

ACTS 10 PART 2

Main Point: A transformed heart is an obedient heart.

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

-Romans 12:2

Digging Deeper

Continuing in Acts we see that God had been working simultaneously in Peter's heart as well as Cornelius' heart. But, fascinatingly enough, Peter approached this situation with humility. A kind of humility we hadn't seen in him before. Through the Gospels, we see a version of Peter that is full of pride and self-righteousness. Arrogantly, he said he could never deny Christ but Jesus told him he would deny Him 3 times before the rooster crows. (Matthew 26:33–35; Mark 14:29–31; John 13:37–38) But now, instead of living life in the fear of failure and losing Christ, he lives hungry for the Word, expecting to see something from God, even when he has absolutely NO idea what it is going to be.

Peter went to Cornelius's house expecting God to move, but had no idea what he was going to say. Cornelius sent for Peter, but had no idea what Peter would tell him. Both immediately and without reservation, obeyed the Word of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord almost never tells us the end result only the next step. Sometimes, as it is with the historical Pharisees, our theology, or study of God, can limit our imagination of who God is and what He will do. We still very much seek to grasp God's entire plan before taking a step, failing to trust Him entirely. Or worse, we seek a version of God's plan that is rooted in our own truth rather than God's Truth. Are we hungry for His word or our own feel-good message? Are we expecting God to do something amazing? Or are we expecting only what we pray for?

Discussion Questions

1. Many times we live life out of a place of fear rather than an eager hunger for the word of the Lord. This fear could be the fear that God will ask too much of you, or that His authority will undermine your authority in your life. What does living out of an earnest hunger and curiosity mean, rather than living out of that fear?
2. What does it take for you to humble yourself and your plans before the Lord and His plans?
3. Peter and Cornelius obeyed the Word of the Lord immediately,. What does that kind of obedience look like in your life?
4. This kind of obedience comes from a changed heart. One that has truly surrendered. What does that kind of heart change look like in your life?
5. How do you pursue ongoing change, or 'sanctification', daily? How do you look different (more like Christ) than you did yesterday?