



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Miracles Make Believers

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Acts 9: 31-43

“In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor” (Acts 9:36).

The Bible records miraculous healings and raisings of the dead, but they seem to be rare events, which is one reason we call them miracles. In the Old Testament, Elijah raised a widow’s son from the dead, and his mother concluded that the word of the LORD in Elijah’s mouth was true (see 1 Kings 17: 17-24). After her son died, a Shunammite mother showed great faith in God as she went to ask Elisha for help, because she said over and over when asked, “All is well,” and Elisha raised her son from the dead (2 Kings 4:18-37). In the New Testament, Jesus raised the only son of a widow (see Luke 7:11-17). After Lazarus died, Jesus called him forth from the tomb (John 11:45). Though Jesus healed many with various diseases and demonstrated the power to raise the dead, we never see people bringing their loved ones to Jesus to raise them from the dead. After Jesus’ resurrection, many people believed in Jesus when He healed the sick and raised the dead through His apostles. Peter raised Tabitha from the dead; Paul raised a man who died after a fall, but these were rare events. Note two truths from these miracles. They demonstrate true religion: “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world,” which Elijah, Elisha, Jesus, Tabitha, Peter, and Paul demonstrated (James 1:27). Miracles have helped many people believe God’s Word and turn to Jesus Christ as Lord (see Acts 9:42).

Thinking Further

1. Why was Peter able to heal the lame and raise the dead?
2. How did Tabitha show she her pure and faultless faith in Jesus? (see also, James 1:27)
3. What had Tabitha done for the widows in the church?
4. What did Peter do before he raised Tabitha from the dead? Why do you think he did this?
5. Why do you think Jesus raised Tabitha from the dead?

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