

Acts 9.32-43

Jesus Christ Heals You!

ONCOLOGY Dept > Return Address of EMAIL “Oh no, here we go again!”  
 CANCER 4 Times – Wonder is it ALL GONE? Will it COME BACK??  
 NO Question – JESUS DID Heal – BIBLE Days – My Life, MANY Others  
 MANY Questions – Those NOT Healed? – What about FUTURE? – Faith??

Book of Acts > Story of Risen Jesus > OMNIPRESENT, ETERNAL GOD  
 Reigning in Heaven – Ruling in Church – Residing in Hearts of Believers

PAUL: Chief Persecutor > Chief PREACHER & PRACTITIONER of Mission

NOW.... BACK to Apostle PETER > Apostle to JEWS brings 1<sup>st</sup> GENTILE  
 v. 32 As Peter traveled about the country...

## 1. Healing that is Sure

### a. Sign: Kingdom has Come

KINGDOM – Dominant THEME of Jesus preaching in Gospels M, M, L, J

If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.  
 Luke 11.20

Begin ACTS – Lord R U going to RESTORE Kingdom NOW?? Got it WRONG!  
 Record of Ministry in JERUSALEM – Word Kingdom NEVER Used  
 ONE time spoken by PHILIP in SAMARIA / FIVE times by PAUL to GENTILES

KINGDOM > Where Jesus Christ RULES as KING by Authority of His WORD  
 Those who call Him LORD have ENTERED Kingdom NOW by FAITH

### 1) Miraculous - SEE Kingdom > MIRACULOUS Power of KING Jesus

Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.  
 Acts 2.43

....people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered

also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. Acts 5.14-16

Ch 9 - Luke records DOUBLE Miracle of Deliverance > OVER Disease and Death

In Lydda > 42 km N/W Jerusalem >> Paralytic named Aeneas

v. 32,33 in Lydda...he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years

In Joppa > 16 km Further on Medit. Coast > **Disciple:** Tabitha (Dorcas)  
(1<sup>st</sup> time in Scripture > Woman called Disciple)

vs. 36,37 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas)...she became sick and died

v. 34 "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up.

vs. 40,41 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive.

2) Mundane - SEE Kingdom MUNDANE Life Events of KING Jesus' Followers

Pattern in LUKE – Story about MAN, ALSO about WOMAN: Aquila > Priscilla  
Ananias > Saphira / Simeon > Anna / Shepherd: 100 Sheep > Woman: 10 Coins

Luke story weaves EXTRA-ORDINARY – HEALING and RESUSITATION  
With ORDINARY Group of Ladies who Sew their Clothes

Process MISSION: Resistance, Lethargy, Hypocrisy > God's PERSISTENCE

HOLY SPIRIT moved them OUT of Jerusalem > FIRE of PERSECUTION

Dorcas...stands as it were for all those unsung heroines who have got on with what they can do best and have done it to the glory of God...these are the people who form the heart of the church.  
N.T. Wright

Widows – Carry one of Life’s Largest Grievs – bring Joy and Blessing to Others

b. Servants > JESUS is CHIEF ACTOR in ACTS

“The Acts of the Exalted Jesus done in the  
Power of the Holy Spirit through His Apostolic Church”

RISEN Jesus gave the GAME PLAN to the APOSTLES:

“...you will be *my* witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1.8

Luke SHIFTS SUPPORTING ACTOR Focus from PAUL back to PETER

Acts of Peter Apostle to Jews	Peter & Paul: Chief Apostles in Acts	Acts of Paul Apostle to Gentiles
3.2	Healing of a Lame Man	14.8
5.15 (shadow)	Healing Power	(kerchief) 19.12
5.16	Exorcist	16.18
8.18	Confronted Sorcerer	13.6
9.36	Raised the Dead	20.9
10.9	Commissioned to Gentile mission by Vision	22.17-21

v. 33 a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years

Peter: 10 mile Journey (16 kms) > HELP, COMFORT, WILL of GOD to Saints

vs. 38,39 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" Peter went with them...

Ministry done by SERVANT for SERVANT to Advance SERVICE of God

v. 36 ...a disciple named Tabitha...*who was always doing good and helping the poor*

v. 39 All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

WOMEN Were WEARING > Underwear & Outerwear designed by DORCAS

SHE'S Got to LIVE! We CAN'T LIVE without this STUFF!! > BLESSING!

NOT Grumbling AGAINST God > GRIEVING their DEEP LOSS, Real Friend

CHURCH did NOT HOUSE Important in Apostle in 5 STAR Hotel – NO Stars

v. 43 Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

TANNER > Cured Hides of DEAD Animals > DEAD & SMELLY Animals

Woe to him who is a tanner by trade.

Babylonian Talmud

*3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD Compilation of Rabbinic Teaching*

Spiritually Unclean Man & House: Violated Laws against Touching Dead Stuff  
GOSPEL Moving OUT of Traditional Territory > Beyond boundary of LAW

c. Spontaneous- Peter did NOT Set Out on HEALING CRUSADE

v. 31 The church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace.

APOSTLES Emerged from their BUNKERS in JERUSALEM > PEACE Time

v. 32 As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching...

Acts 2.42

TEACHING MISSION – Encouraging, Counseling, and Correcting Believers

SAINTS – NT Word for Believers, Used ALWAYS for GROUP, Not Individ.

Means 'HOLY People' > used FOUR Times in Acts > MANY Times by PAUL

**HEALING in BIBLE > NEVER Scheduled, Always SPONTANEOUS**  
 NOT *"next Wednesday night Apostle Peter in Joppa for Healing Service"*

TODAY > Holy Spirit HEALING Meetings Scheduled MONTHS in Advance  
 NEVER in HOSPITAL WARDS > Big Auditorium, Collect BIG OFFERINGS

SCHEDULED Healing Meetings?? Schedule HOLY SPIRIT OUT of Program?

d. Successful > Aenas & Dorcas NOT on CHURCH PAYROLL as Actors

Not HIRED by 'Apostle Peter's Traveling Healing & Miracle Crusade, Inc.'

Dr. Luke emphasizes this is TRUE MIRACLE > REALLY Diseased & Dead

v. 33 Aeneas, a paralytic who had been *bedridden for eight years*

v. 37 she became sick and died, and her *body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.*

COLD SHOWER did NOT Wake Tabitha > BUMPED her on the STAIRS

Peter gives SAME COMMAND to Both – vs. 34,40 'Get Up!'

HEALING was IMMEDIATE and COMPLETE > No Follow-Up THERAPY

v. 34 Immediately Aeneas got up.

v. 41 Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive.

Peter BOLDLY DECLARES v. 34 "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat."

Unlike Chapter 3 NO REACTION of Govt/Leaders to HEALING in Jesus' Name  
 OUTSIDE the STIFLING Control of Jerusalem

Make Your Bed > New Life after Healing > 'Job' as Beggar is Forever Over  
 GO HOME where you BELONG > No MORE Begging on STREETS!

Great MIRACLE > Peter gets AENEAS to MAKE his BED  
 PARENTS trying to get KIDS to DO THIS! But Almost IMPOSSIBLE to Hear!

This was only a foretaste of heaven, for Dorcas would die again. It was a downpayment of the apostolic truth that everyone who is in Christ will be presented to the Bridegroom alive to live forever with no more tears and no more sin and no more death.

R.C. Sproul

### e. Sovereign

Of all the INFIRMED & DYING People btwn Jerusalem & Joppa WHY these 2?

WHY Them?? Many Sick and Needy > LED by HOLY SPIRIT to These TWO!

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. Romans 11.33-36

NO Glamour – No Crowds – No TV Cameras > Brings Jesus to Needy People  
NOT TOLD Anything about SPIRITUAL CONDITION of Aeneas > Believer???

Did NOT FAIL due to LACK of FAITH or even LACK of FUNDS  
When GOD WANTS to HEAL > or EVEN RAISE Dead > Gets JOB DONE

What god is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people  
Psalm 77.13-15

## 2. Hope that is Certain

a. Servants WHY did Peter have to TRAVEL to COME and PRAY??  
Church in Joppa had PASTORS and ELDERS Already ON SITE?

SOMETIMES Cause for Jealousy in Church > Pastor wonders WHY NOT HIM

SOMETHING Unique about PETER'S PRAYER > Others RIGHT THERE

APOSTOLIC Sign: The things that mark an apostle - signs, wonders and miracles-were done among you with great perseverance. 2 Corinthians 12.12

THESE Apostolic SERVANTS Healed because were AUTHORS of SCRIPTURE

Peter is not a shaman or magician (like Simon) but an earthly representative of the living and powerful Christ. Clinton Arnold

We DO NOT have Peter's OFFICE – But LIKE Peter we are SERVANTS of Jesus

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed 1 Peter 5.1

## b. Spontaneous

APOSTOLIC Office CLOSED > No More APOSTLES

HEALER is NOT Apostle > JESUS: HIS OFFICE is ALWAYS OPEN  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13.8

Jesus is the SAME – But He does NOT DO Everything Same Way TODAY

MANNA CEASED OT Saints > GROW Own Food > NO MORE Free LUNCH

Prayer in Faith > Pilgrims PASSING THRU > – Pray now, EXPECTANT

In the church God has appointed...also those having gifts of healing...  
1 Corinthians 12.28

BELIEVERS Not Told to RUN AROUND in Panic to GIFTED PRAYERS!

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5.14-16

ELDERS who KNOW YOU > Pray for You > SOMETIMES link w/ SIN

MUCH Instruction in THESE Verses:

- 1) Personal, pastoral, care
- 2) Counsel, teaching, confession
- 3) Medicine (oil)
- 4) Fervent prayer to God our Healer

c. Successful ?

Peter BOLDLY DECLARES v. 34 "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat."

TODAY – NOT So Sure – ADD Theological DISCLAIMER ‘IF God’s will’

Our SMALL BOYS in Uganda > Tire SWING in Big Tree in Front Yard  
18 yr old Ugandan > Delivered Milk from College Farm > Christian > HELP!  
FELL Out of Tree > Rushed to Local Doctor > then to Hospital MY TRUCK

That Time > READING John Wimber’s ‘POWER HEALING’ Book  
PRAYED > Begged God > CRIED >> Book gave Sense of CONFIDENCE  
Returned that Eve to VISIT in HOSPITAL > Young Man was DEAD!!  
SHOCK – Hurt – Anger – Betrayal – DISAPPOINTED by HEALING GOD!  
20 Years Later > PAIN and SHAME > Man DIED for KIDS to PLAY!?

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits -- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases. Psalm 103.2-3

ALL – Not SOME – ALL Sins and Diseases > ALL GONE, ALL FINISHED

JOURNEY is LONG and HARD > APOSTLE JOHN Saw End of the ROAD...  
I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Revelation 21.1,4

d. Sovereign



IRONY – Paul who RAISED the DEAD – was UNABLE TO BE HEALED  
 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great  
 revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to  
 torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he  
 said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in  
 weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that  
 Christ's power may rest on me. 2 Corinthians 12.7-9

PHYSICAL Healing is TEMPORARY / SALVATION is ETERNAL  
 MOST URGENT Need > Christ's SAVING POWER Resting on US

Recovery from paralysis and resuscitation from death were both visible signs of that  
 new life into which by the power of the resurrection we sinners are raised.

John Stott

ULTIMATE GOAL of Peter's Ministry > People TURN to the LORD

v. 35 All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

God COULD Have Kept her ALIVE, shows JESUS is AUTHOR of NEW LIFE

v. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

GOSPEL of Jesus GROWS > Church MOVING OUT in ALL DIRECTIONS

All in Lydda > All over Joppa > Ethiopian in Candace Courts > Many Samaria  
 1000's in Jerusalem > Damascus > Paul back home in Turkey (Roman Asia)

SWEET AROMA > Life-Giving Gospel > SPREADS Far and Wide

DEATH > God's Gateway to HEAVEN > Live is Christ, DIE is GAIN!

DORCAS is NEEDED – SERVICE on Earth NOT FINISHED

I am immortal until the will of God for me is accomplished. David Livingstone

PETER Faced His HOMEGOING with CONFIDENCE in CHRIST

I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.  
2 Peter 1.13-14

DON'T Know ALL DETAILS > But we KNOW Our DESTINATION

e. Sign: Kingdom is Coming – NOW but NOT YET – Walk by FAITH

AENEAS and DORCAS > TROPHIES of SAVING, HEALING Grace  
SHINE like SEARCH LIGHTS in Lydda and Joppa

PEOPLE Need to SEE GOSPEL before they can HEAR the GOSPEL

FOLLOW Godly Example of Dorcas: v. 36 who was always doing good and helping the poor

COMMON CRITICISM of Church and Christians > NO Practical GOOD

YES! We are CALLED to REPENT & BELIEVE > Show by Your WORKS  
20 Centuries LATER > See SOME BRIGHT Lights > People of God SHINE

BEFORE Jesus Christ came there were NO HOSPITALS  
Were FAMILY Caregivers & DOCTORS – NOTHING for POOR, ALONE  
Everywhere GOSPEL has GONE > MEDICINE and HOSPITALS Followed  
UNIVERSAL Sign for MEDICAL Care >> CROSS

BEFORE Jesus Christ came there were NO ORPHANGES  
World TOO FULL – Greek and Roman Parents EXPOSE Unwanted Children

ROMAN Baby Born > Brought to Father > IF he OPENED ARMS – KEPT  
If NOT > Child was DISCARDED > Some LIVED to ROAM STREETS  
Most fell into PROSTITUTION

BEFORE Jesus Christ came there were NO LEPROSARIUMS  
Everyone FEARED Lepers > RAN AWAY > ONLY Jesus LOVED & Touched

BEFORE Jesus Christ came there were NO DISASTER RELIEF Organization

NOTHING in Ancient Literature of ROMANS collecting funds for Starving Egyptians > People CARED FOR themselves ONLY

STRUGGLING Early Church – Mostly SLAVES – Offering for Jerusalem DISASTER RELIEF > COMMON Expression of CHRISTIAN CONCERN

BEFORE Jesus Christ came there was NO COMMON EDUCATION  
Was Education – Tutors – Scholars – Scholarship >> ELITE, WEALTHY

It is Christians who have gone into the cities of the world and have hunted out the poor, the young, the sick, the uneducated... and enabled them to be something other than destiny would seem to have chosen for them. This is just biblical religion. And here was Peter, a poor fisherman – and Dorcas a humble seamstress – doing exactly that.

James Boice

We have SAME MESSAGE to Sick, Hungry, Hurting World -

JESUS CHRIST HEALS YOU!

Then SHOW that HEALING and HOPE to ALL we MEET!

And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God... And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 5.2,5

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Acts 9.32-43

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upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. 40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. 43 Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.