



### Supernatural Women

By Neil Smith on 18 November 2018 at King of Kings Am & Pm

Credits: Some thoughts borrowed from Kris Vallotton

#### **TRANSITION OUT OF WORSHIP**

*Father... We are here to worship... We are here to bow down... We are here to declare that you are God... We want to thank you for your kindness and mercy toward us... We thank you for Jesus... We thank you for sending your Spirit... We thank you for your Word... We pray that today you would lead us to a truth encounter... and that we would grow our understanding of your plan for us... and that we would become the community that you want us to be... In Jesus name.*

#### **INTRODUCTION (SUPERNATURAL)**

Good morning church.

I want to thank the team for their great leadership today. Tristan, Sino, thank you guys... I love working with you... Your love for the Lord... Your hard work... Your commitment to serving the Lord... it's inspiring. Well done!

Well church... the message today... for the next part of our Supernatural Acts' series may surprise you. But... I just want share with you what I see in the early church - and the role that women played. As we looked at the relevant themes that come out of the book of Acts – one of the interesting ones was the inspiring women who loved and served the Lord in the early church...

So today's message is called;

## **SUPERNATURAL WOMEN**

Supernatural Women...

Today I want to speak into an area that I think the church has largely failed at. Our view toward women. Sadly, I know that if you ask people in the world about the global church's position on women, you will largely hear that many people think that the church is anti-women! Anti-women in leadership. Sexist. And dominated by men. That's what many people think when they think of the church and women.

And that breaks my heart... because when you look at Jesus, you will see that Jesus was a great champion for women from the oppression that they faced at the time he was on earth. Jesus was a champion for all the oppressed, and at the time that Jesus walked the earth, women were the most oppressed people group in the world.

How many of you know that in Judaism, women were terribly oppressed? The leaders of Judaism, which sprang up during the 400 years between Malachi and Matthew, with the Pharisees and the Saducees, came up with over 600 legalistic rules to govern their religion, and of the 600, about 100 were written against women! I'm not saying it was all bad – but we all know that Jesus had a lot of criticism toward these religious leaders of the day.

And the most oppressed people in Jesus' day were women. They had no property rights, no legal rights, no political rights, no education rights, they were not allowed to even speak to men in public, when their husband invited guests over for a meal, they were not even allowed to sit at the table with the men, only alone with her husband and her children, and even the slightest indiscretion was grounds for their husband to divorce them.

They were not allowed to read the Torah, the OT scriptures, one famous Pharisee said; *"I would rather burn the Torah than teach it to a woman."* These were just some of the crazy and oppressive rules against women in that day.

But then Jesus came along... Amen!

And Jesus started to turn everything around. I don't know if you realize just how revolutionary Jesus was. But Jesus started to break all of the Pharisees rules!

Jesus started to speak to women, Jesus started to teach women, and it was illegal to teach women the scriptures!

Do you remember the story of Martha and Mary in Luke chapter 10... do you remember how Martha did what she was expected to do as a woman in that day... serving everyone... but Mary just sat at the feet of Jesus, listening to his teaching... and Martha got so upset with Mary, because she was breaking the rules!!!! But Jesus said, "Martha, Mary has chosen what is better" and he began to teach them. Later on – in the story in John 11, where their brother Lazarus died, we see that Martha even referred to Jesus as "the teacher."

We also don't always realize it, but when Jesus taught the multitudes in the gospel, and it says that there were like 5 000 men, there were also thousands more women and children! Jesus was breaking all the rules in teaching everyone, including the women.

Have you ever thought about all the encounters that are recorded in the scriptures with Jesus and women?

There is the story of Jesus and the woman with the issue of blood, in Luke 8, who Jesus miraculously healed. There's a much deeper story behind that about shame, and being labelled unclean by the religion of the day, but Jesus breaks through all of that, and brings life, and healing, and value, and restoration to a woman.

There's the story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8, who was brought before Jesus, no sign of the guy! The Pharisees hated women, and they did all they could to oppress them. Yet Jesus spoke life and healing into that situation as well.

There's the story of the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, who basically becomes the first evangelist ever – and she reaches her whole village with the good news about Jesus! I always used to think that Jesus saying all that stuff about her five husbands - to exposing her sin, but no, it was actually exposing her rejection by men. Men were the only ones who could arrange a divorce, not the women, and the man she was with never even wanted to marry her. There's a lot more to that story than meets the eye.

Then there's the story of the woman who was a "sinner" with the alabaster jar in Luke 7, she was probably a prostitute, who wet Jesus' feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair. She kissed his feet all over in the house of Simon the Pharisee. And it's significant what Jesus said to him, "Simon, do you see this woman?"

You see, the Pharisees would ignore the women and not even make eye contact with them. Jesus was saying; "Simon, look at this woman! I came into your house, you did not wash my feet, which by the way, is one of your rules, but she did. You did not anoint my head with oil, which is one of your rules when you have a guest, but she did. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since the moment I got here. And you know what Simon, I don't like your religion! But this woman, this woman truly loves me. You can learn so much from her!"

Time and time again it seems like women try to get close to Jesus to be with him, and we can learn so much from them.

And so today... I know it is not always popular to talk about differences in gender, and I know it is not very politically correct, but the fact is, gender is something that God created – it is part of who we are.

**Genesis 1:27 says; So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.**

In the world we live in today, we have taken the gender differences, and turned it into a war of who is superior or who is greater – But it was never meant to be a war! God created male and female as a partnership, not as enemies!

## **GOD MADE MEN & WOMEN – EQUALLY POWERFUL YET DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT**

We live in a world where society has tried to make men and women the same in its attempt to make them equal. But the truth is, there are huge differences. And I know there are not hard & fast rules... And forgive me if the stereotype does not fit, but generally,

Women are naturally great nurturers

Women love to be adored

Women are in touch with their feelings

Guys on the other hand, are just so different!!!!

They like to shoot things, and watch sport all day long!!!!

Although some people may not like me saying it, there's a good reason why we don't allow men and women don't play rugby against each other!

I heard a guy called Kris Vallotton explain it like this...

Men are 14% stronger and 9% faster than women - that's just a fact.

We're not saying men are better and stronger in all things, no! But if it comes to mud wrestling, I'd bet on a man!

I know some of you ladies are thinking, No ways, I would kick my husbands butt! I bet you can, there's always exceptions!!!!

I remember 10 years ago... Shelley somehow got pregnant... and we ended up at Constantiaberg Mediclinic. And I realized that day... how incredibly strong and amazing women can be!!!! I had post-traumatic stress after that!!

I've been in delivery room twice in my life, and I will tell you, anyone who thinks a man is physically stronger than a woman and has never seen labour... you know nothing!!!! What we are saying is, men are stronger than women, in some areas! But not everything. Women are far stronger than men in other areas.

This is one of the many reasons that I believe that women can be leaders in the church, teachers in the church, it's just the way they lead, and the way they teach, is different. We are going to look at some women today who were so strong in the ministry of the local church, strong carers, strong business women, strong leaders, and strong teachers. We need more women like that! Amen?!

So how does the church speak into these issues? I wanted to work our way through some of the ladies who appear in the book of Acts to learn about the women of the early church.

Here is the first one...

### **1. TABITHA**

Let me read to you what the bible says about her...

**Acts 9.36-43 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. <sup>37</sup> About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.**

**<sup>38</sup> 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!” <sup>39</sup> 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.**

**<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 for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.**

Joppa was a port City... now part of modern Tel Aviv. And in this city there lived a lady named Tabitha, or her Greek name Dorcas. She was a disciple who was probably from a Hellenistic Jewish background had a reputation in the area for always doing good and helping the poor.

We see in this passage that she is a disciple, this is not just a designation given to men. It was given to both women, and men! We can each believe! We can each follow and serve Jesus! The focus of this passage, is the ministry that Tabitha has been involved in – helping the poor and the widows. The bible says, **“She was always doing good and helping the poor.”** What an incredible testimony as a disciple. I wish that more of us could be known in this way.

So friends, let me just say this. We’ve all been made different. We all have different gifts, different passions. God made us that way, let’s celebrate that! Tabitha was a lady who clearly had a heart for helping the needy, and she was one incredible woman. She was a great carer. We need more people like that.

Widowhood, in those days, was such a vulnerable position to be in, when a husband had died... and left no financial means of support... It was hard. In fact, the first deacons of the church were appointed... mainly to take care of widows in the church! When Tabitha died, it was a roomful of crying widows that Peter met. These women really loved her, because she had been there for them, looked after them, protected them, loved them. She was amazing, and there was a whole group of people who felt lost when she died.

We see as part of her ministry, she made clothing and robes for the widows, which they showed to Peter when he arrived. They had lovingly prepared her for burial, showing her the same love and care she had shown to them.

There is no mention of a husband or family, leading some to think that she was perhaps a widow herself. Or not. Perhaps she was just an amazing single lady who

decided to serve the Lord with her life. We don't know a lot about her, but she seems to have been a woman of means, who used her gifts and what she had to be a blessing to others. What we do know for sure, is that she was a well respected and loved member of the early church, who was seriously dedicated to caring for the vulnerable in her society.

So, do we still have any Tabitha's in the house today?????!!!!!! Come on church. Let's get off our bottoms and start to make a difference in the lives of the people around us who are hurting. Let's show them the love of Jesus. Just like this amazing woman.

Here's the next lady that I see mentioned in the book of Acts...

## **2. LYDIA OF THYATIRA**

Lydia. This was another amazing woman. We read about her in chapter 16, where Paul encountered her and some other women in the city of Thyatira;

**Acts 16.11-15 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. <sup>12</sup> From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.**

**<sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God.**

**The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. <sup>15</sup> When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.**

Lydia, a wealthy lady from Thyatira, or what would be Modern Turkey today, was probably one of the most wealthy women in the New Testament. How many of you know that there are some sharp ladies who have some serious business skills! Amen!

How do we know this? Well, Lydia was a seller of purple dye and fabric, which may not make much sense to us today, but if you know your history, and the trade of the day, this was the stuff which was favoured by the emperors and the high-ranking officials – so Lydia was a woman of means! Right.

She owned the Gucci store of the day... or the Luis Vuitton store in Sandton City! This was a lady who had a lot of bucks! She had a big household... and when she came to know the Lord... it seems like she led her whole household to the Lord. This is a lady who ruled the roost!

And church, I want to say this, and it's really important that you understand this. God made us in His image, male and female he created us. God made women equally

intelligent. Equally capable. Equally powerful. Equally Supernatural! But distinctly different! Amen?!!!

And we celebrate that! We celebrate our differences in the congregation. Not just the differences between male and female, but our different personalities, our different passions, our different ethnicities. God made us in beautiful diversity. Arn't you glad God made different colours, and different flowers, and different trees! Amen. And God loves our differences.

And God loves women! ... Men, God loves you too ☺ But today's for the ladies!

What I find interesting with Lydia's story is that little line at the beginning, just back a slide or two...

**Acts 16: <sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.**

Paul specifically went to share the gospel message with the women, where he knew the women would be.

The Synagogue... if the Jewish Community there was large enough... was often close by a river for ritual washings. Lydia was likely a gentile who had converted to Judaism. And as was his habit, Paul usually went to the synagogue or the gathering place for Jews when he arrived in a new town. Traditionally in a Jewish setting, the men and women do not sit together, but Paul had no problem going and sitting down to talk with the women. You see church, the gospel message is for every gender – even if society puts different values on different genders, and tries to separate us.

Remember what Paul said to the Galatian Church:

**Galatians 3:26-29 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

It is not that Paul was gender blind or colour blind. God created us with diversity, but these do not mean anything in terms of a person's value or worth in God's eyes.

So church, let's not be afraid of strong women who are good with money! Lydia was one of those. A wealthy lady from Thyatira, who was a worshipper – I love that! A wealthy woman who was a worshipper! Lord, I pray for more wealthy woman who are worshippers! Amen?!!! That was tongue in cheek!

Then there is another interesting lady that Paul met in Athens.

### **3. DAMARIS THE AREOPAGITE**

Let's read this story from Acts 17... I think it's helpful to read the whole story through to give you the full picture...

**Acts 17:16-34; While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.”**

**They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup> You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.”**

**<sup>21</sup> (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) <sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.**

**So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.**

**<sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’**

**As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup> “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”**

**<sup>32</sup> When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” <sup>33</sup> At that, Paul left the Council. <sup>34</sup> Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.**

Amazing story, so much in here about sharing the gospel in a relevant way in the culture you find yourself. But I want you to understand the context, the Areopagus was a court, where intellectuals and cultural elites would meet to critique ideas- it

was more than a TED talk environment, there were legal implications if they did not like what you were saying. As a result of Paul's speech, a number of people came to faith in Jesus, including a lady called Damaris. We are not told much about her, but there is lots of speculation.

Because women did not normally participate in the Areopagus, and traditionally, the only women who had access to it were *hetaerae* who were essentially well-educated courtesans of the prominent men. So basically, please don't bash me for the labeling – I'm just sharing the facts... But Damaris was likely, to be a very high class, highly intelligent prostitute. And this lady, this highly intelligent lady, with her different lifestyle, came to follow believe and follow Jesus! Amen. You know what this teaches me?

- **THE GOSPEL IS FOR EVERYONE – NO MATTER YOUR PAST**

The good news of Jesus is for everyone – no matter you religious, social, educational, or sexual past. It is too easy to just share the gospel with 'nice people' but that is not the Jesus way. No one is excluded from the offer of salvation. Jesus demonstrated this when he talked with the women at the well and also the lady who was being stoned for adultery.

**John 8: 3-11 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"**

**<sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.**

**<sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup> "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."**

Friends, I would like to take a few minutes here to catch a slight rabbit trail...

I want to tell you how much it breaks my heart, and sickens me to my stomach, when I hear of the way that woman get treated by men.

We are living in a world that is sick with sin... and it breaks my heart that so often, women become the victims in a world that is imploding with sin, and violence and hatred.

Reading the recent story of Hannah Cornelius from Stellenbosch... and her rape and murder... It's something simply beyond my understanding. How human beings can do that, to another human being.

It is sad that it's so hard to escape the gender issues in our society these days though. We have such shocking stories in the news of gender-based violence. We have the ongoing #metoo media stories where women have been disclosing the sexual harassment they have endured, most of which is connected to their work environment.

Men. My prayer is that God will raise up more and more Godly men in this house, who know how to treat woman right. Men, women are not sexual objects. Pornography is from the devil to turn women into nothing more than an object of sexual pleasure. Let God change your heart, let God purify your mind. In this community of Jesus followers, we have a culture where we honour woman. Jesus did that. The early church did that. We can do that.

And so what I want to say is this. Although I know it could never fix everything, or heal everything, to every women in this place today, I want to say on behalf of the men of this church, I am so sorry for the way you have been treated. For every time you were treated with a lack of dignity, a lack of value, wolf whistled at, or treated unfairly, we are so sorry.

As women, you have every right to be treated with dignity, and respect. Because you are created by God. God created you, to be equal partners with men.

God never took women from Adam's head, to rule over him, or from his foot, to be under him, but from his side, to stand alongside him. And so to the ladies here today I want to say, we love you, we appreciate you, we value you, we want to protect you, we want to bless you. We bless the women of this church, we bless the young ladies, we bless the wives, we bless the mothers. You are valued, you are appreciated. And we want you to stand by our sides, as we serve Jesus together. As we worship Jesus together.

Then finally, another lady who was very much part of a husband and wife team.

#### **4. PRISCILLA**

Priscilla is interesting as a woman in scripture, because her ministry was not like the others, Tabitha's care ministry, Lydia's financial and worship calling, Damaris' high intellect and worship, Priscilla seems to have been gifted in leadership and teaching...

**Acts 18:1-28 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, <sup>3</sup> and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them....**

**<sup>18</sup> Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila....**

**<sup>24</sup> Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. <sup>25</sup> He had**

**been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John.**

**<sup>26</sup> He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.**

Priscilla and Aquila, like Paul, were tent makers, and seemed to be very much a team. So they ran their own personal business, and used that to fund their ministry calling.

What's very interesting, is the way in which Priscilla's name is usually mentioned first, before her husbands, which was culturally, very rare at the time. And so it would seem that Priscilla was quite a strong character and leader. So much so that Luke recognized her leadership. They worked alongside Paul tent making, they travelled with him on missionary journeys, they even took a strong Christian public leader, named Apollos aside, to correct him in his teaching about Jesus – so that he had a adequate theological understanding, and they did this all together. I just love this! A strong husband and wife team, both serving the Lord together – how I pray we could have more of these!

In Romans chapter 16 Paul says this about them, once again, referring to Priscilla first...

**Romans 16:3-5 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. <sup>5</sup> Greet also the church that meets at their house.**

Another interesting point is how the great Apostle Paul, views Priscilla as his equal partner, a co-worker in Christ Jesus.

This couples ministry was shared, and the respect they received from the disciples was equal. There was no Priscilla simply tagging along, she was right there in missions and teaching with her husband. Their home was used as a meeting place for the church, and they were a united leadership team.

So church, I realize that the subject of women in leadership in the church can be a controversial one to some... but you know what... I want to be a champion for women. In a day like today... where I think religion and it's leadership have by and large become a men's club... I think that is miles away from the heart of God. Imagine how much you miss, when you miss having a women's perspective, a women's intuition, a women's passion. Crumbs, I've heard some guys say that our church's would all be like ice cold male Vulcan planets!

So I am praying for women to take their rightful place in the Kingdom of God. And I don't want to get too caught up in details and make entire doctrines out of single verses. I know some of you would point some out to me, and to that I would reply, that when I look at the bible as a whole, I see God championing both men and women, who are made in his image, to serve him in their own unique way.

I find it helpful when I think of the bible written to three people groups;

- 1) The Jews
- 2) The Gentiles
- 3) The Romans

I find it interesting that books in the New Testament written to the Romans have no restrictions to women in any way. Want to know why? Because Romans were far less oppressive toward women than the Jews and the Gentiles. Roman woman could own their own properties, could run their own businesses, legally they could be a witness in a court of law, crumbs, Jewish women could not even be a witness in a legal issue because the Pharisees believed that women were inherently liars. It was just oppressive!

The Greeks on the other hand took it to the other extreme. They made God's out of women. The book of Thessalonica was basically a city named after a Greek goddess. Same with Ephesus, they had the Greek head goddess, Diana.

So the biblical writers were aware of these cultural differences and issues, that were much more complex than we always realize reading these verses in 2018, and so to interpret verses correctly, one has to interpret it correctly, at face value, but also taking the context into consideration. I'll leave it there for today.

## **CONCLUSION**

So church, what do we take away from this?

**In the early church women played a vital role**– So I want to say to the woman in our church as well;

## **WOMEN, YOU HAVE A VITAL ROLE!**

I'm not sure where God has gifted you... but I want to encourage you not to hold back – step into your calling in the Kingdom... If it's like Tabitha... looking after people... the poor and vulnerable, in mission and in ministry. Don't wait for someone to give you a license to do that!!!! If you're a believer, you've got the license. Just do it! You are a supernatural woman made in the image of God with spiritual gifts – so you go girl!

Perhaps you have a gifting with finances or business skill like Lydia... use that for the glory of God, and use it all to worship him like she did. Perhaps you can relate to Damaris... you're intelligent, strong, but you also have a past where you have been taken advantage of, don't let that define you. Take a brave step into what God is calling you to do just like Damaris. And then you've got the Priscilla's. Ladies, God has gifted some of you with leadership gifts... don't be afraid to step out and shine.

I will end with this verse from Paul...

**Galatians 3:26-29 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

## **PRAYER**

I would like to ask all the women to stand so that we can pray for you today...

*Father, thank you for your word, that has reminded us today of the significant plan you have for women. We want to pray your protection over the women in our church, we want to pray your covering over the women, and Lord, we want to pray your commissioning over the women – to flourish in their God ordained callings. We pray that you would empower the women in the church to be the Supernatural Women that you have created them to be, in Jesus strong and powerful name, Amen.*