

The Book of Acts Study Notes

CHAPTER 9 Part 3 – Verses 31-43

Rest in the Midst of Persecution (vs. 31)

- ❖ God can give you peace in the midst of the storms
 - Rest: eirēnē: State of national tranquility; peace between individuals; security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous) Thayer's Greek Definitions
- ❖ Note the components to the rest of these churches
 - Not an isolated condition (all Judea, Galilee and Samaria)
 - They were edified – built up Eph. 4:16, 29
 - They walked in the fear of the Lord – Psalm 111:10; Psalm 34:7-9
 - They walked in the comfort of the Holy Ghost – John 6:63
 - They were growing and at rest while growing – 2 Pet. 3:18; Acts 2:47

The Power of God Operating Through Peter

Aeneas Is Healed

- ❖ Peter emphasizes the name of Jesus who is the Healer
- ❖ Note that Aeneas is told to make his bed and not carry it since he is already at home.
 - ➔ **When God is not always calling us away from home but to make home better.**

Dorcas Restored to Life

- ❖ Called “a certain disciple” implying she stood out
- ❖ She was full of good works and almsdeeds (charitable) – and **SHE DID THEM**
 - Some are full of themselves, full of good thoughts, etc. but she carried them out to help others
- ❖ Even those that love the Lord and do good face sickness and death – vs. 37
- ❖ They made plans in faith
 - Washed her body but also went to get Peter (usually with hot water)
 - When they heard Peter was not too far away, they sent for him
 - Vs. 39: Peter encounters an atmosphere of deep grief
 - Widows weeping holding the proofs of her ministry to them
 - What does the scripture tell us is available when our hearts are heavy? Isa. 61:3
 - Vs. 40: Peter has to shift the atmosphere
 - Puts them all out – when things are difficult or you lack direction, you may need to thin the crowd so you can hear from the Lord – Mat. 26:36-46; Luke 5:15-16; Mat. 6:6; Mar. 5:39-43
 - ➔ **WHO ARE YOU GIVING ACCESS TO THAT IS PREVENTING YOU FROM BREAKTHROUGH?**
 - He prays then speaks to the dead woman
 - His speaking by faith brought back vision as a sign she was alive
- Vs. 41: We must not only speak but also reach
- Vs. 41: We have a responsibility to build up the Body when Jesus manifests His Power through us – Mat. 10:5-8
- Vs. 42-43: The fruit of Dorcas's resuscitation: many come to faith – John 11:45

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CHAPTER 10 Part 1

The Vision of Cornelius

- ❖ Caesarea was the headquarters of Roman governor of Judea
- ❖ Cornelius: Roman centurion of the Italian band (regiment)
 - They were considered most loyal of Roman troops
 - Loyal to Roman government but also devout and feared God
 - Devout: eusebēs: pious and dutiful; (same used of Ananias in Acts 22:12)
 - Respected by the Jews – Acts 10:22
 - Feared God with all his house – instructed his family to reverence God
 - Gave much alms to the people – charitable deeds – James 1:27; Psa. 41:1
 - Prayed to God always – communicated with God – Luke 18:1; Psa. 119:2; Pro. 2:2-5
- ❖ Vs. 3: His vision was not the result of spiritual laziness but of spending time in prayer and fasting – Acts 10:30
 - At the 9th hour which was a customary hour of prayer for Jews (3pm)
 - He saw clearly in the vision
- ❖ Vs. 4: Prayers and Alms as a memorial
 - Memorial: though he was not Jewish and did not offer sacrifices accordingly, God was pleased with his prayers and alms – compare Isa. 1:11-15 with 1 Sam. 15:22 and Rom. 12:1
- ❖ Vs. 5-8: The Instructions and The Obedience
 - Send for Peter
 - Your answer is with Peter
 - ➔ **Often, our answers from God are connected to our obedience and interaction with others.**
 - Who has God sent to help you that you didn't want to hear from?**
 - Ask Naaman in 2 Kings 5

Questions for Thought:

- ❖ What are you allowing to interrupt your resting in God during this season?

- ❖ Do your works for God align with your words about God?

- ❖ If God wanted to perform a miracle, would He have to put you out the room to perform it or would He call you into the room to perform it?

- ❖ How willing are you to seek God to get answers to your questions?