

Acts 9:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

Analysis

And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately. Peter's command demonstrates apostolic authority while carefully attributing healing power to Christ, producing immediate, complete restoration.

Jesus Christ maketh thee whole identifies healing's source—not Peter's power but Christ's authority. Apostolic miracles consistently point beyond human instruments to divine agent. The phrase maketh whole (Greek: *iaomai*) means to heal or cure, indicating complete restoration, not partial improvement.

Arise, and make thy bed combines healing with responsibility. Aeneas must act in faith, trusting the word spoken. Make thy bed shifts him from recipient of care to self-sufficient—transformation from dependency to capability. Reformed theology emphasizes grace enables response; healing empowers obedience.

He arose immediately confirms complete, instantaneous healing—no gradual recovery, no rehabilitation period. This differentiates miraculous from natural healing. The immediacy authenticated divine intervention. God's work in salvation similarly produces instant transformation (regeneration), though growth continues progressively.

Historical Context

Ancient miracle accounts (Jewish, Greco-Roman, Christian) shared certain features, but biblical miracles distinctively glorified God rather than human worker. Peter's explicit attribution to Jesus Christ distinguished Christian healing from pagan magic or Jewish exorcism using divine name mechanically.

The command to make thy bed held practical and symbolic meaning—demonstrating healing's completeness while giving purpose to restored capability. This healing around 38-39 CE authenticated Peter's ministry while displaying Christ's continuing power through His church. The account's historical particularity (named individual, specific location, witnesses) contrasts with legendary accretions in later non-canonical literature.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does attributing miracles to Christ rather than human instruments prevent personality cults?
2. What relationship exists between faith and healing in biblical miracles?
3. In what ways does instant, complete healing demonstrate divine rather than natural causation?
4. How should commands to act in faith balance presumption versus trust?
5. What does progression from dependency to responsibility teach about spiritual healing's effects?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὁ Πέτρος Αἰνέα ἰᾶταί σε Ἰησοῦς
And **said** **unto him** G3588 **Peter** **Aeneas** **maketh** **thee** **Jesus**
G2532 G2036 G846 G4074 G132 G2390 G4571 G2424

ὁ Χριστός· ἀνέστη καὶ στρώσον σεαυτῷ καὶ εὐθέως
G3588 **Christ** **arise** **And** **bed** **thy** **And** **immediately**
G5547 G450 G2532 G4766 G4572 G2532 G2112

ἀνέστη
arise
G450

Additional Cross-References

Acts 3:6 (Resurrection): Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Acts 3:12 (References Peter): And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

Matthew 9:6 (Resurrection): But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

Acts 16:18 (References Jesus): And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Acts 3:16 (Parallel theme): And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Acts 4:10 (Resurrection): Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Matthew 8:3 (References Jesus): And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

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