**Fruit and Evangelism (Acts 9:32-35)**

 The supernatural fruit of a life of faith leads us to evangelism. Greetings to you all, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we bring up one of the foundational principles of our faith-life – evangelism. We all are awed by God’s works as we read the book of Acts. We see how the Spirit’s work and miracles are constantly present in the life of the believers. As we read, however, and we picture those events in our minds, how much, I ask, have we though about those events in terms of spiritual principles? Today we are going to speak about one of those – the principle that supernatural fruit coming from a life lived in faith leads us to evangelism. Let’s talk, then, about how this takes place…

 When we live out our faith in the Holy Spirit, the Lord touches the unbelievers’ hearts for salvation through us. Although today’s passage is short, when we examine the background of the event, we see that there was so much supernatural Holy Spirit activity that the whole book ought to have been called the Acts of the Holy Spirit. It was the Spirit that let each apostle or servant of the Lord, man or woman to spread the Good News. God did not just speak to accomplish that task, but He proved Himself to the believers as an involved and miracle-working God. If Peter or Paul or Philip had only experience a miracle connected to a preaching event once, we would be able to say that miracles were only to establish the church in faith, that we don’t need miracles anymore, and that such things that are sanctioned by God no longer happen today. However, when we see an ongoing recurring pattern of those Divine interventions, we need to focus on that reality. If we read just a few more verses, we’d see that Peter facilitates a resurrection of a young girl by the power of the Holy Spirit. What I’m trying to say is that God’s work did not stop after doing an initial miracle because God’s means of evangelizing through us is with words and miraculous signs.

 There was once a preacher who used to say, “Supernatural healing is a dinner bell.” There was a time (and still may be in some areas,) where those who lived in the countryside had a large bell on or near their back porch. When dinner was ready, somebody would ring that large bell so that the workers in the field would know that it was time to eat.

 If we desire to see more people coming to the Lord and for the church to prosper in that way, then we need to “ring the dinner-bell of God”. But how do we do that? Let’s first take into consideration that Peter, Paul and the other servants of the Lord did not hesitate to act when opportunities for healing or exorcisms came up in ministry. They did not say, for example, “We only preach salvation – miracles are no longer necessary,” despite the fact that the greatest miracle is a human being’s surrender to Jesus Christ and declaration of Him as Lord and Savior. On the contrary, the disciples often prayed in such a way that people considered it natural to have miracles and preaching happening together. If people are going to come to Jesus, let us remember that He did not only call people through words, but also by healing and exorcising demons from people who came to him for that. The Apostles did not change that model of ministry.

 Today, those ministers who make room for that kind of ministry generally have more people in church to bless than those who are not open to that. Therefore, it is up to us to understand the Gospel message not only as one presented with words, but also one that convinces people of Christ’s Lordship and Salvation through miracles. The Lord Jesus’ Gospel is not only spread via speaking, but we must realize that He is alive and present to heal. It is time to ring the bell of Jesus’ salvation through both words and healing ministry.

 Therefore, let us keep this subject in prayer. Let us get ready for new things, because in the not too distant future, once it is more possible, we will begin having services devoted to the healing aspect of Christ’s ministry. This will become a door for those who are sick or weakened in faith to enter back into the Lord’s presence, or even to accept the Lord for the first time. Again, when we live out our faith in the Holy Spirit, the Lord touches the unbelievers’ hearts for salvation through us.

 So, let us ask for the Spirit’s Presence and Encounters. Let us ask that He teach us to use His power. Let us ask that He increase our faith and give us the grace to completely conquer our doubts. This way, when we pray with faith, we see His signs, we accept them for what they are, and we become more prepared to bless others with the power that the Holy Spirit gives. The supernatural fruit of a life of faith leads us to evangelism. May the Lord bless you all. Amen.