

Acts 10:1-48

April 29, 1976

God sort of softens people up. Do you know that? He did it for you, I think. For instance, had you been in on a real heavy session the first time, you most likely would have not come back for a while. But God just sort of prepares people. He keeps moving and moving. When you begin to see that in the Word, it builds a lot of patience in your life, and a lot of grace and a lot of understanding, a lot of forgiveness of others. Because all through the Word God just kept working away with people. Well, that's all He's got; those who believe Him. If they believe that far, He's thankful and that's all He's got. Somebody else believes that far and then He has that individual. He keeps working, building, and here He's building Peter. Peter was a real human individual like most of you are--all of us I guess. You know, I learned long, long ago that you have to have a lot of patience with people and you have to have a lot of love. Nobody gets too much of love. Nobody is ever too patient. Sometimes I too get impatient. Whenever I get impatient that's sin. So then I've got to tell God "I'm sorry I'm so stupid and so impatient," because He's been patient with me. So if He can be patient with me, I've got to afford to be patient with others. Love you never get too much of. You know, possessive love and that kind of junk is counterfeit. But the real, genuine love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation, that tenderness, you never get too much of that. You can always take an extra ounce. So the Word of God is like that. I do not believe that you can ever get too much of the Word of God. Every time you come back to that Word and work that Word you get excitingly alive on the inside and just so dynamically effervescing that sometimes you wonder if it can get any better. The next time you're in something it's better again. I was thinking yesterday how the fellows were saying that that experience in the Holy Land was the greatest thing that ever happened to their lives. Well, that's true everyday. The reason it was the greatest thing that happened in their lives is because that's what happened at that time. Had they dropped out of an airplane that would have been the greatest thing that happened to them at that time. Had they walked over three inches of water without sinking, it would have been the greatest thing that happened in their lives. That's the way it is. In other words, at that immediate moment, that's always the greatest moment of your life. You can either make it positive or you can make it negative by your reaction, by your believing, by your concern for it.

Well, God had been softening Peter up, but it takes a little more softening. That we see in the great tenth chapter of Acts. Don't you love Peter for going to Simon the Tanner's place? Boy, I do. You know that just shows me his heart. It shows me the tenderness that old boy really had in his soul Simon the Tanner! I imagine Peter could have gone to almost any house of any believer in the whole area and they would have been tickled to death to have him. But he went to Simon's place. That's just absolutely gorgeous! Now, I believe, as I've said, perhaps three years. It would have been great to have old Peter in your house and around for three years, wouldn't it? It must have been something: Now, during that period of time Peter had to be doing something. He just couldn't sit and fish all the time or tan. So he just had to somehow or other witness the Word. You see, there are whole bulks of scripture like in this last section of **chapter 9**. Things must have happened like crazy in the city of Joppa. But there's no record; no record in any place in the world; none in the Word. But you just know that something must have happened. You know, just like, you couldn't be someplace for three years and have nothing happen. You know, if you know a little bit about the Word and the Lord Jesus Christ, something had to happen, right? So here you have right before **chapter 10** almost two and a half years or three; quite a long period of time when there's no record of anything happening. But I believe that God was just softening Peter up; getting him ready to do something that the **10th chapter** talks about.

Acts 10:1

Now, do you remember what you read in **Acts 8:40**? Who preached up to Caesarea? Philip. Before Peter ever got there, Philip had gotten up to Caesarea. Now, I've often wondered whether that wasn't already the foundational work for the opening of the record of the **10th chapter** because, throughout the entire chapter, if you watch carefully it never speaks of Cornelius as being a proselyte. But he had his heart softened. He wanted to turn from idolatry and from paganism to the true God. I wonder how much influence the preaching of Philip could have had in that area to get to Cornelius. I don't know. We'll have to wait someday and talk all these things over in the gathering together. But it's interesting, because it does say Philip preached all the way up to Caesarea.

“centurion” - a leader of a hundred

Acts 10:2

“a devout man” - not freaky, but somebody who was committed, who was devout. You would sometimes hear people say “religious” - really concerned.

“feared” - respected, revered

“with all his house” - that is a tremendous orientalism. In the oriental culture, whenever the head of the house accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, everybody else did. In other words, if the father of your family made a decision, the whole family fell in line with it. If the father got converted, everybody got converted. That's why this record in here says he revered God with all his house.

“gave much alms to the people” - shared abundantly

“prayed to God always” - see, he wasn't just a bad man. If there was any one man who didn't need salvation it's this fellow. He's a good fellow. He would have made a nice, tremendous church member, wouldn't he? He had all the qualifications. If you look at him sense knowledge wise, why should he get born again? He's already doing all these things? Loves God with all his house, shared abundantly, prayed.

Acts 10:3

“evidently - clearly, openly

This is revelation. Not being born again of God's spirit, not having Christ in him, this revelation had to be on the 'outside.' It's a real nice miracle God's doing. Well, He's still in business, isn't He? If He wants to make a jackass talk smarter than a prophet, He can do 'er!

“vision” – picture, real clearly; nothing snowy about it

You see, I believe we think it's sort of strange today if God would do this for you. I wonder if you'd freak. Here we're reading after the day of Pentecost, the day of the Church to which you and I belong. It didn't freak Cornelius and he wasn't even a Christian! But he was a God-fearing man. You see, people in those days, sometimes I think they knew more than we know today. They didn't freak. Today they try to discredit me because I said what God said to me. What should be so freaky about that? It has to only be because of unbelief. My earthly father could talk to me. If there is a God, and if He is what the Word of God says He is, do you think maybe He could? Does that make you freaky? Because your earthly father talks to you, does that make you freaky? Boy, you see we've so belittled the Word of God and God and the greatness of God. It's been so belittled in the Christian circles that if God ever spoke to a church member, you'd have a funeral! It would just scare them to death! If

they ever saw handwriting on the wall their knees would not only bounce, but their brain cells would fall out of their ears. You see, we're so acclimatized to the abnormality of unbelief. It's absolutely astounding. Here was a man who wasn't even a Christian. God gave him revelation, and boy, it didn't freak him!

Acts 10:4

“afraid” – does not mean he was full of fear. It means flabbergasted; not a fear, a negative type thing. He was just amazed as if to say “Oh, my goodness. Is God's doing this for me?! God for me?!” - Yes, God for you.

“What is it, Lord?” - These are all little keys taught in the Advanced Class. If you don't understand something and you're amazed at the revelation, ask God. If you don't know the meaning of the revelation, ask Him. He gave it. He ought to know it! He recognized that angel of God as speaking for God, the Lord.

“a memorial” – in memory of; in recognition of what he had done. Not that this is going to buy him salvation, but the prayers and the good things that he had done were in the memory of God as a memorial, standing for what he had done.

How long Cornelius prayed before Peter came down from Joppa, I don't know. Prayer is not so much getting anything from God, as to get yourself in tune with reality; God. This is why he says “Your prayers and your alms are come up for a memorial.” I can just see Cornelius thanking God for sending someone who would open to him the scriptures more fully. The reason God didn't send him the first day Cornelius prayed that is because Cornelius could not have stood the answer to his prayer. That's why sometimes in the Word you will see years between a prayer being made and the answer of the fulfillment of it; or a promise of God being made and the fulfillment of it, you'll see years. How old was Abraham when God said He would give him a son? I don't know. If somebody really knows, tell me. I know how old Abraham was when he was born - 99. How old was he when he got the promise - 75-85; 20 years plus; twenty-four years before that promise could come into concretion. Would God have done it at 75? Yes. Why did God not do it at 75? Abraham could not believe to receive. Isn't that beautiful?

If you'll just remember some of these things and then sometime you pray for something and then it doesn't happen tomorrow, you get mad at God. No trip: The Bible says he is more anxious to answer our prayers than we are to ask Him. Therefore it can't be with God. It has to be with V.P. Wierwille. God cannot put five gallons into a gallon jug (unless he empties it four times). If God's going to put five gallons into a five gallon container, He's got to have a five gallon container. If God's going to answer His Word to us, we have to be big enough to receive that Word; else He cannot give it to us. Do you understand that principle and why? Example: the gate of the temple, the lame man healed by Peter and John. How come Jesus did not heal him? You see how simple this all becomes now? At that time, when Jesus was there, the man could not have received it. That's why the Word says “Be it unto you according to your believing.” When we really believe, then we receive. Now don't ever get critical of Abraham. Suppose it took him 24 years. He finally got there, didn't he? I'm not going to criticize Abraham for waiting 24 years to have that Word fulfilled; no more so than I'd criticize you or criticize myself. We have just never seen the greatness of the love and the patience and the endurance and the tenderness of our God.

Here we've got Cornelius. The reason somebody didn't hot-foot it over to Caesarea the day after Cornelius first prayed about it, was because Cornelius could not have accepted it. That's why you never turn off on people when they walk out on you if you've held forth the Word. Because you

never know how many years later that's going to produce fruit. We're in the business of planting and watering. Quit stewing about the increase. If it happens 30 years from now, praise God. It's got to come back because the Word of God says it does not return void. Now don't ask me to explain it. I don't know much more about it, except the Word says it doesn't return void, and that's good enough for me. Sometimes I've seen and I've been knowledgeable of observing, after 10 or 15 years the return of it. Other times I couldn't lay my hand or my mind on anything that they could have done would have been a blessing in response to that Word. But the Word says it doesn't return void, and that settles it.

Acts 10:5

Look at the specific information; Joppa, Simon, surname Peter.

Acts 10:6

“lodgeth” - is living

Joppa is about, I think, 35 miles southeast of Caesarea. I've often wondered why this centurion had never heard of Peter to the end that he knew that he was in Joppa and lived there, if Peter served there, as the Word seems to indicate (3 years), and being this hungry for God, as the Word indicates, (thy prayers, thine alms). But God did get him informed. Revelation is always specific if we can just sit it out; if we can just receive it; just take it easy on it. I believe sometimes the reason so many Way people miss revelation is because if they get a little bit, they get so excited that they jump out of their skin before it's all over with. So then they miss it.

But look at the beauty: Simon, surname Peter, living with Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side. I asked the Bishop (Bishop K.C. Pillai) once why it said “Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side” because of the location of Joppa. His house couldn't have been any other place. It is axiomatic that his house would have to be by the sea side. He gave this answer that has always stuck in my little “IBM”: He said, “He could have been retired and grandpas train up the kids. When they get older, they no longer do the work of tanning as the older father of the family, they move inside of the city. He'd still be called Simon the tanner; like Judas Iscariot, like Henry the carpenter, John the mason.” That's what the Bishop said. I don't know. I thought it was interesting. He told me this happened in India. It was interesting that in India the tanning places we went to were all just like the Word is here. They were all outside of the city limits, always just the opposite direction of the prevailing winds. I doubt very much if they saw this in the Holy Land. I don't know what's holy about the place, but they call it that (always fighting – sound like church members). One of the reasons I don't get as excited about the Holy Land; I've been there a couple of times of course, that's a good reason for not getting excited, I guess. If you've once been there, then you don't get so excited. So much of it is counterfeit. But the land is still there. If you know your historical geography and you know the Word, you can get pretty near to the great places where Jesus physically walked and taught and talked to people. That, of course, is electrifying. No question about it. If you still want to see some of these same orientalisms, you've got to get into the interior part of India. It's still there. How many years it'll be there yet, I don't know. Up until the first World War, pretty much about 20 years before the first World War, (that would bring it back to nineteen hundred and some), the Palestine area was still quite intact where you could see these things going on. But today it's not there. They no longer have Simon the tanner by the sea side. They've got big factories and American money.

Acts 10:7-8

“he had declared all *these* things unto them” - Why did he do this? I think the revelation told him to. There would be no reason for Cornelius telling them anything, except to say, “Go fetch Peter.” Then

why did he explain it to them? It can only be revelation because he was a centurion; he was like a captain in the army. He didn't have to explain to the buck private why he went to the mess hall. So the only thing I can see in here is revelation.

“sent them to Joppa” - Literally again carrying out the Word of God, and literally carrying it out immediately after the revelation. He didn't wait two weeks and say, “Well, I'll think about it.”

Acts 10:9

“went” - continued.

How far can you walk in one day? Well, they could have walked it twice then, because it's only 35 miles.

“drew nigh” – were coming close

“sixth hour” - 12 noon

Acts 10:10

“became very hungry” - Peter's just like some of you guys. He became very hungry. Isn't the Word of God cute? Things like that in the Word of God. I love that Word because God is so tender. He's so beautiful. You know He's just so neat. He tells a little thing like, Peter got hungry. “Very hungry” He says! He most likely smelled what was frying downstairs and his saliva began to increase. If I were writing the Word, I wouldn't put silly things like that in it. I'd just put “great truth” in it. But God and holy men of God as they spake just put these things in because that's God relating to His people. “Became very hungry and would've eaten, but, you know, Mrs. Tanner didn't have the food ready yet!”

“trance” - vision (**verse 17**). The spiritualists never read 17, they just read **verse 10**, because then they can talk about their “trance.” But that's not at all in here. Revelation can come to you (and it does so many times) in what I refer to as a dormant state of mental activity- -where you are not working on anything and yet your mind is real agile, real sharp, real alive, keen. That's what we have many times in revelation. That's what happened here.

Another thing that intrigues me about the greatness of the Word is that it did not stop the revelation just because he was hungry and smelled the food. The big thing I see in here is how he got his mind into a dormant state, being so hungry. He must have had a renewed mind or something. Just hungry and he just turned it off and sat there and thought about the greatness of God and boy, there it was, the vision.

Acts 10:11

“as it had been a great sheet” - as if it had been; it wasn't literally a great sheet

“to” – all the way to

Acts 10:12-13

“there came a voice” - he not only saw it, but he heard it

Acts 10:14

“common” - defiled

I told you that God had been preparing Peter all along. Now look at this continued preparation. He had Peter all the way through Samaria, all that experience at Joppa, all the time with the other references (records in **Acts 8** and **9**). But now he's got to bring him to the place where he puts the cream on the top of it. He does that by giving him a vision of a sheet let down in which there are all kinds of animals that you're not supposed to eat. The Lord said, "Kill and eat."

Acts 10:15

"common" - defiled

Acts 10:16

"This was done thrice" - I wonder if they get the Trinity out of that.

Acts 10:17

"doubted" - questioned deeply within himself

Look back up here, what did Peter say in **verse 14**? He never ate anything defiled or unclean. The voice spake unto him again a second time and then it did it once more. He never answered Peter's question. Why? Because God already knew that the men would be standing at the gate. He was going to get it answered that way. Do you see that? Earlier in revelation, God talks directly back to the man--gives him the answer. Over here God doesn't give him the answer. Because he's going to get his answer from the men standing at the gate. So, you see how revelation can work; information can come? You know, the Lord might be showing you something sometime and the next person you run into says, "You know, I think we ought to go to McDonalds." That would be the answer to the revelation. While Peter said, "Well, how's come he didn't tell me? I told him I've never eaten anything defiled or unclean. How's come he didn't answer it?"

Acts 10:18

"called" - What did they call? They said "Peter! Simon Peter!" Because they didn't have a door to knock on, so they stood outside the gate and called the name.

Acts 10:19

"While Peter thought" - How come Peter didn't hear that calling? He had renewed mind, disciplined stayed mind. He was so excited about the revelation coming, the greatness of it. That's why it said he was still thinking about it. They'd already yelled "Peter!" He didn't hear anything, because he was still thinking what the vision meant. It had to be God who shook him. The Spirit said unto him "Man! Wake up! Three men seek thee!" And then he heard them.

Act s 10:20

Boy, oh boy! You talk about specific instruction; laying something on the line. How's that? Is the Word of God revelation? How about the specific instruction and laying it on the line? If people won't accept the specific instruction and laying on the line in the written Word, no wonder they freak if God ever audibly talked to them. They won't even believe what's written right in front of them. You see why people get so shook today? God just said, "Look! Get up and go Peter! And don't you doubt anything." Because he'd just three times shown him "that which I have cleansed, don't you call unclean or defiled."

Acts 10:21

"what is the cause wherefore ye are come?" - God had not told him what he wanted him to do. God had only told him "Get going! and doubt nothing." So he gets the balance of what he needs to know from the individuals who have come to see him.

Acts 10:22-23

“called he them in, and lodged *them*” - That’s sure nice that Peter had the privilege in the house of Simon the Tanner to invite all the guests that came and said “Come on in and make yourself at home in Simon’s house.” I think that’s nice. It reminds me of last week when I was in Maine. I stayed with Senator Gahagan and his wife Linda. The first afternoon, we had dinner and the Senator and Linda and I were talking for a minute. She just said “Well, any meetings you want to hold, anything you want to do, the house is yours.” I thought of this when I read about Peter in the house of Simon the Tanner. Simon must have said “Look, Peter, anything you want to do, the house is yours.” So, Peter just invites everybody in, keeps them overnight and most likely had hamburgers and 7up before they went to bed.

“certain brethren” - in **Acts 11:12** it tells you there were six of them. I wonder why he took them along. Revelation. He was not going to get his neck in the noose for going to the house of Cornelius. For when those Jews who are still zealous for the law, back in Jerusalem, even thought they were Christian, they were still zealous for keeping the law. And when he gets “called on the carpet,” God has so prepared Peter and given him this revelation, that he’s got his witnesses right with him. Isn’t that beautiful? They’re not going to hang old Peter when he gets back to Jerusalem. He’s going to have six witnesses that are going to tell it the same as he’s going to tell it. They’re going to be of one mind and of one spirit in the declaration of it. I love that.

Acts 9:24

“waited” - was waiting. Look at the believing of that man. He had sent them over after Peter, and he didn’t have one iota of a doubt but that Peter would be coming with his men. So he got the house all set for the twig meeting. He had his chairs all arranged, his songbooks out, had the ventilation set properly, the lights set properly, everything in order for the Twig meeting.

“near friends” - It said earlier that he was a centurion of the band called the Italian. He was head of that, but he had a lot of other influence. And so he brought these people together and they were waiting.

Acts 10:25

That’s another great orientalism. To fall down at a man’s feet in that day would approximate your today standing when a man of God or a teacher of God walks into your presence. What we in our culture do by standing, they did by falling flat on their faces. That does not mean that Cornelius thought Peter was God; that he worshipped him. He didn’t worship him as God. The word worship is respect. You know, that’s what the word “worship” means--adoration, thankfulness, love and tenderness. The Pentecostals use this “fell down at his feet, and worshipped him” in the context of slain in the spirit. That’s a bunch of baloney.

Acts 10:26

“took him up” - simply means Peter reached down and he took him up, saying “Stand up. I myself also am a man.” I love that. Not that Peter objected to the recognition, but he simply said “Come on, get up. I’m just a man. Let’s get into it.” I said to you tonight “Look, we can’t clap all night. Let’s sit down and go to work.” In our culture that’s the same. I don’t know why people get so strung out on the simplicity of God’s Word. All you have to do is understand culture a little bit. You see, today in the occidental world we shake hands but in the eastern world they always hug. Maybe that’s why in The Way Ministry we hug. We got sort of Eastern customs and we like it. Cold hand shake. That’s Western, because while you’re shaking hands with a fellow they used to watch that he didn’t draw a knife on him. That’s why they started shaking hands. They couldn’t afford to get close enough in the West for fear the guy’d reach around, hug you and run a knife in your back. That’s why they started

shaking hands in the West. In the East they always hug. And then in some cultures they kiss on both cheeks. They kiss you on one cheek and then they kiss you on the other. I think the Russians still do that, and the Swedish – and what? The French, I like the French. Well, in Bible days they just fall down and worship. When I went to that Jain convention in India and the leader of the group was there, when he would walk out of his dwelling place and then he'd walk through the tent toward the front of the auditorium as we would call it or the tent, they had a place built for him on a tent pole. On the tent pole they had built him sort of like a four by eight and then they would lift him up on that. They had a blanket or quilt like on top of it; a real fancy trip--gold embroidery, real neat. Then he'd sit up on there cross-legged with his arms folded, typical Eastern, and when he would walk in, everybody that was standing within, like all of you kids here, the first three or four of you would just quickly swing around and you just fall flat on your face and reach your hands out as far as you could go. And they were just believing that they could touch the hem of his garment or that he'd step on their fingers because he was considered to be an Indian holy man and that was just to worship him. That was respect, admiration. And the same when he crawled off of that seat; when the lectures or the sessions would be over with, the moment he'd start walking out, the people would just start falling, you know like maybe the first six rows would drop right now and then the next six, just like waves all the way through it. The distance he walked was about three times the distance from where I'm seated from here to the back door, and the people were all just flat on their faces. That's why this thing is an orientalism. It's beautiful. It was just for respect, for admiration.

Acts 10:27

“as he talked with him” - I wonder what they talked about. I'm sure they didn't talk about the revelation because that comes up later. I wonder what they talked about. I really don't know but it must have been exciting. I have an idea they could have talked about what God said to Peter on the housetop, “And go with them nothing doubting” and a few other things.

“many that were come together” - You see Peter didn't have to get there and put on an advertising campaign to get people to come; get the Emporia Gazette to publish it; get the local TV stations to say, “Peter's coming to town, we gonna have a 'reevival'.” No! That's what we have to do today you know. 'Ol Billy's got to get all the local cooperation. Then we buy the newspaper time or they donate it. Then we buy TV time; everything to get a revival. That's all a bunch of baloney. When people walk and the revelation's there and they walk according to the revelation, things begin to happen. And old Cornelius walked. So here he was getting all his people together. When Peter gets there he doesn't have to wait. The 'Corps' is intact, ready to roll. The 'Twig' is all there.

Acts 10:28

“to keep company” - to fraternize

“one of another nation” - referring to Gentiles

“God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.” - Earlier he didn't show him a man. He showed him food and via the process of food God taught him to think the same way about a man. Not to call any man defiled or unclean.

Acts 10:29

“without gainsaying” - without arguing about it or anything else. Peter came pronto, right away, boom's-quick, now.

“I ask therefore for what intent you have sent for me”- Cornelius had told those two servants and the soldier everything but they never communicated that to Peter. Because Peter comes all the way down

to the household of Cornelius and he says, "Hey, just why have you sent for me? Where can I really help you?" Those two men and that soldier had told Peter enough but they didn't tell him everything. And things that Peter needed to know and wanted to know he asks of Cornelius when he gets there. You know, sometimes when you're working with people and you're ministering to them and believing with them, the revelation is to ask them what's wrong with them. I just say the opposite in the Foundational Class of what I've just told you. There I laugh about writing names out, and they got liver trouble and they write it out but I don't tell them everything I know. I just know that sometimes revelation is "ask the fellow, 'what's the matter?'" God would know you had a diseased kidney and He could tell you but if you know and you're right on and if God doesn't tell me then if I ask you, you could say, "I got flat feet." Then God wouldn't have had to tell me because you're telling me, right? That's what occurred. It's so beautiful to me, so simple, so easy. Then Cornelius tells him about what happened.

Acts 10:30

a man" - earlier it told us it was an angel that looked like a man

"stood before me" - he didn't sit down, he stood. That's something; ready for action.

"in bright clothing" - reminds me of the transfiguration record. (**Matthew 17:2, Mark 9:3 & Luke 9:29**)

Acts 10:31

"are had in remembrance" - earlier it said memorial. (**verse 4**) I told you God just thought about it, it came to His remembrance; in the sight of God.

Acts 10:32-33

immediately" - look at his action on the Word.

"before God" - isn't that something? His Twig meeting, the people were present before God. He had to be a devout, God-fearing, loving person. You ever think of your Twig being present before God?

"To hear all things that are commanded thee of God." - Boy, what a fantastic thing. If people would demand this today in their churches, it would sure be interesting, wouldn't it? He didn't say, "Tell us about the social problems, and ecology. Give us a lecture on science." He said, "I want to hear only one thing - all things that are commanded thee of God. What does God have to say? What is God's Word for us?" Imagine, gathering a group like that and they saying that to a man. The Corps is much like this. I imagine you get so at times you can hardly wait for the Corps meeting to start. Because all you want to hear is the Word. You want to hear, what does God have to say to me. What is God's Word to me? That's what's great about the Corps, among a million other things. Golly. Really, you're not here in the Corps to hear what I know about science. We could spell that one out in three seconds. Or ecology, no. You're in the Corps because of the Word, the Word; you want to know the Word. You want to know what God has to say from His Word. It must have inspired Peter, because he opened his mouth.

Acts 10:34

"God is no respecter of persons" - God is a respecter of conditions, but He's never a respecter of persons.

Acts 10:35

"accepted" - open, available. God had already wanted this, as far as God is concerned, on the day of

Pentecost. Because He had said to them (**Acts 1:8**), “Ye shall receive power when that *pneuma hagian* is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth.” Then Peter said (**Acts 2:38**), “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of sins and ye shall *lambano* the gift of *pneuma hagian* for the promise is unto you and to your children and to all who are afar off even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” He said all this but Peter’s head couldn’t receive it. Isn’t that something? In **John 14:26** (Dr. says John 14:27) - same type of thing. It was already available on the day of Pentecost, then why did it not occur until so many years later? Fifteen, eighteen, twenty years maybe, after the outpouring on the day of Pentecost, that finally the Gentiles get involved. Because man did not believe; he didn’t get around to believing it until this time. So God had to wait all those years for things to come to pass that He already made available on the day of Pentecost. And in order to bring it to pass He had to just patiently put up with Peter all through those years, get him down to Samaria to minister the holy spirit and a few other things, get him to visit the churches, get him headed toward Joppa and these other places, and just soften him up. Finally get him up on a housetop and put the final touches on it. Then over here, first thing Peter says, “By golly, God’s no respecter of persons.” You know, most people in Christian churches still don’t know this, because most of them are still respecters of persons. I suppose a lot of things have changed too. We were someplace, three or four years ago. We went in to eat someplace and Claudette (African-American girl) was not welcome. So I just jumped up and down, raised hell, shouted loud and walked out, and I told them I wish the damn place would burn. I was so mad. I wouldn’t eat in that place if I was starving to death. “Respecter of persons.” Isn’t it a crazy world we live in? Then when I was in India, Indian people had “respecter of persons.” If you happen to be the offspring of a British soldier and an Indian lady, you could not get a job in India. We’re going to have a girl in the Corps next year from Malaysia. She can’t get a job in Malaysia because her father is Indian and her mother is Malaysian. Isn’t it funny, people? “Respecter of persons.” It’s a great day when you learn that God is no respecter of persons, and you aren’t either. But you are a respecter of conditions as God is.

Acts 10:36-38

“the Holy Ghost” – *pneuma hagian*

“God anointed Jesus” - Had Jesus been God would God have needed to anoint him? Why is it they can’t see this stuff? It must be because Satan has blinded their eyes and they refuse to see it; become so acclimatized to error that your eyes are so blind, you can read this stuff and never see it. If God anointed Jesus, then Jesus could not have been God. The anointing is the giving of the holy spirit; put it on him when he was baptized by John.

“healing all” - without distinction

“oppressed of the Devil” - so oppression comes from who? The Devil, that’s right.

“God was with him” - that couldn’t say that if he was God. It says God was with him.

Acts 10:39

“Jews” - Judeans

Acts 10:40

“shewed him openly” - that means people saw him

Acts 10:41

“eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead” – Isn’t it nice to know that?

Acts 10:42

“the Judge of quick and dead” – the living and the dead - not now, but at the resurrection

Acts 10:43

“his name” - Jesus of Nazareth whom God raised

“whosoever”- without exception

“receive remission of sins” – *lambanō* - that’s a real interesting usage of the word *lambanō*. It is the witnessing of what God has done for you in the remission of sins that’s the *lambanō*-ing. To tell that God saved you; God redeemed you; God made you whole; He took you out of your cesspool of sin and iniquity; set you on your high places. That’s the *lambanō*-ing, plus the manifestations that we’re going to see.

Here he is teaching his heart out and I’m sure he taught a great deal more than is written, but this is written that you may know. He taught a great deal more but the greatness that he taught was the resurrection. That’s why Christianity is built upon the resurrection. I gave the cross away today. (The cross that had been on the top of the Chapel at The Way College of Emporia) I gave it to the First Christian Church in Emporia. They need a cross; that’s what they believe in, we’ve got one to give, so we gave it to them. They were going to buy one anyway. They need one because that’s what they believe in. It doesn’t hurt my spirituality. I got sort of a thrill out of doing it. That’s where their believing is and you can’t go beyond people’s believing. I got real blessed, because in my heart I believe God’s going to bless us back for doing it because that’s where their believing is. And if we never get blessed back, I got blessed for the privilege of giving it to them. I gave it to them in the behalf of the board of trustees of the Way International and The Way College of Emporia. Isn’t that wonderful; that you have this love for people and no hang-up along this line? To have it in your heart to give it away without any resentment or bitterness and you know that we know that the cross is not central. The resurrection is at the center of Christianity and the only way you’ll ever know Christianity is with the open Word. I don’t know how to put a tomb on top of the steeple. If I could put the tomb up there and roll the stone away 50 feet and hang it out there, that I would appreciate. The only other thing I could ever appreciate, really, up on top would either be the symbol of the holy spirit which is the dove or the open book. That is Christianity. To know God’s will you have to know His Word and the power of the holy spirit of course (the administration, the one we live in, the Church). It’s not in the cross, which is the symbol of death. The open tomb is the resurrection and the Word is the light to everything God wrought in Christ for us.

Acts 10:44

“While Peter yet spake” - he got his sermon interrupted; never got to pronounce the benediction and shake hands at the door.

“heard” - heard to the end of believing it. While he was preaching they believed it, so he must have taught some things about receiving that are not written in the Word.

Acts 10:45

“they of the circumcision which believed” - the six (**Acts 11:12**)

“were astonished” - I can understand why they were astonished because Peter had perhaps not communicated everything to them and they were not as far along in their understanding as Peter was.

“also” - the key is also

“poured out” - not poured in but poured out, and the poured out means the overflowing; the manifestation. That’s what shook them. And it’s off of this verse here that the Pentecostals have taken the idea that anytime you’re inspired, if anything happened in a meeting, you can stand up and speak in tongues anytime you want to. If I’d be teaching you could all stand up and speak in tongues any time you want to. That’s what they take from these verses.

Acts 10:46

“they heard them speak with tongues” - Peter and those six brethren, and especially those six brethren, you could have told them that they were born again of God’s spirit and they would have laughed at you. They would have said, “Oh you ain’t kidding me, man; them, born again of God’s spirit? They’re Gentiles! Sure they can serve God but let them become proselytes.” Oh, but he’s done good works, given alms. They would have said, “Oh I don’t give a hoot about that. He can’t be born again; Gentiles; can’t be.” There had to be a proof which is absolutely inviolate, you cannot counterfeit the truth of it. It has to be so solid that there is absolutely nothing that could touch it. And the Bible says “For they heard them speak with tongues.” There it is. Speaking in tongues is the external manifestation in the senses world of the internal reality and presence of Christ in you, the hope of glory; born again. That’s what convinced them. As you’ve heard me say, you could have taken those Gentiles down to the creek and drowned them in water. That would have never convinced those six brethren that they were born again. You could have baptized them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, whoever goes down the fastest gets the most, anything else! That would never have convinced them. What was it that convinced them? “For they heard them speak with tongues.” Boy, you see how below par the Church has lived again? As a matter of fact, a lot of the denominations thought that speaking in tongues was of the Devil. As a matter of fact, they even investigate people who speak in tongues. Seems to me the investigation should have been the other way. These six men and Peter really got blessed. They heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Acts 10:47

That’s so beautiful. Old Peter got so hepped on this thing, so tremendously excited he said, “I think that’s fantastic! Maybe we ought to water baptize them too.” Great logic; just to be sure.

“received” – *lambanō*-ed

“as well as we” – as well as we also. In **verse 45**, poured out and *lambanō*-ing in **verse 47**; identical manifestations of what they had had years and years before in Jerusalem and then on down through the years, even here were the Gentiles doing the same thing.

And Peter for one moment flipped back to the old man days, his denominational attachment, but he caught himself before he went too far, because when he reports this in **Acts 11:15-17**, he says that he remembered the Word of the Lord and couldn’t withstand God. So he never water treated them.

Acts 10:48

“commanded them” - what does that mean? He simply said, “Fellows, sorry I mentioned the water trip, we don’t need it. Just what you’ve got, that’s it; “For they heard them speaking in tongues, magnifying God.”

“tarry certain days” - he hung around a while. They must have had a lot of little twig meetings; talked about the Word, the greatness of the power of God. Imagine Peter living there, having learned that

God is no respecter of persons. God is just continuing to expand Peter so he can understand more of the things of God. That's why He had him to tarry there certain days.

The Word is always exciting, always alive.