

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR THE GENTILES! -- ACTS 10:23B-48

### OBSERVATION

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

#### THE RECEPTION THAT PETER HAD WAS EVIDENCE THAT GOD WAS WORKING HIS PLAN – Acts 10:24-27

*Act 10:23b On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him.*

*Act 10:24 And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.*

*Act 10:25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.*

*Act 10:26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."*

*Act 10:27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together.*

#### THE REASON PETER CAME WAS BASED ON GOD'S REVELATION – Acts 10:28-29

*Act 10:28 Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.*

*Act 10:29 Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?"*

*Act 10:30 So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,*

*Act 10:31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.*

INTRODUCTION: - The meeting of Peter and Cornelius was certainly a **divine plan**. Peter in verse 28 says, “*God has shown me.*” But from a human perspective I don’t always think that way. We think what a coincidence. But the fact is God know what He is doing in our lives. He knows how to put people into our paths under divine appointment and divine plan. I’d like to share a few things with you about God’s plan:

*v. 24 “Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.”* - The **reception** that Peter had was **evidence** that God was working His plan. When Peter got there Cornelius called together his relatives and close friends. They were waiting for him. This was prepared by God. Peter was reluctant because he was a Kosher Jew and did not want to go to a Gentiles house, but God was working in this situation, He was working out His will.

*v. 28 “God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.”* - The **reason Peter came** was based on **God’s revelation** - Peter had come because God had spoken to his heart. If we are ever going to share the gospel with the world who need Christ, it will be because we know that God has shown us and spoken to us in His Word. It is easy to ignore our responsibility by not reading the Word, but the more you read the Word the more you see what God’s plan is for you. Sometimes we have fear and hesitation and reluctance to share Jesus Christ with others. But God wants to move in our lives to share His Gospel with others.

*vs. 30-31 “I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, [31] and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. -* The **request** of Cornelius was obviously the **result of God’s revelation** – It seems that it is possible that Cornelius could have been fasting as he was praying, but I believe it is more proper grammatically that he was praying and fasting from the point that the angel told him. In other words for four days Cornelius was going without food and was praying. He is a Gentile proselyte to Judaism and a believer in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but he does not understand everything and does not know about Jesus Christ. He knew God would give him more answers, and he waited on God to show him very clearly His will.

#### “THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR GENTILES” Acts 10:23B-48

**Note how the Holy Spirit is working on both sides of this account – on Cornelius and on Peter!**

v. 25 Whenever the Lord begins to work through a person, they, as Peter, need always to be careful, as were the apostles, as not to allow people to hold them up on a pedestal, elevate them and exalt them above the others. Notice however, that this is an indication of the humility in Cornelius, regarding receiving the one who Cornelius was told in his vision, was to come to his house.

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## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

*Act 10:32 Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.'*

*Act 10:33 So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."*

*Act 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.*

*Act 10:35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.*

*Act 10:36 The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—*

*Act 10:37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached:*

*Act 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

v. 34 "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality." - The message of Peter was a **needed preparation** – People need to hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today there are very few preachers preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That means telling folks about the death and resurrection of Christ. Although preachers may be preaching on some other subject, it should be that every time God's Word is shared there ought to be some message clearly revealed to every unbelieving heart that may be in that room about Jesus and His power to save, the invitation and opportunity should be given constantly. Peter began his great message by starting out saying that God's plan includes the Gentiles. That is something he did not understand. He said that God is not one to show partiality. The word "partiality" means **"face taker."** It means to **"look at a man's face and make a judgment."** It was used by the judges in Roman courts to make a decision or ruling on a case. If they liked him ruling in his favor, if they didn't like him, they would rule against him. So the word became to mean "a judge who shows partiality." He **looks only at the man's face instead of considering the facts of the case.** We should be very glad God does not just look at a person's face to make a judgment. God is no respecter of persons. **God sees the hearts of men and judges men's hearts** (1 Samuel 16:7). I wonder if that is our problem sharing Jesus with people. We are too concerned about what people look like or what they do or say **instead of looking at their heart like Jesus does** (John 10:16)

v. 36 "The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all" - It **centered** in the person and the work of Jesus Christ – Acts 10:35-42 Can a person truly be a Christian and not understand this? I don't think so. It is fundamental to the gospel of our Lord Four things here:

v. 38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him". - His **miracles** are a part of that plan. The miracles of Jesus substantiated who He was and that God's power was with Him (John 20:30). It was important to see the miracles of Jesus Christ.

First, the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Peter speaks of the ministry of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, God was with Him.

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**Act 10:39 And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.**

**Act 10:40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly,**

**Act 10:41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.**

**Act 10:42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.**

**Act 10:43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."**

**Act 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.**

**v. 39 "whom they killed by hanging on a tree."** - His death on the cross – The death of Jesus Christ, the substitution for our sins, all of our sins were laid upon Him. That is the Gospel. You cannot have the Gospel without the death of Jesus Christ.

**v. 40 "Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly,"** - His resurrection from the dead – It was a bodily, physical resurrection. The apostles ate and drank with Him. In *Luke 24*, Luke said that the apostles thought they saw a ghost, Jesus said to them "handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see Me have." He had a real physical body that arose from the dead.

**v. 42 "it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead."** - The judgment of Christ in the future –I do not believe that pertained to those living at that particular time and those who were dead. But it might mean those who are living and dead at the time He comes again. In other words, all people are going to be judged by Jesus Christ. He is the one we will stand before to give an account. The Father has committed all judgment to His Son Jesus Christ.

**v. 43 "whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."** – God's plan requires personal faith – It amaze me how many church members who think because they know the facts about the Gospel, that it means they are Christians. That is simply not true. Because you are raised in a Christian home, you have Christian parents, Christian family and background and go to a Christian church, that that is enough? No! That is not enough. Let's clarify a point that gets confusing at times. Did Jesus die on the cross for the sins of the whole world? The Bible is quite clear on that. *1 John 2:2*. Yes, He did. But if a man does not personally have faith in that, you are not saved or forgiven. If you do not believe in what Jesus has done, then you will never see eternal life. We are held accountable for that, because He does not save people on the basis of their works or their human worth or because they have been good or done the best they can. He saves them on faith in His Son, Jesus Christ alone.

**v. 44 "the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word."** -The miracle of the Holy Spirit was the convincing proof – Notice while he was still speaking the Holy Spirit fell upon those who were listening. God doesn't have to wait for a message to be finished for someone to be saved. When someone hears what they have to do, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ immediately, the Holy Spirit will be poured out on them.

Second, the death of Jesus Christ. In Jerusalem He was slain.

Third, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was hung on a tree, but God raised Him from the dead on the third day. That's the message. We were witnesses. God raised Him and He showed Him openly.

Have you placed your hope solely and completely upon the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross?

Now at this point Peter's message was interrupted. Interrupted by the Holy Spirit. *44While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.* There was sort of a second Pentecost of sorts. While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit just fell upon them who were listening.

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## OBSERVATION

**Act 10:45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.**

**Act 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, Act 10:47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"**  
**Act 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.**

## INTERPRETATION

**v. 45 "were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also."** - The reaction to the miracle of the Holy Spirit by those Jews – They were amazed how the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles. Now the word "gift" of the Holy Spirit here is the Greek word "dorea" and it refers to **the free gift of the Holy Spirit Himself** - Acts 2:38. In **Acts 11:15-18**, Peter is recounting the story back in the household of Cornelius. We see that the gift and baptism of the Holy Spirit are one and the same. It is referring to the presence of the Holy Spirit coming into the life of a believer. It is very clear in this passage, it happens the moment you believe in the Lord Jesus. In the book of Acts they need some signs to demonstrate that it actually happened. It happened at Pentecost in Acts 2, at Samaria in Acts 8, at the house of Cornelius in Acts 10 and through some disciples of John the Baptist in Acts 19. Why was speaking in foreign languages without knowing that language necessary? It was confirmation that the message of the Apostles was truly of God and that the Holy Spirit had come on the entire world. This was the promised covenant of God. The Jews were amazed but they were confused by the signs – 1 Corinthians 1:22.

**vs. 47-48 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" [48] And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. – The result of this miracle** – In this passage we see the reason and the point of water baptism is clearly revealed and established. Why should somebody get baptized in water? According to this text, it is **because they have been born again**. They have trusted in Jesus Christ, received the Holy Spirit and everlasting life and have forgiveness of their sins. **Water baptism is a testimony to what God Himself has already done**. The water pictures the presence of the Holy Spirit coming into the life of the believer. It also pictures the cleansing that we have from sin. It pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Christ – cf. - **Romans 6 – Colossians 2**.

## APPLICATION

### Questions:

1. Can you see how that the meeting of Cornelius and Peter was part of a divine plan of God? Can you recall of clearly being part of such a plan?
2. What do think that Cornelius was doing from the time of his prayer, for four days? – v. 30 .. "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour"
3. V. 34 states that .... "God shows no partiality" What does the word partiality mean? How does that meaning apply in this context?
4. For one to be saved, does there have to be a belief in the physical bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ? V. 40
5. Does God's plan for salvation require personal faith? V. 43
6. How important is it to have the fear of God in a person believing the gospel of Jesus Christ?
7. What does the Bible teach regarding the elapsed time from when a believer places his faith and trust in the resurrected and living Christ to that of being filled with the Holy Spirit? V. 44; Acts 11:18
8. In v. 44, Peter was interrupted by the Spirit. Can you think of times he was also interrupted by the Father and by the Son? (Mt. 17:5; 17:25)
9. What does baptism mean to you? Vs. 47-48 Does v. 47 remind you of a verse in chapter 8?

Father, we thank You for the power of Your Holy Spirit and the gift of Your Holy Spirit that You've poured out upon the Gentiles as well as the Jews. And Lord we thank You that You have opened the door that we can come in and know the blessedness of our sins forgiven and the blessedness of fellowshiping with You. Oh Lord, we come today and we ask, Lord, that You would work in our hearts and in our lives as we read, Lord, of how You directed Peter so specifically and how you directed Cornelius. Lord, we long to be in that place of close fellowship with You. To the extent, Lord, that You could speak directly to us about specific issues. Lord, let our hearts be open to the fullness of Your Holy Spirit and to the work of Your Holy Spirit, that we might be empowered by Your Spirit to do Your work. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.