

## Acts 11:1-18

May 4, 1976

I do not know from God's Word whether this teaching or the first teaching was the one that brought them to the new birth where they received the fulness of the spirit. Maybe they had a coffee break, went to the bathroom. Maybe they had a little bit of lunch, and then came back, and Peter taught again. Maybe they broke up again and had ice cream with marshmallows on top and then he taught again. I just don't know, but I know that while Peter was teaching one of these times, (whether it was the first time or the fourth), that one of those times this tremendous record in **Acts 10** occurred. And the **11th chapter** simply is a continued unfolding of what occurred afterward, later.

### Acts 11:1

“And” - now

“had” – delete – not in the texts

“Received” – *dechomai* That's interesting to me. When they heard, back in Judaea, they did not hear that they *lambanō*-ed. You and I know from **chapter 10** that they had *lambanō*-ed. And yet the record here in **Acts 11** says they only heard that they *dechomai*-ed. Sounds like Samaria, doesn't it? Whether this is due to the fact that these were Gentiles and that they just didn't just didn't want to say, “they spoke in tongues”, I don't know, but it looks sort of like it – because, “No Gentiles could do that, you know that, without becoming proselytes, going through all the ritual.” Yet I have shown you from **Acts 10** that he was not a proselyte. Cornelius was not a proselyte.

### Acts 11:2

“contended” - were contending

“with” - against

Boy, the moment Peter got down there they jumped on him with both feet. In essence they said “Peter, just what in the blazes were you doing?” So they immediately started a fight; contending with him.

### Acts 11:3

“men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them” - That's what really disturbed them. Whenever you ate with someone, you know what that meant; that you weren't going to knife them in the back; that they belong to your family, your fellowship. We read it from **Revelation 3:20**.

They didn't object for him to fraternize with Gentiles because there were certain laws that made it possible for a Jew to have some relationship with a Gentile, but the one thing they would never do is eat with them. And here they really got on Peter and said, “You know, you not only went in to men that are uncircumcised, the dogs, but you ate with them!” And if you think that was a cool argument, you're wrong. It was a hot one. They were really indignant; they were angry; they were teed off; and this is brother against brother; born again believers teed off at each other.

### Acts 11:4

“rehearsed *the matter*” - having begun

“expounded *it*” - set forth

“by” - in

“unto” - to

**Acts 11:5**

“trance” – *ekstasis* – transliterates into the word: ecstasy. I described it once as “a dormant state of mental activity.”

“vision” - picture, full color

“let down” - sent down

“from” - out

“even” as far as - It came right down to him.

**Acts 11:6**

“Upon” - unto - You know, to that vision.

“when I had fastened mine eyes” - having gazed - I like the translation in King James; “fastened mine eyes.” I like that because to me that communicates; to set your eyeball on; to concentrate; to put you mind to it. “having gazed” is literally accurate according to the text. In my head, when you fasten your eyes on something, you glue them down; you stay put right on that thing.

“air” - heaven

**Acts 11:7-8**

“Not so” - by no means. In other words, he’s real shook by it; “**By no means!**”

“common” - defiled

“at any time” - at no time

**Acts 11:9**

“the” - a

“me” - delete

“again” - a second time

“call” - make

“common” - defiled

**Acts 11:10**

“was done” - came to pass. And this came to pass three times.

**Acts 11:11**

“already” - delete

“come unto” - stood before

Knowing the Oriental culture, we know they didn't knock on the door, but they stood and they called. Who was that in the Old Testament that stood out in front of the prophet's place and called? Naaman? (**II Kings 5:9**)

**Acts 11:12**

“the spirit bade me go with them” - revelation

“nothing doubting” - doubting nothing

“accompanied” - came with

These were born again believers of Judean background. I believe they came by revelation with Peter. I think Peter took them along with him because God told him to, because God knew what a problem Peter would have when he got to Jerusalem.

**Acts 11:13**

“shewed” - told

“an” - the

“which stood and said” - standing and saying

“unto him” - delete

“men” - delete

“call” - send

Do I need to give you that again? All right, I'll give you the accuracy of the text for **verse 13:**

**And he told us how he had seen the angel in his house standing and saying, “Send to Joppa and send for Simon whose surname is Peter.”**

**Acts 11:14**

“tell thee” - *laleō* - speak.

Boy, what a fantastic verse. How are people going to know how to get saved unless people do what? Speaks it; Speak words Speak words. Speak words. And those words have to be the words that the Holy Spirit hath spoken in His Word. That's how people get saved. Faith or believing comes by what? Hearing. And hearing comes by what? The Word! The Word! The Word! Man, how that thing fits: “Who shall speak words.” It's the only way we have of communicating; words.

“saved” – *sōzō* - to be made whole

Again I constantly marvel at the way we allow ourselves to be tricked and live below par. I am so absolutely convinced that when people got born again of God's spirit in the first century Church, they

were made whole, mentally, physically, spiritually and every other way. Now the Adversary tricked them later on; they lost; they were robbed of it at times. But when they got saved, they were made whole. Gosh! Wouldn't it be wonderful to get the Church back to this? What a fantastic privilege to have the joy of endeavoring to teach the Word to get people back to it. Since believing comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the Word, I know of no way to build believing in people but by the Word. And so, as the Word continues to build, I don't know if very many of us older people will ever see it because we are so acclimatized to defeat. It's almost impossible for us to believe God's Word when it says, "to be made whole." But I do believe that there are a lot of children being born and children to be born, that, if we continue to teach the greatness of God's Word, when those children are born again, they are going to be made whole just like that word *sōzō* means; mentally, physically, spiritually and every other way. I think this is one of the great places we are going to see the physical deliverance of a lot of people as the Word's being taught. Boy, what a tremendous thing. "Who shall speak words"; speak words. Somebody's got to speak it. It's got to be words. And you can't speak the words that will save people unless you know them. Right? That's why we need to know the Word, so we can speak the Word to people - just like Peter did. He spoke the words.

"all thy house" – i.e. all the family, the relatives, everybody there

### Acts 11:15

"as I began" - my beginning

"as on us" - even as on us

Now what does that tell me? It tells me that it doesn't say that it was the first time he was speaking, but "as he was speaking," and "my beginning to speak." Therefore it had to be at least in the second message, maybe the third, when this thing really occurred in **Acts 10**.

You see that, "my beginning"? It got me all excited. It says in King James, "as I began to speak." That can't be it. You know why? Because believing comes by what? Hearing. And they had never heard the Word taught. Therefore, Peter now starts speaking. Therefore, it couldn't have been just as he started saying, "I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, and I'm glad to be here with you from Joppa tonight..." Then they all started. NO, NO, NO! You know better! That's where I got my key. "And my beginning, my beginning to speak ... fell on them even as on us also." Got it? Isn't that nice?

Walter - - That 'beginning' is not a noun. It's a form of the verb; 'in my beginning to speak.'"

Which could have been the second or third message because believing comes by what? Hearing. And hearing by what? The Word. Let's say he was in his second or third message and when he started that; as he got into that message, that's when they spoke in tongues. I think that's tremendously exciting. That puts the Word together, because believing comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word. You don't get saved just by someone standing up in front and saying, "Well, God bless you. I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ." No. Faith cometh by hearing; they had to hear some of the Word. I think that's great. That to me is electrifying. Which "fell on them even as on us also" - in **Acts 2:1 & 4**! Isn't that wonderful? Boy, how beautifully that makes it fit.

"at the beginning" - in the beginning - when it was poured out in **Acts 2:1-4**

### Acts 11:16

"the Holy ghost" – *pneuma hagion*

Put this together with that record in **Acts 10:47**, where he said, “Can any man forbid water”, which I do not believe he ever administered because as he spoke, he thought about water, but then he remembered the Word of the Lord, how “John baptized with water but ye shall be baptized with *pneuma hagion*...” and he never water baptized them.

**Acts 11:17**

“forasmuch then” – the text reads, “if therefore”

“gift” - I think the word there, Walter, is *dōrea* instead of *charisma*. Walter - - right?

“us” - us also - Boy, you see the word “also” keeps coming up in here. Here it’s used. “Gave them the like dorea as unto us also who believed on the Lord Jesus. Who was I, that I would hinder?”

“could withstand” – would even try to hinder - If God said John baptized with water; you are going to be baptized with *pneuma hagion*, who was I? Even though I thought for a minute, water baptize them; give them the water treatment, who was I to hinder God. You talk about records of the Word that put speaking in tongues and the manifestations right up where God wants them; that’s it.

**Acts 11:18**

“When they” - Now having

“held their peace” – ceased – same word as “ceased” in **Acts 21:14**.

Those that had laid it on him, and were against him, and jumped down his throat when he got to Jerusalem, they ceased; they shut up. They ceased arguing with him. And what did they do? They glorified God! Boy, it’s a tremendous thing! I wish to God they would be half that honest with The Way Ministry at times today. Give us a listen like on Jesus is not God. And having heard these things they’d cease arguing and they’d glorify God. We think these people were bad in Jerusalem. Well, they aren’t near as bad as most Christians are against each other today and especially when it comes to the accuracy of God’s Word. So I wouldn’t be pointing any fingers at those fellows at Jerusalem that called Peter on the carpet. Because boy, if you remember that culture and that teaching about a Gentile and a Jew, of background, eating together, you know that’s like adding water and oil. Mixing it up, can’t be done. But boy, after he’d had his say; he laid it all out, they ceased their arguments against him and they glorified God. They praised the Lord; had a terrific be-lievers meeting.

“also to the Gentiles” - to the Gentiles also – the “also” has to go after “Gentiles.”

“granted” - given

“repentance” - is to confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe God raised him from the dead. And the one proof they had, and the only proof they had, was, they spoke in tongues. It was the proof that they had received repentance unto life and that the Gentiles also had received the same as they had in the beginning. Look at the criteria in the early Church. Boy! There are very few of us who realize the depth of this thing because even with the bitterness between the blacks and the whites, this was a lot deeper than black and white fighting. This was so deep that the Gentiles were considered worse than dogs. You’d feed a dog but you’d let a stupid Gentile starve to death. You’d at least give the dog the crumbs off of your table, but not a Gentile. How little we have appreciated the greatness of God and the manifestation. The only thing that convinced those who were against Peter, when he showed up in Jerusalem with the six brethren, was when all seven of them stood up and witnessed that, yes, they did speak in tongues. “We heard them.”

And therefore, they praised the Lord; they glorified God saying, “To the Gentiles also, God hath granted repentance unto life.” What a forward move this was in that early Church. It should have been back there in **Acts 2** already, but it wasn’t because God cannot move any faster than people are willing to receive and to believe. It took God all those years to wait on people to move. Taking Peter from one point to another, not that he forced Peter; He didn’t brainwash him in the wrong sense, but he sure got brainwashed in the right sense, that he was able to go to the household of Cornelius, minister the Word, eat with them, and see this thing come to pass.

Well, these are the chapters and the verses that brought us into the ministry. Aren’t you thankful? I am too; that the Gentiles didn’t have to go through circumcision (all the law), then get water baptized, everything else, but they could just come, believe God’s Word, receive repentance; remission unto life, manifest the power of the holy spirit, and be inside of the Body.

That’s it. That’s all there is.

Dr. -- any questions?

Someone asks -- Back in **chapter 10**, when the angel of the Lord appeared to Cornelius, do you know any more about why the angel himself does not bring the message that he told Cornelius that Peter would bring? Why didn’t the angel just tell Cornelius what Peter would later tell him?

Dr. -- I believe that the reason for this is because God, in his foreknowledge, knew that Peter would tell it and that what he could know by his sense-knowledge, with renewed mind, Peter was able to give therefore the angel did not have to give it. That’s all I know about it.

Someone else -- Could it maybe have something to do with the Church needing to accept the gentiles into the Church, so they had a member of the Church, a pillar of the Church, work the deal with the Gentiles to receive, so they would be accepted of the brethren rather than just accepting the fact that an angel had ministered to them?

Dr. -- Could be. I think Peter was one of the most logical people to bring the Gentiles in. I think he was a very logical man to be chosen. Had Paul done this trip, it would have been a much more difficult trip in Jerusalem. Because Peter had been one of them, he was respected. Even though he was respected, they still argued with him. They jumped right down his throat. Peter bringing this thing to pass, I think is a real phenomenal thing. I think it’s logical and I think it’s beautiful that he did. I think it made it much easier for the Jerusalem brethren to move in than if some renegade had done it.

Another question -- Was it common for Romans to speak Aramaic? Were not Cornelius and his men from Italy itself?

Dr. -- I believe that Cornelius and those spoke Estrangelo Aramaic.

Another question - - In **Acts 11:16**, could that “remember” be God telling him or is it just a recall of what he knew? How much likely is it that God could have told him?

Dr. - - Oh, I think that he just brought it back to his senses head; remembered. I do not think it was revelation there. I think he just remembered it.

Another question - - In **Acts 11:15**, is there possibly any emphasis there by omission after the word “speak”? “And my beginning to speak...” I was thinking, “words.”

Dr. -- Yes, yes, yes. It is possible that “And my beginning to speak”; what do you mean by “my beginning”? Was it 5 minutes in or 10 minutes in or 15 minutes in? I think that’s right. What I’m trying to show you and I think we’ve got the documentation in here, is that it wasn’t until after he had taught enough of the Word that they could believe, that they believed. We were told in Acts 10 he talked about the resurrection and everything else which of course you’d have to in order to get them born again. I’m sure this wasn’t just a 15 minute sermon.

Someone else -- Something really bugs me on this and I can’t prove nothing that they’re tied together but Peter brought forth the first sermon after Pentecost to the Jewish people and he also brings this forth to the Gentiles. It just seems to me that there’s something locked there but I can’t put my hand on it. Have you ever thought about it? I was just wondering what you’re thinking was on it.

Dr. -- First of all, Peter was the main leader among the twelve. He was the most boisterous, the most out-spoken. John was more of the politician. James was more of the scholar, the intellect, not that John was stupid. Peter was the vociferous one; he was the out-spoken one. In the original message Peter got up with the eleven and spoke. Again, here in the household of Cornelius, Peter is the one who has that drive, that potential, that out-going-ness, of just saying it. Once Peter got straightened up on this thing, Peter just stood his ground. I believe Peter just said to those guys in Jerusalem, “If you don’t believe it, you can do as you fool please. I heard them speak in tongues, darn it. And I’m one of you. I was a Jew in background. You can’t turn my head. I heard them speak.” I think Peter was loud-voiced and when he knew he was right, he stood up and said so. All the city heard it. I think that’s why he was the man again, to meet the need of those Gentiles in the household of Cornelius.

Someone else -- It has to be that he spoke before because in **Acts 10:6** when the angel told Cornelius what was going to happen with Simon. He said, “he’s going to tell you what thou oughtest to do.” Now if he was just beginning to speak, that automatically precludes him from giving them any instructions beforehand.

Dr. -- I even think he taught them how to speak in tongues; took them all through the foundational class.

Someone else - - In chapter 2 of Galatians (**Galatians 2:11-14**), Paul and Peter had a confrontation about the Gentiles and Paul reproved Peter for not eating with the Gentiles. I concluded that it would probably have had to happen between Acts chapter 9 and chapter 10 during the softening up period that God was putting Peter through.

Dr. -- Did you hear that, Walter? Check that one out. That’s a good thought. That’s an interesting thought. Could be right on that thing. That would document **Galatians 2**.