

God is a cheerful giver, too!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2021 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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A cheerful giver

Imagine you have a bag of candy, your favorite kind. Let's say a friend comes along, and you happily share with him or her. But now let's say you have a bag of candy, and your parents force you to share with somebody. It doesn't feel so good, does it?



Saint Paul tells us in the epistle today, "God loves a cheerful giver." God knows a cheerful giver is somebody who chooses to give. Nobody forces him to do it. Nobody takes money or candy or clothes away from him. A cheerful giver shares his money or his candy or his clothes because he *wants* to do that!

But then Saint Paul tells us another part about sharing our things with people who don't have much. Saint Paul tells us that when we share, God will share even more with us! God gives seed to the farmer and bread for food and He will "supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness." So, when we share, God will make sure to bless us even more!

Sometimes it's tempting to keep our things to ourselves. It's tempting for grownups to do that too! But Saint Paul tells us that "God loves a cheerful giver" and when we give to the poor, God will even multiply what we have. That's because God is a cheerful giver too!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

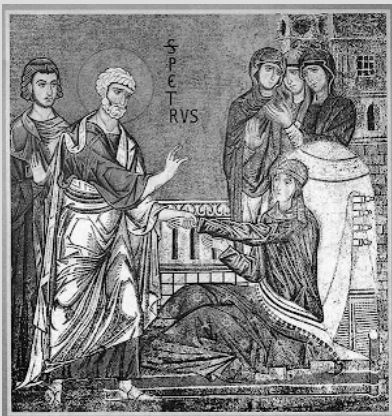
- Charity
- Cheerful
- Dorcas
- Epistle
- Giver
- Help the poor
- Love
- Miracle
- Raise
- Saint
- Tabitha

E Y O Q Q L M Q Y R F S R Y E
 T A B I T H A D E G H A J V X
 Y A K V T G B V O E P I I S M
 Y Q Z Y G M I U L R L N M A E
 I H G G W G W P K A C T M R J
 E Q E P I S T L E S P A X K K
 V T E L T H L M G C M O S E P
 B Z O V E R U R I I H P Z J E
 B K V P O E F A A R S X X E U
 E V O K P L R I H R A P X Q H
 Z O H C U S E S Y D W C S S Z
 R I X L C G E E I R N C L K Z
 V S T U P Z H V M I V Y O E W
 T T Y F P B C T T E E W V T S
 G O U B Y T I R A H C V H C R

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

Here is an icon that tells the story of Saint Tabitha in the Bible.

Do you see Saint Peter raising her up from her bed? Tabitha had died, but Saint Peter worked this miracle!



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SAINT TABITHA

WE STILL REMEMBER HER GOOD WORKS!

Have you ever read a biography? You know, a book or story about a real person who lived. Maybe it told about all the great things he or she did. How the person helped win a war, or how he invented something important, or beat a world record in sports. We remember these special people in lots of different ways.



Tomorrow we remember a saint we hear about in the Bible. Saint Tabitha lived 2,000 years ago. Some people might think she didn't do anything very important. Some people might think a biography about her is kind of boring! What did Saint Tabitha do? She sewed. She made things out of cloth. And what did she do with them? She helped the poor. She gave her things away to help others.

We remember Saint Tabitha two thousand years later, because she loved the poor, and she loved to help them.

In the Bible, we can read about how Saint Tabitha died, and how everyone was so sad because she had helped people so much. They told Saint Peter about Tabitha, and he did an amazing thing, with God's help and power. Tabitha was dead, but Saint Peter raised her back to life!

Let's remember Saint Tabitha tomorrow, and let's think about how she is an example for all of us!

We celebrate St. Tabitha on Monday, October 25th (OC: Nov. 7th).