



The Acts of the Spirit

TURNING TO THE GENTILES



ACTS 15:6-11

"THE DEBATE"

JUNE 2, 2024

SUMMARY

This week, Pastor Jeff continued our discussion on the debate between Jewish believers about the requirements for Gentile believers to be saved. Some Jewish believers claimed that faith alone was not sufficient to be saved but that they must also become Jews by obeying the Mosaic law. Others, rightly understanding the teachings of Jesus' new covenant, fiercely defended the finished work of the cross that freed us from the law. This debate was of supreme importance then and is no less important today.

Based on Peter's words in Acts 15, Pastor Jeff instructed us that Gospel Clarity = Gospel Charity. The law is meant to show us our sin but cannot free us from it. Only the cross can do that. And because of the Cross, we now remove the burden of legalism from the necks of those seeking Jesus so they may hear the good news of Jesus clearly and be saved.

Pastor Jeff challenged us to investigate our lives as we are all prone to believe that our culture is not just something we like but is right. And when we do that, we add those cultural expectations as requirements that pollute the power of the Gospel. In reality, as individuals changed by the freeing power of the Gospel, we must defend its clarity so we can extend Gospel Charity to a spiritually hungry and lost world.

DISCUSSION

Pastor Jeff claimed that
"Gospel Clarity = Gospel Charity."

What do you think he meant by that statement?
Do you agree with it?

The early church had lost Gospel clarity, so the whole church was at stake. Based on our series), how was this lack of Gospel clarity impacting:

- Individual believers?
- Churches?
- Missions?



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.



ACTS 15:6-11

Extract The Truth

Read Acts 15:1-11

- What jumped out to you?
- Pastor Jeff explained from the text that Jewish law was no longer binding, but because of the Gospel was now just a cultural expression of faith.
- Where do you see evidence of this in the text, and why do you think this was so hard for the Jewish believers to accept?
- Why is it so easy for people to add our cultural expectations as a requirement to genuine Gospel faith?
- Where do you see similarities/differences in the church in America today?
- In your own words, what is Peter trying to say in vs. 6-11?
- Why do you think Peter used the phrase “(the law) is a yoke that not even we could bear” as a way to advocate for Gospel clarity?

Experience Transformation

- How does this text apply to you personally?
- How does this text apply to our church today?
- How can we individually/collectively defend Gospel Clarity against our forms of legalism?
- How can we individually/collectively extend Gospel Charity to those far from God?

Prayer

Consider having everyone share specific needs for Gospel clarity/freedom to break through in our lives and church.



**PREPARE FOR
NEXT WEEK:**

Read Acts 15:6-11