

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

~LET'S PRAY~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **A Growing Ministry**
➤ (Acts 10:1-6) NKJV.

~INTRO~

NOW...

- As we continue our study thru (Acts)...
➤ Remember it records about 30-years of the early church...
 - With snapshot narratives.

LAST WEEK...

- We learned that there were two primary characters: Peter & Paul.
➤ And they followed the Holy Spirit in sharing the Gospel.

SO...

- We understand that as we move thru the book of (Acts)...
➤ We're capturing the **big story**... and NOT ever little detail.

AND... AS WE ARRIVE...

- At (chapter #10) this morning...
➤ Let's take note of the significances of what's happened **so far**.

JESUS SAID IN (Matt. 16:18-19) NKJV

- That He would give Peter the “*keys to the kingdom of heaven...*”
➤ And in a very simple way (Acts) shows us...
 - How Peter opened the doors of faith.

THREE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

1st – At the birth of the church at Pentecost...
➤ Peter opened the door of *faith to the Jews* (Acts 2:38-41).

2nd – In (Acts 8:14-17) the door of *faith was opened to the Samaritans*.

3rd – Here in (Acts 10:44-48) we see the door of *faith opened to the Gentiles*.

HERE'S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN:

IDEA #1 – GOD IS PREPARING BOTH SIDES:

NOW... **THIS SCENE...**

- Happens about 10-years after the birth of the church.
 - God was at work... But it took some time to prepare human hearts.
- ***Salvation*** is always a work of God's grace...
 - And He uses believers to diffuse His work among people.
 - [\(Rom. 10:14-15\) NLT](#)

WHAT WE SEE HERE...

- Is God working out the details of faith... behind the scenes.

THIS CHAPTER OPENS...

- With a Roman Centurion – **Cornelius**...
 - Who was given a vision from God [\(v.3\)](#).

AND... ON THE OTHER END...

- God was also preparing Peter to take steps of faith – **[Read \(vv.9-21\)](#)**.

Lesson: [\(vv.14-15\)](#) What God has accepted I must not reject.

PETER WAS IN JOPPA...

- When he had this vision from God...
 - And he was to take God's grace to lost people.
 - (Peter responded by faith).

YOU MIGHT ALSO RECALL...

- That right here in Joppa... (800-years earlier)...
 - Jonah didn't respond in faith... BUT ran from the call of God.
 - He didn't deny his affiliation with God...
 - Jonah did deny his assignment from God.

THIS IS SOMETHING FOR PERSONAL CONSIDERATION...

- Have I denied my call / assignment from God!?!?

POINT BEING...

- God is at work aligning people to His will...
 - In both conditions & opportunity.

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IDEA #2 – PETER & CORNELIUS MEET: (vv.23-33)

NOW... PETER...

- Along with 6-other Jewish brothers...
 - Follow Cornelius' 3-servants... back to Caesarea.
- They walked 30-miles north from Joppa... over 2-days.

AND... AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVE... (vv.25-26)

- Cornelius falls at Peter's feet.

I LOVE THIS...

- Peter didn't act like a rockstar or someone important.
 - Rather he put a right perspective on their meeting...
 - By stating he was just a man.

FLIP AHEAD TO ([Acts 12:22-23](#)) NKJV

- *Herod Agrippa I* (grandson of Herod the Great)... was eaten by worms.
 - Because he accepted God's glory.

PETER...

- Had the right perspective!
 - He understood... that just like Cornelius...
 - He too needed the grace of God!

TWO LESSONS:

- 1) Stay humble
- 2) Don't touch God's glory

AS YOUR YEARS PASS... COMFORT IN YOUR LIFE MAY GROW.

- So the need to stay anchored to gospel truth is warranted.
 - Because our human hearts... (by default) wander from God!
 - ([Hosea 10:10-11](#)) NLT

BUT... BIBLICAL TRUTH PROTECTS US.

- ([1 Tim. 6:6-10](#)) NLT

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IDEA #3 – GOSPEL IS PREACHED: (vv.34-48)

READ (vv.34-41)

JESUS WAS SEEN BY A NUMBER OF HIS FOLLOWERS...

- After His resurrection:
 - (Mark 16:9-14)...
 - Mary
 - Luke & Cleopas (leaving Jerusalem)
 - All eleven disciples.
 - (1 Cor. 15:6)...
 - Paul adds 500 people saw Jesus at one time.

GOD'S PLAN...

PETER SAYS...

- (v.28) NLT
 - *God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean.* (No prejudice in the Gospel).
- (v.34) NLT
 - *God shows no favoritism.* (You can't earn favor with God).
- (v.36) NLT
 - *... There is peace with God thru Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.*
 - (Gift of grace is conditioned only on... belief in Jesus...
 - = LORD of all).
- (v.41) NLT
 - *God has chosen us to be His witnesses*
 - (A saved life is a changed life... you're now a witness).

IT'S INTERESTING...

- That people can be very religious & do great things...
 - Yet... not be saved.
 - That was Cornelius at the start of this chapter.

~ IN CLOSING ~

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(vv.43-48)

- The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles.
➤ (Which extends into this room right now).

PETER PREACHED JESUS...

- And those listening to what he said... the Holy Spirit fell on them.
➤ They had willing hearts to turn to God with everything!
 - And their speech magnified God...
 - And they were baptized.

LISTEN... WHEN YOU HURT...

- You know it!
➤ And you want something authentic.
 - Jesus is the one who saves you!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FROM HIM TODAY...

- Would you please come forward right now.