



GROWTH THROUGH SIGNS & WONDERS

ACTS 9:32-43

JOSE PRADO



JESUS BUILDS AND SUSTAINS HIS CHURCH

³² Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. ³⁴ And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. ³⁵ And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. ³⁶ Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

The Historical Literary Context of Our Text:

³¹ 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.

Main Idea:

Signs & Wonders are Supernatural means of Grace that God uses to comfort and multiply His Church.

THE DECEPTION THAT SIGNS AND WONDERS HAVE CEASED:

DECEPTION #1: *These signs and wonders were granted to authenticate the ministry of Jesus and the Apostles.*

TRUTH: *Signs and wonders were performed not only by Jesus and the Apostles, but by many of his followers.*

DECEPTION #2: *These signs and miracles were necessary to give a supernatural boost to the early Church.*

TRUTH: *This argument has no biblical support, and the supernatural boost is equally necessary today.*

DECEPTION #3: *Those who believe, hope for, and practice such signs often fall into erroneous forms of Christianity.*

TRUTH: *The erroneous or incorrect practice of something does not nullify it.*

DECEPTION #4: *Such demonstrations are unnecessary and should not be sought because we have the Word of GOD.*

TRUTH: *The Word of God itself teaches us that these signs will follow those who believe and should be desired.*

1. The Promise of Signs and Wonders

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” **Acts 1:8**

¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” **Mark 16:17-18**

2. The Presence of Signs and Wonders

³² Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.

³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. ³⁴ And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose.

Where can we expect these signs and wonders?

a. Where the Gospel is Proclaimed

³² Now as Peter *went here and there among them all...*

b. Where God's People are Assembled

³² Now as Peter went here and there among them all, *he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.*

c. Where Jesus' Power is Needed and Desired

³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, *bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed.*

³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, *"Please come to us without delay."*

3. The Purpose of Signs and Wonders

³⁴ And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.”
And immediately he rose. ³⁵ And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

What does Jesus accomplish through signs and wonders?

a. The Display of His Power

³⁴ And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, **Jesus Christ heals you**; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose.

⁴⁰ But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and **prayed; and turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.”** And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up

b. The Display of His Compassion

³³ **There he found a man named Aeneas**, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed.

³⁹ So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them.

c. The Display of His Mercy

³⁵ And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, **and they turned to the Lord.**

⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa, **and many believed in the Lord.** ⁴³ And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

Pastoral Reflections:

- Do you need and desire His Power
- Do you need and desire His Compassion
- Do you need and desire His Mercy