

PETER: EFFECTIVE PERSONAL MINISTRY — ACTS 9:32-43

① HE WAS INVOLVED

1. Personal Concern (2Pe.1:12-13)
2. Personal Urgency (2Pe.1:14-15)
3. Personal Experience (2Pe.1:16-18)
4. Personal Knowledge (2Pe.1:19-21)

v.32-33

- Because Peter has been moving and involved, he comes face to face with a fantastic opportunity for a ministry.
- Peter is an itinerant preacher always on the move. So, the first principle of effective personal ministry is involvement.
- This is a classic description of Peter's pattern of life (Ac.9:32, "as Peter went through all parts of the country").

② HE WAS CHRIST EXALTING

- Any kind of ministry that is going to bear any fruit is going to be one which lifts up Jesus Christ.
- Peter's disclaimer to any power is given in **verse 32**, "Jesus the Christ heals you."
- Peter does not come in there and say, "I'm here to heal you." Peter clearly wants to exalt Jesus. Whatever is being done for His glory is being done BY HIM (Ep.6:10; 3:20-21; 1Pe.4:11).
- We can't say I did this for the Lord and I did that. It is only what the Lord did through you.
- If you want an effective personal ministry, just do two things, get involved in what God's doing already and live to lift up Jesus Christ.



v.34-35

③ HE WAS AVAILABLE

- The only ability God wants out of you is availability so that He can then work through you with your talents and gifts.
- Now this miracle hinges on the power of God, but on the availability of Peter.
- Peter dropped everything and went (Ac.9:39, "Peter arose and went"). There's such a blessedness in just being available.
- You only have one thing to offer God, availability, and if you don't give Him that, you've got nothing to offer.

v.36-39

④ HE WAS PRAYERFUL

- It would've been very easy at this point in Peter's life with so many successes to just go in and say, "Tabitha, arise," and count on his own strength. If he did, what would have happened? Nothing!
- He prayed because it gives us this thought again that we need to focus on knowing that our power is from God, not ourselves.
- It is a temptation, Christian, to have a little bit of success and then think you did it. God save us from ourselves.
- Peter was prayerful and, thus, powerful. If you think you're strong, you're weak. If you know you're weak, you're on the verge of strength.

v.40-41

⑤ HE WAS FRUITFUL

- Peter dropped everything and went up to take care of a bunch of weeping widows, and revival broke out in the city.
- God did this miracle as is true of all miracles, as a sign. God had evangelism in mind.
- Peter dropped everything and went up to take care of a bunch of weeping widows, and revival broke out in the city.
- All believers are saved to be fruitful (Jn.15:8). You may not see the fruit in your own lifetime (William Carey's 35 years). His work helped every missionary after him. He's in heaven, but he's still bearing fruit today.
- Sometimes just working with one individual may bear far more fruit than speaking to a mass of people about Christ.



v.42

⑥ HE WAS FREE FROM PREJUDICE

- One of the most despicable trades in the mind of a Jew was that of a tanner. A tanner dealt with the dead. The skin of dead animals and making leather. They were not respected, and were ceremonially unclean (Nu.19:11).
- Here is Peter, who's a Jew trained all his life to not respect a tanner. God broke down his prejudice with the Samaritans. Now another prejudice is coming down. You can't minister effectively for Christ as long as you see somebody in a prejudicial sense.

v.43