

*ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

*The Church Was Strengthened and Multiplied

The assumption that the late-first-century and early-second-century church was torn by factions was shown to be unfounded. More important, the Tübingen critics were guilty of seriously overemphasizing the differences between Peter and Paul. That they differed occasionally is clear (e.g., Gal. 2:11-14). But that they were leaders of opposing theological tendencies in the early church is an idea that finds no basis in the New Testament text. We therefore have no grounds on which to accuse the author of Acts of creating an unhistorical scenario, and as little reason to think that the second-century church was in need of conciliation. We may still, however, think that conciliation was Luke's subsidiary purpose; perhaps he knew of continuing tensions between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians and wanted to show that Peter and Paul were in essential agreement over the basics of the faith.

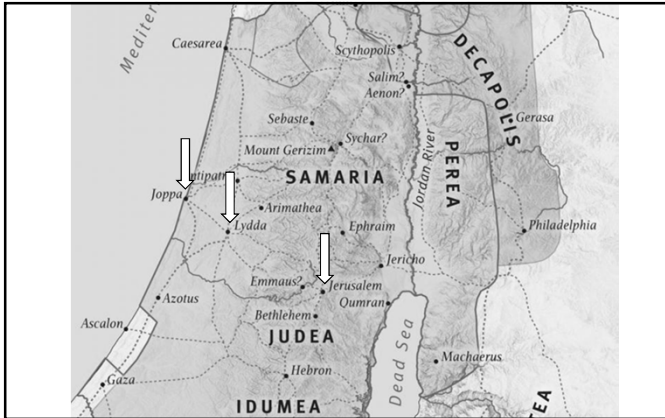
- DA Carson and Douglas Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament*

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So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied. Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.

Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

(Acts 9:31-43)



The Church Was Strengthened...

1. By the Work of the Apostles
 - Peter's work as a pastor
 - Peter's miraculous works
 2. By the Work of Jesus
 3. By the Servant-like Attitude of Everyone, Member and Leader
- Q: Are we too busy to serve? Do we act/feel inconvenienced by the needs of others?*

The Church Was Multiplied

1. Notice that both stories end with people turning to Jesus.
2. God is the one who strengthened and multiplied the church.

Q: Are we seeking the same thing that God is seeking? Do we pray and talk and make friends so that people will turn to Jesus? Is evangelism the goal of our relationships?

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and Multiplied**