

Acts 20:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

Analysis

And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted. This brief verse concludes the remarkable account of Eutychus's restoration. The Greek phrase *ēgagon ton paida zōnta* (ἤγαγον τὸν παῖδα ζῶντα) literally means "they brought the boy living." The word *paida* (παῖδα) can mean child, youth, or servant, while *zōnta* (ζῶντα) emphasizes he was genuinely alive—not merely revived but fully restored.

The phrase "not a little comforted" (*ou metriōs, oū metriōs*) is a litotes—deliberate understatement for rhetorical effect. In other words, they were greatly comforted. The Greek verb *parakaleō* (παρακαλέω) means to encourage, console, or strengthen. The resurrection of Eutychus provided powerful confirmation of the gospel Paul had been preaching and demonstrated God's power present among the early church.

This miracle parallels Elijah's raising of the widow's son (1 Kings 17:17-24), Elisha's raising of the Shunammite's son (2 Kings 4:32-37), and Jesus's raising of the widow's son at Nain (Luke 7:11-17). These resurrections foreshadowed Christ's own resurrection and served as signs pointing to the life-giving power of the gospel. The believers' comfort came not merely from Eutychus's restoration but from the assurance that the same resurrection power that raised Christ operates in and through His church.

Historical Context

This event occurred in Troas (modern-day Turkey) during Paul's third missionary journey, approximately 57 CE. Troas was a significant Roman colony and port city on the Aegean coast, strategically located on major trade routes between Asia and Europe. The church met in an upper room, typical of early Christian gatherings in urban settings where believers lacked public buildings.

The meeting took place on "the first day of the week" (Acts 20:7), showing the early church's practice of Sunday worship to commemorate Christ's resurrection. Paul spoke until midnight because he was departing the next day, eager to maximize his time teaching the believers. The extended discourse reflects the early church's hunger for apostolic instruction.

Eutychus falling from the third-story window probably resulted from the combination of late hour, numerous oil lamps consuming oxygen, and crowded conditions in the upper room. Luke's medical background (as the author of Acts) lends credibility to his account—he examined Eutychus and initially concluded he was dead (Acts 20:9), making the restoration genuinely miraculous. This event demonstrated that the apostolic ministry carried the same resurrection power Jesus had promised (John 14:12), encouraging the Troas believers and subsequent generations that God remains powerfully present with His church.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's power to restore physical life point to His greater power to give spiritual life?
2. What does this miracle teach about the importance of community and gathering together despite inconvenience?
3. In what ways should the reality of resurrection power affect how the church ministers today?
4. How can we maintain spiritual alertness during extended times of teaching and worship?
5. What does the believers' great comfort reveal about how God's miraculous works strengthen faith and community?

Interlinear Text

ἤγαγον	δὲ	τὸν	παῖδα	ζῶντα	καὶ	παρεκλήθησαν
they brought	And	G3588	the young man	alive	and	comforted
G71	G1161		G3816	G2198	G2532	G3870

οὐ	μετρίως
not	a little
G3756	G3357

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (Parallel theme): Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

2 Thessalonians 2:16 (Parallel theme): Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,