

GTW – Acts of the Holy Spirit – Acts 10:1-48

“The Holy Spirit brings Cornelius a Gentile and Peter an Apostle Together

October 21, 2020 – Dr. C. Patrick Hartsock

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| Review: |
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Chap. 1

- Jesus’ charge to the apostles to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth
- Jesus ascends to heaven

Chap. 2

- The Holy Spirit fills the apostles and speaks other languages to those at Pentecost
- Peter preaches the first sermon to establish the church
- Three thousand were converted
- They began to meet house to house to learn of the apostle’s teaching, breaking of bread, participating in what the Lord was doing to build his church and prayer

Chap. 3-5

- Peter heals the beggar
- Peter preaches his second sermon
- Five thousand heard the word and believed
- The Sadducees and high priest try to stop Peter and John from preaching
- The believers prayed in earnest and Peter and John were released and the Holy Spirit filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness
- Ananias and Sapphira lie to the Holy Spirit and die

Chap. 6-8

- The church chooses deacons to serve the body of Christ
- The Holy Spirit fills Stephen and he does great wonders and signs, and reasons with the “freedmen” and his wisdom prevailed
- Stephen preaches his sermon to the Jews
- Stephen is stoned as Saul watches
- Saul ravages the church going from house to house dragging off believers
- The Holy Spirit calls on Philip to reach out to the Ethiopian Eunuch

Chap. 9

- Saul breathing threats against the church seeks letters to authorize him to hunt down those who follow Jesus and take them to Jerusalem and imprison them and even kill them.
- The Spirit of Jesus Christ confronts Saul on the road to Damascus
- Saul believes and is baptized
- Saul is blind and God sends Ananias to heal him
- Saul preaches with power the resurrection of Jesus Christ

The Holy Spirit Speaks to Cornelius to Call for Peter

- " At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. ² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly."
- Facts about Cornelius:
 1. He was a Roman
 2. He was a Roman soldier given charge over 100 soldiers
 3. He was a devout, God fearing man
 4. His faith was evident in his family
 5. He was generous with his wealth and gave to those in need
 6. He prayed to God regularly
 7. He was still be a Roman Gentile to Peter, someone not to be associated with
- ³ One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw **an angel of God, who came to him and said**, "Cornelius!" ⁴ Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.
 - Three in the afternoon was the Jewish time of prayer and sacrifice
 - Cornelius saw an angel but addressed it as "Lord"
 - Cornelius exhibits a deep spirit of humility in his question to the Lord
- **The angel answered**, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.
 - His prayers and gifts to the poor were a memorial offering before God

Personal reflection or small group sharing: How is your prayer life and your generosity before God?

- ⁵ Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.” ⁷ When **the angel who spoke** to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. ⁸ He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.
 - The angel orders Cornelius to send men to fetch Simon Peter
 - The angel even tells them where Peter is staying
 - Cornelius obeys immediately

Personal reflection: Give an example of when the Lord has ever led you, spoken to you, called you to obey and do something? How did you respond?

Peter's Vision

- Cornelius' men, “about noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city...”

Facts about Peter:

1. Peter went up on the roof to pray (noon was one of three prayer times a day for Jews)

Personal sharing: The Lord often speaks when we are praying.

2. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat (light meal at midday and full meal about sunset)
3. while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.
4. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners.
5. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. (a mixture of clean and unclean animals, calculated to disgust an orthodox Jew)
6. ¹³ Then **a voice told him**, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” (designed to draw Peter to begin to consider departing from Jewish dietary laws)
7. ¹⁴ “Surely not (see Matt. 16:22 & Jn. 13:8 – religio-ethnic identity is a sacrosanct belief)
8. **Lord!**” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”
- ¹⁵ **The voice spoke to him a second time**, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”
 - This voice speaks for God declaring what is pure and impure, not restrictive Jewish dietary laws. This was one of the strongest beliefs of a Jew (Lev. 11)

- ¹⁶ **This happened three times**, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.
 - When things are repeated three times in the Scriptures, they are deeply important (God is a “holy, holy, holy” God Isaiah 6:3; husbands are told three times to “**agape** their wives.” Wives are told three times to “submit themselves **hupotassomenoi** to their husbands. Eph. 5:21-33)
- ¹⁷ While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon’s house was and stopped at the gate. ¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. ¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, **the Spirit said to him**, “Simon, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.”
 - **“The Spirit said to him...”** – the same Spirit that spoke to Cornelius is now speaking to Peter.
- ²¹ Peter went down and said to the men, “I’m the one you’re looking for. Why have you come?” ²² The men replied, “We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. **A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say.**” ²³ Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.
 - **“Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.”** – Here is another hint that Peter is beginning to understand what the Lord is calling him to do, since Jews should never invite Gentiles into their homes.

Personal reflection or small group sharing: Have you ever invited someone of a different race, culture or religion into your home? What was it like? 1 Peter 4:9 – “Offer hospitality without grumbling.” – hospitality in the Greek is **philozenos** – **philo** = love **zenos** = stranger

Peter at Cornelius’s House

- “The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. ²⁴ The following day he arrived in Caesarea. **Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.** ²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up. “Stand up,” he said, “I am only a man myself.”

Personal reflection and sharing: What close friend or relative do you need to be praying for, or inviting to your home to hear about Jesus?

- ²⁷ While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸ He said to them: **“You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.** ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?”
- ³⁰ Cornelius answered: “Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. **Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me** ³¹ **and said,** ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. ³² Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.’ ³³ So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak (Peter’s sixth speech):

- “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.”
 - ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups (Jews and Gentiles) one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility...” Eph. 2:13-14
 - “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are **all one** in Christ Jesus.” Gal. 3:28
- ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ³⁸ **how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power...**”
 - **Matt. 3:16-17** – “¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.** ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’”)
 - “Rather, **it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.** ¹¹ Believe me when I say that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me**” John 14:10-11

- ³⁹ “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴ **While Peter was still speaking these words,**

1. **The Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.**
2. ⁴⁵ **The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even onto Gentiles.**
3. ⁴⁶ **For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.”**
 - ¹³ For we were **all baptized by one Spirit** so as to form one body—whether **Jews** or **Gentiles**, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” 1 Cor. 12:13
 - **“When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...”** Eph. 1:13

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷

1. **“Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water.**
2. **They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”**
3. ⁴⁸ **So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.**
4. **Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.**

Homework:

Please read and re-read Acts 11-12 in multiple versions, like NIV and MSG