

MAY 7

Phoebe ~ Greek name meaning “Bright, Radiant, Pure”
Romans 16

Phoebe, Deaconess and Messenger

By Jarquisha Thurmond

In the early day of Christianity, one woman stood out for her unwavering dedication and service. She is mentioned only once in the Bible, in **Romans 16:1-2**. She is referred to as a deaconess and a benefactor of many, including Paul. Phoebe lived in Cenchreae, a poor city near Corinth, during a time when women were not really entrusted with leadership responsibilities. She broke barriers with her leadership and influenced the early church. She was entrusted with important tasks, likely taking care of the community and the distribution of resources. One of the most important things Phoebe did was deliver the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans on his behalf, showcasing her trustworthiness and strength. Imagine the courage it took her to travel along in a male dominant society advocating for the message of Christ.

Ladies, God wants to use you too with all the different gifts He gave you. Go be bold and have confidence that you can do all things because God is with you.

Let's pray: Dear God, help us to walk in the gifts You have given us with wisdom and boldness.

Amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17