

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## *Who Is Jesus? Pt 7*

### **Acts 10:36-48**

**Keywords:** Acts 10, Grace, Person of Jesus, Christology, Resurrection, Son of God

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** none

**SermonAudio Blurb:** Peter is now ready to address the house of Cornelius, filled with friends and family of this Centurion. But what is his message? It begins and ends with the person and work of Jesus. In this short series we walk through his words to see the many qualities that belong to Jesus and see the utter centrality of Him in all things. In this message we will reflect on the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit.

#### **I. Introduction.**

- A. Read 10:42-46.
- B. 14 Qualities about Jesus.
  - 1. Peace-Maker (36a).
  - 2. Messiah (36b).
  - 3. Lord (36c).
  - 4. Historical (37a).
  - 5. The focus of the prophets (37b).
  - 6. Anointed by the Holy Spirit (38).
  - 7. Sacrifice and High Priest (39).
  - 8. Resurrected (40-41).
  - 9. Focus of New Testament Preaching (42a).
  - 10. Judge of All (42b).
  - 11. Savior (43).
- C. Today we come to a key quality about Jesus that has an effect on every Christian here—He is the giver of the Holy Spirit.
  - 1. This is a key truth that sets apart the Old Testament believer and the New Testament believer.
  - 2. Both are saved by grace through faith; but the benefits are not the same.

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3. The Holy Spirit is a gift to us as individuals and as a whole. And without the working of the Holy Spirit no Christian would persevere to the end.
4. And yet the Holy Spirit is quite misunderstood in the Church today, stemming primarily from a shallow presentation of Him as the third person of the Trinity and how He operates.
  - a. Filled with the Holy Spirit, baptism of the Holy Spirit, indwelling of the Holy Spirit, inspired by the Holy Spirit, illumined by the Holy Spirit and born again/regenerated by the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Each of these is a distinct aspect of the Spirit's work and yet instead of keeping them distinct, we tend to blend them together into a vague concept that is at best, unclear, and at worst, false.
- D. My goal today is to first work our way through vss 44-46 to see exactly what is happening in the midst of this sermon Peter preached and then develop the background of why it even happened.

## **II. 14 Qualities about Jesus.**

- A. Giver of Holy Spirit (44-46).
  1. Observations of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the house of Cornelius.
    - a. Note first of all that the Holy Spirit fell upon this house full of Gentiles **while** Peter was speaking.
      - (1) No conclusion to the sermon. No call to repent or to believe. So what happened?
        - (a) Option 1 is they were already believers but did not yet have the Holy Spirit.
        - (b) Option 2, we should assume that they believed at some point in the gospel preached as it is the prerequisite to salvation. You are saved by grace through faith.
        - (c) A third option is also possible, that some, like Cornelius, were already believers while some were not but had been taught by Cornelius and in the process of hearing Peter, they believed.
      - (2) All of these are possible, but it is a bit too soon to come to some sort of conclusion so let us continue observing the text.

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- b. Note that the Holy Spirit fell upon all of them. Not some of them or even most of them.
  - (1) Not a single person was left out and this is quite an event. A house full of people, all of them Cornelius' friends and family, and they all have the Holy Spirit fall upon them.
  - (2) Now I think we have enough to make an initial conclusion. What we have before us is a good, clear example of God's sovereign work in the salvation of souls.
  - (3) As Peter is preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ the Spirit takes a household of people and regenerates each of them.
- c. Back to our passage we also see the phrase, ". . . the Holy Spirit fell upon."
  - (1) So reading that you might think that it is speaking of the regeneration/new birth that I just mentioned. But it isn't. The new birth is **assumed** because they were all baptized as believers. And the only way you believe is through the regenerating work of the Spirit.
  - (2) Here is something other than the new birth.
    - (a) Some of you right now are thinking that it is possibly the baptism of the Spirit. But it isn't that either.
    - (b) Baptism of the Spirit is what Jesus does to all who believe and it is not something you feel or experience. It simply happens.
    - (c) 1 Corinthians 12:13:
  - (3) But when it speaks of the Holy Spirit "falling" it is a unique empowerment by the Spirit. It is NOT salvific.
  - (4) We see this in both the Old Testament and New Testament where the Spirit comes upon a person and a unique event occurs.
    - (a) In Judges 15:14:
    - (b) 1 Samuel 19:20:

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- (c) Luke 1:15-16:
- (d) Luke 1:41, Elizabeth does a prophetic blessing over Mary and the baby.
- (e) Luke 1:67:
- (f) And finally, Acts 2 we see the same event we have here in Acts 10 taking place with the believers just prior to Peter preaching the gospel to the Jews at the Temple.
- (5) *So we have here several things going on but only one thing actually described by Luke.* These people are saved by God, born again through the Spirit, and also uniquely empowered by the Spirit. **But why?**
- d. Notice vs 45 and the amazement of the Jewish believers.
  - (1) About what? That the same thing that happened to the Jews in Jerusalem is now happening to these full-blooded Gentiles.
  - (2) Remember in Acts 8 that this happened to the Samaritans. And this was so amazing then that the Apostles came down to investigate. But at least those people were half-Jews.
  - (3) This is why this event is often called the Gentile Pentecost.
- e. Understand though what is happening. If you tell me that you believe the gospel, what proof do I have, what assurance?
  - (1) Two things that I can look for: your ability to explain the gospel and why it is your only hope and ground upon which you believe. And second, a life that exhibits a desire to follow Christ and His commands.
  - (2) But in the early church these were true as well but there was an additional wrinkle. Prior to Jesus' life, death and resurrection they were under the Old Covenant.
  - (3) In vs 46 we see what it meant for the Spirit to be poured out upon these people.

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- (4) The proof was that they spoke in tongues. And remember, this is simply foreign languages as Acts 2 makes abundantly clear.
  - (5) And what was the content of their speaking in languages not previously known by themselves? “Exalting God.”
  - (6) The modern concept of an ecstatic language, sometimes called an angelic language or a private, spiritual prayer language, is not known in the bible. Nonsensical babbling is not the biblical idea of tongues, no matter how much it is practiced or believed.
- f. Here we have a good example of how people don’t believe the power to save is in the gospel rather in our powers of persuasion.
2. Now, all of this is simply to develop and explain what we have before us in Acts 10. But there is much more happening and for our purposes it is important to know why the Spirit fell upon these Gentiles. Jesus is the answer (turn to John 14).
- a. First, remember that all that Jesus does is the will of God the Father. So as a result we should not be surprised to see passages saying that the Father will give the Holy Spirit.
    - (1) Luke 11:13:
    - (2) John 14:16:
  - b. Second, remember that the Father often does His works through the Son, Jesus Christ. And so the way the Father gives the Spirit is through the Son giving the Spirit.
    - (1) In other words, this whole thing is triune. And so not just the Holy Spirit will dwell in them, but the Father and Son as well (vs 22-23).
    - (2) John 15:20-27:
    - (3) John 16:

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(a) vs 5-11:

(b) vs 13:

3. And this is all that is going on here in Acts 10. These Gentiles hear the gospel and as they listen their hearts are changed from unbelieving hearts to believing hearts and the Jewish believers see it in this miraculous event.

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A. So, here we have just one more beautiful example of the centrality of Jesus Christ.
  1. To those who love Him, this is of great hope and joy. All that we do is in the power and work of the Spirit. But He never is the focus; rather, He always directs our focus to Jesus, Who then directs our focus to the Father.
  2. But to those here who reject Jesus, the Spirit is sent as well, but for judgment.
- B. As always, Jesus can mean many things to many people, but He will not be ignored.
  1. He is Lord of all.
  2. He is Judge of all.
  3. May you find Him to be your Savior as well.

### **Benediction**

**Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing the good news of Jesus Christ, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**