

CHRIST PROMISED THE APOSTLES THAT THEY WOULD SPREAD THE GOSPEL EVERYWHERE

ACTS 1:8

'BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES UPON YOU. AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES, TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT ME EVERYWHERE – IN JERUSALEM, THROUGHOUT JUDEA, IN SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.'

- DO YOU BELIEVE GOD CAN USE YOU? THAT HE WANTS TO USE YOUR LIFE? – YES
- ARE YOU WILLING TO BREAK A FEW RULES, CUSTOMS, OR LAWS ALONG THE WAY?
- WE MUST BEGIN TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY!

PETER'S MINISTRY – A MAN WHO PUTS HIS FAITH INTO PRACTICE

ACTS 8:25 – PETER & JOHN ARE RETURNING TO JERUSALEM AFTER PREACHING IN SAMARIA

'AFTER TESTIFYING AND PREACHING THE WORD OF THE LORD IN SAMARIA, PETER & JOHN RETURNED TO JERUSALEM. AND THEY STOPPED IN MANY SAMARITAN VILLAGES ALONG THE WAY TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS.

- WE SEE A GOD AT WORK. TRANSFORMING A MAN SO HE MIGHT CHANGE THE WORLD

ACTS 9:31

'THE CHURCH THEN HAD PEACE THROUGHOUT JUDEA, GALILEE, AND SAMARIA, AND IT BECAME STRONGER AS THE BELIEVERS LIVED IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD. AND WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, IT ALSO GREW IN NUMBERS.'

- **PEACE** CAME AS A RESULT OF – KNOWING GOD CAN...DO ANYTHING (CHANGE SAUL)
- **STRENGTH** CAME AS A RESULT OF – PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST (FAITHFULNESS)
- **GROWTH** CAME AS A RESULT OF – SATURATING ONES SELF IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

ACTS 9:32-35; 36-41; 42-43

- PETER'S MINISTRY TOOK PLACE ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST: AROUND JUDEA
- **LYDDA**: ABOUT 10 -12 MILES INLAND FROM JOPPA [**MANY IN THIS COASTAL REGION WERE GENTILES**] – HEALS AENEAS
- **JOPPA** – HEALS TABITHA [**TO AVOID CEREMONIAL DEFILEMENT** (NUM. 5:2; 19:11), **PETER DID NOT TOUCH HER UNTIL AFTER GOD RESTORED HER TO LIFE**]
- LEV. 11:40 NOTE: TANNERS WERE CONSIDERED TO BE CEREMONIALLY UNCLEAN

CORNELIUS [ACTS 10:1-8]

LIVES IN CAESAREA. A ROMAN ARMY OFFICER. CAPTAIN OF THE ITALIAN REGIMENT. A DEVOUT, GOD-FEARING MAN – AS WAS EVERYONE IN HIS HOUSEHOLD. HE GAVE GENEROUSLY TO THE POOR, AND PRAYED REGULARLY TO GOD.

- ANGEL OF GOD STOPS BY TO LET HIM KNOW THAT GOD SEES & HEARS HIM. AND, HE IS TO INVITE SIMON PETER TO COME OVER FROM JOPPA.
- SENDS 3 OF HIS CLOSEST ALLIES TO ASK PETER TO COME & TO SHARE HIS MESSAGE.

PETER [ACTS 10:9-23]

WENT UP TO THE ROOF TO PRAY – ABOUT NOON. WHILE WAITING FOR HIS MEAL TO BE PREPARED, HE SAW A VISION AND HEARD A VOICE TELLING HIM TO – KILL & EAT THAT WHICH HAD BEEN DECLARED UNCLEAN. PETER RESISTED AT FIRST BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPED HIM TO BE CONVINCED THAT GOD WANTED TO USE HIM FOR THE GOOD OF GOD’S KINGDOM.

- THE 3 ALLIES FIND PETER AS INSTRUCTED, TELLING HIM THAT AN ANGEL HAD ENCOURAGED A GENTILE TO INVITE HIM TO COME OVER TO SPEAK.
- HE ACCEPTS THE INVITATION AND LEAVES FOR CAESAREA THE NEXT DAY.

MESSAGE [ACTS 10:24-29; 34-43]

ACTS 10:28

‘PETER TOLD THEM, ‘YOU KNOW IT IS AGAINST OUR LAWS FOR A JEWISH MAN TO ENTER A GENTILE HOME LIKE THIS OR TO ASSOCIATE WITH YOU. BUT GOD HAS SHOWN ME THAT I SHOULD NO LONGER THINK OF ANYONE AS IMPURE OR UNCLEAN.’

PETER (34-43) SPEAKS ABOUT...

- THE FAVOR OF GOD AND HOW HE CHOOSES TO BLESS – THOSE WHO FEAR GOD AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT.
- **HOW THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL CAN NOW HAVE PEACE WITH GOD** THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.
- THE DEATH, RESURRECTION & LIFE OF JESUS, FROM HIS OWN EXPERIENCE. AND, HOW GOD RAISED JESUS TO LIFE EVEN THOUGH HE’D BEEN CRUCIFIED TO DIE ON THE CROSS.
- HOW CHRIST JESUS **COMMANDED HIS FOLLOWERS TO TELL THE WORLD** THAT GOD APPOINTED JESUS TO BE THE JUDGE OF ALL. AND THAT RECORDS OF THE PROPHETS SUPPORT THE TRUTH BY TELLING US THAT ‘EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS WILL HAVE THEIR SINS FORGIVEN – THROUGH HIS NAME’

HOLY SPIRIT [ACTS 10:44-48]

THE GENTILES ARE BAPTIZED IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGIN SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES AND PRAISING GOD.

ACTS 11:1-10,

- THE NEWS GETS BACK TO THE APOSTLES AND OTHERS BELIEVERS IN JUDEA THAT THE **GENTILES HAD RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD.**
- **JEWISH BELIEVERS CRITICIZE PETER** FOR – ENTERING THEIR HOME AND EATING WITH THEM.
- **PETER THEN TELLS OF HOW GOD BEGAN TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS** FOR THIS DIVINE ENCOUNTER.
- **Q: HOW IS GOD PREPARING YOU?** CAN YOU SEE WE MUST DO MORE THAN JUST TALK ABOUT US KNOWING THAT GOD WANTS TO CHANGE LIVES? AND **BREAK SOME RULES.**