



BETTER

**It Is More
To What
You See!**

Acts 9:32-35

Peter Was Involved

Acts 9:32–33 (NKJV)

32 Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda.

33 There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed.

Peter Was Involved

- The scene shifts from Paul back to Peter, who will again be the central figure in the narrative for the next three chapters.
- Paul has been converted and has boldly proclaimed his newfound faith both in Damascus and Jerusalem. His preaching so aggravated his opponents that first in Damascus, then in Jerusalem, they sought to kill him.

Peter Was Involved

- He has by now fled Jerusalem for his home city of Tarsus. Several years later, as recorded in chapter 13, Paul's ministry will dominate the rest of the record of Acts.
- The continued expansion of the church outside Jerusalem *(assisted by the persecution noted in Acts 8:1–2)* required movement on Peter's part.

Peter Was Involved

- The statement “Now it came to pass as Peter went through all parts of the country” shows the ceaseless nomadic character of Peter’s ministry at that time.
- This particular trip, he came down to visit the saints who lived at Lydda.
- Peter was moving, which made it easy for God to direct him.

Peter Was Involved

- Those actively involved in ministry are usually the ones to whom God grants the most ministry opportunities.
- God has always seemed to entrust His richest ministries to His busiest saints.

John 4:34 (NKJV)

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

Peter Was Involved

John 9:4 (NKJV)

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

Peter Was Involved

- Just being wholeheartedly active in ministry places one in strategic opportunities.
- We all should be busy for the Lord if we desire for Him to give us ministry opportunities.

Peter Was Available

- When Peter arrived in Lydda, he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed.
- Luke does not say whether Aeneas was paralyzed due to a stroke, an illness such as polio, or an injury.
- In any case, his paralysis was beyond the abilities of the limited medical knowledge of that day.

Peter Was Available

- He had already been bedridden eight years, and faced that prospect for the rest of his life.
- Peter was not intimidated by how long the man had been bedridden. He trusted God to heal the man!

Peter Was Available

2 Timothy 1:6–7 (NKJV)

6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Peter Was Available

- Peter's availability because he was involved gave him an open door for ministry.
- If you are working in the kingdom or church this says you are available to God!

Peter Was Available

- The miracle, besides its obvious impact in the life of Aeneas, was to be used by God to bring large numbers of people in the surrounding region to faith in Jesus Christ.
- God will use us to touch one person to win many!

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

Acts 9:34–35 (NKJV)

34 And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” Then he arose immediately.

35 So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

- Those who would minister effectively for Jesus Christ must seek to exalt Him, not promote themselves.
- Peter understood his role perfectly.
- Coming to Aeneas, Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ (not Peter) heals you”.

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

- Peter's selfless humility stands in sharp contrast to the many in the ministry today who seek their own fame (and fortune), instead of seeking to exalt the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Peter took our Lord's words, spoken by Jesus to heart:

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

John 15:4–5 (NKJV)

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

- In his first epistle, he echoed those words:

1 Peter 4:11 (NKJV)

If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

- We should not be self seeking when we are children of God. All that we do should be to exalt our Savior Jesus Christ.

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

- Then Peter commanding Aeneas to respond to the healing said, arise, and make your bed.

Aeneas immediately arose, with no paralysis.

- Since Aeneas's cure was complete, and he would no longer be confined to it, Peter commanded him to make his bed.

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

- The healings performed by Jesus Christ and the apostles were instantaneous and total.
- The New Testament knows nothing of “progressive healings,” where someone has been “healed,” and is now gradually getting better.

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

- Peter's healing of Aeneas had widespread and dramatic repercussions. All who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.
- All may shock the reader, but such was the power and grace of God through Peter in that area that all believed.

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

- Not only in Aeneas's home city of Lydda, but also in the surrounding plain of Sharon, the people came to faith in the Lord.
- Peter's willingness to be involved with people and his desire to glorify his Lord made him a useful instrument by which the Lord could gather a rich harvest for His kingdom.

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

- The phrase turned to the Lord employs the verb epistrephō, “to turn around.”

2 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV)

Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Peter Was Christ-Exalting

- This action describes salvation as more than a change of mind; indeed it is a change of life direction.
- Conversion is an about-face from one belief and behavior to a completely opposite commitment.
- When we remain involved, available, and Christ-Exalting, we will see more than normal.