



ACTS OF GOD

God's First churches

YES, NO & MAYBE:

1. It's difficult for me to take someone's ministry seriously when their lifestyle is not as religious as mine.
2. I take pride in being part of a community that is trying to make healthy life choices.
3. God has declared that ALL food is now ceremonially "clean."
4. We should baptize people before they go through a study class.
5. The Jews experienced one Pentecost, and the Gentiles experienced another.

NOTES:

DIG DEEPER:

∅ Have you ever seen an act of partiality within Christianity? What did you witness?

§ READ Acts 10:1-29,34-35,44-48 (NIV)

THE DETAILS:

∅ Cornelius:

† He is mentioned by name

† He is a centurion

† Kept two of the three Jewish tenants: prayer (3 p.m.) & alms-giving

∅ Peter:

† Staying with Simon the tanner:

‡ There is a contradiction in Simon Peter's religious practices. The tanner's occupation was regarded as unclean by strict Jews, and the tanners were commanded to dwell apart. "If a tanner married without mentioning his trade, his wife was permitted to get a divorce. The law of levirate marriage might be set aside if the brother-in-law of the childless widow was a tanner. A tanner's yard must be at least fifty cubits from any town" (Farrar, "Life and Work of St. Paul").

∅ What are some of the religious contradictions that we see in today's experiences?



THE BIBLE LAB

NOTES:

DIG DEEPER...continued:

∅ What do you see about God's character through His interaction with this pagan Roman soldier?

∅ Why do you think God didn't just tell the Centurion about himself? Why did he make the Centurion send his men to search for Peter?

∅ Why do you think God used the animals on a sheet metaphor with Peter? Why didn't God just say, "Don't be a spiritual racist against non-Jews"? Why does God speak in these pictures instead?

∅ What does it say about God's desires that He sent His Holy Spirit to the ceremonially unclean and uncircumcised Gentiles?

† Why is it **vital** for us to understand that the Holy Spirit came **before** baptism here?

∅ How should Peter's realization (10:34-35) become ours?

Acts 10:34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

MY PRAYER THIS WEEK:

1. How am I showing partiality to people in my world?
2. What things are keeping me from going where God needs me to go?
3. What new things do I see of God's infinite character now?