

"JESUS CHRIST HEALS YOU"

Summer 2021, Acts 9:32-35

August 29, 2021

Peter said to [Aeneas], "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.
Acts 9:34-35

Introduction: Getting the gospel to the Gentiles

⁴ Peter began and explained everything ¹⁸ When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."
Acts 11:4-18 (confirming the "everyone" of 2:38-38 and 10:43)

Snapshot of a church living in the fear of the Lord

³² As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. ³⁴ "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. ³⁵ All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷ About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸ 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!"

³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken 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.

Acts 9:31-43 (see Mark 2:1-12, 5:37-43)

- 1) Luke intentionally points us to how the gospel (especially in Mark's story!) gets traction
- 2) Peter is doing what he saw his Lord doing, how he saw Jesus doing it
- 3) Peter is already inviting the scorn of the Judaizers as he "abides along side of" Simon the tanner

Peter and the Church

- 1) It's about what Jesus is still doing
How am I seeing Jesus at work (especially the scattering!) around me?

³¹ *In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day that he was taken up into heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen*

Acts 1:1

- 2) Godward, inward, then outward – the church living in the fear of the Lord must honor its widows
With all the outside needs we see, what inside needs are still unmet?

³¹ *Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.*

Acts 9:31

- 3) The perfecting of Peter
What “I now realize” moment is God preparing for me?

³⁴ *Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*

³⁹ *“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

Acts 10:34-43

- 4) Where Jesus is still healing
What is my “healing” grace story?

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:1-5



Resources for further studies in Acts

The Bible Project team has great stuff on Acts at <https://open.life.church/items/179224-poster-jpg>

Spurgeon has fewer sermons on Acts available than I would hope at

http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/index/r_ac.htm. His "Behold, He Prays" is especially good at <https://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/0016.htm>

I really appreciate J.C. Ryle's essay on conversion in Acts: <https://www.monergism.com/conversion-j-c-ryle> <https://www.onergism.com/conversion-j-c-ryle>

Alexander Maclaren has an especially helpful commentary on Acts available at <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/8397/pg8397.html>

Deffinbaugh has a helpful introduction at <https://bible.org/seriespage/unique-contribution-book-acts> His Acts series is at <https://bible.org/series/studies-book-acts> His sermon on this text is at <https://bible.org/seriespage/15-perfecting-peter-acts-932-1048>

George Whitefield has a sermon on Saul's conversion at <https://www.monergism.com/sauls-conversion>

I have really appreciated John Stott's *The Spirit, The Church and the World: The Message of Acts* (IVP, 1990) and F. F. Bruce's work: *New Testament History* (Doubleday, 1980) and *The Book of the Acts* (Eerdmans, 1984). For this passage, I also like Kistemaker's commentary (Baker Book House, 1990).

Carl Trueman has a good analysis of the world's opposition in his recent essay "Dogma Drives the Christian Life" at <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2021/08/dogma-drives-the-christian-life>

Carl Trueman's conclusion in *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* (Crossway, 2020) influenced my thinking on the church. His third point, the importance of proper natural law thinking, is reflected in Kevin DeYoung's blog at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/gods-good-gift-in-making-us-men-and-women/>

Acts Timeline (ESV Study Bible)

	A.D.	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Death, resurrection of Christ (A.D. 33 [or 30])†		█										
Pentecost (30/33)		█										
Stephen stoned (31/33)		█										
Paul converted (33/34*)			●									
Paul meets with Peter in Jerusalem (36/37*)				█								
Paul ministers in Syria/Cilicia (37–45)				█	█	█						
Peter witnesses to Cornelius (38*)					●							
James, brother of John, martyred (41–44)					█							
Peter rescued from prison, leaves Jerusalem (44)					●							
Paul's second Jerusalem visit (famine relief) (44–47*)					█	█						
Paul's first missionary journey (46–47)						●						
Peter and Paul at Jerusalem council (48–49*)							█					
Paul's second missionary journey (48/49–51*)						█	█					
Claudius expels Jews from Rome (49)							●					
Paul's third missionary journey (52–57*)							█	█				
Paul ministers in Ephesus (52–55)							█	█				
Claudius dies; Jews allowed back to Rome (54)								●				
Nero's reign (54–68)								█	█	█		
Paul arrested in Jerusalem (57*)									●			
Paul imprisoned in Caesarea (57–59)								█	█			
James, brother of the Lord, martyred (62)										●		
Paul under house arrest in Rome (62*)											●	
Luke writes Gospel of Luke and Acts (62*)												●
Paul released, resumes ministry, rearrested (62–64)									█	█		
Paul and Peter martyred in Rome (64–67*)										█	█	