of the past and present move of God.

5.13 BOLDNESS
"I told you already, and you did not listen".

Apostolic believers have the boldness and capacity to stand before antagonistic religious spirits who will not listen.

5.14 RECOGNITION OF IDENTITY
"You are His disciple"

Apostolic believers are recognized as the disciples of Jesus.

5.15 LOGICALITY.

30 "The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!"
31 "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.
32 "Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.
33 "If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."
, and are you teaching us?"

The Pharisees line of reasoning was that because Moses did miracles, He was sent by God. The man argued that the miracle performed by Jesus was greater than that performed by Moses, therefore Jesus must be sent by God.

This capacity to reason and come to logical conclusions is a distinct feature of apostolic believers. It makes them instant teachers.

5.16 EX - COMMUNICATION
" And they cast him out".

The religious order will not accept apostolic believers.

5.17 SOUGHT BY GOD
"found him"

Jesus found him. This implies that Jesus was looking for him. God is looking for those who will demonstrate His works.

5.18 REVELATION
"You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

Matt 16:16-17

16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.(NKJ)

Peter's revelation of Christ came from the Father. Apostolic believers have a clear revelation of Christ the Son of God.

5.19 RAPID UPGRADE
"Lord,"

The man's revelation was rapidly progressive - from man to prophet to Lord. This is a feature of the proceeding word.

5.20 BELIEVE AND WORSHIP
"I believe!" And he worshiped Him".

Apostolic believers believe and worship. Belief is faith. Worship is the works.

James 2:20
20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?
(NKJ)

Apostolic believers have the works of faith.