

Women & the Bible



A Biblical Guide of Christian Living for Ladies

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The following scripture references are from the New King James Version.

SCRIPTURES OF FOCUS:

Acts 9:36-42



DORCAS: A DEVOUT SERVANT



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Dorcas is one of the many women in the scriptures who is an example and inspiration to us women today who love the Lord and His church. She was a disciple who lived in the ancient city of Joppa. Her name was Tabitha, which is translated as Dorcas. The best way to describe her character is shown in Acts 9:36, "...This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did." Just like the ideal woman we read in Proverbs chapter 31, Dorcas fulfilled her God-given responsibility to others. "She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands." "She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy." (Proverbs 31:13,20)



Dorcas was a servant.

Sister Kitty Jones Culwell made a comment about Dorcas in her study book, “Sarah’s Daughters” on page 174.

The people of Joppa were dependent upon the sea for their living. Many mariners lost their lives in the churning waters of the Great Sea. Consequently, Joppa had many widows and needy people in want of alms. Dorcas sensed a special responsibility to the widows and their children.

Galatians chapter six, verse 10 says, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” This is a kind of benevolence that Dorcas was involved in. Scriptures teach that we are to visit and care for widows and orphans (1 Timothy 5:8-16; James 1:27). Dorcas sought to be a servant of Christ.



Dorcas was a woman of compassion.

We read in the scriptures that Dorcas became very ill, and it is what caused her death. Her passing brought much sorrow upon her friends. They loved Dorcas for her kindness, generosity, and devotion to people. They could not imagine Dorcas not being around in the community. For it would not be the same without her. Dorcas’ friends sent two men to go to the next town where Jesus’ follower, Peter, was staying. They asked him to come quickly to help heal Dorcas.



Dorcas used her talent for good works in Christ.

When Peter was in the room where Dorcas’ body was lying, her friends showed him all the tunics and garments that Dorcas had made for them. It seemed everyone had something that Dorcas had made in the past. Ephesians chapter two, verse 10 says, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Dorcas’ talent was sewing tunics and garments for people.

God has given every one of us a talent. We can use those talents for good works in Christ to help people. Do you like to cook? You can make food for families who have lost a loved one, people who are sick, etc. Do you like arts and crafts? You can design greeting cards to send out to people who need encouragement. Anything that you enjoy doing can be beneficial in helping other people. My mother always says that if you are having a bad day, find something you can do for someone else. It will make you feel so much better.



Women like Dorcas will be rewarded.

How amazing it must have been to see Peter restore Dorcas back to life through the Holy Spirit. Once the news spread around in town of what happened to Dorcas, many people believed in the Lord. Jesus says in Matthew chapter 25, verse 34, “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’” We can be a servant just like Dorcas. If we keep on living life like Christ and obeying His commands, someday we will also look forward to hearing Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

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or article ideas to: office@salinachurchofchrist.com