

Study Guide for Oct. 31st, '04. Acts 9:32-43 Miracles and Faith.

Introduction: Have you ever witnessed a miracle? How do you think your faith would be affected if you saw a miracle? Why do you think God sometimes does miracles?

The focus returns to Peter as he performs two miracles which mark him as an apostle (see II Cor. 12:12). Lydda and Joppa were northwest of Jerusalem on the coastal plain. Peter is moving into Gentile country and even stays with a tanner (unclean by Jewish law).

I. A Paralyzed Man – Up and Walking. (Acts 9:32-35)

A. Jesus' Power:

- 1) How long had Aeneas been paralyzed?
- 2) How does Peter address Aeneas? Why is this important?
- 3) Why do you think Luke adds the statement, "Immediately Aeneas got up?"

B. Jesus' Example: Compare this miracle with the one recorded in Luke 5:17-26.

C. Turning to Jesus: What was the effect of the miracle on those who saw Aeneas?

D. As you reflect on this story, what do you think we should learn from it?

II. A Dead Woman – Alive and Serving. (Acts 9:36-42)

A. Jesus' Power:

- 1) Describe the actions and character of Tabitha. (What makes a genuine disciple?)
- 2) Why did Peter send the people out of the room and pray on his knees?
- 3) What is added with, "He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet?"

B. Jesus' Example: Compare this miracle with the one recorded in Luke 8:49-56.

C. Turning to Jesus: What was the effect of the miracle on those who saw Tabitha?

D. As you reflect on this story, what do you think we should learn from it?

III. Perspectives on Healing and Miracles.

Consider the following references (Is. 53:4-5, Matt. 8:16-17, Js. 4:2, Rom. 8:18,23, II Cor. 4:16, Philip. 2:27, I Tim. 5:23, II Tim. 4:20, Js. 1:2-4, and I Thess. 5:18). Should we pray for healing? How should we pray? What should we expect?

