

***Dorcas Alive from the Dead***

**040301-3**

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

We have been reading about Cornelius. We have been reading the exciting fact that the Church of Jesus Christ, the body of Jesus, made up of those who have been born-again by His precious Blood. These are those who were called out by Him, not by their works, but by receiving the Lord for what His Blood did on our behalf on that Cross. And it is that special, precious body you can be part of. It is so awesome to me to think that I am part of the Body of Jesus Christ! That is the real Church. When this miracle originally happened, as Cornelius came with others who were Gentiles to know the Lord, it was like this great mystery, this great secret, was suddenly opened. Yes, this is God's plan for this age! There is today this little window of opportunity. that you and I, if we are Gentiles, can come into Christ.

There is a lady I want to tell you about today. Her name is Dorcas. I love this story of such a faithful, precious woman. In **Acts chapter 9**, we read about her.

**36 Now there was at Joppa a disciple [a woman] named [in Aramaic] Tabitha, which [in Greek] means Dorcas. In fact, if you want to take it in the English, it is Gazelle, like a beautiful, beautiful fawn. She was abounding in good deeds and acts of charity.**

*What a wonderful description of this precious, precious lady!*

**37 About that time she fell sick and died, and when they had cleansed her, they had laid [her] out in an upper room. This was the custom they had.**

**38 Since Lydda -the town was near Joppa [however], the disciples hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him begging him, Do come to us without delay. They wanted Peter to come.**

**39 So Peter [immediately] rose and accompanied them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room . . . - Now here is Dorcas who had been cleaned and laid out, but she was dead. Everybody around was making this traditional great noise of wailing. All the widows stood around him, crying and displaying undershirts (tunics) and [other] garments. They showed him all the beautiful things she had done. You know, in those days, this was the tunic that they wore. Probably Dorcas had made some of these for the apostles - who knows?**

**40 But Peter put them all [out of the room] . . . and there he is with this dead body . . . and knelt and prayed; then turning to the body he said, Tabitha, get up! And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she raised herself and sat upright.**

**41 And he gave her his hand and he lifted her up. Then calling in God's people and the widows, he presented her to them alive.**

**42 And this became known throughout all Joppa, and many came to believe on the Lord [to adhere to and trust in and reply on as the Christ and as their Saviour.]**

Why am I sharing this story? This Peter was the same Peter who had messed up everything. He promised what he was going to do for God and had failed. When Jesus was going through that very brutal, terrible trial, Peter denied Him. Then He heard the cock crow as Jesus had said would happen; it crowed three times just like Jesus said it would. Peter was very, very, very despondent; he had failed the Lord; this Lord who he was going to die for! But you see, he did not have the power then, did he? He was trying to do what he thought was the right thing to serve God and to follow the Lord, to put things right and even give up his life and be a martyr, but he did not have the power to live the life. One of the most amazing stories in Scripture is that after the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, He sought out Peter alone. He met him. And whatever that conversation was, it spoke of the love and the grace of our Lord Jesus — no longer under the Law, under condemnation, but of that awesome forgiveness and grace. He took Peter and he rebounded.

Now this is the one who, having received the Holy Spirit, we are told in **Acts 9**, is able in turn to see that Holy Spirit do the work. Peter did not raise that woman from the dead; God the Holy Spirit did this work. Peter was one who ministered to these to show the resurrection of the life of Jesus Christ, the same resurrection power that could be raising you out of your dead tomb of sin— separation from God —

and bringing you into Christ. This is God the Holy Spirit working. We are in the age of God the Holy Spirit working. Would you allow God the Holy Spirit to so cleanse and fill your life afresh this day as a believer that He works for His glory through you?

*In Jesus Name. Amen.*