

Acts 9:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

Analysis

And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. Peter's gentle assistance and public presentation of restored Tabitha demonstrate pastoral care combined with strategic witnessing, maximizing the miracle's evangelistic and edifying impact.

Gave her his hand shows tender care—helping newly-risen Tabitha regain composure and stand. Though resurrected by divine power, she needed human assistance reorienting to life. This combines supernatural intervention with natural care, characteristic of biblical miracles—God works through rather than bypassing human means.

Called the saints and widows brought community to witness outcome. Having excluded them during prayer, Peter now included them in celebration. The public presentation wasn't showmanship but testimony—letting community see God's answer to desperate need. This built faith and brought glory to Christ.

Presented her alive echoes presentation language—formal demonstration of reality. The phrase confirms genuine death preceded genuine resurrection; this wasn't resuscitation but restoration from actual death. Reformed theology sees this as gospel illustration—Christ brings spiritual dead to life, presenting them alive to Father (Ephesians 2:1-5, Colossians 2:13).

Historical Context

The public presentation served multiple purposes: edifying believers, evangelizing unbelievers, honoring Tabitha, and glorifying God. Ancient society valued public witness; testimony before community carried weight. The Joppa Christians' experience around 38-39 CE created powerful evangelistic moment, as Acts 9:42 confirms—many believed throughout the region.

Tabitha's restoration meant continued ministry—she returned to serving widows and needy. Unlike Jesus' transfiguration where disciples wanted to stay on mountain (Matthew 17:4), resurrection wasn't escape from earthly service but empowerment for renewed purpose. Early Christianity valued both miraculous authentication and sustained faithful service.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do miracles serve both evangelistic and edifying purposes in Christian ministry?
2. What balance should exist between private prayer and public testimony regarding God's works?
3. In what ways does physical resurrection illustrate spiritual resurrection through regeneration?
4. How should communities respond when witnessing God's dramatic intervention?
5. What does Tabitha's return to earthly service teach about purpose of restored life?

Interlinear Text

δοὺς δὲ αὐτὴν χεῖρα ἀνέστησεν αὐτὴν φωνήσας
he gave **And** **her** **his hand** **and lifted** **her** **when he had called**
G1325 G1161 G846 G5495 G450 G846 G5455

δὲ τοὺς ἀγίους καὶ τὰς χήρας παρέστησεν αὐτὴν
And **G3588** **the saints** **and** **G3588** **widows** **presented** **her**
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ζῶσαν
alive
G2198

Additional Cross-References

Acts 6:1 (Parallel theme): And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

Mark 1:31 (Parallel theme): And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.