



## The Acts of the Spirit

GATHERING THE CHURCH

# ACTS 10:34-48

"THE GENTILES"

JANUARY 14, 2024

## AT A GLANCE

*The Gospel is for the whole world. God confirms this truth through the Holy Spirit to Peter and the other followers of the faith.*

## CONTEXT

The Book of Acts is the theological history of the Church. In previous weeks, we explored how God's people (the Church) have become where heaven and earth meet. The Church is multiplying rapidly, with it, opposition from the outside and obstacles from within. Despite the opposition, these followers of Christ are sown, not scattered, into areas and people groups in need of hearing the Gospel.

However, the expansion of the Church is at another turning point. Peter and other leaders and teachers are moving out from Jerusalem and establishing and shepherding churches nearby as they move to "the ends of the earth." As they leave Jerusalem, they find people of all backgrounds and nationalities who see the authority of and desire to worship the one true God. This was God's plan from the beginning, and however complex this is for Jewish followers, Peter knows this must be celebrated.

## SERMON SUMMARY

This week Pastor Joey showed us how Peter worked out, in real time, God's provision for salvation and forgiveness of sins to Gentiles. Because God had led Cornelius to Peter, and Peter to Cornelius, Peter knew that he needed to preach the gospel message to them, even if at the moment Peter didn't know how it applied. And yet, God showed that He was in control and moving ahead of Peter, giving the Holy Spirit to the Gentile believers as a sign of their genuine faith and His grace to grant forgiveness to the Gentiles.

Peter clearly sees that Jesus is Lord of All, not just Lord of the Jewish people. All are welcome into his family!

-We must evaluate why we are here, how we feel about God's authority, and choose to respond as both the Romans and Peter- with worship.



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*This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.*

*Group facilitator: you do not need to ask every question but can select the best ones for your group dynamic.*

## DISCUSSION

### Expand Your Awareness

- Pastor Joey asked us what brings us to church—what gets us out of bed and into the car on a cold morning like last Sunday?
- What brought you to church?
- What keeps you coming?
- What bonded (or not) you to the people who are here?
- What keeps you bonded to them?

### Extract the Truth

#### Read: Acts 10:34-48

- What jumps out to you most from the text and why?

As Pastor Joey said, the church only remains, despite its diversity, because it has a common source- Jesus, the Lord of all.

- How does Jesus, Lord of all, set the church apart from other groups/gatherings?
- How does that impact our commitment to its mission?
- How does that impact our commitment to its people?
- How does it impact our commitment to worship?



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## Respond to the Truth

When it comes to Jesus authority, we can have one of the following responses:

**Denial:** "This isn't real."

**Skeptical:** "I am paying attention but unsure"

**Afraid:** "I see it, but I'm not sure I trust it."

**Worship:** "I celebrate and submit to it, even when I don't fully understand it?"

- Which one of these responses best describes Peter's response and why?
- Why is it often hard to respond to God's authority as Peter did?
- Which of these responses best describes how you feel about God's authority right now? Why?
- What scenarios in life are you seeing God's authority, and he is inviting you to respond like Peter?
- How can this group help you move towards a Peter-like surrender/worship?
- Peter ultimately responded to God's authority, blessing the preaching of the Gospel to those far from God. How does this scripture prompt you to think about those you know who are far from God?
- What is one thing you could do about that this week to demonstrate your faith in, celebration of, and submission to God's authority?

## Pray Together:

- Unity and commitment to Christ's Church and each other.
- A worshipful response to God's authority.
- Eagerness to take the good news to those far from God.

As we look forward to next week, we'll finish the saga of Peter and Cornelius by reading Peter's report to the Jerusalem church. Read Acts 11:1-18 to prepare!



**PREPARE FOR  
NEXT WEEK:**

Read Acts 11:1-18