

Acts 9:32-43: Miracles.

I. (32-35): The healing Aeneas at Lydda.

The apostles and other Christians had been scattered. Peter **went through all parts of the country** to do ministry, traveling the 25 miles from Jerusalem to Lydda.

Peter found the needy man God wanted to miraculously heal, and Peter found him as he was out ministering to others. If we will be like Peter, who **went through all parts of the country**, then we will also find opportunities for the miraculous power of God.

Peter clearly identifies who it is doing the healing - **Jesus the Christ**. Peter is only His instrument. Peter did not heal with the power of Peter. Peter relied solely on the power of Jesus.

(Galatians 4:13-15 Paul was ill, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Paul was afflicted, Philippians 2:25-30 Epaphroditus was ill, 1 Timothy 5:23 Timothy was ill, 2 Timothy 4:20 Trophimus was ill).

II. (36-42): Dorcas is resuscitated.

This woman was a beloved member of the Christian community in Joppa, because she **was full of good works and charitable deeds**. Why did Peter raise Dorcas from the dead? No one asked him to, and we can't say that it was Peter's intention. It must have been a response to the direct leading of the Holy Spirit. Does God still do this? Can God still raise dead people or things?

Dorcas was not *resurrected*; she was *resuscitated*, she was to die again. The fact that the Lord raised Dorcas, yet left Stephen to die reflects on God's unknowable ways. 12 out of every 1000 people die in Uganda.

Psalm 6:2 - *Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am weak; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled.*

Jeremiah 17:14 - *Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise.*

Isaiah 61:1 - *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me, to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

Psalm 147:3 - *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

Psalm 1103:1-3 - *Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases,*

Acts 9:32 and **41** mention the **saints** in Lydda and Joppa; the first time Christians are called **saints** in Acts. When the Bible calls Christians **saints**, the idea isn't of a super-perfect people who have performed extraordinary charitable deeds; the idea is of a people who are *separated or set apart*.

Saints are “set apart” from the world for God, separated from sin to holiness, from selfishness to God’s service.

1 Peter 2:9 - *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...*

3. (43) Peter stays with Simon, a tanner.

For a law-keeping Jew of that time, it was strictly forbidden to associate with anyone who routinely worked with dead animals. According to the laws of that time, a tanner had to live at least 75 feet outside a village because of his ritual uncleanness. Peter’s traditional prejudice has been torn so he lives with Simon in harmony.