

# ACTS

## of the Holy Spirit

### Session #17 – 10:24 - 48

## I. Confirmations from God (10:24 – 33)

### Verse 24

The following day  
he arrived in Caesarea.

[30 mile journey]  
[now] – scene change

Cornelius was expecting them  
(prosdechomai = ready to provide hospitality)  
and had called together  
his relatives  
and close friends.



This event takes a lot of faith for both Cornelius and Peter. They are both taking a great risk and crossing huge cultural barriers.

### Verse 25

As Peter entered the house,  
Cornelius met him  
and fell (pepto = to prostrate oneself) at his feet  
in reverence. (proskyneo = to pay homage = to  
lick the hand like a dog)

This is a strategic moment in Christian history! It is ONE thing for Peter to invite a person into his world – it is quite another when Peter has to enter another person’s world.

**Humility Test #1** – Submitting to another persons hospitality. Obedience to God’s call. Leading with others involved.

### Verse 26

But Peter made him get up.  
“Stand up,” he said,  
“I am only a man myself.”

**Humility Test #2** – Does Peter accept worship!

Both men and angels have refused to accept worship throughout the New Testament. Jesus, however, accepted worship freely (Matt. 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25; 28:9). Any man that accepts worship fails the humility test!

Honoring people with respect and appreciation for who they are is a great thing but worship is another thing.

“Peter refused both to be treated by Cornelius as if he were a god, and to treat Cornelius as if he were a dog.” (Stott)

This is important because the Christian movement is NOT founded upon Peter but upon Christ!

### Verse 27

While talking with him,  
Peter went inside  
and found a large gathering of people.

This has become a PUBLIC event.

This changes the dynamics of the situation. Now there are multiple witnesses and multiple pressures.

### Verse 28

He said to them:

“You are well aware [you know from experience]  
that it is against our law (athemitos = a (not) +  
thememi (legal according to Jewish Law = abominable!)  
for a Jew to associate with (kollao = glue – to join  
together with another in unity of place or purpose)  
or visit (proserchomai = come together as guests)  
a Gentile.

But (kago = even though I also know this – yet here I am)  
God has shown me (deiknyo = give obvious proof)  
that I should not call anyone (anthropos = human)  
impure or unclean. (unholy or ceremonially unclean)

Note: The vision has become reality!

Verse 29

*So [that is why]  
when I was sent for,  
I came without raising any objection.*

Revelation should lead to obedience – to Action!

God showed me – God sent me – so I came!

This is the **confirmation** for Cornelius!

God spoke to Cornelius – he obeyed God – now he sees that God was working on Peter the whole time!

[so]

*May I ask why (logos = reason) you sent for me?"*

Verse 30

Cornelius answered:

*“Three days (tetartos = the fourth day) ago  
I was in my house praying  
at this hour,  
at three in the afternoon. [ninth hour]*

*Suddenly [behold!]*

*a man in shining clothes  
stood before me*

At this time, Cornelius is NOT a believer (according to Acts 11:14) but his a devoted, God aware Gentile who is living out his limited sense of what is right. In his prayer time, God spoke to him through an angel.

Verse 31

*and said,  
‘Cornelius,  
God has heard your prayer  
and remembered your gifts to the poor.*

Verse 32

*Send to Joppa for Simon  
who is called Peter.  
He is a guest  
in the home of Simon  
the tanner,  
who lives by the sea.’*

Verse 33

*So*

*I sent for you immediately,  
and it was good of you (kalos = kindness) to come.*

This was **confirmation** for Peter! As God was talking to Peter he was also working with Cornelius at the same time!

*Now*

*we are all here  
in the presence of God  
to listen to everything  
the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”*

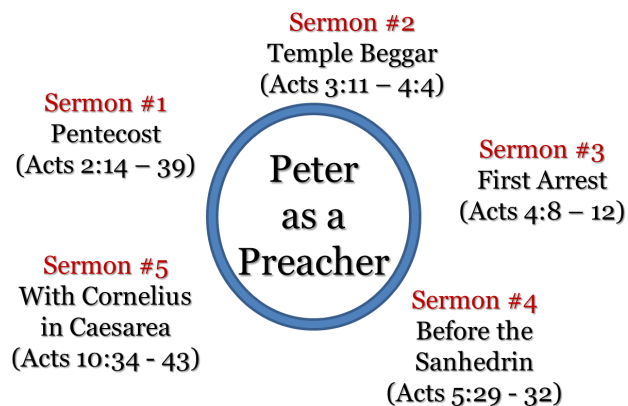
This last sentence is a preachers dream! We are here to listen to everything the Lord wants you to say! God has prepared Peter, but he has also set up a group of people eager to listen.

**II. Peter’s Sermon in Caesarea (10:34 – 43)**

Verse 34

Peter’s Fifth and Final Sermon in Acts:

Then Peter began to speak: [opening his mouth]



*“I now realize (katalambano aletheia = continuous action = I am continuing to see the truth that is coming upon me)*

*how true it is  
that God does not show favoritism*

(prosopoiemptes = only usage in Bible = to accept the face of another – unlike a king who has to accept the visitors in his realm)

**10 Doctrines from Peter and the Early Church:**

**Doctrine #1** – The impartial favor of God!  
Romans 2:10 – 16 – “For God does not show favoritism”  
Ephesians 2:8 – 10 – “by grace you have been saved through faith...”

2 I Timothy 2:4 – “God desires all men to be saved...”  
The “whosoever” concept! (Over 160 times in the Bible)

Verse 35

*but*

*accepts from every nation* (ethnos = ethnic/tribe)  
*the one who*

- 1) *fears him* (phobeo = to respect/awe)
- 2) *and does what is right.* (dikaiosyne = living in right relationship with God/acting in a way that exemplifies a right relationship in the eyes of God)

**Doctrine #2** – God’s acceptance of all peoples according to their attitudes and actions toward Him. God loves the world (John 3:16) and he wants the world to be saved (John 3:17). Salvation comes through “whosoever believes in him” which means to “believe in your heart and confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’” (Rom. 10:9,10).

Verse 36

*You know the message* (logos = the Word of God)

*God sent to the people of Israel,* (uios = sons)  
*announcing the good news* (euangelizo)

*of peace* (eirene = peace with God and with men through circumstances) *through Jesus Christ,* [means] *who is Lord of all.*

**Doctrine #3** – The message and means of peace to all people  
1) God gave His Word (The Torah) to the nation of Israel to evangelize the world (Gen. 12:1-4 “to all nations)  
2) The message of Christ brings peace  
3) The means of finding peace comes “through” Christ.  
4) The Lordship of Christ is the ultimate message of God’s Word!

Verse 37

*You know what* (rhema = The revelation from God that proceeds from human voices) *has happened* (ginomai = which came into being)

*throughout the province of Judea,*  
*beginning in Galilee*  
*after the baptism*  
*that John preached—*

Continuation of doctrine #3 – The message was first given to Israel and then to the disciples beginning with John the Baptist and they were given further revelation through Jesus Christ’s teachings that they carried throughout the nation of Israel.

Verse 38

*how God anointed* (chrio = consecrated/set apart)

*Jesus of Nazareth*  
*with the Holy Spirit*

*and power,* (dynamis = ability to accomplish God’s purposes)

*and how he went around*

*doing good* (euergeteo = philanthropic = helping)  
*and healing* (iaomai = to make one whole)

*all who were under*  
*the power* (katadynasteuo = evil oppression)  
*of the devil,* (diabolos)

*because God was with him.*

**Doctrine #4** – The Consecration and Work of Christ

Verse 39

*“We are witnesses*  
*of everything he did*  
*in the country of the Jews*  
*and in Jerusalem.*

**Doctrine #5** – The call to Witness for Christ  
Acts 1:9 – “you will be my witnesses...”

*They killed him* [put him to death]  
*by hanging him on a cross,*

Verse 40

*but God*  
*raised him from the dead*  
*on the third day*  
*and caused him to be seen.*

**Doctrine #6** – The Death by Men and the Resurrection by God

- 1) Jesus did die
- 2) God raised him up physically
- 3) On the third day (as he promised)
- 4) God caused eye witnesses to prove the point

Verse 41

*He was not seen  
by all the people,  
but by witnesses  
whom God had already chosen—  
by us*

- 1) *who ate*
- 2) *and drank with him*
- 3) *after he rose  
from the dead.*

Continuation of Doctrine #6 – the bodily resurrection confirmed by eye witness accounts.

Verse 42

*He commanded us* (paraggello – charged with a message)  
*to preach to the people* (kerysso = proclaim in a formal way)

*and to testify* (diamartyromai = tell the message publicly – more informally)

*that he is the one* (horizo = to define a boundary – limit the choices)

*whom God appointed*

**Doctrine #7** – The Call to Preach Christ as the Messiah  
*as judge* (krites = final authority in legal matters)

*of the living and the dead.*

**Doctrine #8** – Christ as the Final Judge of all Men  
John 5:22 – Judgement to the son; 2 Cor. 5:10 – Final judgement

Verse 43

*All the prophets testify  
about him*

**Doctrine #9** – The Messianic Prophecies of Christ  
Over 100 prophecies point to Jesus as the Messiah. The highest concentrations are in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53.

*that everyone*

*who believes in him* (pisteuo)  
*receives forgiveness* (aphesis) *of sins* (hamartia)  
*through his name.”*

**Doctrine #10** – Forgiveness through belief in Christ  
2 Cor. 5:18 – 21 – “He who knew no sin became sin for us...”  
Hebrews 9:15 – 22 – “..without blood there is no forgiveness of sins”.

### III. The Outpouring (10:44 – 48)

While Peter was still speaking these words, (rhema)  
the Holy Spirit came (epipto – to fall upon)

on all who heard the message. (logos)

The Holy Spirit has a wonderful way of interrupting a good sermon! Peter was interruptable!

Peter speaks the Word of God and this is a great work, but the Holy Spirit is working on the hearts of men THROUGH the Word of God – this is the greater work. The speaker works on the outside, but the Spirit works on the inside.

**Note:** We are approximately 8 years from the death and resurrection of Christ. Every Gentile who was saved so far had to become a Messianic Jew in order to be saved. These are the first that came directly from Gentiles to Christians.

Verse 45

**The circumcised believers**

**who had come with Peter** (six people – Acts 11:12)

were astonished

that the gift (dorea = grace extended)

of the Holy Spirit

had been poured out (ekcheo = to gush out)

even [also] on Gentiles.

Verse 46

**For they heard them speaking**

**in tongues** (glossa = an previously unknown language to the person speaking – an utterance of unusual nature)

**and praising** (megalyno = to magnify or exalt) **God.**

Clear manifestations of the Holy Spirit were obvious.

The gifts of the Spirit poured out of these new believers as the Spirit gushed into them!

To magnify God – not to teach men – the audience is God!

Verse 47

**Then Peter said,**

*“Surely no one can stand  
in the way of their being baptized  
with water.*

*They have received the Holy Spirit  
just as we have.”*

**Note:** This is a parallel with the experience of the Apostles at Pentecost! When they said, “just as we have” he has realized that God has worked to do the same work again.

Peter encouraged them to be baptized, not as part of their salvation, but as the obedience to Christ to “profess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord”. Baptism becomes the New Covenant sign of consecration of people to God.

Verse 48

**So he ordered**

**that they be baptized**

**in the name of Jesus Christ.**

**Then**

**they asked Peter**

**to stay with them for a few days.**