

- A Study in Acts -

Chapter Ten – First Uncircumcised Gentile Convert

ACTS 10:44-48:

In our last lesson, we concluded the sermon of Peter to Cornelius and his household. The concluding thoughts of the sermon were as follows:

Acts 10:43 “To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

In this lesson, we will be introduced to God’s work of verification; in addition, we will focus on how **verse 43** plays out for a clear understanding of the Gospel’s mandates for salvation and remission of sins (as it was in the beginning, so it will be now, and always).

Text #1:

Acts 10:44-48 “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.”

These verses have been problems for Christians for many years; however, keeping in mind some very simple things, it becomes very clear the purpose and actions transpiring here.

First, this is the first time the Gospel of Jesus Christ is going to come to uncircumcised Gentiles! This is a key understanding as with God all firsts are very important as they set precedence for future events.

God knew, that had He not given a sign to show His approval of these events, the Jews would not accept the Gentiles as brethren in **“repentance to life”, 11:18.**

We see actual evidence of this very fact in the next chapter, when Peter would return to Jerusalem, knowledge of his fellowship with Gentiles has reached the ears of the Jews there and they intend to contend with Peter over it (**11:1-3**).

Second, the form of God's approval would be the same as it was when the Gospel would first be preached to the Jews on the day of Pentecost. It would come directly from heaven and the result is that those who received the Holy Spirit would speak in languages magnifying God (see **Chapter 2:11**).

So, the first purpose of the sign from God in both instances was the same; to demonstrate that God had in fact been responsible of the Gospel of Jesus as the Christ to those who heard in both cases, without prejudice (had there been different signs, prejudice would have reared its ugly head).

This, however, is where the likenesses ends. As it was in the beginning to the Apostles of Jesus Christ, the coming of the Holy Spirit marked for them the additional baptism (complete submergence) of the Spirit of God, as was promised to them and them alone (**John 14:15-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:13-15; 17:14-20; Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4, 14, 32-33**). This would allow them to complete their commission, bring us all truth, and establish and maintain the Body of Christ until the written word would be complete.

Third, this sign given for the Gentiles in our text, was given in the presence of witnesses, who Peter is directly asking if they could forbid the baptism of these Gentiles in the face of God's approval. These would also have to go back with Peter and establish by their testimony that everything that has transpired is exactly as Peter will report it to the Jews and that God approved it!

Fourth, the sign did not place these Gentiles into the body of Christ. The fact is that God had mandated the same process for entrance into the Body of Christ from the beginning to now! Compare **Acts 2:38** and **Acts 10:48**!

If there were unique entrances into the Body of Christ apart from all the rest, this would make God a respecter of persons and unrighteous at the same time (**Acts 10:34; Romans 2:16; Galatians 2:6; Ephesians 2:11-18; 6:9; Colossians 3:25; Titus 1:1-3; Hebrews 6:17-18; 1 Peter 1:17**).

This is why Peter will command that they be baptized as the conclusion to the last portion of his sermon, **"Whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins"**.

Summary

Here is an outline of the important points of these events:

- The coming of the Holy Spirit and tongues (languages that could be understood) was not for salvation and entrance to the Body of Christ – **10:48; 11:14.**
- The Spirit was given as a witness – **10:47; 11:17; 15:7-9.**
- God approved of this event, who could withstand it? **10:47; 11:17-18; 15:7-11.**
- God has now fulfilled His promise that “**All**” men would receive His blessings through the Seed of Abraham!

Genesis 12:3 “I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Galatians 3:16 “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.”

Galatians 3:26-29 “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you *are* Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Ephesians 2:14-18 “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”