



Living the Blessed Life
Acts 9:32-43
September 18, 2016

Introduction:

Benjamin Franklin:

“Our American Constitution guarantees us the right to pursue happiness, but we all have to catch it for ourselves.”

Pastor Tim’s Simple Philosophy:

Nothing worthwhile in life will ever be accomplished apart from great passion. I can honestly say that I wake up every morning and feel intense excitement about the life and ministry God has called me to do. Our churches are filled with passionless people because there are a lot of passionless churches all across America.

Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of your heart.

I. Peter Lived a Life Marked by Ministry

Acts 9:32-33 (NKJV) Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. ³³There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed.

God has a track record of using busy people in order to get His kingdom accomplished. Spirit-filled people don’t just sit around and wait for things to happen, they are generally out there making things happen.

The question is not, what does God want me to do ultimately? It’s what does God want me to do today? Peter was a “today” kind of man. He didn’t pass up opportunities for today while waiting for opportunities of tomorrow.

II. Peter Lived a Life of Humility

A. The instrument of Aeneas’s healing

Acts 9:34a (NKJV) And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you.

Here at Clements Baptist Church, we must always remember that it is Jesus who is building His church, not your pastor or any of you. Jesus builds, and we facilitate.

B. The immediacy of Aeneas’s healing

Acts 9:34b (NKJV) And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately.

C. The impact of Aeneas's healing

Acts 9:35 (NKJV) So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

III. Peter Lived a Life of Availability

A. The description and discipleship of Dorcas

Acts 9:36 (NKJV) At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.

B. The deeds Dorcas demonstrated

Acts 9:36b This woman was full of good works...

C. The death Dorcas died

Acts 9:37-39 (NKJV) But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. ³⁸And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. ³⁹Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.

IV. Peter Lived a Life of Prayerfulness

Acts 9:40-41 (NKJV) But Peter put them all out, 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. ⁴¹Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

Charles Spurgeon:

"Prayer is the heating apparatus of the church. The church warms the world not because of the preacher, but because of prayer."

V. Peter Lived a Life of Spiritual Fruitfulness

Acts 9:42 (NKJV) And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

God desires all of us to be "fruitful" not simply "busy."

VI. Peter Lived a Life That was Free from Prejudism

Acts 9:43 (NKJV) So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.