

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

II THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA Acts 8-12

LESSON 9 - The Holy Spirit Works Through Peter - Acts 9:32 - 10:48

KEY VERSE

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the Word.
(Acts 10:44)

PONDER¹

READ Acts 9:32-10:48.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. _____

PETER GOES TO LYDDA, SHARON, AND JOPPA

Before Peter was sent by the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles, he visited the saints in Lydda², Sharon³, and Joppa⁴.

READ Acts 9:32-43.

1. Who was Aeneas (vv. 32-35)? _____

What did Peter, through the power of the Holy Spirit, declare to him? _____

How did Aeneas respond? _____

How did the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon respond to the work of the Holy Spirit in their regions?

¹ PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

² Lydda: now called Ludd; 11 miles southeast of Joppa where Peter healed the paralytic named Aeneas.

³ Sharon: rich plain which stretches from Joppa to Caesarea.

⁴ Joppa: the gateway of ancient Palestine; now Jaffa the ancient seaport of Jerusalem (see Jonah 1:3, II Chronicles 2:16).

PERSONAL

Has Jesus the Christ ever healed you physically, emotionally, or spiritually? Explain. _____

How have others responded to your witness through the power of the Spirit? _____

2. Who was Tabitha⁵ from Joppa (v. 36)? _____

What happened to her (v. 37)? _____

3. Why did Peter leave Lydda and go to Joppa (vv. 38, 39a)? _____

4. How did Dorcas affect the life of the widows (v. 39b)? _____

5. Moved by the Holy Spirit, what was Peter compelled to do and what was the result (vv. 40, 41)?

6. What was the response in Joppa when Tabitha arose (vv. 42, 43)? _____

Who did Peter stay with in Joppa? _____

⁵ Tabitha: Aramaic name which in Greek means Dorcas; they both mean gazelle.

CORNELIUS SENDS FOR PETER

READ Acts 10:1-8.

1. DESCRIBE the kind of man Cornelius was known to be (vv. 1, 2)? _____ 6

_____ 7
_____ 8

2. SUMMARIZE the vision of Cornelius (vv. 3-6)? _____ 9

_____ 10

3. After the angel of God departed, how did Cornelius immediately respond (vv. 7, 8)? _____

PETER'S VISION

READ Acts 10:9-16.

1. What was Peter doing when he fell into a trance (vv. 9, 10)? _____ 11

_____ 12

2. When Peter fell into a trance, what miraculous event took place (vv. 11, 12)? _____

⁶ Caesarea: Roman capital of Judea in the time of Christ and Paul; located by the sea, a port city 32 miles north of Joppa.
⁷ centurion: an officer commanding 100 men in the Roman army.
⁸ feared: to reverence God.
⁹ ninth hour: 3:00 p. m.
¹⁰ vision: from the Greek word something gazed; spectacle, sight.
¹¹ sixth hour: Noon.
¹² trance - Greek *ecstasis*: standing out; amazed, wholly fixed on the things of God; perceiving realities shown by God.

3. What did the Voice command Peter to do (vv. 13-16)? _____

13

14

What was Peter's response? _____

PETER'S CALL TO CAESAREA

The vision was a sign from God that Jews were no longer to see Gentiles as unclean.

READ Acts 10:17-23.

1. How did the Holy Spirit orchestrate the visions of Cornelius (10:1-8) and Peter (vv. 9-16) to accomplish God's will for the furtherance of the Gospel¹⁵ (vv. 17-21)?

2. What did the Holy Spirit reveal to Peter about the Gentile man called Cornelius (v. 22)? _____

3. What steps of obedience to the call of God did Peter take (v. 23)? _____

PERSONAL

Has the Spirit of the Lord ever spoken to you through the Word of God, a vision, a dream or another believer to instruct you, warn you, or call you to do something extraordinary in His service? Explain.

¹³ common - Greek *koinos* : defiled; ceremonially unclean according to the Jewish religious leaders (See Leviticus 11:1-8, 20, 24-26, Mark 7:1-3).

¹⁴ cleansed: declared clean.

¹⁵ Gospel: the Good News of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

PETER MEETS CORNELIUS

READ Acts 10:24-33.

1. Who did Cornelius call together to meet Peter (vv. 24, 25)? _____

What was Cornelius' initial reaction? _____

2. What did Peter boldly declare to these Gentiles (vv. 26-29)? _____

PERSONAL

Are there people that you consider unlovely that God has called you to reach with the Gospel? _____

Ask God to give you the boldness to reach them for Jesus.

3. Cornelius testifies how, while fasting and praying, the Lord called him to summon Peter to speak to him. Why did God call Cornelius, his relatives and close friends together (vv. 30-33)?

PETER PREACHES TO CORNELIUS' HOUSEHOLD

READ Acts 10:34-43.

1. What amazing truth did Peter perceive through the Holy Spirit (vv. 34, 35)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

How have those who were once afar off, been brought to Christ?

Ephesians 2:13 _____

2. SUMMARIZE the Word¹⁶ that Peter preached to the household of Cornelius, which God sent to the children of Israel through Jesus Christ and proclaimed throughout all Judea after the baptism of John¹⁷ (vv. 36-43)?

Who were all the witnesses in this passage to the life of Christ? _____

3. What did Jesus Christ command the disciples to do (v. 42)? _____

4. What did the prophets of old give witness to (v. 43)? _____

THE HOLY SPIRIT FALLS ON THE GENTILES

READ Acts 10:44-48.

1. What happened while Peter was speaking (v. 44)? _____

2. Why were Peter's companions astonished (vv. 45-47)? _____ ¹⁸

¹⁹

¹⁶ the Word: the Good News, the Gospel, the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ.

¹⁷ baptism of John: John the Baptist; the forerunner of Christ who baptized Him and gave witness of Him, introducing Him as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (see John 1:6-8, 15-35).

¹⁸ the circumcision: refers to the Jews whose circumcision was a symbolic act affirming their faith in God.

¹⁹ tongues - Greek *glossa* : language; uncertain tongue; a language unacquired naturally.

3. What did Peter command that the new believers who had received the Holy Spirit do (v. 48)? ____

The Good News had reached the Jews, the Samaritans and now the Gentiles. All were now united by the same faith, Lord, and Holy Spirit.

WRITE out the KEY VERSE. _____

*And they continued steadfastly
in the Apostles Doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
Acts 2:42*

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