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Faithful Disciples

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **February 18, 2018**

Acts 9:36-43

Introduction: *The America Heritage Dictionary* (Houghton Mifflin) defines a **friend** as:
“**1.** A person whom one knows, likes, and trusts. **2.** A person whom one knows; an acquaintance. **3.** A person with whom is allied in a struggle or cause; a comrade. **4.** One who supports, sympathizes with, or patronizes a group, cause, or movement.”
That last definition fits well with the idea of **faithful disciples**, the subject of our lesson. Throughout history, the support believers in the cause of Christ has led to worldwide growth. (Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series*)

Proverbs 17:17, A friend LOVETH at ALL times...

Acts 9:32-36, *And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints that dwelt at Lydda. And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy (paralyzed or enfeebled [feeble]). And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, make thy bed. And he arose immediately. And all that dwelt in Lydda and Saron SAW HIM, and turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good WORKS and almsdeeds which she did.*

NOTE: At Joppa – This was a **seaport** town situated on the Mediterranean Sea, in the tribe of Dan, about 30 miles south of Caesarea, and 45 miles northwest of Jerusalem. It was the principal seaport of Palestine...

Tabitha – This word is properly Syriac, and means literally the “**gazelle**” or “antelope”.

And almsdeeds – **Acts of kindness** to the **POOR**.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/acts-9.html>)

Titus 3:8, This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm (tell with confidence) constantly,
that they which **have believed in God** might be careful to **maintain good works.**

Acts 9:37, *And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died, whom when they had washed, they laid her in a an upper chamber.*

NOTE: Whom when they had washed – Having the fullest proof that she was dead, they prepared for her interment (burial). In most nations of the world, it is customary to wash their dead before they buried them, and before they laid them out to lie in state, as Homer tells us was the case with the body of Patroclus...

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/acts-9.html>)

Thought 1. Some commentators believe that they prepared her body with the **HOPE** that

Peter would be used by Yahweh to raise her from the dead.

NOTE: Her friends and those about her did NOT presently bury her, as usual, because they were in hopes **Peter would come** and **raise her to life again**. But, they washed the dead body according to custom, which, it is said, was with warm water, which, IF there was any life remaining in the body would recover it. So, this was done to show that she was really and truly dead. They tried all the usual methods to bring her to life, and could NOT. ...They *laid her out* in her grave-clothes in an upper chamber, which Dr. Lightfoot thinks was probably the public meeting-room for the believers of that town. And they laid the body there, that Peter, if he would come, might raise her to life, the more solemnly in **that place**. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/acts-9.html>)

Acts 9:38, And forasmuch as **Lydda** was *nigh* to **Joppa**, and the disciples had heard that **Peter** was there, they sent unto him two men, **desiring** him that he would NOT delay to come to them.

NOTE: The request which her Christian friends sent to Peter to come to them with all speed, NOT to attend the funeral, but, IF it might be, to prevent it, Acts 9:38. Lydda, where Peter was, was nigh to Joppa and the disciples at Joppa had **HEARD that Peter** was there. And that he had **raised Eneas from a bed of languishing** (being feeble [WEAK]) and therefore they *sent him two men*, to make the message more solemn and respectful, *desiring him that he would NOT delay to come to them* NOT telling him the occasion, lest he should modestly decline coming upon so great an errand as to raise the dead. IF they but get him to them, they will leave it to him. **Their friend** was dead, and it was too late to send for a physician, but NOT too late to send for Peter. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/acts-9.html>)

Acts 9:39, Then **Peter** arose and went with them, When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the **widows** stood by him **weeping**, and **shewing** the COATS and GARMENTS which **Dorcas** made, while she was with them.

NOTE: Though they did NOT tell him what they wanted him for, yet he was willing to go along with them, believing it was upon some good account or other that he was sent for. Let NOT faithful ministers grudge to be at every body's beck, as far as they have ability, when the great apostle **made himself the servant of all**, 1 Cor. 9:19. He found the corpse laid in the upper chamber, and attended by the widows, probably such as were the communion of the church, poor widows there they were.

The commendation of Tabitha was like her OWN virtues, NOT in WORD, but in DEED. ...And here was the **credit of Tabitha**, when she was dead, that the backs of the **widows praised her** for the garments she had made for them.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/acts-9.html>)

1 John 3:18, My little children, let us **NOT love in WORD**, neither in **tongue (a language [specially, one naturally acquired])**, but **in DEED and in TRUTH**.

Acts 9:40, And **Peter put them ALL forth**, and kneeled down, and **prayed**; and **turning him TO the body** said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

NOTE: He *put them ALL forth*, that he might with **more freedom** pour out his soul before God in prayer upon this occasion, and NOT be disturbed with their noisy and clamorous lamentations. ...3. By the word, a quickening word, a word which is spirit and life. He **turned to the body**, which intimates that **when he prayed, he turned FROM it** lest the sight of it should discourage **his faith**. He LOOKED another way, to teach us, like Abraham, *against hope, to believe in hope, OVERLOOK the difficulties that lie in the way, NOT considering the body as now dead*, lest he should *stagger at the promise*, Rom. 4:19,

20. But when (*actually, it was after*) he prayed, *he turned TO the body*, and spoke in his master's **name (authority)**, according to his example: "*Tabitha, arise return to life again.*" Power went along with the word, and she came to life, opened her eyes which death had closed. (*Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/acts-9.html>*)

Thought 1. Death takes place when a person, which is a spirit, leaves their body. God (Yahweh) **PROMISED** to satisfy with long life those who LOVE and OBEY him.

1 John 3:23, And THIS is **HIS COMMANDMENT**, That we should **BELIEVE on** the **name (authority)** of his son Jesus Christ **AND LOVE one another**, AS he gave us commandment.

John 13:34, A new commandment I give unto you, That ye **LOVE** one another; **AS** (like) **I have LOVED you**, that ye also **LOVE** one another.

Thought 2. Tabitha's life was proof of having done so, therefore, it was revealed to Peter that she was granted permission to return to her body and live LONGER because she had loved and obeyed Yahweh and was NOT satisfied with the length of her time living on earth.

Psalm 91:14-16, Because he hath set his LOVE upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath **KNOWN** my **name (authority)**. He shall **call upon** me, and **I WILL** answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With **LONG LIFE** will I **SATISFY HIM...**

Proverbs 3:1-2, My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For LENGTH of days, ...and... LONG LIFE, ...and peace, shall they ...ADD to thee.

Ephesians 6:1-3, Children, OBEY your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor (reverence) thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with **PROMISE**; that it may be WELL with thee, and thou mayest **LIVE LONG** on the earth.

Acts 9:41-42, *And he gave her his hand, and **lifted her up**, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her **alive**, And it was KNOWN throughout all Joppa; and many **BELIEVED** in the Lord.*

NOTE: ...to them, he presented her, as Elijah (1 Kings 17:23), Elisha (2 Kings 4:36), and Christ (Luke 7:15), presented the dead sons alive to their mothers. The greatest joy and satisfaction are expressed by life from the dead.

The good effect of this miracle. 1. Many were by it convinced of the truth of the gospel, that is from heaven, and NOT of men, and believed in the Lord (Acts 9:42). The thing was *KNOWN throughout all Joppa* it would be in every body's mouth quickly, and, it being a town of **seafaring men**, the notice of it would be the sooner **CARRIED to other countries**, and though some never minded it, many were wrought upon by it.

(*Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/acts-9.html>*)

Mark 16:17-20, So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and **preached** every where, the **Lord working WITH them**, and **confirming (confirm** [1. prove to be TRUE. 2. to give new assurance of the truth], **establish** [prove or MAKE acceptable beyond a reasonable doubt].) the **WORD** with **SIGNS** following.

Acts 9:43, *And it came to pass, that he **tarried many days** in **Joppa** with one **Simon a tanner (a hide** [one whose occupation is to tan hides, or convert them into leather by the use of tan]).*

NOTE: Finding that a door of opportunity, he tarried there many days, till he was sent for upon business to another place.

(*Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/acts-9.html>*)