

Acts # 50 “Peter Presents His Business Card” Acts 9:32-43

We now transition from Saul’s amazing salvation experience which led to his amazing transformation on to Peter’s preparation for overseeing the new churches and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles which increases the scope of the body of Christ, manifold.

The underlying theme of Acts is not the work of the apostles but the plan of God unfolding as God the Holy Spirit constantly adds new members to the church; first in Jerusalem, then in Judea, then Samaria and finally, to the ends of the earth as promised by Jesus, Himself in Acts 1:8.

The Holy Spirit is obviously using human agents to accomplish this task as is the case throughout human history because the sovereignty, omniscience and foreknowledge of God has always known of man’s free-will and therefore, his responsibility.

So, when we present the Gospel, we can share our personal testimony of how it relates to the truth of the Gospel but ultimately, it’s God the Holy Spirit behind the scenes making it understandable to the positive unbeliever and therefore, receiving the credit for success.

This should be relaxing to the extent that it tells us that our responsibility is providing accurate biblical truth related to the Gospel and whether or not someone believes it is between them and the Holy Spirit.

It’s never our talent or ability to sell a product, it’s the power of God from start to finish!

In Christianity, we do not have a religion but a relationship and the first designation of this was the word *saint* which means to be set apart unto God in union with Jesus Christ.

Peter is following Philip the evangelist who did the witnessing and so, Peter provides the vital follow-up.

Peter is obviously moved by the Holy Spirit to perform this miracle but why a miracle?

To establish Peter’s credentials as an apostle and call attention to him so those who see what he does will want to hear his message.

And dedicated to those who say the Bible is a book written by men for men which puts women down; a little more is said about Dorcas than Aeneas who’s just one of the Lord’s people, the saints, a believer in Jesus Christ but Dorcas has a significant ministry among the believers and wouldn’t you know it, it’s recorded for us.

Dorcas is a disciple, indicating that she’s really pursuing her spiritual growth and as a result, she’s ministering to the people in the area, helping those who in need and so, people are depending on her.

Peter’s job, like that of the pastor-teacher is primarily follow-up but there’s always evangelistic opportunities around follow-up.

It just so happened that under Jewish law, no one lodged with a tanner because this was indirect contact with dead animals and the rabbis had passed a law that tanners were unclean, so they developed a system of ostracism for them.

This magnificently demonstrates that Peter is really becoming oriented to the principle of grace.

There were specific signs that were the credentials of an apostle; business cards for the apostles, so they could be easily identified.

Signs, wonders and miracles were prophesied in the Old Testament of what the Messiah would do; He’d be born of a virgin in Bethlehem, perform many miracles, like give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf,

walking ability to the lame, life to the dead and then He'd be crucified, raised from the dead 3 days later and ascend to Heaven 40 days after that.

Messiah had to fulfill all that to the tee to make all who witnessed Him assured that God sent Him.

This is exactly what the Messiah would look like so that Jesus Christ's authenticity would be undeniable.

The healing of Aeneas and restoring life to Tabitha (Dorcas) were done for a purpose; these are not random miracles.

Miracles in the Bible are not random; Jesus never performed indiscriminate miracles; there's always great significance to all of them.

They were accomplished to establish credentials as business cards, not to remove suffering.

God has a right time, manner and place for everything, so Aeneas was not healed during Jesus' ministry because his purpose was to remain bed-ridden for 8 years until Peter was called as agent in his healing.

Grace is God's certainly strength which expresses the love of God but grace is also the uncompromising policy of the justice of God.

Our job as believers in Jesus Christ is to determine the purpose of our lives and our magnificent relationship with the God of righteousness and justice.

The penalty of sin is removed by Jesus Christ's full payment for the penalty of sin by being crushed on our behalf!