

Acts: Encountering the Holy Spirit

Empowered to Imitate Jesus



Josh Walters

A woman who was a follower lived in the city of Joppa. Her name was Tabitha, or Dorcas. She did many good things and many acts of kindness. One day she became sick and died. After they had washed her body, they laid her in a room on the second floor. The city of Lydda was near Joppa. The followers heard that Peter was at Lydda and sent two men to ask him to come at once. Peter went back with them. When he came, they took him to the room. All the women whose husbands had died were standing around crying. They were showing the clothes Dorcas had made while she was with them.

Peter made them all leave the room. Then he got down on his knees and prayed. He turned to her body and said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes and looked at Peter and sat up. He took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then he called in the faithful followers and the women whose husbands had died. He gave her to them, a living person. News of this went through all Joppa. Many people put their trust in the Lord.

Acts 9:36-42 (NIV)

I CAN BEST IMITATE JESUS WHEN I...

1. WATCH CLOSELY

He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was.

Mark 5:37-40 (NIV)

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.
2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)

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2. LISTEN CAREFULLY

He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Mark 5:41-43 (NIV)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

Genesis 3:1 (NIV)

3. ACT BOLDLY

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22 (NIV)

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us...

Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV)

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

James 4:6 (ESV)

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)