

# **Good Words Are Not Better Than Good Works**

1 John 3:16-18, Acts 9:36-42

# If you think you're a Christian

**1 John**

*You're kidding yourself unless you...*

Avoid the practice of sin...

Love your brother...

Show concerned for those in need...

Have fellowship with other Christians...

Walk in the light...

Keep the commandments.



# If you think you're a Christian

**1 John 3:16-18**

**<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? <sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.**

**ordinary**  
**PEOPLE** with  
*extraordinary*  
**LOVE**





# Tabitha or Dorcas, an Example

- “Woman abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.” (Acts 9:36 NASB)
- Helpful to one of the least prominent groups – the widows.
- Made clothes (tunics and garments) for them.
- So helpful to, loved by the widows:
  - Widows’ appeal to Peter helped convince him to raise Dorcas from the dead. Acts 9:37-41



# Joppa





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**We don't know anything Tabitha said but we know a lot about what she did.**



# ROMANS

**In Romans 16 we read of Phoebe, Priscilla, Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa and Persis.**



# Tabitha

1. She is known as a disciple, a devoted follower of Jesus.



# Tabitha

1. She is known as a disciple, a devoted follower of Jesus.
2. She was a doer of good deeds.





# Tabitha

**Shamgar had an ox-goad,  
David had a sling,  
Samson had a jawbone,  
Rahab had a string,  
Mary had some ointment,  
Aaron had a rod,  
Tabitha had a needle,  
all used what they had  
to the glory of God**



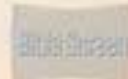


So then, as we have opportunity,

**LET US DO GOOD  
TO EVERYONE,**

and especially to those who  
are of the household of faith.

**GALATIANS 6:10**



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# Tabitha

1. She is known as a disciple, a devoted follower of Jesus.
2. She was a doer of good deeds.
3. Tabitha sought to help the hurting.



# ACTS

## Acts 9:36 (NLT)

<sup>36</sup> There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor.





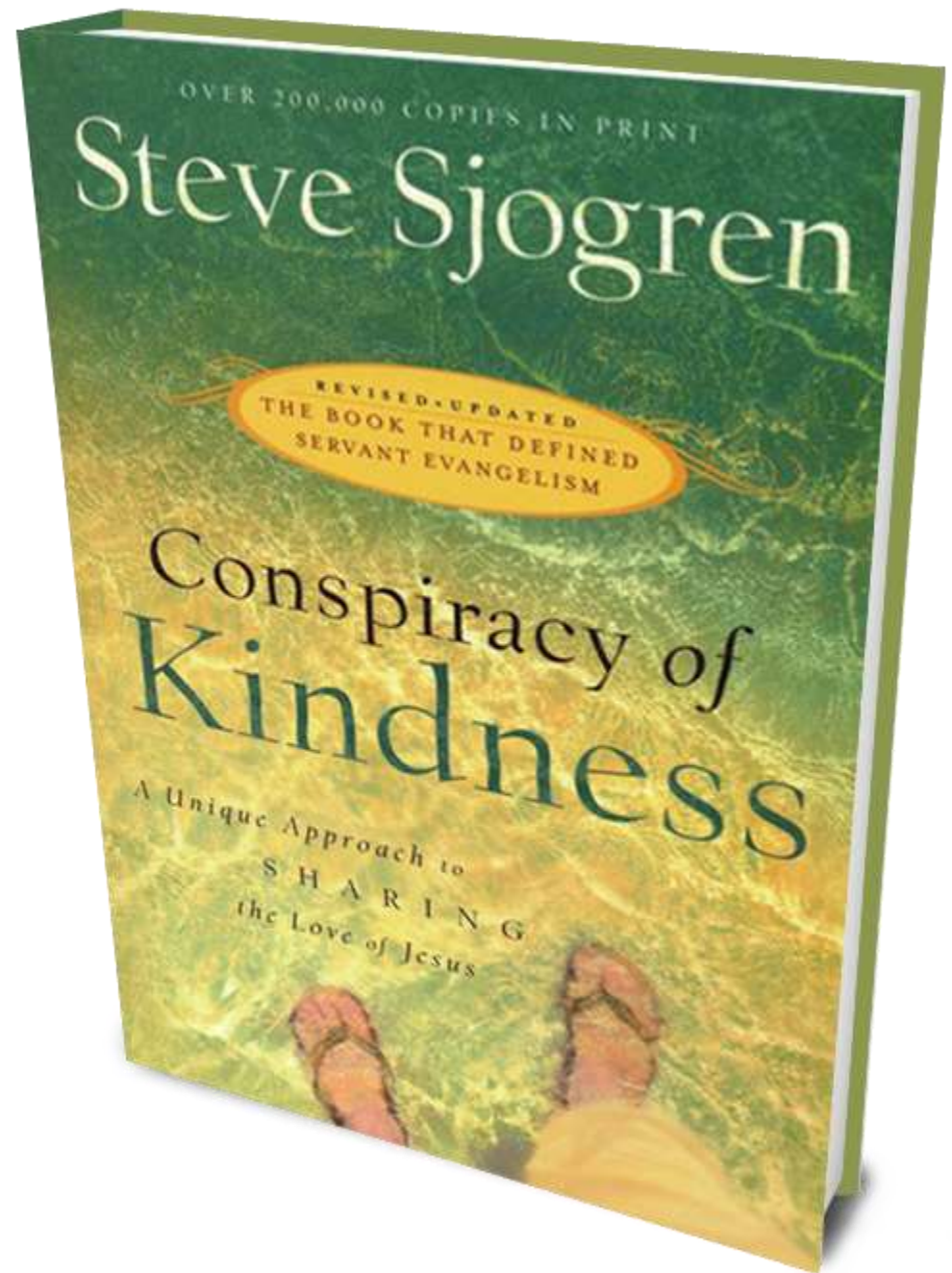
A PROVERBS

31

WOMAN

**“In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.”**

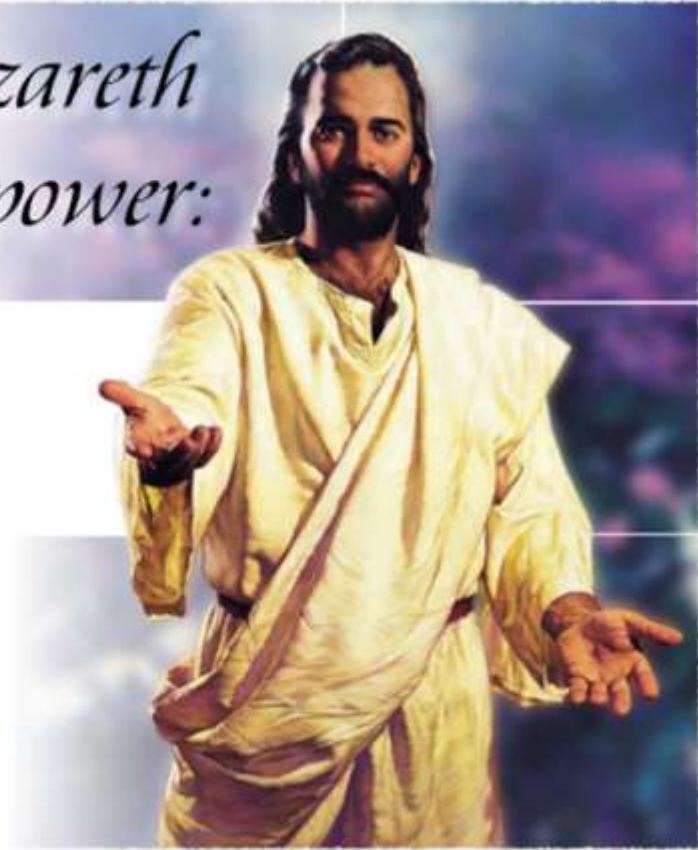
“While less than 10% of Christians have the spiritual gift of evangelism, 90% have the gift of serving.”





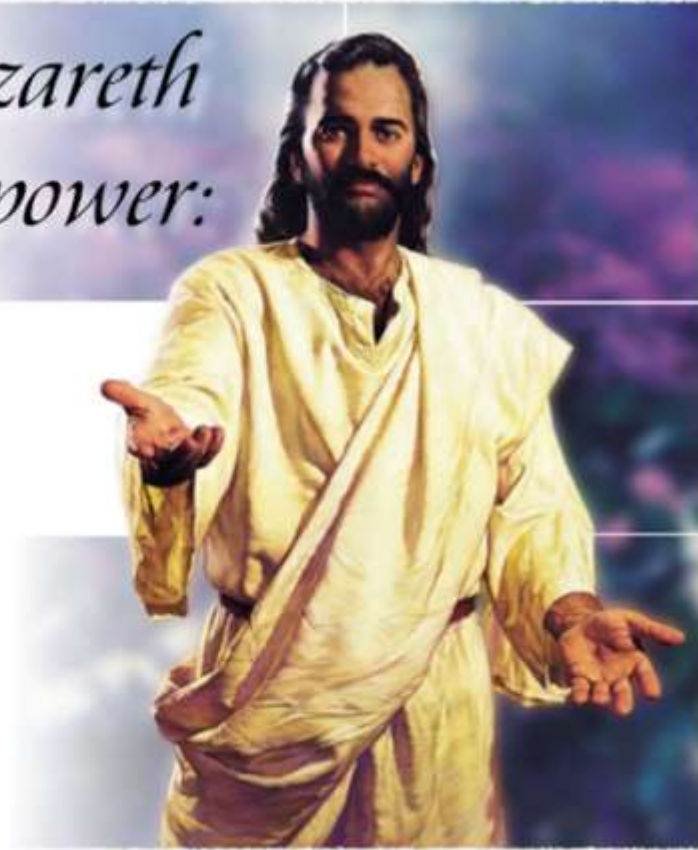
*“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth  
with the Holy Ghost and with power:  
who went about doing good,  
and healing all that were  
oppressed of the devil;  
for God was with him”*

*– Acts 10:38*



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and healing all that were  
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**Little becomes much when you do it in love.  
Small things done with great love can  
Change the world.**



Each of you should use  
whatever **gift**  
you have received  
to *serve others*,  
as faithful stewards  
of **God's grace**  
in its various forms.

- 1 Peter 4:10



*Tabitha*  
ARISE!

ACTS 9:36-43



THE BOOK OF

# ACTS

“About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, ‘Please come at once!’ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.”

## ACTS

9:37-39

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# ACTS

9:40-41

<sup>40</sup> 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. <sup>41</sup> 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.

THE BOOK OF

# ACTS

9:42

“This became known all over Joppa,  
and many people believed in the Lord.”





PREACH THE GOSPEL  
AT ALL TIMES AND,  
WHEN NECESSARY,  
USE WORDS.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

RELIGION THAT GOD OUR  
FATHER ACCEPTS AS PURE  
AND FAULTLESS IS THIS:  
TO LOOK AFTER ORPHANS  
AND WIDOWS IN THEIR  
DISTRESS AND KEEP  
ONESELF FROM BEING  
POLLUTED BY THE WORLD.

JAMES 1:27 (NIV)



“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

James 2:14-16

Dear children, let's not merely say  
that we love each other.  
Let us show the truth by our actions.



1 John 3:18





**Do you want to be remembered  
for what you said or what you did?**



people are going to remember more



of what you did than what you said!

They will remember the sacrifices and so will God!