

Instances of Apostolic Healing in the Bible: Contexts and Characters

1. *Acts 3:1–16; 4:22* Jerusalem, in Palestinian Judæa; the hour of prayer (3:00 p.m.); at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. Peter and John see a man “above forty years old” and lame from birth carried here and begging alms. Peter certifies to the gathering crowd in Solomon’s Porch that it is the man’s faith in Jesus that has made him whole.
2. *Acts 5:15, 16* In the cities surrounding Jerusalem, every sick or demon-possessed person laid in the streets within reach of Peter’s passing shadow is healed.
3. *Acts 9:32–35* Lydda (Lod, 11 miles southeast of Joppa, on the Palestinian coastal plain). Peter heals Æneas, bedridden with palsy for eight years.
4. *Acts 9:36–42* Joppa, a port city on the Mediterranean seacoast of Palestine. Two disciples go to Lydda (see above) to fetch Peter to Joppa, where he restores the magnanimous Tabitha (Dorcas) to life.
5. *Acts 14:8–11* Lystra, in Galatia; 1st Missionary Journey. Paul heals a man crippled in both feet from birth, while the man (whose faith is in Jesus) sits to hear Paul speak.
6. *Acts 16:16–18ff.* Thyatira, in western Asia Minor; 2nd Missionary Journey. Paul, Silas, and Luke are headed for a place of public prayer when met by a demon-possessed servant girl whose spirit Paul exorcises. The girl’s masters, thus suddenly deprived of a major source of future income, hale Paul and Silas before the authorities, who have them beaten and imprisoned. (The episode concludes with a miraculous earthquake enabling their escape and the ultimate conversion of the jailer and his household.)
7. *Acts 19:11, 12* Ephesus and throughout western Asia Minor; 2nd Missionary Journey. Handkerchiefs and artisan’s aprons, removed from Paul’s person and placed upon the sick and demon-possessed, produce healings and exorcisms, respectively.
8. *Acts 20:7–10* Troas, in Mysia, northwestern Asia Minor; 3rd Missionary Journey. Eutychus, a young man sitting in a third-story window during Paul’s last meeting, falls asleep and drops to the courtyard below; whereupon Paul restores him to life.
9. *Acts 28:1–6* Island of Melita (Malta), in the Mediterranean Sea south of Sicily; Paul’s voyage to Rome. A viper fastens on Paul’s hand while he is kindling a fire subsequent to his shipwreck here; but Paul shakes it off into the fire, suffering no harm from the venomous creature. (The healing here *anticipates* its own need!)

10. *Acts 28:7, 8* Melita, as above. Paul heals the father of the island chief Publius, the father suffering from a fever and bloody discharge (dysentery).
11. *Acts 28:9* Melita, as above. Paul heals other islanders of their diseases.

— Jerry A. Stevens, December 6, 1997