

# THE MINISTRY OF PETER



Lesson 6 for August 11, 2018

Jesus told Peter, just before his denial, “When you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren” (Luke 22:32)

Peter fulfilled that request by travelling to different places and ministering his brothers, those in need, the skeptics and the foreigners.



The gospel was taught to the Gentiles living in Antioch too.



### 1. The ministry of Peter.

- ❑ The ministry of healing. Acts 9:32-43.
- ❑ The ministry to the Gentiles. Acts 10:1-43.
- ❑ The ministry of acceptance. Acts 10:44-11:1-18.

### 2. The ministry of the Church.

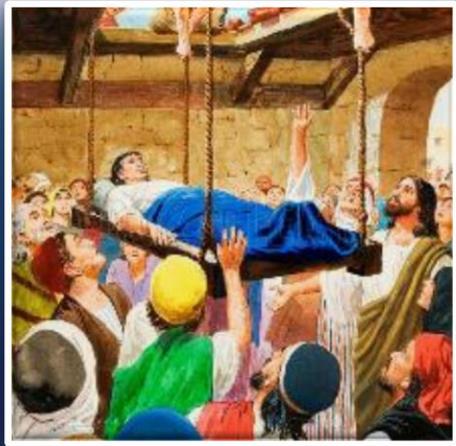
- ❑ Preaching to the Gentiles. Acts 11:19-30.
- ❑ Suffering persecution. Acts 12.

# THE MINISTRY OF HEALING



“Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive.”  
(Acts 9:41)

God used Peter to perform similar miracles to the ones Jesus did.

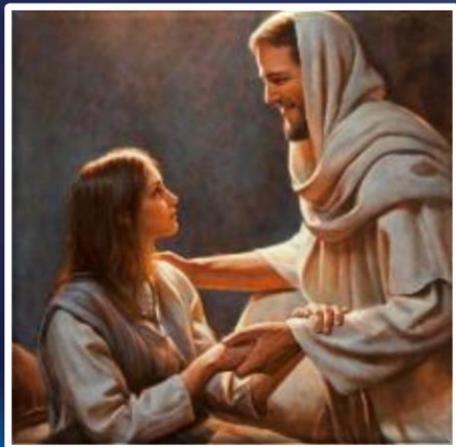
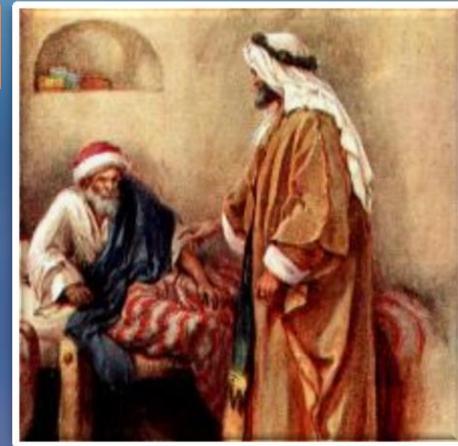


**Luke 5:17-26**

“I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

**Acts 9:32-35**

“Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.”

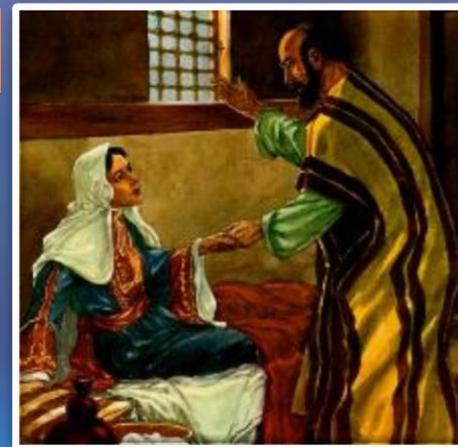


**Mark 5:35-43**

“when He had put them all outside... ‘Little girl, I say to you, arise.’”

**Acts 9:36-43**

“Peter put them all out... ‘Tabitha, arise.’”



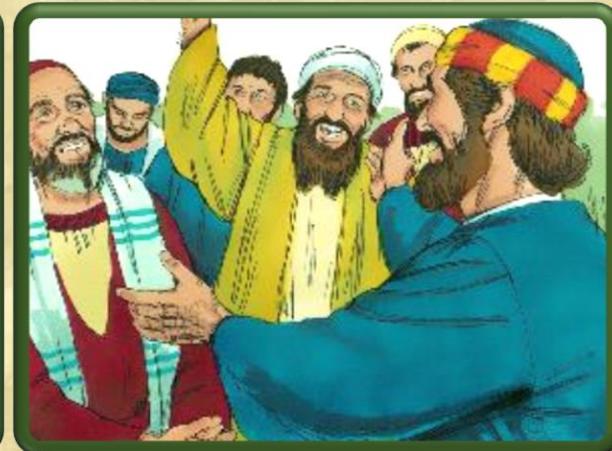
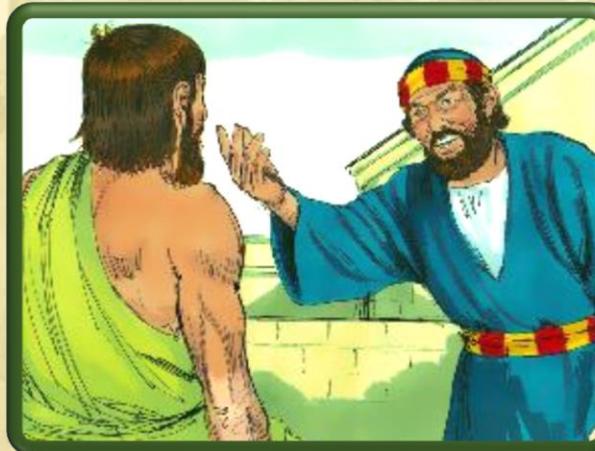
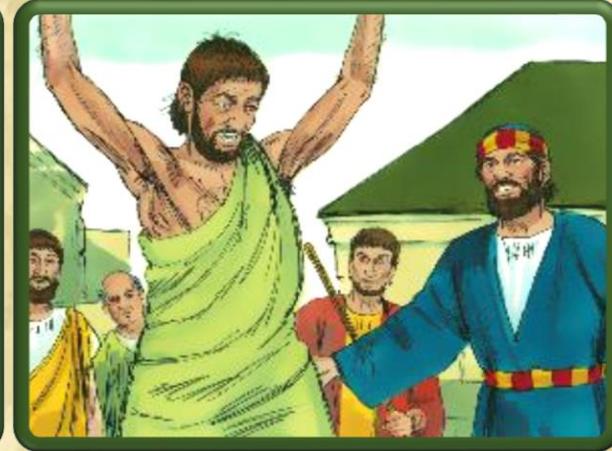
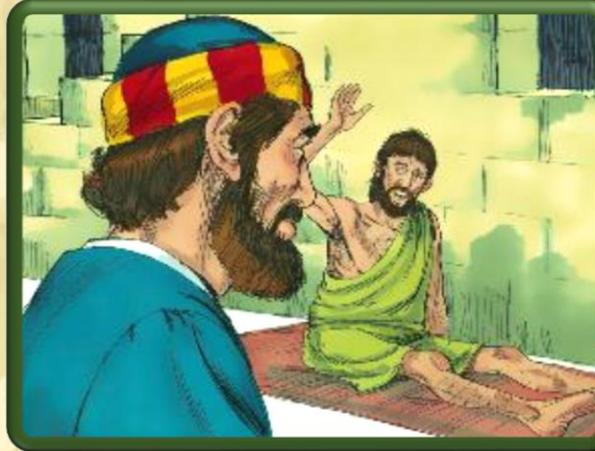
**Acts 9:32-43**



# THE HEALING MINISTRY

"Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive."  
(Acts 9:41)

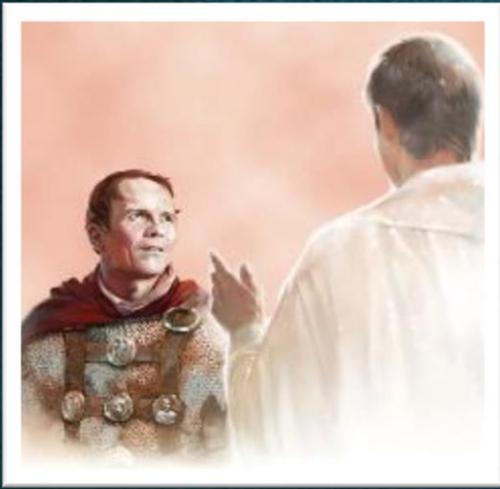
The result was the same in both cases: "they glorified God," they "turned to the Lord," "they were overcome with great amazement" and "many believed on the Lord."



When we fully allow God to use us for the gospel's cause, great things can happen.

# THE MINISTRY TO THE GENTILES

"Then Peter opened his mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.'" (Acts 10:34)



An angel told Cornelius the Centurion whom he should call and where to find him.

Peter was a devout Jew, so he didn't want to enter a Gentile's house, as that was a salvation issue for him.

Therefore, God told him in a special vision to preach to the Gentiles.

Jesus used Peter's example to teach that salvation is universal (Titus 2:11; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 2:11-19)

No one is excluded from God's grace. We must preach the Good News to everyone.



# THE MINISTRY OF ACCEPTANCE

**"When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, 'Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.'" (Acts 11:18)**

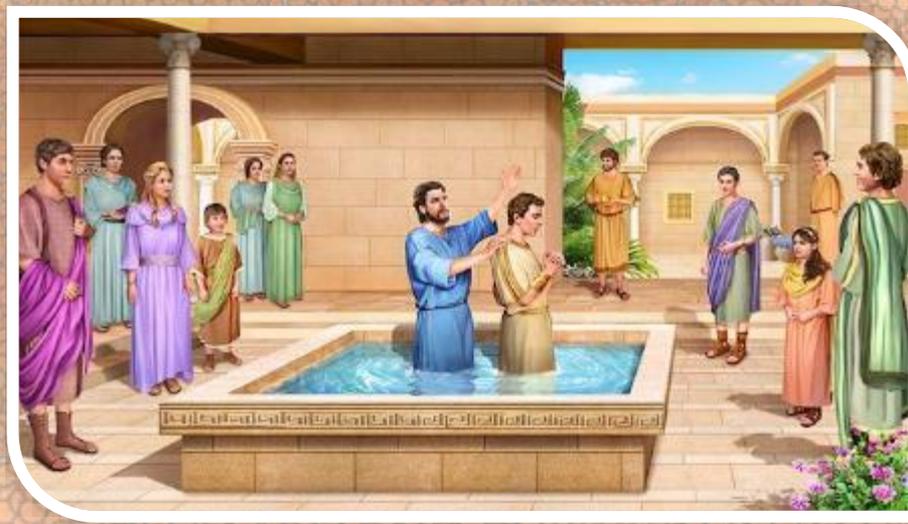


**Peter saw Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit "as upon us at the beginning." Therefore, he understood that they could be baptized and become part of the Church (no circumcision was necessary)**

**But the Church was not ready to accept them yet.**

**He argued with Peter about his behavior. However, they did not resist after listening to the whole story.**

**The door was open to the Gentiles. This would soon bring great results.**



# PREACHING TO THE GENTILES

“But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 11:20)

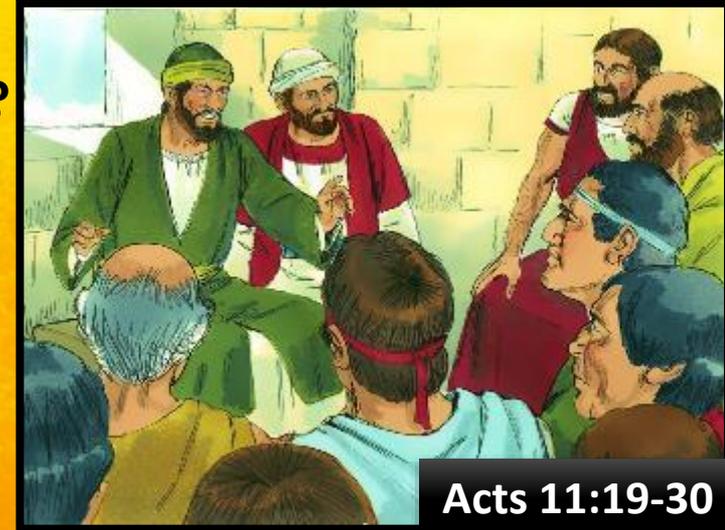


Many believers had to flee from Jerusalem because of Saul’s persecution. They preached to every Jew they met. Some of them decided to preach to the Gentiles in Antioch.

God arranged everything. Saul became an apostle, Peter began to preach to the Gentiles and the Church accepted them.

When the Church heard about the Gentiles being converted in Antioch, they sent Barnabas. Why him? Because he was “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith,” and he knew Paul and where to find him.

Together they preached Christ in Antioch for a year. The believers were known as “Christians” there for the first time.



Acts 11:19-30

# SUFFERING PERSECUTION

“Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.” (Acts 12:1-2)



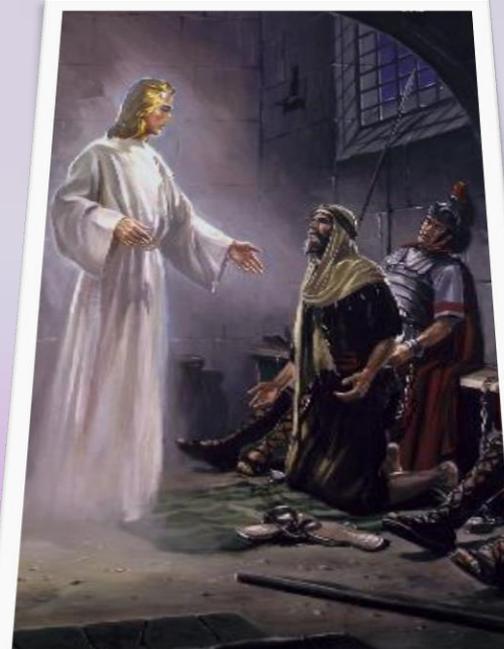
The enemy was angered by the growth of the Church, so he moved Herod to stop the Gospel advance.



The death of the first apostle and the imprisoning of Peter worried the Church.



Herod made sure Peter could not escape, because other apostles broke out of prison very easily (Acts 5:17-20)



The Church gathered to pray together, and God answered their prayers by sending an angel to free Peter.



Herod was later wounded by an angel.

**“Christ recognized no distinction of nationality or rank or creed. The scribes and Pharisees desired to make a local and a national benefit of the gifts of heaven and to exclude the rest of God’s family in the world. But Christ came to break down every wall of partition. He came to show that His gift of mercy and love is as unconfined as the air, the light, or the showers of rain that refresh the earth.**

**The life of Christ established a religion in which there is no caste, a religion by which Jew and Gentile, free and bond, are linked in a common brotherhood, equal before God. No question of policy influenced His movements. He made no difference between neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies. That which appealed to His heart was a soul thirsting for the waters of life.”**