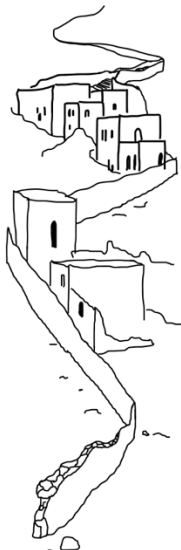




1. Review from last week: What vision had Cornelius received (30-32; see also 3-6)?
 2. How did Cornelius initially receive Peter? (25-26) How did Peter respond to this? Can you think of any times in the book of Revelation something like this happened?
 3. What was the problem Peter saw initially with going to visit Cornelius (28-29)? Why did Peter go ahead with the visit? How did this relate to the vision Peter had seen (11-16)?
 4. Read the opening paragraph of the Leader Notes about the teenagers' parents. How does that story relate to what the Lord is trying to teach Peter here?
 5. What can we learn to pray for unsaved people, from Cornelius' words in v. 33? See also Paul's words in Colossians 4:2-6 for additional insight here.
 6. What lesson do we learn from Peter in verses 34-35? What does James add to this same topic (James 2:1, 4, 9)? How can Christians living in America apply these lessons today?
 7. In his message to Cornelius, what key points does Peter proclaim about Jesus Christ, that we can use when we share the gospel with someone (36-43)?
 8. While Peter was still speaking, what important spiritual event took place for the people listening? (44-46) How could the Jewish believers who came with Peter tell what was happening? How was this similar to the first time an event like this happened back at Pentecost (2:1-12)?
 9. What did Peter say should happen next? (47-48) What reason did he give for his decision to go ahead with this?
 10. Application for us: What lessons can we learn from this passage about how we can be Christ's witnesses by the power of the Holy Spirit?
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The Integrated Church, Part 2
Leader Notes for Acts 10:24-48



Imagine you are the parent of teenagers, trying to teach them not to hang around with the wrong crowd at school, so they don't become like the crowd. That was the idea Peter had about associating with Gentiles, but it was only part of God's message. The teenagers' parent should also convey another part of God's message, that we should be Christ's witnesses to anyone and everyone at school. That means we have to associate with them in some ways.

Similarly, God gave the Israelites clear restrictions about associating with Gentiles. But He also sprinkled the idea throughout the Old Testament that the Jews were to testify to the rest of the world about who God was, so Gentiles would be attracted to the Jews' God. That is the lesson Peter was about to learn through his visit to Cornelius, the Roman centurion.

Picking up from last week, Cornelius had seen a vision telling him to send for Peter in Joppa. As his Gentile messengers were on their way, Peter also had a vision that he didn't really understand. But it set the scene for the messengers' impending arrival. Because of the Holy Spirit's words to Peter, he traveled with the men to Cornelius' home in Caesarea, where a gathering of family and friends were awaiting Peter's arrival.

At first Cornelius bowed down to worship Peter. Does that remind you of the apostle John in Revelation, bowing down to the angel who was showing him amazing things? (Revelation 19:10; 22:8) But Peter explained he was just a man like Cornelius.

Then Peter asked why Cornelius had sent for him. After Cornelius told Peter about the vision he saw, Peter realized that there was only one thing he could do at that point – He preached peace through Jesus Christ! We can pray that the Lord will bring people to us who are as open to His message as Cornelius was (compare Paul's words in Colossians 4:2-6).

Before he preaches the gospel, Peter proclaims an important truth – one that he had just learned from his vision and the resulting encounter with Cornelius. God is not one to show partiality; every nation on earth could have people who are welcome to Him!

Peter's gospel message included the ideas of Jesus Christ's Lordship, the Holy Spirit and power, doing good and healing, God being with Jesus, His death on the cross and resurrection, His appearing to witnesses chosen beforehand by God, that someday He will judge everyone, but that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins. That's a power-packed gospel message in only 8 verses!

Amazingly, there is no altar call here, no pause asking them to receive Christ. While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone listening to the message. They were listening with belief, not as critics. The Lord knew their hearts, that they were ready to receive the Holy Spirit (v. 47) – so He caused the Holy Spirit to fall upon them all. This was evidenced by the fact that they spoke in tongues and exalted God, similar to what happened at Pentecost in Acts 2:1-12.

Since these Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit like Peter and the Jews at Pentecost, Peter orders them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. That was a public testimony to all that these Gentiles were now Christians, even though they had no Jewish heritage and were not being circumcised to become Jewish converts. Christ's church was growing!