



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Acts 8-9
- Genesis 50:20
- Proverbs 16:9

Title:

INSTANT...

- Not the Intended Effect
- Persecution to Preaching
- Peter in Joppa (PART I)

When is instant a good thing? “That’s the \$64,000 question.” And ironically, the use of that colloquialism is the perfect object lesson to explain the nuances of “instant.” I’m sure you’ve heard the phrase...“That’s the \$64,000 question.” It’s not formal or meant to be literal, but certainly typical and used often, recognizable by just about everyone in the conversation. But where did it come from? The expression originated in 1941 on the CBS quiz show, “Take It or Leave It.” A contestant could choose to take a small prize or bet everything on a bigger prize, the largest being \$64,000. If he opts for the immediate smaller payout, he’d satisfy his desire for instant gratification. But hold out, and he can win the ultimate prize. Maybe 64K does not seem so ultimate in 2023, however, that amount in 1941 equates to a much larger pile of cash today. Hold out, get the answer right, and in 2023 you’d take home nearly \$1.5 million!

I took one of my sons to dinner about twelve years ago when he was eleven years old. I slid a twenty dollar bill across the table and told him he could have it right away. His eyes were wide with excitement. Twenty bucks is a big deal for an eleven year old. But, before he could slip it out from under my fingers, which pressed it firmly against the table, I offered him this: you can take the twenty dollars now, or you can wait one year and I will give you one hundred dollars instead. For everyone listening, you know that any investment that can yield five-fold returns in twelve months is breathtaking. But, for an eleven year old, those calculations were not dominating his thoughts. What was alluring was the instant benefit of the twenty dollars. That evening, my son somehow figured it out and chose wisely; he held off for the hundred. But, more important was the lesson, especially in this instant-gratification-instant-satisfaction world in which we live. Instant or immediate gratification is simply the urge to satisfy a craving right now, without considering its long term effects or the bigger picture. Fast food; point of purchase sales; substances to change your mood; ordering out instead of cooking at home; procrastination instead of immediately doing what’s necessary; and hijacking the benefits of marriage without the commitment of marriage, like premarital sex and cohabitation, are all driven by desires for instant gratification.

The entirety of our culture has gone the way of...in an instant! Just add water; no assembly required. I want it, I want it now, and I want it easy. Do it to me or for me! It’s the microwave lifestyle. It’s instant coffee, oatmeal, yeast, rice, soup, mashed potatoes, and pudding. Remove from the freezer; remove from the package, and bake at 400 degrees for 40 minutes. Don’t let it thaw out first—place it directly from the freezer into the oven. And, get over it; it’s not the end of the world if you must preheat the oven first!

Moreover, instant gratification and instant satisfaction do not end with food-stuffs. That’s just surface tension. Below “just add water” is: instant access, instant results, instant answers, and instant messenger. It’s an Instagram world. And when there’s a problem to solve, it’s instant cures, instant relief, and instant repair.

But, when is instant a good thing? "That's the \$64,000 question." If we turn it around and see it from God's perspective, God wants instant obedience; instant action; instant transformation; and an instant change in direction, worship, attitude, mindset, beliefs, and choices... Yes, you have instant access to God, so when you look for results, answers, cures, relief, and satisfaction, the only way to be truly gratified is by instant obedience to Him, as demonstrated by your actions. God speaks and you say, "Here am I! Send me. What do you want me to do?"

PROPHETIC SEED:

"Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, **"Who are You, Lord?"** Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, **"Lord, what do You want me to do?"** Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."" Acts 9:4-6 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

"Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" But **Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.**" Acts 9:20-22 NKJV

NOT THE INTENDED EFFECT

1. Persecution Expands Outreach

A. Saul was the central figure of early church persecution...

(1) Rewind to the end of last week... (**Acts 7:57-60**) (See: [All Used Up for God](#))

(a) When Stephen was dragged out of the court and stoned, Saul was the overseeing member from the Sanhedrin.

1. "Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. **And the [false] witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.** And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep." Acts 7:57-60 NKJV

(b) As we will soon see, Saul will himself face similar challenges after his conversion; the same challenges he posed for those he persecuted before his conversion.

1. "For I will show him how many things **he must suffer for My name's sake.**" Acts 9:16 NKJV

(c) Why will Saul face persecution?

1. "And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, **if the witness is a false witness,** who has testified falsely against his brother, then **you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother;** so you shall put away the evil from among you." Deuteronomy 19:18-19 NKJV

2. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**" Galatians 6:7 NKJV

(2) Saul continues his persecution of the Church (**Acts 8:1-3**)

(a) Saul was the leader from the Sanhedrin who presided over Stephen's execution.

1. "Now **Saul was consenting to his death.** At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they **were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.** And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for **Saul, he made havoc of the church,** entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to **prison.**" Acts 8:1-3 NKJV

B. The Exploits of Philip

(1) Christ is Preached in Samaria (**Acts 8:4-8**)

(a) What did those who were scattered do? They preached the word outside of Jerusalem!

1. "Therefore **those who were scattered** went everywhere **preaching the word.** Then **Philip** went down to the city of **Samaria** and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the **miracles** which he did. For **unclean spirits**, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were **possessed**; and many who were **paralyzed** and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city." Acts 8:4-8 NKJV

2. **Saul's efforts to stop the spread of the Gospel of Christ, accelerated its advancement:** "But as for you, **you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good,** in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive." Genesis 50:20 NKJV

3. **Later, Paul would teach that very concept to the Church:** "And we know that **all things work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are the **called according to His purpose.**" Romans 8:28 NKJV

(2) A Sorcerer's Profession of Faith (**Acts 8:9-13**)

(a) The things about the kingdom of God and testimony about who Y'shua is can transform even those who think they are great without Him.

1. "But there was a certain man called **Simon**, who **previously practiced sorcery** in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, **claiming that he was someone great**, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "**This man is the great power of God.**" And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. **But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ**, both men and women were baptized. Then **Simon himself also believed**; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done." Acts 8:9-13 NKJV

(b) Treading on thin ice... "...**claiming that he was someone great**, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "**This man is the great power of God.**"

1. "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 NKJV

2. "So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and **gave an oration** to them. And **the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"** Then **immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God.** And he was **eaten by worms and died.** But the word of God grew and multiplied." Acts 12:21-24 NKJV

(3) The Sorcerer's Sin (Acts 8:14-25)

(a) Old habits die hard and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit!

1. "Now when the **apostles who were at Jerusalem heard** that Samaria had received the word of God, they **sent Peter and John** to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might **receive the Holy Spirit.** For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. **They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.** And when Simon saw that through the **laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."** But Peter said to him, **"Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!** You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for **your heart is not right** in the sight of God. **Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.** For I see that you are **poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.**" Then **Simon answered** and said, **"Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."** So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans." Acts 8:14-25 NKJV

(b) Baptism of the Holy Spirit vs. Baptism (in water) in the name of Y'shua.

1. **You are indwelled by the Spirit instantly:** "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you,** He who raised Christ from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**" Romans 8:11 NKJV
2. **Yet, you may experience the Spirit later:** "So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." **And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." John 20:21-23 NKJV
3. *"I indeed **baptize you with water** unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**"* Matthew 3:11 NKJV
4. "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be ***baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;** and **you shall **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**" Acts 2:38 NKJV
5. **"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.** And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, **because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.** For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, **"Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be**

baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days." Acts 10:44-48

6. "For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. **They had only been *baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** Then they laid hands on them, ****and they received the Holy Spirit.**" Acts 8:16-17 NKJV
7. "And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, **"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"** So they said to him, **"We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."** And he said to them, **"Into what then were you baptized?"** So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And **when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them,** and they spoke with tongues and prophesied." Acts 19:1-6 NKJV

(c) Old habits die hard! Simon's "Pay for play" offer... Why would he do such a thing?

1. **The New Nature:** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation;** old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
2. **Continued Access to the Old Nature:** "For we know that **the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.** For what I am doing, I do not understand. **For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.** If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, **it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.** For I know that in me (that is, **in my flesh**) **nothing good dwells;** for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, **it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.**" Romans 7:14-20 NKJV
3. **Two Spirits:** "For what man knows the things of a man except **the spirit of the man** which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except **the Spirit of God.** Now **we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God,** that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God." I Corinthians 2:11-12 NKJV
4. **Resurrection Power:** "and what is the exceeding greatness of **His power toward us who believe,** according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ **when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:19-20 NKJV
5. **Choosing the flesh:** "Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, **are you now being made perfect by the flesh?"** Galatians 3:3 NKJV
6. **You must choose:** "For those who **live according to the flesh** set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who **live according to the Spirit,** the things of the Spirit." Romans 8:5 NKJV
7. **The fight:** "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,**" II Corinthians 10:4-5 NKJV

(4) Christ is Preached to an Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40)

- (a) Philip moves on to his next assignment, all because believers were chased from Jerusalem.
1. "Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "**Arise and go** toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. **So he arose and went.** And behold, **a man of Ethiopia**, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. **And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." So Philip ran** to him, **and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah**, and said, "**Do you understand** what you are reading?" And he said, "**How can I, unless someone guides me?**" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. The place in the Scripture which he read was this [Isaiah 53:7-8]: "**He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.**" So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "**I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?**" Then Philip opened his mouth, and **beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.** Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. **What hinders me from being baptized?**" Then Philip said, "**If you believe with all your heart, you may.**" And he answered and said, "**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**" So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. **Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away**, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But **Philip was found at Azotus.** And passing through, **he preached** in all the cities till he came to Caesarea." Acts 8:26-40 NKJV
 2. **Y'shua:** "And the Jews marveled, saying, "**How does this Man know letters, having never studied?**" John 7:15 NKJV
 3. **Peter and John:** "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that **they were uneducated and untrained men**, they marveled. And **they realized that they had been with Jesus.**" Acts 4:13 NKJV
 4. "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; *He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment [Acts 8:33 says it this way; In His humiliation His justice was taken away], And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living [Acts 8:33 says it this way; For His life is taken from the earth.];* For the transgressions of My people He was stricken." Isaiah 53:7-8 NKJV
 5. **Y'shua suddenly appears in room:** "Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." Luke 24:36 NKJV
 6. "Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, **when the doors were shut** where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood in the midst**, and said to them, "Peace be with you."" John 20:19 NKJV

PERSECUTION TO PREACHING

2. This is what Yahweh intended!

A. The Damascus Road

(1) Saul's Conversion (**Acts 9:1-9**)

(a) Saul continues his rampage to arrest believers when he is the one who gets arrested by Y'shua!

1. "Then **Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord**, went to **the high priest** and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of **the Way**, whether men or women, he might bring them **bound to Jerusalem**. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly **a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground**, and **heard a voice** saying to him, "**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?**" And he said, "**Who are You, Lord?**" Then the Lord said, "**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.**" So he, trembling and astonished, said, "**Lord, what do You want me to do?**" Then the Lord said to him, "**Arise and go into the city**, and you will be told what you must do." And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, **hearing a voice but seeing no one**. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and **brought him into Damascus**. And he was **three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.**" Acts 9:1-9 NKJV

2. **Reference:** "Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.' " And Pharaoh said, "**Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.**"" Exodus 5:1-2 NKJV

3. "*A man's heart **plans his way**, But the Lord **directs his steps.***" Proverbs 16:9 NKJV

(2) Ananias is Commissioned (**Acts 9:10-16**)

(a) Ananias is apprehensive but willing.

1. "Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "**Ananias.**" And he said, "**Here I am, Lord.**" So the Lord said to him, "**Arise and go** to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And **in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias** coming in and putting his hand on him, so **that he might receive his sight.**" Then Ananias answered, "Lord, **I have heard** from many **about this man**, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here **he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.**" But the Lord said to him, "**Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.**"" Acts 9:10-16
2. "Do not be deceived, **God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**" Galatians 6:7 NKJV
3. **Just as Isaiah responded:** "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "**Here am I! Send me.**"" Isaiah 6:8 NKJV

4. **Just as Samuel responded:** “the Lord called Samuel. And he answered, **“Here I am!”**” I Samuel 3:4 NKJV

(3) Ananias Baptizes Saul (**Acts 9:17-19**)

(a) Saul’s eyes are opened!

1. “And **Ananias went** his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, **the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.**” **Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once;** and he **arose and was baptized.** So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.” Acts 9:17-19 NKJV

B. Post Conversion Action

(1) Saul Preaches Christ (Acts 9:20-22)

(a) From persecuting those who believed Christ was the Son of God to preaching in the synagogues that Christ is the Son of God!

1. **“Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.** Then all who heard were amazed, and said, **“Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name** in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?” But **Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews** who dwelt in Damascus, **proving that this Jesus is the Christ.**” Acts 9:20-22 NKJV

(b) Saul silenced the Jews exactly like those who came before him (Y’shua, Peter, John, and Stephen)

1. **Y’shua:** “And **no one was able to answer Him** a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.” Matthew 22:46 NKJV (See: [Mic Drop](#))
2. **Peter and John:** “And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, **they could say nothing against it.**” Acts 4:14 NKJV (See: [A Profound Challenge](#))
3. **Stephen:** “And **they were not able to resist** the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.” Acts 6:10 NKJV (See: [All Used Up for God](#))

(2) Saul Escapes Death (**Acts 9:23-25**)

(a) It’s time for Saul’s persecution to begin

1. “Now after many days were past, **the Jews plotted to kill him.** But their **plot became known to Saul.** And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.” Acts 9:23-25 NKJV
2. Paul would later pen the doctrine that explains this process: “*For **when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. {8} But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*****” Romans 5:6, 8 NKJV

(3) Saul at Jerusalem (**Acts 9:26-30**)

(a) Saul arrives in Jerusalem and it is difficult for him to link up with other disciples, as no one trusts that his conversion is real; they are actually concerned it might be a trick.

1. “And **when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe** that he was a disciple. But **Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.** And **he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road,** and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus **in the name of Jesus.** So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. **And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him.** When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and **sent him out to Tarsus.”** Acts 9:26-30 NKJV
 2. “But Paul said, “**I am a Jew from Tarsus,** in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city; and I implore you, permit me to speak to the people.”” Acts 21:39 NKJV
 3. ““I am indeed a Jew, **born in Tarsus** of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.” Acts 22:3 NKJV
 4. “So the Lord said to him, “Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called **Saul of Tarsus,** for behold, he is praying.” Acts 9:11 NKJV
- (4) The Church Prospers
- (a) There are surprising results from the scattering of the disciples into the surrounding areas of Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, as well as Saul’s conversion.
 1. “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were **edified.** And **walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,** they were **multiplied.”** Acts 9:31 NKJV

PETER IN JOPPA (PART I)

3. Peter’s Exploits

A. Setting the stage for Peter’s about-face!

- (1) Aeneas Healed (**Acts 9:32-35**)
 - (a) Peter moved on from Samaria to Lydda, a city 11 miles southeast of Joppa.
 1. “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. There he found a certain man named **Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years** and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “**Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.”** Then he arose **immediately.** So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.” Acts 9:32-35 NKJV
- (2) Dorcas Restored to Life (**Acts 9:36-43**)
 - (a) At Joppa, a wonderful disciple named Tabitha became sick and died.
 1. “At **Joppa** there was a certain disciple named **Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas.** This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she **became sick and died.** When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since **Lydda was near Joppa,** and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not

to delay in coming to them. **Then Peter arose and went with them.** When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, 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. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he **presented her alive.** And it became known throughout all Joppa, and **many believed** on the Lord. So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.” Acts 9:36-43 NKJV

B. Up next: Peter comes comes face-to-face with his need for an about-face...

(1) **About-Face:** a reversal of direction; a complete change of opinion or behavior.

(a) Peter is about to have a supernatural experience which will give him “a reversal of direction; a complete change of opinion or behavior.”

1. “Now send men to Joppa, and **send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon,** a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.” Acts 10:5-6 NKJV

2. “Then he said to them, **“You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Therefore I came without objection** as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?”” Acts 10:28-29 NKJV