



Series: Power From On High.

Title: The Life God Blesses, Part 2

Lesson: 59

Text: Acts 9:36-43

Date: October 22, 2023

Six qualities of effective personal ministry:

Acts 9:32–35 Now as Peter was traveling through all those regions, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. 33 There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed. 34 Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed.” Immediately he got up. 35 And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

1. A life marked by personal involvement

2. A life marked by humility

Acts 9:36-43 Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. 37 And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, "Do not delay in coming to us." 39 So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.

40 But Peter sent 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 And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. 42 It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 And Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon.

3. A life marked by _____

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.

"Tabitha" / "Dorcus"-

"disciple" -

"abounding"

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Colossians 1:9–10 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Proverbs 31:20 She extends her hand to the poor, And she stretches out her hands to the needy.

37 And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room.

38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, “Do not delay in coming to us.”

The geography is important.

*37 And it happened **at that time** that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room.*

39 So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.

What we see as inconvenient interruptions are most likely _____ appointments.

We should use our God-given _____ to serve the church.

“tunics” - under clothes

“garments” - outer clothes

God _____ our humble, sacrificial service.

**4. A life marked by total _____
on God**

40 But Peter sent 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.

"sent" [ekbállō] -

_____ **reveals that
we believe we don't need God and that we can do it on
our own.**

James 4:2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because **you do not ask.**

"prayed"

41 And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

How are we to understand miracles?

1. Man is _____ of saving himself from the curse of sin.

2. Man's only hope from the curse of sin is the _____ of Christ through the gospel.

Believers will live _____ they die.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–17 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ ***will rise*** first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

5. A life marked by _____

42 It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

6. A life marked by freedom from _____.

43 And Peter stayed ***many days*** in Joppa with a tanner named Simon.

Am I involved?

Am I seeking self-glory?

Am I a first responder?

Am I praying?

Am I having an impact?

Am I prejudice?

Discussion Guide

1. What does it mean and what would it look like for us to be first responders to those in need?
2. We believe in formal mission planning, but what does it mean that Peter was in the flow of God's will? What can we learn about His will that Peter was in Lydda?
3. What talent do you possess that you could use to minister to other members of EastPointe? How have you been blessed by others?
4. How is your prayer life? Discuss among your group how you can encourage one another to make prayer a greater emphasis?
5. Of the six virtues that make believers effective in ministry, which one(s) are you succeeding in and which one(s) do you want to improve on?



ANSWERS: responsiveness, divine, talents, remembers, dependence, Prayerlessness, incapable, power, after, impact, prejudice