

WEEKLY REFLECTION

What's your reaction when you come across accounts of healing in Scripture, such as Aeneas who was healed from his paralysis, or Dorcas who was risen from the dead? Perhaps it's yearning or longing for an injury to be healed, or relief for a friend or family member battling disease. Maybe it's skepticism, because you prayed once—but God didn't seem to listen or answer, so you're left wondering if He even heals anymore.

Whatever your response, it can be hard to remember that the Bible is a collection of real-life accounts that happened, of people who existed and did the things written about them 2,000 years ago. We can sometimes approach Scripture the way we approach fairy-tales, like it's too good to be true—but we know God does listen, and He does heal! Jackie and Florence's testimonies point to the truth of that.

More importantly, while God does choose to heal physically, we have to remember that physical healing is not the end-all and be-all of all things. Yes, Aeneas was healed of his paralysis. Yes, Dorcas was risen from the dead. But they passed away eventually, as all must do on this side of heaven. What really matters, what really lasts, is the way that all the residents of Lydda and Sharon witnessed Aeneas' healing and turned to God. (Acts 9:35) The way that Dorcas' resurrection became known throughout Joppa, so that many believed in the Lord. (v.42)

We know that miracles serve the message. The signs and wonders that Jesus and His apostles performed point to the very reality of who He is, what His Kingdom is like. Historically, the Church has not done a good job at tackling the issue of miracles and healing, but let us say this: the physical restoration of healing, of wholeness, points to a day where every tear will be wiped away. (Rev. 21:4) Come to Jesus for healing, friends—for He is faithful and mighty to save. (Zeph. 3:17)

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

Is there anything in your life that no longer works the way it should and should be discarded, but you haven't gotten rid of it yet? What is it? Why haven't you been able to discard it yet? What significance does this object hold to you?

Is there anything that is broken or dying around you, that you would love to see experience God's healing and life-giving touch?

QUESTION TWO:

As we consider the healing of Aeneas and Dorcas' resurrection, let us remember that one was bed-ridden for eight years, while the other was "full of good works and charity." (v.36) Despite the differences between them, God still chose to heal both of them. What does this tell us about God and His healing?

QUESTION THREE:

Although physical healing can be a great relief to those who experience it, ultimately it is only temporary as we all will eventually pass away. Moreover, we see that the emphasis of these miracles is more on those who witnessed them and responded.

In what ways can we reflect Christ and His ability to save by actively living out the message of hope and healing in our community? How can we extend the love of Jesus to those who are hurting physically, emotionally, or spiritually, and point others towards Him?