

***The Power of Healing & Faith***  
God Heals Two People Radically Through Peter  
**The Empowered Church Series – part 18**

Acts 9:32-43  
5/27/23-5/28/23

**Introduction**

- **Miracles are Real and For Today** – Bridgeway believes in miracles. Our leadership assumes them, and we are constantly praying for more. You may come from a different tradition and that sounds odd to you but I can tell you that by the time we are done with this message, or if you go back and listen to this whole series you will be more and more convinced that God operates that way today, just like He did in the New Testament Bible times.
- **They aren't like you expect** – What is important to note is that miracles rarely happen like you assume. They are way more complicated. The stories in the Bible are cleaned up for brevity. The whole real situation was so much more complex. I have witnessed many, many miracles and they are all very unique. God never seems to work in the exact way that I assume. He says no to things that I think are straightforward. He says yes, to things that I would never sign off on. The methods He uses are never how I would have done it. The reaction of people and the process is never how I hope it would go. Sometimes it's better and sometimes it's worse. The Bottom line is the fill in the blank...

**God's MIRACLES are MESSY but POWERFUL**

**Lesson**

- **Title**
  - **A Paralyzed Man is Healed Via Peter**
    - **Ac 9:32–35** – *“Now as Peter went here and there among them all,<sup>1</sup> he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. <sup>33</sup> There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. <sup>34</sup> And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you;<sup>2</sup> rise and make your bed.”<sup>3</sup> And immediately he rose. <sup>35</sup> And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.”*
    - **Peter's Traveling Ministry** – what was he doing? Peter was one of the ambassadors sent from the Apostles to check out the Samaritan revival. He was stunned to see what God was doing. He was now continuing to check out all the things that God was doing and due to the release of persecution for a time (see verse 31), he was freed up to manage the region.

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<sup>1</sup> Gk. διερχόμενον διὰ πάντων, “going through all (parts).”

<sup>2</sup> “Gk. ἰάται σε Ἰησοῦς Χριστός. In a Greek ear Ἰησοῦς might well seem to be cognate with ἰάομαι, “heal” (see p. 331, 35, on 17:18). The present ἰάται is aoristic: “he heals you this moment” (see MHT I, p. 119). But H. J. Cadbury, “A Possible Perfect in Acts 9:34,” *JTS* 49 (1948), pp. 57–58, suggests accenting the word as perfect, ἰάται (“has healed”).Gk.” NICNT Commentary, F.F. Bruce

<sup>3</sup> “The command, “Jesus Christ heals you,” may involve a play on words in the Greek. The following words, “Get up and make your bed,” might alternatively be rendered, “Get up and set the table for yourself” —that is, “Get yourself something to eat.”<sup>76</sup> This has been thought to accord well with the interest shown by Luke and other New Testament writers in the provision of nourishment for convalescents. But the rendering “Make your bed” is more probable in the context. If Aeneas was already at home, he could not be told to roll up his mattress and go home with it, like the paralytic of Capernaum in Mark 2:9 and parallels (cf. John 5:8); but he could at least be told to roll it up and put it away.” NICNT Commentary, F. F. Bruce

- **Where's Lydda?**<sup>4</sup> – This is the Greek name of the ancient city of Lod. This was the Judean (mid-southern Israel) administrative district. It's still active and about 9.5 miles southeast of Tel Aviv.
- **Who's Aeneas?** – there is nothing known about this man outside of this text. Usually we assume that the Bible relates the name because some of those people were either still alive at the writing, or they had a lot of people who knew them. It was also a wonderful way for people to verify the accuracy of the story and show that it was not just a myth.
- **Bedridden & Paralyzed for 8 years** – I think that it's easy to read the Bible backwards. We tend to read the end and forget the process to get there. BEFORE this man was healed and miraculously had his life change for the better, he was bedridden and paralyzed for 8 years. What does that do to a person? It's brutal. We do not know whether this man was a believer or not. It doesn't say. There were saints in this area, but it doesn't mention this guy was one of them. He could have been a friend of one of them. But I have personal experience to know that Christians suffer all the time. It's a mind bender to know that we have a God who loves us and can fix it but doesn't. Every Christian needs to wrestle with why that is. It cannot be random or accidental, it must be purposeful. But what's the purpose?
  - **Purpose in Suffering** – I have spoken extensively on this issue so I'll make this quick. There are a few basic options that explain why God allows suffering for His children today. But first let's understand why there is suffering at all. God created Eden without suffering. That was HIS intent, HIS desire. We chose otherwise. Our sin not only separated us from Him, but also from His good things. Sin brought about the breakdown of humanity and breakdown of the earth. Therefore all of our suffering is a result of those things. Whether it is the actions of broken people (murder) or the result of a broken world (cancer), suffering exists. God told Adam and Eve that if they ate the fruit, death would be the result. That is playing out as a testament to God's Honor and Word as well as accountability. All suffering is supposed to lead us to repentance and a knowledge that God is always right. It's a continual teaching lesson as well as natural result of saying no to God.
  - **The Problem with Healing** - The problem with miraculous healing is that God is shutting down the accountability and consequence for sin. It violates, in a sense, what He said would happen when we say no to God. For us to escape the ramifications of rebellion isn't always a good thing. Yes, in His compassion He still heals, but we need to see the danger of doing so. People may well think that they can do whatever they want without consequence. I believe that is one reason why He doesn't heal more today. The healing is supposed to come in the next life when sin is

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<sup>4</sup> "The nucleus of this community was doubtless formed of fugitives from the persecution in Jerusalem; we should remember also that Philip passed through those parts preaching the gospel on his way from Azotus to Caesarea (8:40). Lydda was at this time the center of a Judaeen toparchy or administrative district." NICNT commentary, F.F. Bruce.

dealt with and the rebellious are separated out. Once God only has His kids in His hands He “can” bring full and complete healing.

- **Why God Doesn't Heal Christians More** – so we go back to the initial question about why God doesn't heal more for His kids today. We may have a lot of reasons why God doesn't heal EVERYONE (non-believers), but most of us struggle with God not helping His people. I think we are left with a few options:
  1. **God Doesn't Want To** – of course He CAN. He can do anything. He is not limited and unable. He is not uninterested or ignorant of what is happening. The Bible is clear on those things. Therefore He is clearly watching and tracking and choosing not to intervene. The question is why. Some believe that He wants to let the ramifications of sin play out as His last major command and training of humanity. Others believe that miracles ceased at the end of the Apostolic era (since miracles were only used to validate the early church). I believe there is validity to the first but not the second. Additionally, I am a firm believer in what I call the Theology of Glory (I made it up). It says that whether someone continues to suffer or whether someone is radically healed, God will determine based on His glory. What brings Him the most glory? His glory is why we are here. He will fix it later in the next life so it's only temporary, so why fix it now? Glory.
  2. **The Church is Failing** – Jesus brought healing with the presence of the Kingdom of God. He put that on the Apostles and then on the 72 and then on the rest of the Church. They were supposed to be the ambassadors of the kingdom and Body of Christ to do what He was doing. If there is not enough healing happening perhaps the Church is failing to do their assignment. They are not healing people in the name of Christ. They have the power but aren't doing their job. It's on us. Some Christians streams believe this wholeheartedly and their view goes as far as to say that God wants to heal EVERYONE and it's the Church's job to go get it done. This would of course favor an Amillennial view where since Jesus came and established His kingdom, that things are progressively getting better until His return. (see the parable of mustard tree and the vision of Daniel of the statue to understand the progressive filling of the earth concept). My personal view is that this is partly true. We are indeed failing to carry out our job as the Body of Christ, yet I do not believe the Bible indicates that God wants to heal Everyone and Everything.
  3. **Lack of Faith** – instead of the Church failing, there is an additional person in the healing mix beyond God and the practical healer, and that is the healee (I know that's not a word). Many, many times Jesus mentioned that people's faith healed them. So what if they don't have faith? Would the natural result be no healing? It seems that is the case with the town of Nazareth. Is that the case with America?

With most people? Is there a blessing to faith? As much as we all hate the idea of telling someone in a wheelchair that they lack the faith to be healed, is it true? Hmm. That's a tough one. It's complicated. In my opinion there is a significant factor of faith involved in healing, but too often the Bible records people getting healed that don't express or have faith at all, so clearly it can't be NECESSARY. Additionally, I question the amount of faith and faith in what. In my opinion the faith that healed the people in Jesus' ministry was small and simply going to the ONE who could heal because they believed that He was who He said He was. It was not faith in a force. It was not overconfidence that He would say yes, it was simply the faith to go to Him to see.

- **The Healing** – this is not myth, this is fact, this is history. God really healed this man and continues to heal today.
- ***Jesus Christ heals you*** – if you study all the healings of the Bible they are all relatively different. There are some similarities but really they are unique. Sometimes they say one thing and do one thing and sometimes another. There is no pattern or formula and I think that's intentional.<sup>5</sup> We love formula because it puts us in charge. We like to think of the power of God as a force to master instead of a Person to partner with. One can be selfish and the other demands intimacy. For whatever reason this time Peter says the words aloud, 'Jesus Christ heals you.' Interestingly he kind of did the same thing when he healed the paralytic at the temple gate by saying, 'silver or gold I do not have but what I have I give you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth walk.' Both times he invokes the name of Jesus verbally. Now, any good theologian knows that it's ONLY the power of the Holy Spirit, in the NAME of Jesus Christ that ANYONE is healed. The interesting part is that he said it. Why? Either he was trying to do ministry to the people around them and to Aeneas so that they were all clear that he was not the power source, so that they wouldn't misplace their faith. OR he was doing so to tell the greater Church correct theology. There were times when Paul was considered a god for healing someone because people mistook him for the source instead of the conduit.
- **Rise and make your bed: Confidence** – Two things jump out at me about this phrase:
  - 1.) **He tells him to make his bed.** That's weird. But if you remember the times when paralytics were healed in the gospels by Jesus many times He would command them to take up their bed and go home. This guy was

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<sup>5</sup> My studies reveal that there are 21 recorded healings of Jesus and at least 6 different methods (some very bizarre like mud in the eyes, spitting on tongues): touching; people touching His clothes; healed with a thought; vocal command; required acts of faith; casting of demon impact. From my estimation all of Jesus' healings were commanding, not petition (although there is partial petition with Lazarus' resurrection). There were 4 mass healings of large groups which don't have details expressed.

already home so he couldn't take his bed home, he simply needed to make it. What's with the tidiness issue? Who cares if the bed is made? Who cares if they leave their mat? We don't know all the reasons why Christ did that, but we can infer that it was in the act of picking it up that there was some transformation emotionally in them. That which once held them bound, their prison, they were now in control of. There's a mind-bending element of chronic and long-term illness. It paralyzes your mind, and you can't think outside of it. It becomes your identity. Jesus seems to be re-racking identity.

2.) **Look at the confidence Peter expresses** – wow, how awkward would this be if he commands it, and it doesn't happen. He is telling this guy to do something that is normally impossible. Where did Peter get the confidence to KNOW for sure that this guy was going to be healed? Could Peter ALWAYS heal at WILL? I don't think so. Jesus even got shut down in Nazareth, so it's never an assumed. But somehow, some way, Peter KNEW this guy was going to be healed, so much so that he commands him aloud in front of other people to get up. That's hardcore confidence. I want that confidence, it's my dream to know for sure who is going to be healed and who is not going to be, so that I can teach through it and use it for a greater transformative message. Maybe someday.

- **Immediately he rose** – this is one of those cool, immediate, full restorations, in the Bible. If you only skim the healing stories of the Bible you will assume it was always this way. It's not. There are all kinds of ways that God healed people in the Bible, but due to the quick nature of the story telling it jams the account together with little to no discussion of method or process. So, let's talk for a moment about types of healing that God does.
  - **Types of healing** – Not all the types of healing are expressly stated in Scripture. Many of these have become clear as we have operated in the power of the Holy Spirit and observed how He does it over the years. The Bible doesn't record all the healings done, in fact it's only a tiny sampling. So, here's what we (the Church) have observed:
    1. **Instantaneous and Complete** – Many of the accounts in the Bible are highlighted because they blew people's socks off.<sup>6</sup> Mellow miracles don't tend to make the cut. The recorded ones are usually the visible ones (not internal tumors, emotional issues, etc.) that were instantaneous and complete. We LOVE those because those not only are shocking, but they increase our faith and are so clear that our hearts believe more in the Lord and He feels so close. Those are usually what we are praying for. Why not shoot for the best, right?

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<sup>6</sup> Leper cleansed, centurion's servant; Blind Bartimaeus; Disabled woman of 18 yrs; Invalid man of 38 yrs at the Pool of Bethesda; Man born blind; soldier's ear; Paralyzed man at Beautiful Gate of Temple; Ananias praying over Saul's eyes; etc.

2. **Delayed & Progressive** – There are a few healing miracles in the Bible that seem to be delayed. In other words, the pronouncement is made at one point with NO effect, but the fulfillment happens later. Additionally, there seems to be times when it's gradual fulfillment. It starts small (some effect) but continues to spread into full healing. An example might be when Jesus healed the official's son in Capernaum in John 4:46-54. Jesus told the man 'go, your son will live', and as he was going some servants came to him and 'told him that his son was RECOVERING.' 'So he asked them the hour when he BEGAN TO GET BETTER, and they said to him, 'yesterday at the seventh hour the FEVER left him.' We also see with demonic issues and prayers that sometimes things are delayed (Daniel's prayer response delayed by spiritual warfare in Daniel 10:10-14) or the soothing of King Saul by David's harp was only temporary, and it came back again.
3. **Partial or Multi-step** – Sometimes when God heals, He will heal a portion of the concerns but not all them. And sometimes He will require multiple prayer times to 'finish the job'. A biblical example would be Jesus healed the blind man at Bethsaida in Mark 8:22-26. Jesus spit on his eyes and laid hands on him and asked, 'do you see anything' and the guy reported seeing very blurry. Jesus laid his hands on the man's eyes AGAIN and it was fully fixed. A practical illustration of a partial healing would be that we pray over someone who is
4. **Temporary** – these are perhaps the most maddening of the answers to prayer. It's when we pray over a situation and there is immediate relief, but then later it all comes back. This is terribly challenging to people's faith, and it makes them feel like it was all in their head or that they lacked the ability to hang on to it. No one knows why this happens. **I have two guesses: 1.) God is giving a break from pain** – sometimes the answer to the healing question should be no, from God, but out of His compassion He says, ok, for a little bit. This would mean that there was purpose in the pain, and we need to get back to it, but God heard our cry and wanted to alleviate it temporarily as a kindness and as a reminder that He is there with us. **2.) There is a process to retaining healing that we are not privy to.** Many Charismatic ministries believe that you need to 'contend' for your healing, or 'hang on to it' through constant prayer and faith, as if it's subject to being taken away by disbelief or by the enemy. I'm not sure how I feel about this. I think that it may make sense in certain demonic senses, but not so much about regular disease. The jury is still out on that for me.

5. **When God fixes the problem through natural means** – Although we don't call this a miracle, we should.<sup>7</sup> The bottom line is that sometimes medicine and surgery works and sometimes it doesn't. What makes the difference? When God moves on our behalf and allows it to be effective, isn't that Him intervening into the natural world, which by definition is a miracle? As an example I cite Danny White, Makaela's husband. We prayed and prayed for his healing when he got a rare blood cancer that was almost incurable. God didn't radically instantaneously heal him. But over the last 3 years God oversaw the process of him being reduced to deal and brutal chemo treatments (as well as stem cell) that tend not to work or tend to kill the person while it's happening. And yet, God saw him through. His last results were not only cancer free, but his blood levels were almost totally normal. He is now trying to regain strength, health, and put some weight back on. God is good!
- **The Evangelistic Result: Revival in Lydda & Sharon** – Each time there was a radical healing or miracle people got saved in these passages (not in all passages). And this is a HUGE part of signs & wonders.
    - **Where's Sharon?** – it's the coastal plain nearby. It's mid-western Israel. The plain of Sharon (a larger region) is a heavily populated area (good land).
    - **How did they all "see it"** – they didn't. They saw 'him'. They weren't all there for the miracle, they were there for the result. In small towns everyone knew about who was really sick and hurting. They knew his prior condition and now he was a walking billboard to the healing power of Jesus Christ. That is what impacted them.
      - **The Power of Testimony** – revisit this important concept. When we tell the story of God's miraculous power and intervention it makes Him more real and close in people's minds. For most people, they view Him as far away and uninterested. We need to keep telling our stories.
      - **They turned to the Lord** – this is a beautiful description of how someone gets saved: Turned. It's where we get the concept of repentance. We are going one direction, away from the Lord, or apart from the Lord, and we turn toward the Lord.
    - **Power Evangelism to spread the gospel.** It's not just magic tricks to pursue. The big WHY in pursuing miraculous ministry.
  - **Deadraiser**
    - **God Allows Peter to Raise a Woman from the Dead**

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<sup>7</sup> If we are truly asking for a solution from God, then can't He do it any way He wants and still get the glory for it? Why not work through normal means more often? It is less problematic. It was God's kindness to let us learn those science and medical forms in the first place.

- **Ac 9:36–43** – *“Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha,<sup>8</sup> which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.*
  - **Where’s Joppa?**<sup>9</sup> – 10 miles northwest of Lydda, on the coast, in the vicinity of modern day Tel Aviv.
  - **Tabitha/Dorcas the “disciple”** – Okay, so let’s get something straight. What sounds cool in one language doesn’t sound great in another, right? But in this case it’s the same name in two languages and they both mean ‘gazelle’. Dorcas is Greek and Tabitha is ‘Gazelle’. Her parents didn’t name her dorky and then she changed her name to something sweet like Gazelle. Her parents intended well. 😊
  - **She was full of good works and acts of charity** – This woman’s faith translated into practical helps. How impactful would the Church be if more of us did stuff instead of thought about stuff. Sure, some of us are supposed to bless and encourage with our words, but most of us CAN DO something to bless others. This woman did so. She used her gifts as a seamstress to provide for those who didn’t have, and God was glorified through it.
  - **She became ill and died** – why does God let good people die too soon? The truth is that the death rate for humans is 99.9% (we allow room for Elijah, Enoch and the occasional bizarre taking up or a possible coming rapture). That means all people, good and bad, Christian, and non-Christian die. It’s a fact of our world and this current reality. The question on the table is why do some Christians die early or for bad reasons? Shouldn’t there be a blessing to being a Child of God in this regard? Moses was blessed by God and lived to 120 until God just shut him down. Many saints were blessed to live long and prosperous, full lives. In the Old Covenant it was a sign of God’s favor. But in the New Testament we have John the Baptist beheaded for a stupid reason, we have James killed in prison right at the beginning of the ministry, we have martyrs everywhere. So what’s the deal? Why doesn’t God let all Christians live full and great lives? First of all the answer must entail that this world is not our main life. It’s but a vapor. It’s temporary and a testing ground. God answers this question by eternal life being blessed. We know His heart and plan. The question is why not here too? I think that it’s either part of the suffering issues we talked about earlier or purpose in the loss (e.g. martyrdom).
  - **Why did they wash her and lay her in an upper room?**<sup>10</sup> – that was the preparation for burial time for them. It allows time for the family to come and pay their respects and to get the funeral arrangements in line.

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<sup>8</sup> Her name, Tabitha, is Aramaic, meaning “gazelle. Dorcas is the Greek equivalent. (The corresponding Hebrew form, Zibiah, occurs as a woman’s name in 2 Kings 12:1.)” NICNT

<sup>9</sup> “Joppa (Jaffa, Heb. Yafo) is on the Mediterranean coast, about ten or eleven miles northwest of Lydda. It is mentioned in Egyptian records of the fifteenth century B.C., and several times in the Old Testament. Today it is included in a large conurbation with the modern city of Tel-aviv. In Joppa, as in Lydda, there was a group of believers in Jesus.” NICNT, F.F. Bruce

<sup>10</sup> after being washed in accordance with the Jewish custom of purification of the dead.” NICNT



- *<sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us<sup>11</sup> without delay." <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> But Peter put them all outside,..."*
  - **Why did they rush to get Peter?** – they must have heard of the healing of Aeneas nearby.
  - **Why did they want Peter to hurry?** – If this lady is dead, then what's the rush? I think that it may go back to the ancient Hebrew mindset that if you act fast, the soul is still hanging around the body for a day or so and they can more easily be brought back in. That's not true, but that may be what they believed. It could have been simply an emotional plea to help stop suffering of those left behind. If you can raise someone from the dead, then why not quickly to see if we can stop the hurt?
  - **Why did Peter go?** – Peter's job isn't dead raising guy. So why did he go? Doesn't he have other things to do? Sure. But this is kind of his job. He responds to situations as an ambassador of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. This happens to be our job as well. So, if God is being asked a question or someone is seeking His response, we should be one when we can. Peter knew that clearly. He responded.
  - **What were the widows trying to do by showing Dorcas' good works?** – Honestly, I don't know but it sure seems to be a sweet form of manipulation to me. I think they were trying to convince him that she was WORTHY of being raised from the dead. That shouldn't really factor in, but they don't know that, and they are desperate. They don't want Peter looking at the situation and not giving it his best try, so they are overdoing it.
    - **The Power of a Life of Good Works** – Notice what they were showing Peter. Dorcas had hand made things for the needy and for the community. She was a seamstress of sorts and used that gift to bless people. she was so kind and servant-hearted other people interceded for her.
    - **Power of community lifting us up** – notice the intercession and how powerful it spoke. They were all likely praying for Dorcas while Peter was praying, and BEFORE. Maybe God said yes to Peter because they had all petitioned him prior.
  - **Why did Peter put them all outside?** – was it distracting? Why did Jesus do that too?<sup>12</sup> Peter clearly learned it from Him. I can only assume that it is to focus on prayer. I don't know. But I know from experience that my main concern is to hear the will of the Father and the voice of the Holy Spirit and when people are all worked up around you it's noisy and distracting. That's my guess, but I could be wrong.

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<sup>11</sup> Their words in v. 38 (lit., "Do not hesitate to come to us") amount simply to a polite request: "Please come to us." NICNT

<sup>12</sup> "Peter sent them and the other mourners out of the room, as he had seen his Master do before he raised Jairus's daughter from her deathbed." NICNT

- *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. <sup>41</sup> And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. <sup>42</sup> And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.”*
- **Peter knelt down and prayed** – what’s our response to needs? Prayer.
  - **Why did Peter kneel?** – does posture matter in prayer? There is a lot of references in the Bible to people doing things when they pray that involve posture. Some stand, some raise their hands, some lift their heads toward heaven, some kneel, some bow. So, what’s the deal. Does posture make it more effective? To ask that question again seems to suggest that prayer is a means of harnessing a power, that is absolutely inaccurate. But it’s a fair question to see if there is effect. My suggestion is that, because prayer is by definition a communication process with God, the intent of our heart does matter. I think that it has a lot more to do with us getting our heads in the game and having a good heart posture, than it does for God (or showing Him that we are really serious). But it may be a way of honoring God in humility that He appreciates, don’t get me wrong. I think that posture matters depending on the person and the situation. I need to adjust my posture as a human being to get my head in the game both in prayer and in worship.
  - **Biblical Silence on Method** - What did Peter pray? How long did Peter pray? We don’t know. That’s one of the maddening parts of the Bible being so silent on method and not having enough connection of apprenticeship through the years to demonstrate how it should be done. Both the Catholic Church and Orthodox church claim to have carried on the methods and traditions but they are filled with activities and rituals that clearly weren’t used by the Apostles. So it’s difficult to trust what they got right and what got lost in transition and we need to rediscover.
- **The command to arise (Tabitha get up<sup>13</sup>)** – What’s the deal with commanding something to happen, especially a dead person? Jesus did this with Lazarus (again, notice the pattern and apprenticeship Peter had with Jesus).
  - **Commanding vs. Petitioning prayers** – when do we do each? What do each of them mean? In my studies I found that there are 21 recorded healings of Jesus in the New Testament and ALL of them were commanding prayers and not petition. However, in other prayers that Jesus did, like in the Garden of Gethsemane, petition played a HUGE part. So, which is it? My view is that when we are commanding earthly things to alter in the name of Jesus, we command. When we are needing God’s insight or the request and need is far beyond us and it requires too many moving parts, we petition. We are always checking in with the Lord, no matter what, but if we have clarity on the

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<sup>13</sup> he uttered a short sentence in Aramaic, differing only in one letter from Jesus’ words to Jairus’s daughter. Whereas Jesus had said *Talitha qum (i)* (Mark 5:41), Peter now said *Tabitha qum (i)*—“Tabitha, get up.” NICNT

intention of God, then we move out with confidence and command in His name. If we are still uncertain we petition.

- **What happened in prayer that gave Peter the confidence to make this bold move?** – what did he hear? Was it empowerment? Was it authorization? Did he get it clear or an indicator? We don't know.
  - **What if it didn't happen?** Did that ever happen to the Apostles? Probably. Was that why he removed the people from the room, so they didn't have to see how the sausage was made and be discouraged in the process? Or was it simply to focus and hear the voice of the Holy Spirit?
- **She opened her eyes and sat up** – This is crazy. This is a resurrection. This is the first recorded resurrection that Peter ever did in the name of the Lord. This is monumental. We are going to find out that many more will occur, but this is the first. What that means is that the power of God that operated in the Old Testament through prophets like Elijah and Elisha was still actively operating in the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
  - **Do people get raised from the dead today?** – That's a tough question because I would have to go off second, third hand information or flat our myth and stories from around the world. I haven't seen anyone raise from the dead. I did pray for it once in a woman at the hospital and nothing happened. So, I don't KNOW. But there are a lot of testimonies around the planet that God does still raise people up from the dead. Of course it happens in other countries more than America. Which brings up a good question:
    - **Why Does God do More Miracles in Other Countries?** – I call it the 'Mission Field Factor'. Why can we go on a mission trip and see all sorts of supernatural stuff but then come home and nothing? I think it has to do with anointing and the purpose of God. In other words, many times God is anointing a trip, a scenario on the field, a location, and we are entering into that anointing and His power is present for miracles. Another factor is that other nations are desperate and if God doesn't move they have no other option. We, here in America, are so spoiled, so catered to, given so much help, have so many options, there are other ways to get our needs ministered to. A broken leg in America can easily be repaired. A broken leg in the Amazon forest is a big deal, especially infection. Blindness or deafness in America has a thousand helps. In other countries it makes you beggar and made lead to your death. Of course God needs to intervene in those situations. Just because a miracle would be more convenient for us, doesn't mean it's necessary.
- **He gave her his hand and raised her up** – I would imagine being raised from the dead is a bit disorienting. This lady was resurrected and healed but still need help to get back on our feet.
  - **Helping New Christians in New Identity** – A powerful application to this is regarding how new Christians need some help to get into their identity of

walking in their new life. They have been raised to life. It's disorienting. We need to come alongside them and disciple them. Getting 'saved' is just the beginning.

- **Calling back in the saints/widows, Peter presents her alive** – this was a shocking time for everyone involved in that house. Can you imagine?
- **It became known all over the city and many believed in the Lord** – it has a dramatic evangelistic effect upon the town.
- **Peter stayed to do ministry there for awhile** – this simply means that he is seeing opportunity and wants to continue to carry out the assignment from the Lord in that area.
- **He stayed with Simon the Tanner**<sup>14</sup> – who is this guy and why does the Bible mention this? The only interesting part is that there was some questions about 'uncleanness' with tanners who worked with dead bodies all the time, even though they were dead animals. It shows that Peter's time with Christ really opened up his ability to be around people whom he never would have before.

### Conclusion

- **Praying for Radical Healing**

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<sup>14</sup> some degree of uncleanness was reckoned to attach to a tanner's work, because it involved regular contact with the skins of dead animals."  
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