

# Lesson 9: Nothing Short of a Miracle

## Acts 9:31-43

In his gospel, Luke wrote these words of Christ: “He is not the God of the dead but of the living; for all live to Him” (Luke 20:38). We know a God who authored life. We love a God who offers life. May we be invited into and reminded of the abundant and eternal life of the Lord as we open His Word together.

This week, we have the privilege of looking at just twelve verses of Scripture. Before you begin your lesson, take a moment to read through all of Acts 9:31-43, asking the Lord to speak life to you through His Word.

*“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”*

*Acts 9:31*

### The Growing Church

Focus in on Acts 9:31.

1. What is the state of the church in this verse?

When Luke spoke of *church*, he was not referring to a building or a specific group gathering on Sundays. Instead, he spoke of the entire community of believers in a given region, much the way we might talk about the “the church in China” or “the believers in Alabama.”

2. By Luke’s standard, of whom would “the church in Houston” be comprised? How does that affect your view of church?
3. Whose church is Jesus building according to Matthew 16:18? What does that mean to you?

We don’t go to church. We *are* the church. Regardless of your Sunday morning habits, if you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, you’ve joined the church – *His Church!*

4. Ask the Lord to remind you to pray for His church. Use Acts 9:31 as a guide, and intercede for the body of believers.

### Healing

Read Acts 9:32-35.

5. What happened when Peter was at Lydda?
6. Who did Peter say healed Aeneas? How did the Lord identify Himself in Exodus 15:26?
7. What is the Lord Jesus able to heal according to the following verses?
  - ❖ Psalm 41:4, 1 Peter 2:24 –
  - ❖ Psalm 147:3 –
  - ❖ Matthew 4:24 –
  - ❖ Mark 6:7, Luke 9:42 –
8. From the prophecy about Christ in Isaiah 53:1-5, what did Jesus do to secure our healing? What verb tense is used regarding that healing in verse 5?
9. Do you believe that the Lord still heals our afflictions today? Discuss.
10. Consider Jesus' words in Luke 18:41 and John 5:6. Why do you think Jesus asked these questions?

11. In what ways do you need healing? What do you want Him to do for you? Do you wish to be made well?

The Lord is in the business of forgiving sins, healing hearts and repairing bodies. We don't know why some physical ailments are healed on earth and others must wait for heaven. We do know, however, that unless we desire healing and are willing to seek after it, we will probably never walk in the healing that God has for us.

### **From Death to Life**

Read Acts 9:36-43.

12. What happened in Joppa?
13. Turn to John 11:14-45, and skim through the story.
- ❖ Who raised Lazarus from the dead?
  - ❖ From John 11:4 and 11:45, what was the purpose and result of the miracle?
  - ❖ How does Jesus identify Himself in John 11:25-26, and what does that mean for those who believe in Him?
  - ❖ What do you think that means for you today?
14. What two types of “resurrections” does the author of Hebrews compare in Hebrews 11:35?
15. What has happened to every believer according to John 5:24?
16. What happens to us when we receive Christ Jesus as Lord according Colossians 2:13-14?

17. What does Ephesians 2:1-7 teach about our condition before we believe versus after we believe in Jesus?

This is no lesser miracle. We, too, were once dead in our sins. Really dead. I fear we risk missing the miraculous. Maybe it's that we don't grasp that we were as dead as Tabitha. Maybe it's that we don't grasp that as believers we are really, fully alive. If you are a Child of God, you are a walking miracle!

18. Read John 17:1-3. What does Jesus give us and how does He define it?

19. What did God do in Genesis 2:7?

20. What did Jesus say He came to do in John 10:10?

God can breathe life into dust. He can breathe life into death. As far as I can tell, He can breathe life just about anywhere He wants.

21. Where do you need life? Perhaps you've never received His gift of eternal life. Maybe you've shut down a part of yourself in fear or in hurt. Perhaps there is an area of your life that is particularly dead or void. Open your heart up to the Lord and ask Him to breathe His life into it. And then receive that life.

22. Take some time to consider the ways you were once dead and thank Him for the ways He has already brought you life!

23. What happened as a result of these two miracles in Acts 9:35 and 9:42?

**Prepare for Life**

24. What did Peter instruct Aeneas and Tabitha to do in Acts 9:34 and Acts 9:40?

The Lord healed Aeneas. He brought Tabitha back to life. But they had to stand up. They had to walk in their healing.

25. How do you think things would have been different if Aeneas and/or Tabitha had remained in bed? What might have happened if they had been healed but refused to walk in that healing?

26. Ask the Lord and search your own heart. Is there an area where you have been healed by the Lord but haven't yet arisen?

This isn't about picture-perfect smiles or too-tough-to-cry insensitivity. This is about calling out to a God who is willing and able to bind up the brokenhearted, to relieve the burdens of the weary, to forgive the sin-sick and, yes, to breathe life back into spirits that have resigned themselves to death. If you're still hurting, if you're still weary, if your lungs still burn for air, then you keep crying out to Him. But when He answers, *arise*. The salvation of many may depend on it. And your abundant life surely does!

**Lecture Notes: Lesson 9**