Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 11-1-26
Christianity 103 – Message 9 Part 7
God's Amazing Power on Display

1.Introduction:
a.Taking a look back:
1)We took some time to consider the change that had taken place in Saul's life.
a)As a believer, it is important to see the parallels to our own Purpose and Direction.
2)We started at II Corinthians 5:17 to better understand what it means to be a "new creation" in Christ.
a)You haven't just been made new, but a whole new situation has been created.
b)The old things have come to an end and all things are new.
c)II Cor. 5:14-15 – "should not henceforth live unto themselves…."
3)What is my Purpose? Why did God create me? Why am I here?
4)Your Purpose is found in knowing Him. Without Jesus, life has no meaning, no real purpose.
5)Your Direction is what God reveals as you walk in obedience moment by moment, and day by day to the Spirit of God's leading.
b.Taking a look ahead:
1)We move away for a time from Saul to Peter.
2)We do not always know the why or when of God's plans, but we know that He is able to do above all that we may ask, think or hope for.
a)Ephesians 3:20 –
2.Peter's story continues. Acts 9:32-43
a.Peter keeps walking with the Lord. Purpose and Direction.
1)Verse 32 –
a)Peter is traveling throughout Judea.
b)We pick up the story as he arrives in Lydda.
2)Peter is visiting with the saints at Lydda.
a)Here is where you can see Purpose and Direction.
b)It is possible this city had been evangelized by some who were born again at Pentecost.
c)It is possible that some who had been scattered because of persecution shared Jesus.
d)All of this prior to Peter's arrival speaks to me of what they understood about their Purpose and Direction.
b.Verse 33 –
1)Peter is led by the Spirit to a man by the name of Aeneas.
c. Verse 34 –
1)Notice what Peter said to him.
2)Peter's obedience to go and the testimony of what God did brought forth fruit.
a)Verse 35 –
3)Application – Testimonies of what God is doing in a person's life can have an impact on others, including the lost.
a)A word of wisdom and encouragement here.
b)As believers can we ask God to heal and then trust that He is able to do so?
4)What does the Bible say about this?
a)Philippians 4:6 –
5)This brings us to another amazing observation from Peter's ministry.
a)John 21:15-17 –

b)Peter is walking in obedience to the direction God had for him.

3.Peter continues on to Joppa. Acts 9:36-43

a.A follower of Christ passes away.

1)Verse 36 –

a)“a certain disciple named Tabitha” –

b)“full of good works and almsdeeds” –

b.Verse 37 –

1)She was sick and the result of this sickness was death.

c.Verse 38 –

1)Peter is about 12 miles away from Joppa.

a)They send two men to find Peter and see if he will come back with them.

b)Why? What were they thinking?

c)It may be they want Peter to come and encourage the believers.

d.Verse 39 –

1)Peter arrives and enters a room where believers are weeping over Dorcas’ passing.

e.Verse 40 –

1)I think this is an important step and moment here.

a)Peter knelt down to pray.

b)While praying, Peter turns to the body.

2)“Tabitha, arise” –

3)Look at what God did.

a)“And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.”

f.Verse 41 –

1)What an incredible moment for Tabitha and Peter.

g.Verse 42 –

1)Through this miracle and Tabitha’s testimony, we find many believed in the Lord.

2)What questions do stories like this bring up in our minds as believers?

4.Does God still do miracles today?

a.The simple answer is YES!

1)Perspective is important here.

b.The question still stands: Does God do miracles today?

1)Take another lesson from scripture –

a)It would seem to me that this requirement of needing to see a miracle to believe results in shallow faith.

c.So why miracles?

1)The purpose was to authenticate the One who is responsible for them.

a)Acts 2:22 –

2)God used them to confirm the ministry of the Apostles.

a)II Corinthians 12:12 –

3)God used them concerning the Gospel.

a)Hebrews 2:3-4 –

4)Church, we have the complete revelation of God to man in our hands.

5.Today’s Takeaway:

a.Do you know why God created you? Do you know your Purpose?

b.Have you surrendered to the Direction God has for you?

c.Does God still do miracles today?