



# The Church in Acts

## Week 9: Acts 10 - The Gentiles Receive the Gospel

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, March 2, 2025

# **Acts 10 - The Gentiles Receive the Gospel**

The background consists of dark, horizontal wood planks. A warm, orange-gold light source is positioned at the top center, creating a gradient that fades from bright orange at the top to dark blue and black at the bottom. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

# **The Church in Acts: Foundation for Mission and Community**

“But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

*Acts 1:8 ESV*

# FIRST CENTURY ISRAEL



Capernaum ●  
Gennesaret ●  
Cana ●  
Magdala ●  
Tiberias ●  
Sea of Galilee  
Bethsaida ●

Nazareth ●  
▲ Mt. Tabor

GALILEE

Caesarea ●

DECAPOLIS

The Great Sea  
(Mediterranean)

SAMARIA

Jordan River

Joppa ●  
Lydda ●

JUDEA

PEREA

● Philadelphia

Emmaus ●  
Jerusalem ●  
Bethlehem ●  
Jericho ●  
▲ Mt. Olives  
Bethany ●  
Qumran ●

Dead Sea



# 1. Good Works are Insufficient

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.”

And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.” When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

*Acts 10:1-8 ESV*

**Italian Cohort**

**Devout Man**

**Gave Generously & Prayed  
Continually**



## **2. God Orchestrates the Encounters**

**The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth.**

In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

*Acts 10:9-16 ESV*

Now while Peter was **inwardly perplexed** as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate.

*Acts 10:17 ESV*

**well spoken of by the whole  
Jewish nation**

**So he invited them in to be his guests.**

*Acts 10:23 ESV*

### **3. God Stretches Peter for His Use**

**When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.” And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered.**

**And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.”**

*Acts 10:25-29 ESV*

“Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God **to hear all** that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

*Acts 10:33 ESV*

## 4. God Uses Peter to Explain the Gospel

So Peter opened his mouth...

*Acts 10:34 ESV*



**And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead....**

*Acts 10:39-41 ESV*

**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”**

*Galatians 3:13 ESV*

**And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.**

*Luke 24:40-43 ESV*

**To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.**

*Acts 10:43 ESV*

**While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,**

**“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.**

*Acts 10:44-48 ESV*

**Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”**

*Acts 11:1-3 ESV*

**As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on  
them just as on us at the beginning.**

*Acts 11:15 ESV*



**When they heard these things they fell silent.  
And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the  
Gentiles also God has granted repentance  
that leads to life.”**

*Acts 11:18 ESV*

- **Good Works are Insufficient**
- **God Orchestrates the Encounters**
- **God Stretched Peter for His Use**
- **God Uses Peter to Explain the Gospel**

## • Good Works are Insufficient

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

*Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV*

- **Good Works are Insufficient**
- **God Orchestrates Our Encounters**
- **Be Willing to Be Stretched**
- **Be Prepared to Explain the Gospel**