



# Rhoda: Cowgirl after my own Heart

## Introduction:

Rhoda lived during the time of the persecution of people that believed in Jesus as Savior. People were being executed by the government, imprisoned, and beaten at the very least because they were a follower of Jesus.

She is still a “damsel” at this incident, so she is a young lady, a young believer. We see her at a prayer meeting; a secret prayer meeting held behind closed doors and a locked gate in the middle of the dark night.

Prayers are being offered up for Peter. He has been put into the prison for preaching the Word of God.

No church buildings, no padded pews, no super sound system, no choirs, no bands, nothing like we see today existed in the way of a facility and no protection or rights from the government to assemble peaceably to worship. Rhoda was in a prayer meeting pleading for the life of Peter to be spared so he could again preach the Word of God. Times were definitely frightening; but they were also miraculous times.

If you want to see miracles; there must be a need for miracles and real prayer, the kind that is serious and talks to the Lord; not the kind that is said so other people can hear you pray. These people were in prayer; at least we know some of them had the real deal going because the miracle is about to happen on their watch.

**Reference:** *Acts 12:13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.*

NOTE: Read *Acts 12: 1-19* at some point early in the story to get the entire picture.

## WHEN you have to Cowgirl UP:

Rhoda is already my hero when I read that she as a young lady is at this prayer meeting in the middle of the night with other believers. She is on her knees with them asking for God to intervene so that Peter will not be executed for preaching the Word of God. If she and the others are caught there is a great price to pay. Some will die by the sword on the spot; others be put into prison; others will be beaten badly. Yet, here she is taking a “chance” boldly for the Lord. People are most likely whispering to each other; the lights are kept low and maybe even not one candle is burning in the place so they won’t be detected by the soldiers in the streets.

Then there is a knock at the gate/door.

What should she do? Ignore it? Most likely the safest thing to do is to get quiet and wait for the person at the door to go away. But there is a tugging at her heart; an urging she can’t reason against. So she goes to the gate. But wait, where is her backup? Who is going to the gate with her? It’s late at night, it’s dark, at any moment the soldiers may come for them. Surely, SOMEONE will go to the gate with her ! But NO ONE but Rhoda goes to the gate. Courage? Perhaps. Leading of the Holy Spirit. Definitely !

*Acts 12: 14-15 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.*



**Rhoda gets EXCITED at answered prayer!** She BELIEVES in answered prayer. Then she faces what all of you will face sooner or later as a believer in answered prayer: the naysayers arise from the religious crowd. In fact, this is the crowd that was bold enough to go to a prayer meeting that might easily cost them their lives and the lives of their family! What?! These are bold believers; surely they will understand. Don't count on it! In fact, they call her names !!!!!

Weren't these Christians in the middle of intervening prayer for Peter?

They are quick to call her "crazy"! But not only had she believed, her belief had become SIGHT. He was at the gate !

**Careful young Christian!** This is where you will be challenged. Those who have little sight or what I call "baby Christians in big Christians bodies" will throw a punch at your faith. Keep those eyes on Jesus ! Don't let anyone discourage you from your Master.

As a young girl whenever I showed a desire to serve the Lord, my own family would say to me: "You don't want to do that." I never had an opportunity to go to Christian Camp and was discouraged more than once about getting "involved" in my youth group's visitation programs. But today, my Savior allows me to serve Him openly and with boldness. Keep your eyes on the Master. Yes, Rhoda, I feel your heart sink as the adults tell you that you couldn't possibly understand the workings of the Lord.



She boldly stood by her guns, as we say here in the West.

Then they PARTIALLY believe her. **Then said they, It is his angel.** WHAT! Now they think he's been executed already. Where is the answer to prayer?! They believe only that his "ghost" has come to visit!



So now we see halfway or half-hearted believers in prayer!

*Acts 12:16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.*

**The Next Day:**

*Acts 12:17 Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.*

But this is not all of the story of Rhoda. What we do know from the scripture is that the persecutions continued of the believers. What you will learn from history is that the more the "church" is persecuted the more it was able to expand and more souls worldwide would come to Jesus. If they had not faced persecution most likely they would not have scattered or spread out over the world. I can only imagine what became of Rhoda. Perhaps she was later one of the executed; perhaps she grew to an adult age. I can only imagine her zeal for instructing others on answered prayer! No doubt, she cowgirl'd up and led others to faith in Christ.



What are you doing for Christ? You are not under threat of your life for praying; hiding in the darkness in prayer groups, begging for the life of your Pastor. How much "easier" you have it! Get your eyes on the goal; that is the souls of others.

[Plan of salvation presented here.](#)