

ACTS 9:32-43

As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda.³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years.³⁴ "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up.³⁵ All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.³⁷ About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.³⁸ Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive.⁴² This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

⁴³ Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have any of you ever experienced something in the spiritual or natural realm that you would consider to be a miracle? If so, share with the group.

What do you think was the purpose of miracles in the early church?

Read Acts 9:32-35. Describe this first miracle. Who was healed? What was the infirmity? Where did this happen? How did this happen? What was the result?

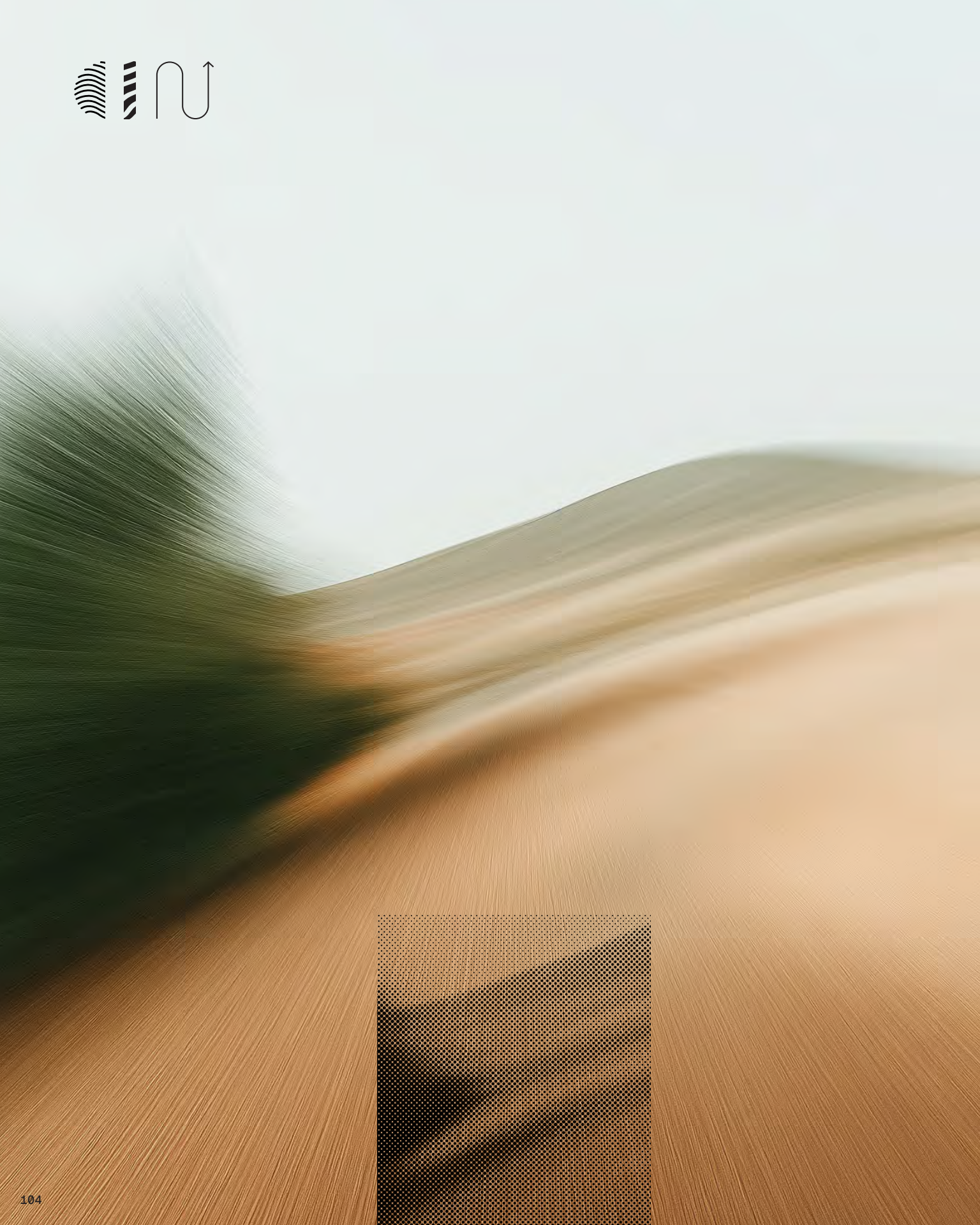
Read Acts 9:36-43. Describe this second miracle. Who was healed? What was the infirmity? Where did this happen? How did this happen? What was the result?

By what means were these two people healed? Do you believe God still heals people today? Why?

When it comes to miracles and healing, how should we pray today? Is there anyone we can pray for right now?

DAILY READINGS

- 1. 2 KINGS 4:8-37
- 2. PSALM 30:1-12
- 3. JOHN 11:1-44
- 4. MARK 2:1-17
- 5. MARK 5:35-43
- 6. JAMES 5:13-18
- 7. ACTS 9:32-43





ACTS 10

A GOSPEL FOR ALL PEOPLES: EXPANSION TO GENTILES

Acts chapter 10 holds a significant position in the story of salvation, particularly for people of non-Jewish descent. It is the story of Cornelius, a Roman centurion in need of a savior, and Peter, a disciple in need of God's redemptive vision for all people.

Though not Jewish, Cornelius was a devout man who feared God, gave generously to those in need, and prayed regularly (Acts 10:2). He was pious and well thought of among the Jews (Acts 10:22). In response to his prayers, God sent an angel instructing Cornelius to call for Peter.

In God's sovereign timing, Peter received a vision of a sheet filled with unclean animals, accompanied by God's command: "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean" (Acts 10:15). As Peter was wondering about the meaning of this vision, messengers arrived inviting him to Cornelius' home.

Upon arriving, Peter declared to all within the house that Jesus is Lord of all and that "everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name" (Acts 10:43). As he was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and all who heard the message of salvation. The Jewish believers who came with Peter "were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues (other languages) and praising God..." (Acts 10:45-46). This event was groundbreaking—it proved that Gentiles could receive the Holy Spirit.

Corneilius' conversion confirmed an important truth for Jewish believers—and the world—that God's offer of salvation through Jesus is for all people. For Peter and the early Jewish believers who had long seen themselves as God's chosen people, this required a radical transformation of thought. They had grown up believing that Gentiles were outsiders. Yet now, through Christ, God was creating a larger family.

The Apostle Paul would continue to emphasize this truth to the early church. Ephesians 2:14 states, "For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility." Galatians 3:28 declares that in Christ, "there is neither Jew nor Gentile." Through the Spirit, God was fulfilling His promise to bless all nations through Abraham (Genesis 12:3), forming one unified people in Christ, breaking down ethnic and religious barriers.

The story of Cornelius and Peter is one of conversion and expanded vision. Jesus had commanded His followers in Matthew 28 to "go and make disciples of all nations," and Acts 10 marks a pivotal moment in the fulfillment of that mission. This encounter confirmed that the message of salvation through Jesus is for everyone, regardless of background, culture, or tradition. What happened in Cornelius' home was more than a personal conversion—it was a breakthrough that reshaped the early church's understanding of who could belong in God's family.



