

# Acts 9:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.

## Analysis

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**And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.** The widespread witness to Aeneas's healing produced mass conversions, demonstrating how miracles serve evangelistic purposes when accompanied by faithful proclamation.

All that dwelt suggests comprehensive geographic impact. Lydda and Sharon (coastal plain region) witnessed undeniable miracle—man bedridden eight years now walking. The verb saw indicates personal observation, not hearsay. This eyewitness testimony created evangelistic opportunity.

Turned to the Lord describes conversion—repentance and faith redirecting lives toward God. The miracle alone didn't save; it created platform for gospel proclamation that produced genuine conversions. Reformed theology distinguishes miracles as authentication from gospel as power unto salvation (Romans 1:16). Signs point to Christ; faith in Christ saves.

The corporate response (all...turned) suggests mass movement, though not every individual necessarily converted. Ancient narrative style often uses hyperbole for emphasis. The point: significant community-wide impact resulted from observable miracle plus faithful gospel proclamation.

## Historical Context

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Sharon plain stretched along Mediterranean coast, fertile agricultural region. Its population included Jewish, Samaritan, and Gentile communities. Mass conversions in this mixed area expanded Christianity's ethnic and geographic reach beyond Jerusalem-centered Judaism.

The healing occurred around 38-39 CE during Acts 9:31's peace period. Community-wide conversions created established Christian presence in strategic coastal region. This pattern repeated throughout Acts—miracles authenticate, proclamation explains, Spirit converts. Peter's ministry established churches preparing for Paul's later systematic Gentile mission. Sharon's conversion fulfilled prophetic imagery of fruitfulness (Isaiah 35:2, 65:10).

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do miracles create evangelistic opportunities without being the gospel itself?
2. What relationship exists between observable signs and faith-producing proclamation?
3. In what ways do community-wide conversions differ from isolated individual conversions?
4. How should modern evangelism balance miraculous authentication with Word-centered proclamation?
5. What dangers exist in seeking miracles separate from faithful biblical teaching?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	εἶδον	αὐτὸν	πάντες	οἱ	κατοικοῦντες	Λύδδαν	καὶ
<b>And</b>	<b>saw</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>all</b>	G3588	<b>that dwelt</b>	<b>at Lydda</b>	<b>And</b>
G2532	G1492	G846	G3956		G2730	G3069	G2532
τὸν	Σαρῶναν,	οἵτινες	ἐπέστρεψαν	ἐπὶ	τὸν	κύριον	
G3588	<b>Sharon</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>turned</b>	<b>to</b>	G3588	<b>the Lord</b>	
	G4565	G3748	G1994	G1909		G2962	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 11:21** (References Lord): And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

**Acts 9:42** (References Lord): And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

**1 Chronicles 5:16** (Parallel theme): And they dwelt in Gilead in Bashan, and in her towns, and in all the suburbs of Sharon, upon their borders.

**Isaiah 35:2** (References Lord): It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

**1 Chronicles 27:29** (Parallel theme): And over the herds that fed in Sharon was Shitrai the Sharonite: and over the herds that were in the valleys was Shaphat the son of Adlai:

**2 Corinthians 3:16** (References Lord): Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.