

“Signs of Life”

Acts 9:32-43

August 31, 2025

Acts 9:31

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Acts 9:32-43

Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, “Please come to us without delay.” 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. But Peter put them all outside, 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. And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

The kingdom of God advances through stories of new life in Jesus.

Luke 17:20-21

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

Acts 9:35

And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Acts 9:42

And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

“Recovery from paralysis and resuscitation from death were both visible signs of that new life into which by the power of the resurrection we sinners are raised.” - John Stott

Luke 5:24

“But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.”

Mark 5:37-42

And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.

Acts 9:43

And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 4:16

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

The kingdom of heaven comes closer with every story of new life in Jesus.

Life Group Discussion Questions:

- 1) What did God say to you through the Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
- 2) What changes when we view the growth of the kingdom of God in terms of personal stories? What are other ways to measure kingdom growth?
- 3) What about Peter’s ministry in this passage strikes you as interesting or encouraging?
- 4) Have you ever witnessed something you would consider a miracle? How did it impact your life and your faith?

- 5) How should we understand the purpose of miracles in the kingdom of God? What makes the gospel the greatest miracle?
- 6) Where do you find yourself in your new life with Jesus? What would it look like to be renewed right now?
- 7) How can we as a church prioritize stories of new life in Jesus? What does this mean practically?
- 8) Personally, what might be the next step to take in your life with Jesus to see others know Him? How can we as a group encourage you to take it?