



"The Gospel to the Gentiles"

Acts 10:34-48

Acts: The Unstoppable Gospel

Introduction: Acts chapter 10 started with God moving in the lives of both Cornelius and Peter to bring them together. Today we will see that God shows no favoritism as the Gospel breaks down human barriers.

I. Peter's Sermon (vv. 34-43)

1. Peter's Opening Remarks

Verse 34 – *"Opening his mouth, Peter said: 'I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality...'"*

Merriam-Webster defines **partiality** as the state of having an unfair bias or prejudice toward one person, group, or thing over another.

2. Two Characteristics

Verse 35 – *"...but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him."*

A. What is the "Fear of the Lord"?

Proverbs 28:14a – *"Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always..."*

B. What does "Do What is Right" mean?

Micah 6:8 – *"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you. But to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

3. God's Actions

Verses 36-37 – *"The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)— you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed."*

God sent the word to Israel, offering peace through Jesus. Peter's emphasis here reveals what God has done.

4. The Life of Jesus

Verses 38-39a – *"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem."*

Peter starts by tracing the major steps of the life and ministry of Jesus going all the way back to His baptism.

5. The Death of Jesus

Verse 39b – *"They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross."*

Deuteronomy 21:22-23a – *"And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God."*

6. The Resurrection of Jesus

Verses 40-41 – *"God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead."*

2 Peter 1:16 – “For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

Peter is not just preaching a sermon; he is recalling an experience.

7. The Command

Verse 42 – “And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.”

Verse 43 – “Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

The Judge becomes the Redeemer and Friend of all who put their faith in Him.

II. The Holy Spirit’s Confirmation (vv. 44-48)

1. The Holy Spirit Poured Out

Verses 44-46a – “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.”

This emphasizes the unity of the Jew & Gentile people through Jesus evidenced in their receiving the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues & praising God.

1 Corinthians 12:13 – “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.”

Sanctification is a process that last a lifetime.

2. The Gentiles are Baptized

Verses 46b-48 – “Then Peter answered, ‘Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?’ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.”

They are not being saved by being baptized, they are being baptized because they are saved.

The Spirit’s distribution and their baptism symbolized their conversion and inclusion among God’s people.

Conclusion

Peter says, “just as we did” to conclude God has brought about a historical shift as the Gentiles get saved and are now included equally among God’s people on the exact same basis as the Jews.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. Has God ever pushed you out of your comfort zone to connect with someone?
2. Discuss the difference between bias and unfair judgements?
3. What is the difference between having a natural cultural preference and allowing that preference to become a barrier to our Christian witness?
4. How should “God is not one to show partiality” impact how we engage in community?