"GOD NEVER FORGETS"

ACTS 9:32-10:6

7-12-2026

*** Always remember that <u>God never forgets</u>!**
(Never forget that God always remembers)

3 types of people God never forgets:

I. God Remembered the <u>Physical Suffering</u> of Aeneas (9:32-35)
(<u>Aeneas</u> - A Paralytic Whom God Remembered)

II. God Remembered the <u>Ministry of Love</u> of Dorcas (9:36-43)
(<u>Dorcas</u> - A Servant Whom God Remembered)

III. God Remembered the <u>Seeking Heart</u> of Cornelius (10:1-6)
(<u>Cornelius</u> - A God-Fearing Man Whom God remembered)

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INTRODUCTION:
READ Acts 10:4

EX - Memorial Day - we remembered those who served, fought, and died for our country. We should not forget the price paid for our freedom.
But we do tend to forget. Our memory is so short. We forget names, birthdays, anniversaries, Bible verses, appointments, deeds of kindness others have shown to us, etc.
But God never forgets!

In Acts 9:32-10:1ff, God unfolds for us 3 people who had problems (needed help): Aeneas - a paralytic who couldn't walk (v. 32-35); Dorcas - a servant who had died (v. 36-43); and Cornelius - a reverent man who was lost (unsaved) (10:1-48).

God uses Peter to meet their needs, and in doing so, shows us that He is a God who remembers!

God is a God who remembers:

Nehemiah knew God remembers, so he cried out the words, "Remember me, O my God" three times in Neh. 13 (13:14, 22, 31).

David knew God remembers, so he said: "Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O Lord." (Ps. 25:6-7)

(Through Christ, God can forget one thing - forgiven sin. Jer. 31:34; Heb. 10:17)

God remembers His chosen nation (Ps. 74:2)

God remembers the righteous:
"God remembered Noah" (Gen. 8:1)
"God remembered Abraham" (Gen. 19:29)
"God remembered Rachel" (Gen. 30:22)
"God remembered Hannah" (I Sam. 1:19)
"God remembered the Hebrew Believers and their good works" (Heb 6:10 For God [is] not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

God remembered specific individuals:
9:33 - "a certain man"
9:36 - "a certain disciple
10:1 - "a certain man"

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(Never forget that God always remembers)

3 types of people God never forgets:

I. God Remembered the Physical Suffering of Aeneas (9:32-35)

(Aeneas - A Paralytic Whom God Remembered)

Some people with physical ailments wrongly think God has forgotten (abandoned) them.

He didn't forget Aeneas, who suffered for eight years. (He chose to wait this long in his life so that He might glorify Himself and authenticate Peter and his new message of the Gospel)

If God never does heal your illness, it is so that He can use you in a greater way than He could use you if you were well.

Remember -

1) You are not alone - Others have undergone physical suffering before you, and God cared about them. EX: Job (Job 1-2); Ezekiel's wife (Ez. 24:15-27); Mephibosheth (II Sam. 4:4, 9); Paul (II Cor. 12:1-10).

2) God will make you well. Perhaps on earth; certainly in Heaven (II Cor. 4:16-5:1)

3) God hurts when you hurt (Heb. 4:15, 16; Ps. 103:13, 14)

4) God knows why you are suffering. Sometimes it is due to sin (I Cor. 11:29, 30; Heb. 12:6), but not always (Jn. 9:2-4 - EX. man born blind "so that the works of God should be revealed in Him")

5) God knows what is best for you II Cor. 12:1ff - Paul's thorn.
--Maybe you would not depend on Him like you do now
--Maybe you would be proud of your abilities if you didn't know they came from God via your weak body.

   One of the most godly men I ever met was a paralytic (Bob McConaghy). has God forgotten Bob? No! He knows what's best for him.

   M.R. DeHaan said: "Grapes must be crushed before wine can be made. Unless the violin is stretched until it cries out in pain, there is no music in it. Wheat must be broken to make bread" (Radio Bible Class Pub. Crucial Questions, "Does God want Me Well?" 1989,p.4)

6) God is in control. Not even the death of a sparrow occurs "apart from your Father's will" (Mt. 10:29). God always makes a way of escape (I Cor. 10:13).

II. God Remembered the Ministry of Love of Dorcas (9:36-43)

(Dorcas - A Servant Whom God Remembered)

Nothing you do for Christ will be forgotten (ILLUS: Mt. 26:13)

Heb. 6:10 - "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

God never forgets your ministry for the saints.

When you minister to the saints, you are ministering to Christ (God)

(EX: "cold water in my name" - Mk. 9:41; cp. Mt. 25:35-40)

What did Paul remember about the Thess. believers? Their work of faith and labor of love (I Thes. 1:3)

V. 39

The clothes Dorcas made were tangible proof that she met the needs of other widows.

If you died today, what tangible evidence would you leave behind that others would remember how much you loved them?

God said our love is to be more than word and tongue, but in deed and truth (I Jn. 3:18).

Evidences of true miracles:

1. Undeniable –
   a. Paralytic - terminal cases healed (long-term illnesses) (v. 33)
   b. Death (v. 37) (not psychosomatic cases)

2. Supernatural - The healing power came from Christ (v. 34) (not man-centered; the attention was on Christ).

3. Instantaneous (v. 34 - "He arose immediately"; v. 40) (Not a process) Miracles were complete and permanent.

4. Authenticating - Sign miracles were for the purpose of vindicating the messenger and His message. They showed apostolic (Peter's) authority (v. 32; v. 38) (II Cor. 12:12 - "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.")

   Interesting comparison between Peter's miracles and Christ's (NOTE: However, Christ's miracles were done independently; Peter relied on Christ) –

   1) God through Peter heals a paralytic (9:32-35)
      Christ healed a paralytic (Lk. 5:17-26)

   2) God uses Peter to bring a dead woman back to life after having everyone in the house go outside (9:36-43)

   Christ brought a dead girl back to life after having everyone (except parents and disciples) in the house go outside (Mk. 5:38-43)

3) God used Peter to reward a Gentile centurian's faith (10:1ff)
   Christ rewarded a sincere, reverent centurian's faith (Lk. 7:1-10).
   --And Jesus said, "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."

   EX: 7 sons of Sceva - Acts 19:13-17)

5. Not to entertain (v. 40) - Miracles were not for the purpose of entertaining an audience.

6. Turned people to faith in Christ (v. 35, 42) - Attention is brought to Christ, not the "faith healer" Salvation was the intended result (Physical healings were not an end in themselves.)

Warren Wiersbe has outlined what God did for Aeneas, Dorcas, and Cornelius this way:

I. A Great Miracle - healing a paralytic
II. A Greater miracle - raising a dead person
III. The Greatest miracle - saving a sinner

III. God Remembered the Seeking Heart of Cornelius (10:1-6)

(Cornelius - A God-Fearing Man Whom God remembered)

10:2

It is possible to be devout, fear God, give to others, and pray, and still be lost!

But if one does these things sincerely, God will reward that person with the Gospel.

Cornelius was a "devout" man (Pious, godly, reverent)

He "feared God" - He reverenced God; He trembled at the thought of offending God, of sinning against God.

The terms "devout and fear" indicate that, though Cornelius was a Gentile, he in sincerity attached himself to the Jewish religion, because he did not believe in idols. He believed in monotheism - one God.

It is said of the man who fears God (the man who is righteous):
"The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance (SEE Ps. 112:1-6; *v. 6)

SEE Malachi 3:16-18

Here is a lost man whose fear of God rubbed off on the whole family. You don't have many saved man who even have this kind of influence on their families today. What a shame! Your children know if you fear God or not!

"Alms" = a kind deed, a righteous act you do for others. Primarily used of giving tot he poor. Alms done out of pure motives will be rewarded by God (Mt. 6:1-4)

Prov. 19:17 - "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth to the Lord; and that which he hath given will He pay him again."

"Prayed" = to ask something for yourself. He went to God to have his needs met. He had unfulfilled desires; no doubt an empty spot in his life that he desired God to fill.

"The difference between Cornelius and many religious people today is this: he knew that his religious devotion was not sufficient to save him" (Wiersbe, p. 126)

He really wanted God to show him the way of salvation (Acts 11:13-14)

10:4

The imagery behind the words: "Are come up for a memorial before God" depicts a sweet scent of an offering of incense coming up to God.

David said: ""Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense" (Ps. 141:2a)

Cornelius' giving and prayers were as it were incense that ascended up into the nostrils of God and pleased Him (Rev. 8:4 - "And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand." cp. Ex. 30:8; Lk. 1:10; Rev. 5:8)

NOTE: the altar of incense stood in front of the veil to the Holy of Holies in the Temple. Incense was burned on it everyday (Ex. 30:7). We should pray every day!

Cornelius is a perfect example of what God does for a man who responds correctly to the revelation (light) that God has given. God gives more light.

Faith honors God, and God honors faith.

Heb. 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

God rewards faith!

God will reward that hungry soul, even int he darkest, most primitive part of the world if he is sincerely seeking after God like Cornelius did.

NOTE: the Ethiopian eunich was rewarded also. God sent Philip to him (Acts 8:26-40).

God rewarded Sergius Paulus (Acts 13:7-12) ("a prudent man" - v. 7)

God rewarded Lydia (Acts 16:13-14) (a woman who "worshipped God...whose heart the Lord opened")

God rewards those who <u>diligently seek Him</u>! (Jer. 29:13 - "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.")

CP. Dt. 4:29; Ps. 9:10, 69:32, 119:2; Prov. 8:17

10:6

As with Saul (Paul), so with Cornelius. God could have given the Gospel to Paul from Heaven, but he sent Ananias (9:6-18); God could have given the Gospel to Cornelius from Heaven, but He sent Peter.

God has no other plan than to use believers to share the Gospel.

God guided Peter across the path of those he wanted to minister to - in three ways.

God guided through:

1) Providence - to Aeneas (v. 32) - God through circumstances (namely Peter's desire to strengthen the saints at Lydda) led Peter to an occasion to minister for Him at Lydda. He led him at the right time, to the right place.

2) People - to Dorcas (v. 38). Through God's people, the Lord led Peter even more north to Joppa (Jaffa - where Jonah sailed to Tarsus from)

3) Personal instruction - to Cornelius (10:19-20). From Joppa, God gives Peter a vision, and the Holy Spirit (v. 19) verbally tells Peter to go to Cornelius. The Holy Spirit does not speak to us verbally, but He does speak to us through the Word. The Spirit touches or heart and prompts us.

CONCLUSION:

Aeneas - a paralytic whom God remembered
Dorcas - a servant whom God remembered
Cornelius - a reverent man whom God remembered.

God does not forget and neglect a repentant sinner!

The thief on the cross said, "Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" (Lk. 23:42)

The psalmist said of God that He "remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth forever" (Ps. 136:23).

God never forgets his children! "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." - Is. 49:15.

--What you do for Christ may not be applauded by men, but God remembers (he never forgets)

--What you give may not be appreciated by men, but God remembers (He never forgets)

--What you are going through may not have the sympathy of men, but God remembers (He never forgets)

Not one sincere prayer, tear, or act of kindness will go unnoticed by God - He will respond, He will reward your earnestness!

God never forgets!