

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral
Lesson 21 “The Outpouring of the Spirit”

I. Introduction - We are in a series on *Acts*. We are going through the entire book and looking at how the Church was born in revival and this caused the Gospel to go viral.

A. We’ve studied multiple revivals in the early church. These include Pentecost in *Acts 2* - 3,000 saved, healing of lame man - *Acts 3-4* - 5,000 saved, signs and wonders and the healings off Peter’s shadow - *Acts 5* - all Jerusalem filled with the doctrine of Christ., and the revival in Samaria - *Acts 8* - All of the city filled with joy.

B. Two weeks ago we began studying *Acts 10* which contains one of the most significant events in the 1st century - the outpouring of the spirit on the Gentiles.

1. Today it is very normative for Gentiles to be saved, but 2,000 years ago it was almost unheard of.
2. The original Christians were Jews who grew up under the law and converted to Christianity after the resurrection. It didn’t occur to them that God wanted to save the rest of the world even though the was always the plan.
3. This is why God had to give Peter a vision (supernatural encounter) so He would go preach to a Roman centurion named Cornelius.
 - a. When Peter has the encounter and God says “Arise kill and eat all these animals” Peter told Him, “No, I can’t eat that which is unclean.”
 - b. God said, “Don’t call unclean what I have called clean.” This happened 3 times because Peter wasn’t getting it.
 - c. This was preparing Peter’s heart for men who were sent from Cornelius to Peter so he could minister to Cornelius.
 - d. I compared this to the “Jesus People” movement from our era. God used people the religious establishment didn’t accept to change the world.

II. The Outpouring of the Spirit - Today I want to look at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that occurred when Peter began to preach to the Gentiles. Peter saw this as a confirmation that God had saved the Gentiles (heathen).

A. **Acts 10:24-33 Peter Meets Cornelius**

1. **Verse 24** Peter leaves Joppa and enters Caesarea (show on map). Peter is fulfilling great commission. Caesarea was in Judea. **Acts 1:8**. Cornelius had call his relatives and close friends.
2. **Verses 25-26** - Cornelius falls down to worship Peter, but Peter doesn’t receive his worship. Worship is reserved for Jesus.
3. **Verses 27-33** Peter breaks Jewish custom by entering a Gentile’s home. He and Cornelius begin to recount their stories to each other about how they got here.

- a. Peter tells Cornelius God showed him he was not to call unclean what God called clean. God prepared Peter's heart for the invitation to come.
- b. Cornelius then tells of how the angel appeared to send for Peter.
- c. This had to build faith in each of them they were in the will of God.

B. Acts 10:34-43 Peter Preaches to Cornelius's Household

1. **Verses 34-35** These verses don't mean everyone is saved or a works based righteousness. This is saying Cornelius's heart was right. If our heart is right and we are pursuing truth we will find it. **Jeremiah 29:13 you will find me if you search for me with all your heart.**
2. **Verses 36-43** Peter give a brief overview of Jewish history which ends off with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.
 - a. Peter emphasized the resurrection. This is the essential fact about our faith, not the age of the earth, evolution, does Noah's ark still exist, etc.
 - b. Pointed them to the scripture in **verse 43** and then says this promise of salvation is available for anyone who believes (not just Jews).

C. Acts 10:44-48 The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

1. The Holy Spirit didn't get Peter's order of service because He began to fall on people and they started speaking in tongues while Peter was preaching. We need to plan in all we do, we need to plan, but we need to make room for the Holy Spirit to interrupt our plan. **Proverbs 16:9 a man's heart prepares his way, but the Lord directs his steps.**
2. Peter took this as a confirmation the Gentiles got saved and had them baptized.
3. The Gentiles spoke with tongues (glossa). Since they were all in the same house and spoke the same language. They didn't speak in tongues to preach Jesus to a person that spoke in another language like in **Acts 2:6** (dialektos). Why did they speak in tongues?
 - a. The Apostle Paul would give language to this in **1 Corinthians 14:14** when he said when we pray in tongues our spirit is praying. This was sign they had the spirit.
 - b. This meant they also had a heavenly dialect given to commune with and glorify God as **1 Corinthians 14** teaches.

III. Conclusion - God's heart has always been for the whole world. God has call us as ambassadors to represent or re-present Him to the world around us. He wants to break down the walls in our life with His unconditional love and empower us to extend that love to others.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer