

“Here and There”
Pastor Wally Contreras
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“Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, “Please come to us without delay.” So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside, 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. And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.” (Acts 9:32-43)

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“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied” (Acts 9:31)...and they all lived happily after to the end of their days. (**Sigh** - how nice for them.) When peace comes into my life, do I see it as a time to take a much needed break from fighting the good fight (1 Timothy 6:12), kick up my heels and relax, or do I it as a lull in Satan’s battle and use the time to re-inforce my spiritual defensive position (Ephesians 6:10-13)? Explain.

Pastor Wally spoke of the disciples saying that during this time of peace in the history of the church the disciples were doing whatever they felt led to do. Has the Holy Spirit been speaking into my life (leading me) to do something or to stop doing something? If so, what is it that He wants of me? If not, why not?

Peter went to Lydda to minister to the “saints”. Pastor Wally spoke of saints as those who God has declared to be holy and set apart as His (Leviticus 20:26). “And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians” (Acts 11:26). How easily do I accept the moniker Christian as opposed to referring to myself as a “disciple” or “saint” and why?

Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." Charles Spurgeon speaking on the power in the name of Jesus on June 07, 1883 said: "He that is our Redeemer was also the Creator of everything that exists: "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." And he is also the Sustainer of all things: By him all things consist." He is a Savior, and a great one; long before his birth, Isaiah wrote, "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." In that name Jesus, slumbers omnipotence. The same power that made all worlds lies hidden in that name. The power that will raise the dead, and make new heavens and a new earth, is in that name, saving this poor fallen world from all its degradation...That name of Jesus has infinite power in it; but we must not dwell on that name alone, for Peter made use of others. Next, consider the name which follows, "Christ." "The Messiah" was probably the term which Peter used in speaking to these people, and it was the title which they would most readily recognize. "The Christ" is our name for Jesus; the Sent One, the believing Hebrews called him; — the Anointed One, we delight to call him now. We see at once what wonderful power dwells in Jesus when we connect him with his mission from God. He was no amateur Savior, but he was commissioned of the Father, and he received of the Father all that was necessary for the accomplishment of the work he was sent to perform...Jesus being both sent and anointed of God, when we believe his Word, we know that he speaks as the Ambassador and Representative of God in heaven; yea, he is even more than that, for he is himself "very God of very God." When we trust his work, we know that we are trusting to a work which the Father covenanted of old to accept, and which is part of the eternal purpose of the Ever-blessed. We are not resting our souls in the hand of one who promises to save, but has no Divine credentials. He is Christ, the Anointed, according to that verse of the psalmist: "Thou lovest righteousness and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." That subject of the anointing of Christ is a very large one, and a very blessed one; think it over prayerfully and gratefully." When I speak the name of Jesus Christ, how well do I understand the power that is contained in His name and why?

Two disciples show up in Lydda and tell Peter that he needs to come with them to Joppa "without delay." Pastor Wally likened this request to a phone call in the middle of a University of Tennessee "Volunteers" football game from someone needing immediate help (proof that Pastor Wally is truly an "alien in a foreign land" - Exodus 2:22 NIV). In what way(s), if any, do I assess the need of the friend vs. the inconvenience being imposed? Explain.

Pastor Wally surmises because Scripture doesn't say that Peter when faced with the death of Tabitha flashed back to what he had seen Jesus do found in Matthew 9:23-26 and Mark 5:41. That seems like a very good practice to follow...when in doubt, do what

Jesus did (not what I think Jesus would do). What changes in my life are needed, if any, to implement such a practice?

In what way(s) does Peter's healing of Tabitha differ with what we see with television "faith healers" such as Oral Roberts, Kenneth Copeland, Rod Parsley, Benny Hinn, Kerney Thomas and Robert Tilton of today?

Pastor Wally said that because this passage of Scripture is, for the most part, appears to be kind of "ho hum" and we might blow right past it when reading Scripture, not a lot of theological discussion going on in it...just a couple of miracles. A miracle is "an event or effect contrary to the established constitution and course of things, or a deviation from the known laws of nature; a supernatural event. Miracles can be wrought only by Almighty power, as when Christ healed lepers, saying, 'I will, be thou clean, ' or calmed the tempest, 'Peace, be still.'" (Webster, 1828) Describe my response to reading of a miracle contained in the Bible?

Have I in some ways become "numb" to God's miracles? If so, how so? If not, why not?

According to one source, there are 83 miracles recorded in the Old Testament and more than 80 found in the New Testament. Here's a few to pause and reflect on this week:

Creation – Genesis 1:1–27

Enoch's translation – Genesis 5:24

The Flood – Genesis 7:17–24

Ass speaking in human voice- Numbers 22:21–35

Burning bush – Exodus 3:3

Moses' rod changed into a serpent – Exodus 4:3–4, 30

Moses' hand made leprous – Exodus 4:6–7, 30

Aaron's rod changed into a serpent – Exodus 7:8–10

First-born destroyed in Egypt – Exodus 12:29–30

Pillar of cloud and fire – Exodus 13:21–22; 14:19–20

Crossing the Red Sea – Exodus 14:21–23

Bitter waters sweetened – Exodus 15:25

Manna sent – Exodus 16:13–36

Water from the rock in Rephidim – Exodus 17:5–8
Jeroboam’s hand withered and restored – 1 Kings 13:4–6
Widow’s oil and meal supernaturally increased – 1 Kings 17:12–17
Widow’s son raised from dead – 1 Kings 17:17–23
Waters supernaturally supplied for Jehoshaphat – 2 Kings 3:16–20
Axehead caused to float – 2 Kings 6:5–7
Resurrection by touch with Elisha’s bones – 2 Kings 13:21
Sennacherib’s army destroyed by an angel – 2 Kings 19:35
Hezekiah healed – 2 Kings 20:7
Shadow returned to sundial – 2 Kings 20:11
Uzziah afflicted with leprosy – 2 Chronicles 26:16–21
Three men delivered from fiery furnace – Daniel 3:19–27
Daniel delivered from lion’s den – Daniel 6:16–23
Preservation of Jonah in the belly of fish for 3 days – Jonah 2:1–10
Water made wine in Cana – John 2:1–11
Son of nobleman healed in Cana – John 4:46–54
Leper cleansed in Capernaum – Matthew 8:1–4
Paralytic healed in Capernaum – Matthew 9:1–8
Withered hand restored in Galilee – Matthew 12:10–13
Centurion’s servant cured of palsy in Capernaum – Matthew 8:5–13
Widow’s son raised in Nain – Luke 7:11–17
Two demoniac cured in Gadara – Matthew 8:28–34
Jairus’ daughter raised from dead – Matthew 9:23
Woman with issue of blood healed – Matthew 9:20–22
Blind men cured – Matthew 9:27–31
Dumb spirit cast out in Capernaum – Matthew 9:32–33
Five thousand supernaturally fed – Matthew 14:15–21
Walking on the sea – Matthew 14:25–33
Transfiguration of Christ – Matthew 17:1–6
Tribute money supernaturally provided -Matthew 17:24–27
Deaf and dumb man healed – Mark 7:31–37
Blind man healed – Mark 8:22–26
Devil cast out of boy -Mark 9:14–29
Ten lepers cleansed – Luke 17:11–19
Jesus passed unseen through crowd in the temple – John 8:59
Man born blind healed – John 9:1–7
Lazarus raised from dead – John 11:38–44
Woman with infirmity cured – Luke 13:11–17
Man with dropsy cured – Luke 14:1–6
Two blind men cured in Jericho – Luke 18:35–43
Fig tree cursed and withered -Mark 11:12–14
Resurrection of Christ – Luke 24:6
Christ’s appearances after his resurrection
Outpouring of the Holy Spirit – Acts 2:1–14
Christ’s appearance to Paul at his conversion – Acts 9:1–5; 1 Corinthians 15:18
Lame man cured by Peter – Acts 3:6

Death of Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5:5, 10
Many sick people healed by Peter – Acts 5:15
Apostles freed from prison by angelic intervention – Acts 5:19; 12:7–11
Stephen’s great miracles – Acts 6:8
Dying Stephen’s vision of Christ – Acts 7:55–56
Philip cast out unclean spirit – Acts 8:6–13
Paul’s sight restored – Acts 9:17–18
Aeneas healed of palsy – Acts 9:34
Dorcas restored to life – Acts 9:40
Cornelius’ vision – Acts 10:3–4, 30–32
Peter’s vision – Acts 10:9–20
Peter released from prison by angelic intervention – Acts 12:7–11
Elymas blinded – Acts 13:11
Lame man cured by Paul – Acts 14:10
Damsel delivered from evil spirit – Acts 14:10
John’s vision on Patmos – Revelation 1:9; 22:21