



Five Unlikely Heroes of the Early Church

1. _____
Powerful preacher; miracle worker; man of great faith
2. _____
Great conversion story; ultimate world outreach guy; prolific writer of Scripture
3. _____
Had great zeal for the cause of Christ; wrote the bestsellers John & Revelation; the only apostle to achieve nonagenarian status
4. _____
Man of great wisdom; stood up to the Sanhedrin; Christianity's first martyr
5. _____
A follower of Christ; helped the poor; died too young

The life of Dorcas was a testimony to the Character of God

1. The _____ of God

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. *Acts 9:36*

_____ true to the words of Jesus

_____ the life of love and sacrifice

2. The _____ of God

Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. *Acts 9:40*

_____ in the power of the Spirit

_____ God at work in your life

3. The _____ of God

He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. *Acts 9:41-42*

_____ God with humility and patience

_____ in God's amazing glory and grace

Daily Meditations

Spend some time each day this week meditating on the topic

Monday

Please read Acts 2:38–47. What did you learn about the early church last weekend? Write a description of the early church based on the verses you read today:

What was most striking to you about the story of Dorcas?

What did you learn about the character of God from Dorcas' story? How does that encourage you today?

Thank God today for the life of Dorcas. Thank Him the opportunity to grow and learn. Pray that you will rest in God's character and grow in your relationship with Him.

Tuesday

Please read Acts 9:36. How is Dorcas' life described in this verse?

What an amazing way to be remembered! If only a sentence about your character was in the Bible, what would you want it to say?

What in Dorcas' actions reflects the life and love of Jesus?

Who in your life needs help right now? How can you be a "Dorcas" to them today?

Thank God today for His love for you. Pray for those in your life who need help. Ask God to give you opportunities to help them and pray for the courage to take those opportunities!

Wednesday

Please read Acts 9:37–40. God's amazing power is sure evident in these verses – Dorcas died but was raised again!

How have you seen God's power displayed in your life in the last two weeks?

In what area of your life are you longing to see God's power? How does Dorcas' and Peter's experience in this passage encourage you?

As you pray today thank God for His power and the ways He has worked in your life. Talk to Him about the areas of your life where you are struggling to see His power. Ask Him for the patience to wait for His time and His strength.

Thursday

Please read Acts 9:41–43. What was the result of the demonstration of God's love and power in Dorcas' life, death and life again(!)?

Imagine what it was like to be Dorcas! How do you think this amazing miracle impacted her relationship with God?

Recall a time when you saw God's power and promises at work in your life. How did that impact your relationship with God? How did it impact your choices?

Write down four things you can praise God for:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Thank God today that He keeps all His promises. Thank Him for the four things you wrote down. Pray that, where you are tempted to doubt God's promises will be for you, God will give you faith and strength to believe Him.

Friday

Please read Psalm 119:49–50. How does this passage encourage you today?

How are God's words giving you hope right now? Who can you encourage with that truth?

How have you felt the truth of verse 50 in your life?

Thank God today for His faithfulness. Thank Him for the hope and comfort He has given you. Pray about the areas of your life where you feel like you're suffering. Ask God to encourage you with the truth of His Word and the comfort of His promises.

Saturday

Please read Psalm 121. What key principle about God do you see in this passage?

Write down one way this passage encourages you today:

Please pray for the weekend services. Pray that God will prepare your heart to learn and grow through the worship services. Pray for the Grace Immersion beginning this fall, that God will use it bring our church closer to one another and closer to God.



"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." *James 1:27 (NIV)*