

With Sister Paulette Morrison
on December 12, 2021

DISCOVERING THE POWER OF THE WORD

A Reading and Listening Session

Reflection on ACTS 9 | PART II



Introduction

Our Sunday evening session on December 12, 2021, focused on selected verses from Acts 9 | Part II. We explored the transformative power of faith through the stories of Saul's conversion, Peter's miracles, and the impact these events had on the early church.

The Transformation of Saul (Acts 9:26-29)

Saul, once a persecutor of Christians, underwent a radical transformation after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Upon arriving in Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples, but they were wary of him, remembering his past. It was Barnabas who stepped forward, vouching for Saul and sharing his story of conversion. Saul then began to preach boldly in the name of Jesus, debating with the Hellenistic Jews.

Peter's Miracles: Healing Aeneas & Raising Tabitha (Acts 9:32-37, 39-41)

Peter traveled through the region, ministering to believers. In Lydda, he encountered Aeneas, a paralyzed man who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter declared, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise and make your bed." Immediately, Aeneas was healed.

In Joppa, a disciple named Tabitha (also known as Dorcas), known for her good works and acts of charity, became ill and died. After Peter arrived, he knelt and prayed, then turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, arise." She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He presented her alive to the believers and the widows.

Key Insights from Our Readers & Listeners

Evang. Mullings

- Saul blinded (9:9)
- Paul spoke boldly (9:29)
- Tabitha restored to life (9:40)

Evang. Mullings highlighted pivotal moments: Saul's initial blindness as a consequence of his encounter with the divine, symbolizing his spiritual blindness; Paul's subsequent bold proclamation of the Gospel, signifying his transformed faith; and the miraculous raising of Tabitha, demonstrating God's power over death and the tangible impact of faith in action.

Deaconess Morrison-Ellis

- Receiving the sight and Holy Spirit (9:17)
- Arise and make thy bed (9:34)

Deaconess Morrison-Ellis focused on the themes of spiritual awakening and physical healing. Ananias laying hands on Saul leading to him receiving both his sight and the Holy Spirit shows the complete transformation. Peter's command to Aeneas to "arise and make thy bed" emphasizes the immediate and practical nature of divine healing, showcasing the restoration of both physical well-being and independence.

Sister Paulette

- Arise, Chosen one (9:6, 15)
- In the upper chamber (9:39-41)

Sister Paulette drew attention to the call to action and the power of communal faith. The repeated call to "arise," both to Saul and to Tabitha, reinforces the idea of being awakened to one's purpose. Gathering in the upper room highlights the importance of community and prayer in experiencing God's miracles and receiving support during times of grief and loss.

Conclusion

The stories from Acts 9 remind us of the transformative power of faith, the importance of community, and the miracles that can occur when we are open to God's will. The insights shared by our readers and listeners further enriched our understanding of these powerful narratives, encouraging us to live out our faith with boldness and compassion.