

“NEW LIFE IN CHRIST”

READING: Revelation 21:5
“...behold, I make all things new”

INTRODUCTION:

In this chapter, Luke records three instances in which people were restored to life. The first has to do with correction of the person's outlook on life (bad works turned to good - “life from the dead”) and the other of someone who was bedridden and restored to normality as well as one in which the Holy Spirit illustrated: the good that “good works” will generate to get people to speak for you when you cannot do so for yourself (“the dead brought to life”)

DISCUSSION:

The first incident (in this chapter) Luke records a transformation in the life of a zealous Jew, who wanted to preserve the purity of Judaism. Factions and divisions are injurious to any organism, and Saul of Tarsus was a man on a mission, to straighten out the dissidents within the Jewish faith. But he had an encounter with the Head of the organisation (Jesus) which resulted in a major restraightening of Saul's outlook on life. Saul was “dead-set” on correcting the schisms of Judaism, but then became the foremost proponent of this new faith (of Jesus being the Messiah, the Son of the living God) **Matthew 16:16** Here was a man who “started off blind” but became the beacon to people seeking sight **(Acts 26:16-18)**

The record then moves from the exploits of Saul (Paul) to Simon Peter and his encounter with the bedridden Aeneas. This man's cure was symbolic of God's ability, not only to mobilise humans, but also to give them a purpose, however humble.

The third incident recorded is of a lady, driven to do “good” to others, whose deeds (like those of Cornelius) ascended to heaven, and which testified even while she was dead. **(Hebrews 11:4)**

CONCLUSION:

Though, simply seeing a miracle does not give you saving faith **(Matthew 13:57-58)** Yet those on whom these miracles were performed benefit immensely and they testified of the truthfulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ **(John 20:30-31)**