

Stand Forth & Stretch Forth

Mar 3:1 And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

Mar 3:2 And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

Mar 3:3 And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.

Mar 3:4 And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

Mar 3:5 And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

The first instruction the Lord gave the man with a withered hand was to “Stand forth.” He addressed the man’s strength. There was nothing wrong with his feet and legs. They were strong. Jesus went to his strength. He needed to stand. Having obeyed the first directive, he became ready for the next.

The second instruction the Lord gave this man was to “Stretch forth” his hand. Now he addressed the man’s weakness. There was a withered hand. It was shriveled, wrinkled, and somewhat paralyzed. It was now time to extend that which had been withdrawn. It was time to stretch himself. When he obeyed the Lord, his withered hand was restored whole as the other.

It is easier to stand on your strengths than to stretch forth your weaknesses. It forces exposure. Pride must be wounded in order to be made whole. Uncovering the concealed is needful. Comfort zones are exited by stretching. Weakness must be confronted to be conquered.

Stand forth. Stretch forth. Restoration and wholeness are the will of God.

-RWT