



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Gentile Revival!

Lesson Text: Acts 10:1-8, 21-23, 44-48

Focus Verses: Acts 10:45-47 - ⁴⁵And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. ⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, ⁴⁷Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

Truth About Covenant: God extended the same covenant to the Gentiles as to the Jews.

Covenant Context: This story completes the pattern Jesus prophesied to take the gospel from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and to the end of the earth. Against cultural prejudices and biases, God called the Jewish preacher named Peter to preach the gospel to a Gentile household, and God invited the rest of the world into covenant with Him.

When the church was formed on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, only the Jews were included, but God had more for more people than just the Jews. Jesus' command to His disciples to take the gospel to the uttermost part of the earth was getting ready to unfold. It began with a vision sent to a Roman centurion named Cornelius in the city of Caesarea. Caesarea was the seat of the Roman government, the epicenter of the world's power. Jews hated Rome, their government, and their armies.

Cornelius feared God, prayed always, and gave generously to bless others. One mid-afternoon Cornelius had a vision of an angel who honored him for his generosity and faithfulness toward God. **What a marvelous reminder that God notices every effort we make to draw closer to Him.** The angel instructed Cornelius to send men to a preacher named Peter who would tell Cornelius what to do. Peter had the keys to the Kingdom and would open the door for Gentiles to become part of the church of Jesus Christ and enter into covenant with God. **God was offering salvation to the whole world, and He was using supernatural visions to do it.**

As Cornelius's men journeyed to Joppa, God gave Peter his own vision. In his vision Peter saw a great sheet coming down from heaven. God had an emphatic message for Peter. The sheet had four corners and was filled with all kinds of creatures, indicating that God's church was to accept all peoples of the earth from the north, south, east, and west. The voice told Peter to eat, but Peter refused, arguing it was something he had never done. Just as Jesus said to Peter three times, *"Feed my sheep"* (John 21:17), when He called Peter to the work of God, again He commanded Peter three times to take the next step in spreading the gospel. With a full house of hungry people for a closer relationship with God, Peter preached Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It was the same message he had preached to the Jews in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. *"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word"* (Acts 10:44). **Power comes when the Word of God is preached.** So he baptized them in the name of Jesus Christ. When we step out in faith to the call of God, we can be confident God will reward our obedient faith in ways we thought impossible.

We live in a very exciting time in spreading the gospel to everyone on the earth. Thanks to translation apps and social media, communication with other cultures and languages is possible in ways never thought possible in previous generations. These possibilities are endless as long as we keep our ears tuned to God's voice. **He is calling everyone around the world to repentance (Acts 17:30).** God will work to bring those with gospel together with those who hunger for the gospel. As Christians, we must keep God's vision of outreach foremost in our minds.

Often God will call us out of where we are comfortable and familiar. It is human nature to prefer the known, but our walk of faith requires us to step out into the unknown and obey God's voice. The Christian life was never meant to be a cozy, settled-in lifestyle. It is boldly trusting God and sometimes walking into uncomfortable settings to carry the gospel to all people.

For us who are called to be "fishers of men," we need the diligence and commitment to reach people with the gospel. It is not always easy work, and many days there are no great catches, but the refusal to quit brings big rewards. God has promised we will reap if we faint not. As long as there is one more hungry soul searching for a closer relationship with God, we must follow the leading of God's Spirit and share with them the same gospel that has changed our lives. God will do for them what He has done for us if we will preach the gospel to them as someone preached it to us.