

Peace for the Journey ... April 30, 2010

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:32-43

The New Testament has several themes threaded through its Gospels, Letters, and Epistles. One central theme is that the Church is the Body of Christ. Not only does the New Testament say that the Church is like a human body with many different but essential members, the New Testament also says that the Church's mission is to *be* the Body of Jesus Christ in the world. The Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue Jesus' ministry. The Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit to perform the same acts of ministry that Jesus performed during his earthly ministry.

The *Acts of the Apostles* has many passages which describe Jesus' disciples (the Church) being the Body of Christ. In Acts 9, we read how God performed the miraculous resuscitation of Tabitha through Peter's ministry; and as we read this story, we remember how Jesus performed a similar act of ministry. (See Luke 8:49-56.)

In both Acts 9 and Luke 8 we discover that both Jesus and Peter reach out and offer a helping hand:

"But [Jesus] took her by the **hand** and called out, 'Child, get up!'" (Luke 8:54)

"[Peter] gave her his **hand** and helped her up." (Acts 9:41)

In prayer today, consider whether this might be the way God wants to use you to be the Body of Christ. So many people in the world need a helping hand -- someone to reach out and help them up. So many people are looking for a hand that isn't a clenched fist. So many people are looking for a hand to hold. So many people are looking for the hand of Jesus.

The Body of Jesus Christ needs **hands** to reach out to a hurting, fallen world.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, your **hands** can be the hands of Christ.

The Body of Christ needs you.