



**RUN,
CHURCH,
RUN**

**MUD, SWEAT
& TEARS**

CRAIG REES

Acts 9:36–43

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In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

Acts 9:36

Love is not just a verb because acting lovingly without being connected to the source isn't the Christian's experience.

If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:3

Dear children, let us not love with words or
speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18

God is love (1 John 4:8) and because He is, He did something (John 3:16). Love is not just a verb.

Acts 9:37-42

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

Acts 9:37-42

One woman made such a difference in these widows' lives that the thought of losing her caused them to seek Peter for something quite extraordinary. When Tabitha died people cried and went to extreme lengths to bring her back.

If this church closed, who'd cry?

Let's be quicker to practice our responsibility than we are to advocate our rights.

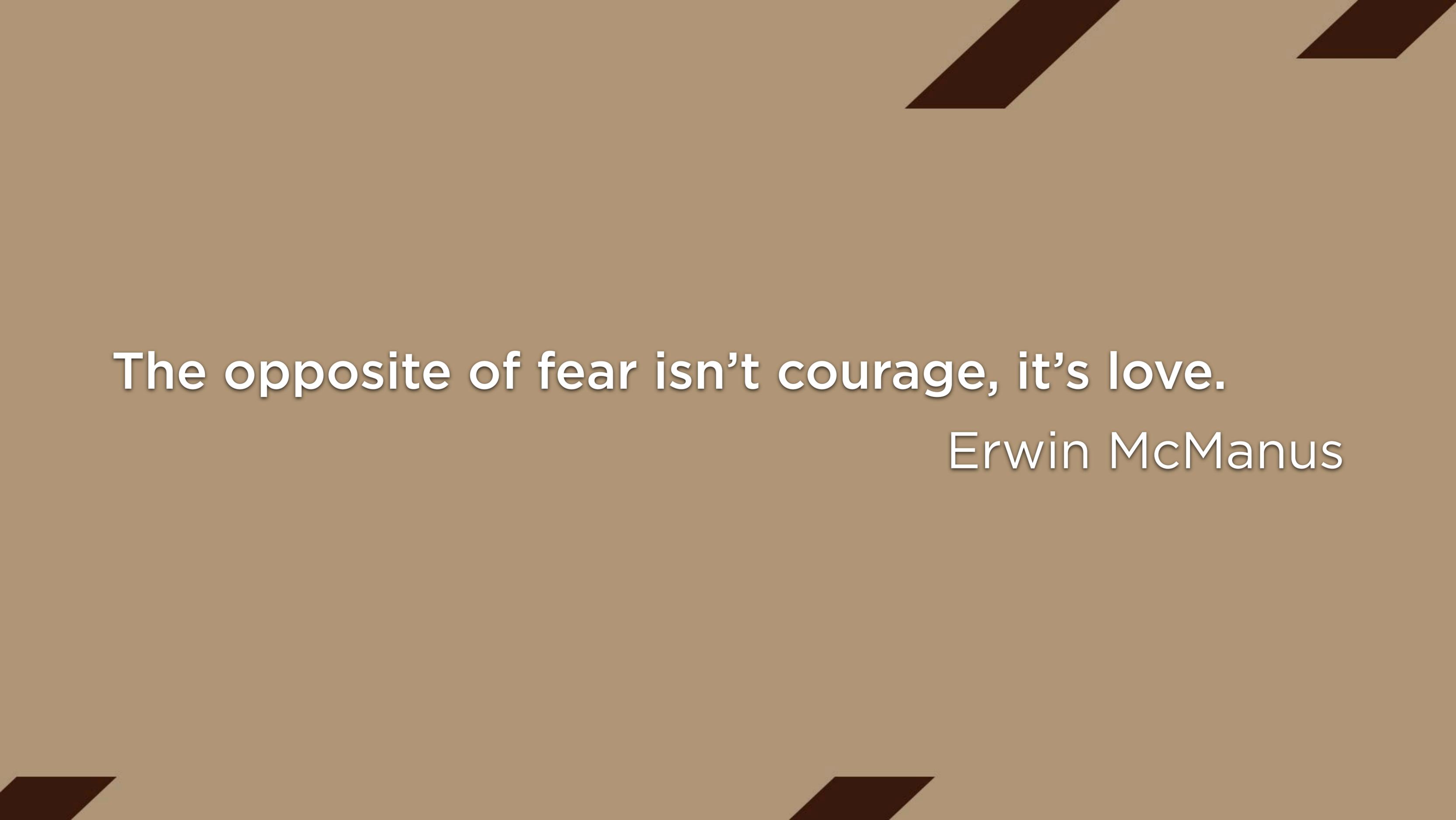
Acts 16:35-40

When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: “Release those men.” The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.” But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No!

Let them come themselves and escort us out.” The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

Acts 16:35-40

Instead of advocating for his own rights at the beginning, Paul embraces punishment he doesn't deserve.

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The opposite of fear isn't courage, it's love.

Erwin McManus

The right to be called sons and daughters of God carries the responsibility to carry our cross.