

SHAKEN PART 9: PETER'S MINISTRY

Tonight, we continue with our study in Acts. Last time, we talked about the spiritual shaking that occurred through the salvation of Saul of Tarsus. His salvation caused such a stir that the church sent him back home to Tarsus where he stayed for about 3 years. But the ministry continued with Peter playing a huge role. The events we will read about take place in the plain of Sharon.

Acts 9:32-35 (NKJV)

A man named Aeneas is healed from paralysis. While this is amazing, the most amazing thing is that the gospel spreads through signs and wonders filling the region around Lydda.

Acts 9:36-43 (NKJV)

When the disciples in Joppa heard that Peter was there, they sent for him. The problem? The person they wanted Peter to pray for was already dead. Put yourself in Peter's place for a moment. God has used him to heal many. But as far as we know, he has never raised someone from death. How would you be feeling at this moment? The first thing Peter does is to turn away from the body and pray. In a moment like this one, you must hear from God. Peter looks away from death and looks directly into the face of The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

Upon hearing what he needed to hear from the Spirit, Peter turns to the body and says, "Tabitha, arise." He has seen Jesus do this. Do you believe that the same Spirit rests upon you? She opens her eyes, sees Peter and sits up. Think of what Peter is feeling as he walks Tabitha downstairs to a waiting group of disciples. The testimony goes throughout Joppa and many believe on Jesus. Peter decides to stay on in Joppa and stays in the home of man who is his namesake – Simon who works as a tanner of hides.

Are these works written down to frustrate us? Are they written to demonstrate the power of God? Are they written to encourage us? How do miracles happen? Through the Spirit. How do you make it happen? When we continue this study in a few weeks, we will look at another event which shook the church to its very core and set the stage for the explosion of Christianity around the world.

Today's Scriptures:

- Acts 9:32-43 (NKJV)