

Acts 8-10 *The Transition of Gospel Ministry Ownership... to Paul and the Gentile Church. (Part One)*

NOTES

Acts 8 Persecution Scatters the Church – *beware of the transition!*

1. **Great persecution scattered disciples to preach the Gospel beyond Jerusalem. (8:1-3)**
 - ✓ The apostles stayed at Jerusalem (HQ for the early Jewish church); Saul made havoc of the church.
2. **Philip went to Samaria – a major shift in direction – as Christ said they would. (8:4-8)**
 - ✓ The disciples were scattered and went everywhere preaching the word of God;
 - ✓ Philip preached Christ to the Samaritans.
3. **God worked through transitions for the Samaritans (half Jews) that believed. (8:9-24)**
 - ✓ Believers were baptized; the apostles were sent from Jerusalem to confirm their salvation.
4. **Philip was led to the Ethiopian eunuch who believed in Christ and then was baptized. (8:25-40)**
 - ✓ Philip was sensitive to the Spirit's leading and immediately obeyed when called upon.
 - ✓ God was drawing the Ethiopian to faith in Christ – God the Son – Philip opened his mouth for God.
 - ✓ The Ethiopian believed first and then was baptized by immersion in water.

Acts 9:1-18 Saul's Conversion – *the Apostle to the Gentiles gets saved!*

1. **Saul aggressively set his life against Jesus Christ and His church. (9:1-2)**
 - ✓ Saul was zealous to destroy the church; secured letters from high priest to continue at Damascus.
2. **Saul was confronted by the Lord Jesus Christ – Himself – as he journeyed. (9:3-5)**
 - ✓ A light shined round about him from heaven, and he fell to the earth.
 - ✓ He saw Christ and heard His audible voice – a unique personal encounter.
 - ✓ Jesus charged him with crimes against Him – as holy God and the resurrected Saviour.
3. **Saul, fearing and trembling before a holy God, believed and repented in his heart and confessed with his mouth the Lordship of Jesus Christ. (9:6-9)**
 - ✓ He repented and believed – and immediately yielded his will and life to Christ as Lord!
4. **God used Ananias – a common, faithful disciple – to guide Saul's obedience at first. (9:10-18)**
 - ✓ Ananias was sensitive to the Lord's leading and obeyed when He was called upon.
 - ✓ God told Ananias that He had an incredible plan for Saul's life.
 - ✓ Saul received his sight, was filled with the Holy Spirit and was baptized by Ananias.

Acts 9:19-43 Saul the Disciple – *the disciples prepare him to preach Christ!*

1. **Saul gained strength from other disciples and straightway preached Christ. (9:19-25)**
 - ✓ Saul was strengthened by time spent with the disciples (we call that discipleship).
 - ✓ Saul immediately began to preach that Jesus Christ is the Son of God; Jews wanted to kill him.
2. **Barnabas was used by God to connect Saul with other believers in Jerusalem. (9:26-30)**
 - ✓ The disciples were rightly afraid of Saul and did not believe him at first.
 - ✓ Barnabas took responsibility to get Saul integrated into the fellowship of believers.
 - ✓ Saul was then able to do what he was created by God to do – preach Christ crucified.
3. **The churches had rest and were edified – and began to multiply. (9:31)**

- ✓ The Bible says the churches were walking in the fear of the Lord.
- ✓ The Bible says the churches were walking in the comfort of the Holy Ghost.

4. Peter – the apostle to the Jews – performed signs and Jews turned to the Lord. (9:32-43)

- ✓ A certain man Aeneas was healed of the palsy and many turned to the Lord.
- ✓ A certain disciple Tabitha was raised from the dead and many believed in the Lord.

Acts 10:1-33 Peter and the BIG Transition – *God moves to the Gentiles!*

1. Cornelius – a religious, God-fearing Gentile – received a warning from God. (10:1-8)

- ✓ He was a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house.
- ✓ He gave much alms to the people.
- ✓ He prayed to God always.
- ✓ He was lost and living under the wrath and condemnation of Almighty God.

2. Peter – the apostle to the Jews – received the command to go to the Gentiles. (10:9-33)

- ✓ God spoke to Peter in prayer through a vision and confirmed it THREE times (three witnesses).
- ✓ Peter – as a faithful Jew – rebuked God who was clearly making a TRANSITION!

Acts 10:34-33 God's Warning to the Gentiles – *the Gospel was sent to you!*

1. The word of God was published throughout all the land of the Jews. (10:34-37)

- ✓ Then Peter opened his mouth; God is no respecter of persons; EVERY NATION people who fear Him.
- ✓ The word was sent by God and preached – peace with God by Jesus Christ, He is Lord of all.
- ✓ The word was published throughout all Judaea – the Gentiles knew that word...

2. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ was known by everyone that heard. (10:38-41)

- ✓ God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power.
- ✓ Jesus went about doing good, healing all that were oppressed by the devil.
- ✓ Jesus was murdered and hanged on a tree – He became sin for us who knew no sin.
- ✓ God raised Jesus Christ from the dead the third day defeating sin and death.
- ✓ The resurrection of Jesus Christ was witnessed openly by over 500 eyewitnesses.

3. The warning – Jesus Christ was ordained by God to be the Judge of quick and dead. (10:42)

4. The warning – all the prophets have given witness – repent and believe in Him – or perish. (10:43)

Acts 10:44-48 The Official Seal of Salvation – *God grants repentance to the Gentiles!*

1. The gift of the Holy Ghost was given to the Gentiles that repented and believed. (10:44-45)

- ✓ Those in Cornelius' house simply needed to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✓ The gift of the Holy Spirit was given to seal their redemption by grace through faith.

2. The sign of "tongues" was for the unbelieving Jews present – Peter and the six. (10:46)

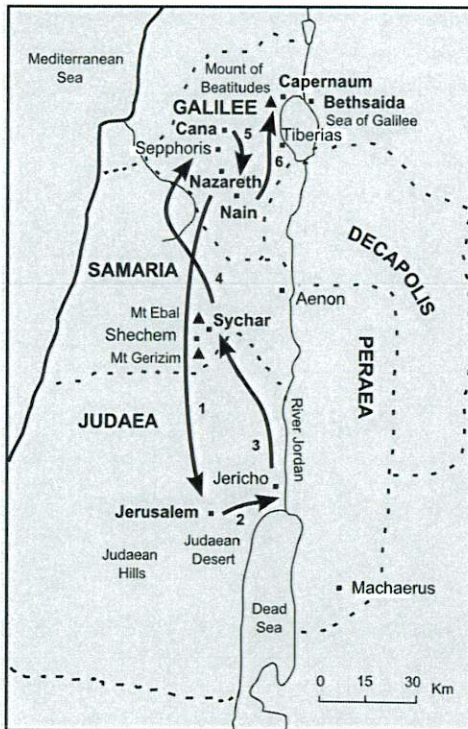
- ✓ Tongues are known languages foreign to the speaker and for unbelieving Jews. (1Cor 1:22; 14:22)
- ✓ Peter and the six Jewish eye-witnesses needed to know for sure the Gentiles were saved.

3. Peter commanded them to be baptized who had ALREADY received the Holy Spirit. (10:47-48)

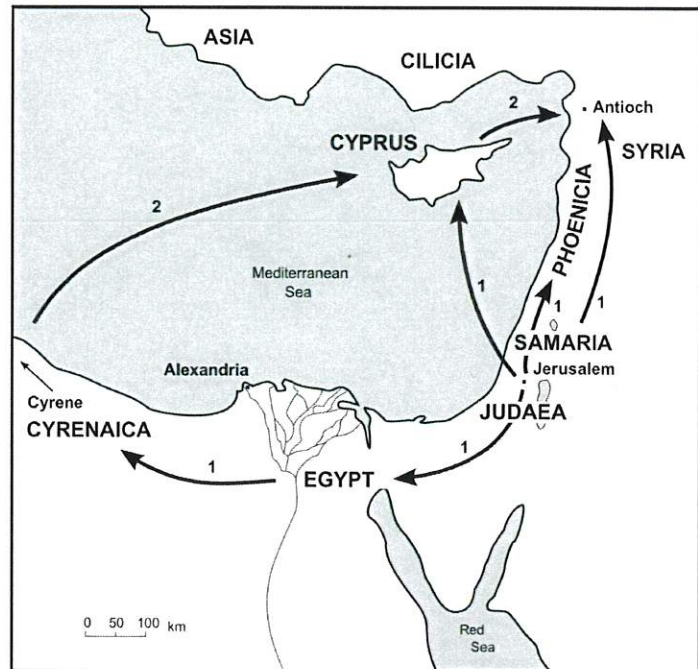
- ✓ For Gentiles, God established the pattern of baptism AFTER receiving the Holy Ghost.
- ✓ Peter obeyed Jesus' command to baptize ALL NATIONS following repentance for salvation.

Personal Applications

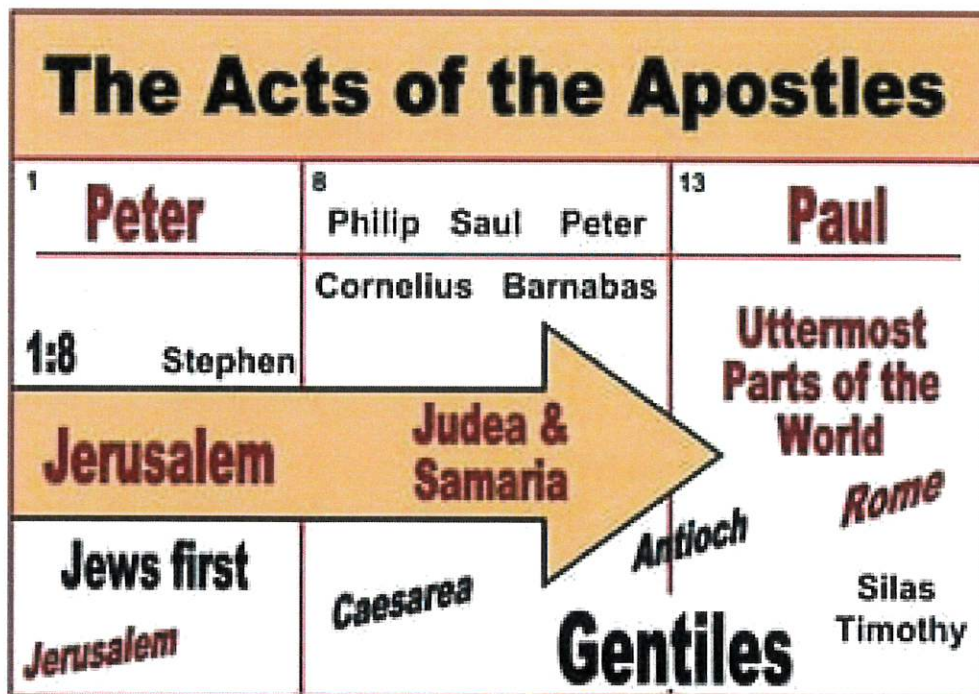
1. What did God speak to you about tonight? What does He want you to do differently beginning now?
2. Have you taken ownership of the Gospel ministry personally? Are you ready to advance the Gospel?



Movement of Jesus' ministry



Movement of the Gospel in Acts 1-11



Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quote from Church History: "The trouble with people who are not seeking for a Savior, and for salvation, is that they do not understand the nature of sin. It is the peculiar function of the Law to bring such an understanding to a man's mind and conscience. That is why great evangelical preachers 300 years ago in the time of the puritans, and 200 years ago in the time of Whitefield and others, always engaged in what they called a preliminary law work."

- Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones

(1899-1981, Welsh preacher/pastor of Westminster Chapel in London for 30 years)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 8:1-40Persecution scatters the church – beware of the transition!**NOTES****PRINCIPLES**

1. Great persecution **SCATTERED** disciples to *preach the Gospel* beyond Jerusalem. 8:1-3

- ✓ The apostles **stayed at Jerusalem** (headquarters for the early Jewish church)...
Acts 11:19-21; Daniel 3:16-18; 6:10, 23; Hebrews 11:27
- ✓ Saul made **havock** of the church...
Acts 7:58; 8:1; 22:20; Galatians 1:13, 23

2. Philip went to **SAMARIA** – a **major shift** in direction – *as Christ said* they would. 8:4-8

- ✓ The disciples were scattered abroad and **went everywhere preaching the word**...
Acts 8:4; Philippians 1:12
- ✓ Philip preached Christ to the **Samaritans**...
Acts 1:8; John 4:5, 25, 39-42

NOTE We are not freaked out because Philip had the ability in the 1st century early church to do miracles in the land of Samaria – where half-Jews lived and were expecting the Messiah to come in the future. The sign gift was for these half-Jews to know that the Messiah did in fact come and He did all those things that the Jews were expecting Him to do including miracles and wonders. Remember, God is in the process of transitioning to the Gentiles in the book of Acts at this point, and He is making His way to Antioch which will become headquarters for the primarily Gentile church in Acts 11. Antioch is where the sign gifts will cease upon the official transition to the Gentiles from the Jews in the book of Acts.

3. God worked through **TRANSITIONS** for the **Samaritans** (half-Jews) that **believed**. 8:9-24

- ✓ Those that **believed** were **baptized** – both men and women...
Acts 2:41; 8:35-38; 16:14, 15, 31-34; Romans 10:10; 1 Peter 3:21

- ✓ The **apostles were sent** from Jerusalem to **confirm** the salvation of the **Samaritans**...
Acts 8:14-17; 19:6; 1 Corinthians 1:22; Acts 15:4

NOTE Beware of the way that God was dealing with the Samaritans who believed and who were half-Jews expecting the Messiah to come in the future based on the interaction between Jesus and the woman at the well in John 4. This is a unique thing that God did in the book of Acts as He was ultimately making a transition to the Gentiles. It is **NOT sound doctrine** to teach that someone has to lay hands on a person in order for them to receive the Holy Spirit at our time in church history. There are false cults everywhere on the planet today that teach that some elder in the church has to "lay hands on you" after you go through some classes and "believe" as they say in order for you to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. If a church teaches that today, it is heresy!! Beware and do not be fooled!!

4. Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch who **BELIEVED** in Christ and **then was baptized**. 8:25-40

- ✓ Philip was **sensitive to the Spirit's leading** and **immediately obeyed** when called upon...
"Arise and go" Joshua 1:2; 8:1; 1 Samuel 23:4; 2 Kings 1:3; Jeremiah 13:6; 18:2; Ezekiel 3:22; Jonah 1:2; 3:2; Acts 9:6, 11; 10:20
- ✓ God was **drawing** this Ethiopian to faith in His Son – Philip **opened his mouth** for God...
John 6:44, 45, 65; 12:32; Jeremiah 31:3; Hosea 11:4; Romans 2:4; Matthew 16:17
- ✓ The Ethiopian **believed first** and then was **baptized by immersion** in the water...
Acts 2:41; 8:35-38; 16:14, 15, 31-34; Romans 6:3-6; 10:10; 1 Peter 3:21; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 2:4-10; Colossians 2:12; Titus 3:5-7

NOTE It is important to note that the modern versions have omitted verse 37 from the Bible.

BEWARE: Things that are *not the same* are different.

Acts 8:36

<u>KJV</u>	And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?
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Acts 8:37

<u>KJV</u>	And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
<u>NIV</u>	No text available.
<u>NKJV</u>	Footnote: * NU-Text and M-Text omit this verse. It is found in Western texts, including the Latin tradition.

Acts 8:38

<u>KJV</u>	And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch: and he baptized him?
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PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.
 - ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
 - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quote from Church History: "I have found by long experience that the severest threatenings of the **Law** of God have a prominent place in leading men to Christ. They **must** see themselves lost before they will cry for mercy. **They will not escape from danger until they see it.**"

- A. B. Earle (1812-1895, American Evangelist born in Charlton, New York, saved at age 16, began to preach at age 18, was ordained at age 21, after pastoring 5 years, he felt led of the Lord to enter the evangelistic ministry. 58 years of his life were spent in holding meetings in the US, every state, and Canada. He compiled the following statistics: Number of series of meetings: 960; Number of services: 39,330; Miles traveled: 370,000; Total \$ received for 64 years of ministry: \$65,520.00; Conversions to Christ: 160,000; Men entering the ministry: 400.)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 9:1-18

Saul's Conversion – the Apostle to the Gentiles gets saved!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. Saul aggressively set his life **AGAINST** Jesus Christ and ***His church***. 9:1-2

✓ Saul was **zealous** to **destroy** the church...
Acts 7:58; 8:1; 22:20; Galatians 1:13, 23

✓ Saul secured **letters** from the high priest to continue to do so at Damascus...
Acts 9:13-14; John 14:6; Acts 22:4

2. Saul was confronted by ***the Lord Jesus Christ*** – **HIMSELF** – ***as he journeyed***. 9:3-5

✓ A **light** shined round about him from heaven and he **fell** to the earth...
Psalm 104:2; 1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 21:23; 22:5

✓ He **saw Christ** and heard His **audible voice** – a unique **personal** encounter...
John 18:6; Genesis 3:9; 18:6; 22:11; Exodus 3:4; 1 Samuel 3:10; Luke 10:41; 22:31; Acts 26:14,15

✓ Jesus charged him with **crimes against Him** – as holy God and the resurrected Saviour...
Acts 26:9; 1 Timothy 1:13; Isaiah 45:9; Psalm 2:12; Ecclesiastes 12:11; Romans 3:19-20 (Rom 1-7)

NOTE As we later learn from Romans 7, Saul was being tormented by the Law (the Commandments) and was at this point no doubt under the heavy weight and condemnation of it – for he said in Rom 7:9-13, "but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good...But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful." It was at this time in his life that we learn that he was under such great condemnation and conviction by his conscience of the judgment of God, and the Law of God, and his crimes against God's Christ and Son Jesus. It was at this point of desperation and the grave reality of what he had done, that we find that he had nowhere to turn but to the Savior of the world who had paid the price for his crimes on the cross of Calvary and then rose again defeating sin and death!!

NOTE It is important to note that modern versions have omitted a large portion of verse 5 from the Holy Bible.

BEWARE: Things that are <i>not the same</i> are <u>different</u>.	
KJV	Acts 9:5 – And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: <i>it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.</i>
NIV	Acts 9:5 – “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.
NASB	Acts 9:5 – And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He <i>said</i> , “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

3. Saul, fearing and trembling before a holy God, ***believed*** and **REPENTED** in his heart and ***confessed*** with his mouth the ***Lordship*** of Jesus Christ. 9:6-9

- ✓ He ***repented*** and ***believed*** – and ***immediately yielded*** his ***will*** and life to Christ as ***Lord!***
Isaiah 6:1-9; Acts 26:19; 17:30-31; Romans 10:9-13; 2 Timothy 2:22-26; 2 Peter 3:3-10

NOTE It is important to note that modern versions have omitted a large portion of verse 6 – including the word “Lord” – from the Holy Bible. Now, you have to ask yourself why would they go and do a thing like that?!? They have violated the Holy Scriptures (Rev 22:18-19) and have removed holy words from God’s holy Book! What is even more startling is that they have removed the very words that point to Saul’s repentance and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ!! Beware and do not be fooled by the smooth words and fair speeches of the scholars of our day – this is the Devil to keep the world blinded!

BEWARE: Things that are <i>not the same</i> are <u>different</u>.	
KJV	Acts 9:6 – And he trembling and astonished said, <i>Lord</i> , what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.
NIV	Acts 9:6 – “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”
NASB	Acts 9:6 – “but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”

4. God used Ananias – a **COMMON**, ***faithful disciple*** – to guide Saul’s ***obedience***. 9:10-18

- ✓ Ananias was ***sensitive to the Lord’s leading*** and ***obeyed*** when He was called upon...
Acts 8:26, 11; 10:20
- ✓ God told Ananias that He had ***an incredible plan*** for Saul’s life...
Acts 13:22, 25, 36; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:10-12
- ✓ Saul ***received his sight***, was ***filled with the Holy Spirit*** and was ***baptized*** by Ananias...
2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Timothy 3:10, 14, 16-17; Psalm 1:1-6; 1 Samuel 15:22

PRACTICES

- Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience** ***right now***.
✓ Have you ***repented*** of your sins and ***put your faith*** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
- Believer**, what did the ***Holy Spirit of God*** speak to you about through His ***Holy Bible***?
✓ What ***one thing*** does God want you to ***do*** or ***repent of*** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quote from *Church History*: "The man who does not know the nature of the Law, cannot know the nature of sin."
 - John Bunyan (1628-1688, English Christian preacher and writer, well known for his book *The Pilgrim's Progress*)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 9:19-43 Saul the Disciple – the disciples prepare him to preach Christ!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. Saul gained **strength** from **other disciples** and straightway **PREACHED** Christ. 9:19-25

- ✓ Saul was **strengthened** by meat and **spent time** with the disciples – **discipleship**...
 1 Samuel 23:16; Job 4:3-4; Ephesians 3:16-17; 4:11-16; Colossians 1:11; 2 Timothy 2:2; 4:17
- ✓ Saul **immediately** began to **preach** that Jesus Christ **is** the Son of God...
 Galatians 1:17; 4:24-25; 1:23-24; Acts 8:37; Psalm 2:7, 12; Matthew 26:63-66; 27:43, 54; John 1:49; 19:7; 20:28, 31; Romans 1:4; 1 John 4:14-15; Revelation 2:18
- ✓ It was not long before the Jews were **ready to kill** the one who used to lead them...
 Acts 9:16; Matthew 10:16-23; 2 Corinthians 11:26; 1 Thessalonians 2:15, 16

2. Barnabas was used by God to **CONNECT** Saul with **other believers** in Jerusalem. 9:26-30

- ✓ The disciples were rightly **afraid** of Saul and **did not believe him**...
 Matthew 7:15-20; Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 John 4:1; Revelation 2:2
- ✓ Barnabas **took responsibility** to get Saul integrated into **the fellowship of believers**...
 Acts 4:36-37; 11:22, 25; 12:25; 13:2; 1 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 2:9, 13

NOTE It is important to see the role that God had for Barnabas in His church that He bought with His own blood. It was Barnabas that surrendered his life to God's mission when he sold land and laid it at the apostles' feet in Acts 4:36-37. And here we see how God is able to use disciples that are completely surrendered to His will and work. Ultimately, Barnabas and Saul will do the work of the Lord together and will be sent out as the first missionaries in Acts 13. It is important to track the progression that God records of us in the Bible from "Barnabas and Saul" (Acts 13:2, 7) to "Paul and his company" (Acts 13:13). God had an incredible plan for Barnabas' life which included helping to train and connect Saul to the disciples so that he could fulfill all the plans that God had for him. In the end, we know that Saul (who becomes Paul) – apostle to the Gentiles – moves past Barnabas and brings God much glory as he takes the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the world and is martyred for his dear Savior Jesus Christ!

- ✓ Saul was then able to **do what he was created by God to do – preach Christ** crucified... Galatians 1:15-16; Acts 9:15-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Romans 1:1

NOTE It is important to make the connection that God has clearly revealed to us through His Holy Bible. As a result of the time that Saul spent with the disciples and Barnabas, he was now ready to work out his salvation with fear and trembling! One on one discipleship with the Holy Bible as the instruction manual along with the fellowship of believers are two key ingredients that God will use to build His church. Remember – the church was conceived in the mind of God!!! The church is not a place we go, but who we are in Christ when we are saved. **Beware** when you feel yourself moving away from one on one discipleship connections and the fellowship of believers in your local church. We must remember that the church (the people) is **always** drifting away from God. **We** also are always drifting away from God. We need each other to strengthen our hands in God to do His work for His glory!!

3. The churches had **rest** and were **edified** – and began to **MULTIPLY**. 9:31

- ✓ The Bible says the churches were **walking in the fear of the Lord...**
Psalms 86:11; 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 14:26-27; 16:6; 23:17; Isaiah 11:2-3; 33:6; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Esther 8:16-17
- ✓ The Bible says the churches were **walking in the comfort of the Holy Ghost...**
Colossians 1:10; John 14:16-18; Romans 5:5; 14:17; 15:13; Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 2:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

4. Peter – the **apostle to the Jews** – performed **signs** and **JEW**s turned to the Lord. 9:32-43

- ✓ A certain man **Aeneas** was healed of the **palsy** and **many turned** to the Lord...
1 Corinthians 1:22; Acts 4:10; Matthew 9:6, 28-30; John 2:11
- ✓ A certain disciple **Tabitha** was raised from the **dead** and **many believed** in the Lord...
1 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 1:11; Colossians 1:10; 1 Timothy 2:9, 10; 5:10; Titus 2:7, 14; 3:8; Hebrews 13:21; James 1:27

NOTE Once again, this does not cause us alarm or concern for whether healings and miracles should be something that we see in the church of the Gentiles in these last days before Jesus Christ comes for His church in the clouds. Signs are NOT for us at this time in church history!! Peter, who is the apostle to the Jews, took a journey throughout the Jewish regions to see how he might be used by God to lead Jews to the Savior and comfort the disciples. As we have learned from the Bible, Jews require a sign (1 Cor 1:22) to believe and that is exactly what God gave them through Peter. The Bible says that all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw Aeneas and turned to the Lord. In addition, as a result of raising Tabitha from the dead, the Bible says that it was known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. It is also important to note how the faithful disciple Tabitha was well reported of among the church because of her good works. Although we are saved by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ and not by our good works, it is clear from the Bible that God is well-pleased when His children walk in love and are "fruitful in every good work." If we are truly saved, we will be careful to maintain good works.

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience** **right now**.
✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quote from Church History: "But something less is among us, nevertheless, and we do well to identify it so that we may repudiate it. That something is a poetic fiction, a product of the romantic imagination and maudlin religious fancy. It is a Jesus, gentle, dreamy, shy, sweet and feminine, almost effeminate, and marvelously adaptable to whatever society He may find Himself in . . . He is used as a means to almost any carnal end, but he is never acknowledged as Lord. These quasi Christians follow a quasi Christ. They want his help but not his interference. They will flatter him but never obey him."

- A.W. Tozer (1897-1963, American Christian pastor, preacher and writer; born in a farming community in western PA in poverty, got saved in Akron, Ohio after hearing a street preacher on his way home from a tire company; self-educated, became a pastor with no formal training)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 9:32-10:33 Peter and the BIG Transition – God moves to the Gentiles!

NOTES**PRINCIPLES**

1. Peter – the ***apostle to the Jews*** – performed ***signs*** and ***JEW***s turned to the Lord. 9:32-43

- ✓ A certain man ***Aeneas*** was healed of the ***palsy*** and ***many*** turned to the Lord...
1 Corinthians 1:22; Acts 4:10; Matthew 9:6, 28-30; John 2:11
- ✓ A certain disciple ***Tabitha*** was raised from the ***dead*** and ***many*** believed in the Lord...
1 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 1:11; Colossians 1:10; 1 Timothy 2:9, 10; 5:10; Titus 2:7, 14; 3:8; Hebrews 13:21; James 1:27

NOTE Once again, this does not cause us alarm or concern for whether healings and miracles should be something that we see in the church of the Gentiles in these last days before Jesus Christ comes for His church in the clouds. Signs are NOT for us at this time in church history!! Peter, who is the apostle to the Jews, took a journey throughout the Jewish regions to see how he might be used by God to lead Jews to the Savior and comfort the disciples. As we have learned from the Bible, Jews require a sign (1 Cor 1:22) to believe and that is exactly what God gave them through Peter. The Bible says that all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw Aeneas and turned to the Lord. In addition, as a result of raising Tabitha from the dead, the Bible says that it was known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. It is also important to note how the faithful disciple Tabitha was well reported of among the church because of her good works. Although we are saved by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ and not by our good works, it is clear from the Bible that God is well-pleased when His children walk in love and are "fruitful in every good work." If we are truly saved, we will be careful to maintain good works.

2. Cornelius – a religious, God-fearing **Gentile** – received a **WARNING** from God. 10:1-8

- ✓ He was a **devout** man, and one that **feared** God with all his house...
Acts 10:22; 2:5; 8:2; Gen 18:19; Ps 111:10; Prov 1:7; Acts 10:35; 13:16, 26; 1 Kings 8:43; Ps 102:15
- ✓ He **gave much alms** to the people...
Acts 10:4, 22, 31, Psalm 41:1; Romans 15:26, 27; 2 Corinthians 9:8-15
- ✓ He **prayed to God alway**...
Acts 10:22; Ps 55:17; 86:3; 119:2; Prov 2:3-5; Matt 7:7-8; Luke 18:1; 1 Thess 5:17; James 1:5
- ✓ He was **lost** and **living under the wrath and condemnation** of Almighty God...
Job 35:13; Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:2; Amos 5:23; Micah 3:4; John 3:36; Rom 9:22; 1 Pet 5:5; Jas 4:6

NOTE Oh how important it is to see this truth clearly. If we were to meet Cornelius on the street today, we would say that he was one of the most religious people in town!! What devotion to religion and business! What acknowledgment he gives to God for all things! What charity he demonstrates to the community and to local non-profit organizations! What prayers are spoken of him out of sincerity! But, oh how those things will NOT get you to heaven!!! Do you see it?!?! All those things were good things and commendable for sure. They even got God's attention! But in the end, this man in all his devotion and religion needed to hear words from the man of God and ultimately **repent and trust the Lord Jesus Christ** – the God man – for salvation!! The Bible says, God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. This humble Cornelius was made **ready for the Gospel** by fearing God's wrath and justice!!

3. Peter – the **apostle to the Jews** – received the **COMMAND** to go to the **Gentiles**. 10:9-33

- ✓ God spoke to Peter in prayer through a **vision** and confirmed it **three** times (witnesses)...
Acts 11:5-10; Mark 1:35; Psalm 55:17; Gen 41:32; Deut 17:6; 19:15; 2 Cor 13:1; Heb 10:28
- ✓ Peter – as a **faithful Jew** – rebuked God who was **clearly** making a transition...
Matthew 16:22-23; Lev 11:1-17; 20:25; Deut 14:1-29; Acts 11:2-3; John 4:9, 27; Acts 10:34

NOTE This is such an important transition in the Holy Bible. God showed Peter in a vision and repeated it 3 times since He was asking Peter to do something that he had never done – go to the Gentiles. At first Peter rebuked God saying, "Not so, Lord." God brought 3 more witnesses to Peter's door to seal the deal. Upon Peter's arrival, Cornelius tried to worship Peter and he would not accept it – mark it down!! Peter reiterates the significance of this transition by saying, "Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean." Peter proceeded to ask Cornelius why he had sent for him. Cornelius repeats his story and then says, "Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God." What a key statement that he made that is recorded for us in our Holy Bible! God told this Gentile man who feared Him and prayed to Him always that he was to send for a man of God who could speak words to him – commanded by God – so that he and all his house might be saved from wrath to come!! What a gracious God!!

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.
 - ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
 - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quote from Church History: "The most terrible warning to impenitent men in all the world is the death of Christ. For if God spared not His only Son, on whom was only laid imputed sin, will he spare sinners whose sins are their own?"

- Charles Spurgeon

Scriptures for Today: Acts 10:34-41 God's Warning to the Gentiles – the Gospel was sent to you!

NOTES**PRINCIPLES**1. The **WORD** of God was **published** throughout all the land of the Jews. 10:34-37

- ✓ Then Peter **opened** his mouth...
Acts 4:13; 8:35; Ephesians 6:19, 20; Colossians 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:2; 2 Thessalonians 3:1
- ✓ God is **no respecter** of persons: But in **every nation** he that **feareth** him...
Ps 111:10; Prov 1:7; Acts 10:35; 13:16, 26; 1 Kings 8:43; Ps 102:15
- ✓ The **word** was **sent** by God and **preached – peace with God** by Jesus Christ...
John 1:1-14; Romans 10:1-21; Isaiah 9:6; 32:15-17; Luke 2:10-14; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:13-18; Colossians 1:20
- ✓ The **word** was **preached** – Jesus Christ is **Lord** of all...
Acts 2:36; 5:31; Psalm 2:6-8; Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Malachi 3:1; Romans 14:9; 1 Corinthians 15:27, 47; Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:5-12; Philippians 2:11; Colossians 1:15-18
- ✓ The **word** was **published** throughout all Judaea – the Gentiles **knew** that word...
John 1:9; Romans 1:18-22, 28; 2:14-16

NOTE It is important to remember that the Bible says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) We must understand that **if** God requires **faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ in order for someone to be **saved** from the wrath to come and to receive eternal life, **then** He must surely be willing to do His part to get the word to the world!! God entrusted His faithful disciples to Go, Stand, and Speak His word to the world. Peter was willing to "arise and go" so that Cornelius and all his house could **hear** the word of God. Jesus commanded the disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. We must carry on that command and go to the world before they perish!

2. The **GOSPEL** of the Lord Jesus Christ was **known** by everyone that **heard**. 10:38-41

- ✓ **God anointed Jesus** of Nazareth with **the Holy Ghost and with power**...
1 Timothy 3:16; Acts 2:22; 4:27; Psalm 2:2, 6; Isaiah 11:2; 42:16:1-3; Luke 3:22; 4:18
- ✓ Jesus went about **doing good**, and **healing all** that were **oppressed by the devil**...
Matthew 4:23-25; 9:35; 12:15; 15:21-31; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; Hebrews 2:14-15
- ✓ Jesus was **murdered** and hanged on a tree – He **became sin** for us who **knew no sin**...
Acts 2:23-24; 3:14-15; 4:10; 5:30; 7:52; 13:27-29; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; 1 Peter 2:24

- ✓ God **raised** Jesus Christ **from the dead** the third day **defeating sin and death**...
Luke 23:26-24:12; Acts 13:30-31; 17:31; Romans 1:4; 4:24-25; 6:4-11; 8:11; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4, 12-20; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 1:21
- ✓ The **resurrection** of Jesus Christ was **witnessed openly** by over 500 eye-witnesses...
Luke 24:36-53; Acts 1:1-9, 22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:30-32; 10:41; 13:31; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

NOTE Oh saints of God – we must listen and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit today who is speaking through the words of God’s holy Book that He inspired men to write almost 2000 years ago!!! This is the message that is to fill our mouths and conversation until God takes our last breath or Jesus comes for us in the clouds!! Peter preached the word of God and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to these lost Gentiles because his Lord Jesus had commanded him to do it (Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:8)!! He preached the Gospel as a matter of historical fact because there is no disputing it!!! All who **hear** the word of God and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ **know** that it is true because the Bible says that God has put **light** in **every man** (John 1:9) and the Holy Spirit is always reproving the world of **sin, righteousness and judgment to come** (John 16:8-11).

NOTE **Next week** we will focus on the next two verses of Acts 10 – 42 and 43. After preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, Peter went on to say that Jesus “*commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.” It is the conclusion of Peter’s message to the Gentiles. He had just preached the cross of Christ to them and now he was telling them they will give an account to Jesus the Judge one day and **what they must DO** to be saved from the consequences of God’s wrath towards them (John 3:36) as condemned criminals (John 3:14-21) against the Most High!!*

KEY To be **innocent** in God’s court room is to **never** have broken His Law (Ten Commandments) one time (James 2:10). To break God’s Law is to commit sin (1 John 3:4) and to be **guilty** of crimes against Him. He is a **just** and **righteous Judge** who will not allow sinners into His presence and Heaven. **All guilty sinners** will pay the price for **their own sins** against God forever in God’s eternal prison called hell.

KEY To “**BELIEVE IN HIM**” is to **acknowledge** that what the Bible says is true (2 Tim 2:25-26)...and that **your** ways, **your** thoughts, **your** sins, and **your** religion outside of Christ alone are all wrong – and not only that...they are an offence to Almighty God!! To **believe** in Jesus Christ is to **repent** and **by faith believe** that Jesus Christ is **the Lord God Almighty** and that He died on the cross to pay the price for your sins so that you would not have to pay the price yourself (eternal punishment in hell) and then He rose again the third day defeating sin and death. You can call upon Him to save you today, and He will save you!

KEY To “**RECEIVE REMISSION OF SINS**” is to be declared **not guilty** – not by any works that **we** have done – but because of **the finished work** of Jesus Christ and His blood that was shed for us! It is to have the **righteousness of Jesus Christ** credited (imputed) to your account in Heaven! As the Bible says, “*And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*” (Colossians 2:13-15)

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.
✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."
 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."
 - Paul (*Inspired by the Holy Spirit; Apostle to the Gentiles and martyr for Jesus Christ*)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 10:42-43 God's Warning to the Gentiles (and us) – your Judge will be the Savior!

1. The **warning** – **Jesus** was ordained by God to be the **JUDGE** of **quick** and **dead**. 10:42

Genesis 18:25 – That be far from thee to do after this manner...Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Proverbs 11:4 – Riches profit not in the day of wrath; but righteousness delivereth from death.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 – For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Matthew 7:13-14, 20-23 – Enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it...Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of the Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 12:36 – But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

John 3:14-17, 36 – And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil...He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 5:22-23, 28-29 – For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him...Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Romans 2:15-16 – Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Romans 14:12 – So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Acts 17:30-33 – And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed...

2 Timothy 4:1 – I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Jude 14,15 – And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Hebrews 9:27 – And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement:

1 Peter 4:5 – Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

2 Peter 3:7-10 – But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men...The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...

Revelation 20:11-15 – And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

NOTE The fact that there is a Day of Judgment coming is the very reason why God now commands all people everywhere to repent! Judgment Day is the climax of the ages. God loves justice – and He will have it.

2. The **warning** – *all* the prophets have given witness – **REPENT** and *believe* in Him – *or perish*. 10:43

1 Timothy 3:16 – And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Romans 5:6 – For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:8 – But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Galatians 3:13 – Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

2 Corinthians 5:21 – For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

NOTE To be innocent in God's court room is to **never** have broken His Law (Ten Commandments) one time (James 2:10). To break God's Law is to commit sin (1 John 3:4) and to be guilty of crimes against Him. He is a **just** and **righteous Judge** who will not allow sinners into His presence and Heaven. **All guilty sinners** will pay the price for **their own sins** against God forever in God's eternal prison called hell. To "**BELIEVE IN HIM**" is to **acknowledge** that what the Bible says is true (2 Tim 2:25-26)...and that **your** ways, **your** thoughts, **your** sins, and **your** religion outside of Christ alone are all wrong – and an offence to Almighty God!! It is to **repent** and **by faith believe** that Jesus Christ is **the Lord God Almighty** and that He died on the cross to pay the price for your sins so that you would not have to pay the price yourself (eternal punishment in hell) and then He rose again the third day defeating sin and death.

NOTE To "**RECEIVE REMISSION OF SINS**" is to be declared **not guilty** – not by any works that **we** have done – but because of **the finished work** of Jesus Christ and His blood that was shed for us! It is to have the **righteousness of Jesus Christ** credited (imputed) to your eternal account in Heaven! God was faithful to allow you to hear His message for you – just like those who heard Peter in Cornelius' house that day so many years ago. Will you repent and trust the Savior today?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from *Church History*: "Today's church wants to be raptured from responsibility."
"Many pastors criticize me for taking the Gospel so seriously. But do they really think that on Judgment Day, Christ will chastise me, saying, 'Leonard, you took Me too seriously?'"
- Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994; English evangelist, preacher, and author)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 10:44-11:18

The Official Seal of Salvation – God grants repentance to the Gentiles!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. The GIFT of the **Holy Ghost** was given to Gentiles that **repented** and **believed**. 10:44-45

- ✓ Those in Cornelius' house simply needed to **repent** and **believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ...
John 1:17; Romans 1:16; 6:17; 10:14-17; Colossians 1:4-6; 1 Thess 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15; Titus 2:11
- ✓ The **gift** of the Holy Spirit was given to **seal their redemption** by grace through faith...
Ephesians 1:7-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Galatians 3:14; 2 Timothy 2:19; Romans 8:1-17

NOTE The gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the Gentiles **immediately** as they repented and trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. There was nothing else they needed to do!! As a result of their faith, God chose to impute (credit) righteousness to them and give them a down payment (earnest) on their eternal inheritance. Although we have seen God give the gift of the Holy Spirit to Jews that repented and believed in Christ in different ways as He transitioned to the Gentiles in the book of Acts, His pattern for the Gentiles is now clear. God will confirm this pattern with many witnesses found in the church epistles from Paul (Apostle to the Gentiles). Gentiles in the church age receive ALL of the Holy Spirit immediately upon repentance and faith in Christ alone. If **any** church at **this time in history** teaches ANY OTHER DOCTRINE related to the Holy Spirit contrary to this sound doctrine, they are either deceivers or they have been deceived, and it is heresy!! Mark it down. We are not ashamed to speak the truth in love on these matters. If we did not and were to hide what the Bible clearly says, we would not be honest – and that is not what we do here in this church that God purchased with His own blood.

2. The SIGN of "tongues" was for the **unbelieving Jews** present – Peter and the six. 10:46

- ✓ Tongues are **known languages** foreign to the speaker and for **unbelieving Jews**...
1 Corinthians 1:22; 14:22; Acts 2
- ✓ Peter and the **six Jewish eye-witnesses** needed to know for sure the Gentiles were **saved**...
Acts 11:15-17; Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1; Hebrews 10:28

NOTE Beware of churches today that want to take this verse out of context and give it a false meaning!! Although the sign of tongues has been used to this point in Acts by saved Jews toward Jews that have not been saved, it

does not change the pattern for how God used the sign of tongues in the early church. Signs are for unbelieving Jews, and the sign of tongues is for **unbelieving** Jews. The fact that Gentiles actually spoke known languages foreign to them but not to the hearer (a bona fide miracle) has no bearing whatsoever on *their* salvation or *ours*! The **unbelieving** Jews in this passage are Peter and the six Jewish eye-witnesses! It is not difficult to understand this truth. You must simply compare Scripture with Scripture and believe the Bible. If **any** church at **this time in history** teaches ANY OTHER DOCTRINE related to Gentiles using or having the gift of tongues (which most often is just gibberish which nobody can understand) as evidence for salvation, it is contrary to sound doctrine. Again, they are either deceivers or have been deceived, and it is heresy!

3. Peter **commanded** them to be **baptized** who **ALREADY** received the Holy Spirit. 10:47-48

- ✓ For Gentiles, God **established the pattern** of baptism **after** receiving the Holy Ghost...
Acts 28:28; Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21
- ✓ Peter obeyed **Jesus' command** to baptize all nations **following repentance** for salvation...
Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:47-48

NOTE Water baptism for believers is one of two ordinances given to the church by Jesus Christ – the other being remembrance of His death and resurrection through Communion. For Gentiles who have repented and trusted Christ alone for salvation and have already received the gift of the Holy Ghost, it is our first act of obedience towards our Lord and Savior. To believe in the Lord Jesus Christ is to willingly and submissively yield to His Lordship and His government. He is the living Word of God. And, His written Word (the Holy Bible) tells us what to do and how to live as citizens of His heavenly kingdom. The proper response to hearing that Jesus Christ has **commanded** all those who have been saved, who have received the gift of the Holy Ghost and who fear, obey and follow Him (also called “Christians” or little Christ’s) to submit to His command of water baptism is to **obey** Him. If you have truly repented and put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and have not obeyed your Lord in this area, you need to repent and determine the earliest possible time in which you will obey Him and make public your faith in Him.

4. The **SIGN** of “tongues” was for the **unbelieving Jews** at Jerusalem (Headquarters for the early Jewish church) – to make the transition to the Gentiles **official**. 11:1-18

- ✓ The **unbelieving** Jews at Jerusalem needed to hear **Peter testify** and the **six witnesses**...
Deuteronomy 19:15; 2 Corinthians 13:1; Hebrews 10:28
- ✓ The **unbelieving** Jews at Jerusalem needed to hear **God confirmed His work with a sign**...
1 Corinthians 1:22; 14:22

NOTE The Holy Bible is not difficult to understand, but it is difficult to believe at times. For those who will take the time to READ and DELIGHT in the Holy Bible (Ps 1:1-6; 104:34; 119:11, 15, 97-99; Josh 1:8; 1 Tim 4:15) and STUDY it (2 Tim 2:15), God will make the sometimes seemingly foggy or crooked path straight and clear to the truth. This passage represents the importance of context when studying the Bible. When in doubt, **KEEP READING!!!** Never take a verse of the Bible out of its context and give it a foreign meaning. By keeping Acts 10:44-48 in its proper near context, we were able to see that God was simply putting His official seal (*or sign*) of confirmation and approval on the transition to the Gentiles. It was so obvious to the Jews present at Jerusalem (as clearly shown in Acts 11:18), their mouths were stopped and they glorified God in confidence!

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.

- ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?

- ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do or repent of** right now?