



Decade of Availability Ordinary People Extraordinary Power

Aeneas and Dorcas are typical members of the early Church. They were Jews, believers in Yeshua/Jesus the Messiah, saints and disciples.

Introduction: Peter's ministry in this passage parallels that of Jesus healing the paralytic in *Luke 5:17-26* and raising the widow of Nain in *Luke 7:11-17*. It is now about eight years since the Day of Pentecost in *Acts 2*. Luke records these two miracles in preparation for the Gospel going to the Gentiles in *Acts 10*.

A. The Healing of Aeneas *Acts 9:32-35* The helpless healed

1. **Peter's journey:** The Gospel continues to go beyond Jerusalem. In *Acts 10* it is Peter that sees a vision that salvation will be opened to the Gentiles. Paul would be 'the' missionary to the Gentiles but Peter's position and authority in the Church was used by God to initiate the opening.
2. **The saints and disciples:** *Saint's* are the 'called' and the children of God; *Disciples* are followers, students, learners.
3. **Eight years:** *v. 33* He had been bedridden for eight years—going back to the time of the Day of Pentecost.
4. **The declared word:** *v. 34* Literally—the “Messiah heals you” — it was the Lord not Peter who did the healing.
5. **Arise:** The same kind of command as to the paralytic of *Luke 7* — significant as taking 'action' is often a part of healing.
6. **All believed:** All who saw the healing. It was not that they just believed for 'salvation' but they (the Church) turned to the Lord for healing, salvation and life.

B. The Raising of Dorcas *Acts 9:36-43* The dead given life

1. **Tabitha-Dorcas:** Both names mean gazelle or grace.
2. **Those days:** *v. 37* The days that Peter was at Lydda. This was a sudden sickness and Dorcas died in a few days.
3. **Expected miracle?** *V. 39* Did the disciples at Joppa expect a miracle? Did Peter expect a miracle when he immediately came? What about all the other sick people in Lydda and Joppa—why was only these two healed?

Led by the Spirit: The best answer to all of these questions is that the Holy Spirit is in the process of leading the Church into all the world and teaching the saints what it means to 'walk in the Spirit' and be led by the Spirit.

4. **Prayer:** *v. 40* Like Jesus and the healing of Jairus's daughter (*Luke 8:49-56*), Peter sends everyone out of the room. He then 'kneels down' to pray. We do not know what He prayed. I think he was asking the Spirit for direction...when he got it (that God was going to raise her from the dead), he simply spoke it out.

Acts 9:32-43 (NKJV)

Aeneas Healed

32 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. **33** There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. **34** And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” Then he arose immediately. **35** So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Dorcas Restored to Life

36 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. **37** But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. **38** And 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. **39** Then 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. **40** 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. **41** Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. **42** And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. **43** So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.

