



WEEKLY STUDY

The Book of Acts - Week Six

Are you wondering if healing is even possible? Can new life come to dead places? Our passage in Acts 9 this week reminds us that God can show up in surprising ways and at surprising times. May you remain open to the invitation to “Get up” from your current situation and live a life of freedom and purpose.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for someone who is in need of a miraculous healing. Pray that they might have the overwhelming sense to “Get up!” and trust in God for an undeniable intervention.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: ACTS 9.32-35 (NIV)

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.

- The miraculous healing of Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years, was the occasion for many to come to faith in Christ. Eight years! Has something had you down for a long

time? Can you relate to Aeneas? What happens to a person's psyche after 8 years of disability? Does one continue to hope to walk? Share an example of a seemingly impossible infirmity. What would it look like if God intervened?

- **Prayer Prompt: Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him. (Psalm 128.1)**
- *God, open my eyes, heart, and mind to the possibility of your miraculous intervention. I lift up my infirmity to you. I long to pick up my mat and live for you. Amen.*

TUESDAY: ACTS 9.36-42 (NIV)

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.*

- This story reminds us of the time that Jesus showed up, seemingly too late, after Lazarus had died. The movement of the church had been going on long enough for Tabitha to be considered a disciple. Tabitha (Dorcas) was known as one who always helped the poor. Her reputation was "good". Joppa is also the town where Jonah set sail and Peter received a vision that led to the expansion of the Gospel to the Gentiles. This city seems like a place on the edge—a launching ground for ministry—a place from where many others will come to know about God's grace. Are there any parts of your own story that might serve as a "Joppa" for someone else? How has God used your story to encourage the faith of others?
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- **Prayer Prompt:** Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” (Isaiah 6.8)

- *God, will you surprise me today with your ability to intervene in seemingly impossible situations. I pause now, and look to you. Call me to step out of death and into life. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 12.8-11 (NIV)

To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

- Peter clearly had a gift to bring healing. He was used by God to speak words of resurrection and new life. Imagine the faith it took to ask the widows to leave the room so he could speak the words to Tabitha, “Get up!” What God-given gifts do you possess? What holds you back from displaying those gifts?

- **Prayer Prompt:** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4.10-11)
- *God Almighty, every good gift comes from you. Give me boldness to offer to the world the gifts you have given to me. Amen.*

THURSDAY: MATTHEW 16.19 (NIV)

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

- Peter was given the keys to the kingdom which unlocks the door for many who were outside. Peter increasingly saw how his purpose was to move beyond the world he had known and share the healing power of Jesus Christ with the whole world. Jesus gave him the keys to the kingdom of heaven—a treasure we might be tempted to tuck away as something to be enjoyed on special occasions. As one who had been repeatedly humbled by Jesus himself, Peter knew that he must share this gift. As a part of the church of Jesus Christ, you too have been given the keys to unlock the Kingdom of God for someone else. What opportunities might you have to reveal the Kingdom of God to someone this week?

- **Prayer Prompt: But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6.33-34)**
- *God, I want to seek you over everything else. I'm looking for signs of your Kingdom coming today. Amen.*

FRIDAY: MARK 5.40-42 (NIV)

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around

- For many of us it is easier to wrap our minds around Jesus' ability to raise someone from the dead than an average guy like Peter (or ourselves). In our study of Acts we are reminded that the power to proclaim life over death is poured into the church. Where have you seen signs of resurrection this week?

- **Prayer Prompt: I keep my eyes always on the LORD.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

⁹ **Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,**

¹⁰ **because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay. (Psalm 16.8-10)**

- *God, you have resurrected me. You have brought me up out of the pit and restored my life. May I live today for you. Amen.*

SATURDAY: LEVITICUS 39.39-41 (NIV)

“If an animal that you are allowed to eat dies, anyone who touches its carcass will be unclean till evening. ⁴⁰ Anyone who eats some of its carcass must wash their clothes, and they will be unclean till evening. Anyone who picks up the carcass must wash their clothes, and they will be unclean till evening.

⁴¹ *“Every creature that moves along the ground is to be regarded as unclean; it is not to be eaten.*

- The final verse in the Acts 9 passage tells us that “Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.” It seems like a throw-away detail, but a tanner would have a hard time keeping the law according to Leviticus. A tanner's house could be seen as unclean yet Peter chose that place to carry on the next phase of his ministry. What might this detail say about the places you carry out your ministry? What does your ministry look like? Is God calling you to something?

- **Prayer Prompt: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.m (1 Peter 2.9)**
- *Lord God, reveal your purpose for me today. Empower me with your Spirit and send me into the places that need to hear about Jesus. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Angela shared a story about two church members who have recently felt called out of their comfort zones in order to share the presence of Christ with others.

1. What particular gifts do you see in yourself and one another that God might be preparing you to use for His glory?
2. What opportunities do you have in your day to day life to share about Jesus?

3. Pray together for vision to see where God is calling you and for a fresh experience of the Holy Spirit.