

## Full of Good Works & Deeds

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by Wayne Goff

When you read Acts 9:36-39, you get a glimpse of the godly woman Tabitha. I say a glimpse because there is so much that we do not know about her. We do not know about her birth, her parents, her marriage or children, her age, or whether she was widowed. But what we do know is what God thought of her!

She was a “disciple” of the Lord, Acts 9:36. The word disciple means a student, a learner, a follower of Jesus. She was an “apprentice” to use the language of our society. She learned and lived the life Jesus gave her to live.

As a result of her faith, she was “full of good works and charitable deeds which she did,” Acts 9:36. She was so permeated in her life with making “tunics” (undergarments) and “garments” (cloaks, robes) for those who were widows (v. 39) that she could not have done more. These were the necessary garments of the day, made with love and given to those who were destitute among them.

Thus, Tabitha practiced “pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father . . . to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction...” (James 1:27). She did for others what they could not do for themselves and received the praise of God. Now perhaps this simple, ordinary work did not reach the front pages of the newspaper, but it reached to the heart of God and He told us about her!

Moreover, Tabitha practiced the Golden Rule: “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 7:12). If you were a destitute widow, then what would you want others to do for you? If you were a neglected saint (Acts 6:1), then what would you want others to do differently toward you? Tabitha did for others what she would have wanted done for herself. She practiced true, godly religion.

### **The Godly Woman’s Life**

It just so happens that Tabitha practiced the very thing God commands certain women today. To the destitute widow, God said: “Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives” (1 Tim. 5:5-6). To godly women God said they should be “...well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints’ feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work” (1 Tim. 5:9-10). Indeed, there is a certain lifestyle expected of women in the New Testament and Tabitha lived that kind of lifestyle!

### **The Godly Woman’s Dress**

Once again we compare the instructions of 1 Timothy 2:9-10 and learn that the proper attire for a godly woman is that “which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.” Tabitha was adorned with good works. Dress that suits the lifestyle of a Christian is that which is orderly, well-arranged, appropriate and modest. The disposition that matches this includes a sense of shame, bashfulness, and respect for others. Tabitha possessed these qualities, too.

### **Conclusion**

Yes, Tabitha was the kind of person God was pleased with and that is one reason why He records her life in a few brief verses, describing what is important to Him. Read and meditate on these things.

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