

ACTS

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 10:37-43

37 You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

39 “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, 40 but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. 41 He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Review 10:37-43.

- ❖ Where do you see the gospel presented in this short discourse?
- ❖ Where do you see the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**) presented?
- Peter spoke of the prophets who foretold that this gospel would be for all people. But a higher Authority had also shown them by example.

Review 10:37-43.

❖ Look up the following New Testament passages and answer the questions for each:

- Who was speaking?
- What declaration was made?

1. Luke 24:17

- Who was speaking?
- What question was asked?

2. Matthew 24:14

- Who was speaking?
- What declaration was made?

3. Matthew 28:19

- Who was speaking?
- What declaration was made?

❖ What does this reveal about the character and consistency of God across the Old and New Testaments?

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” ⁴⁸ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Acts 10:44-48

❖ In **10:47**, Peter made a declaration that affirmed their unity in the Spirit. Fill in the blanks of this statement:

“Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit _____.”

- Despite all the questions that likely swirled in the heads of Peter and his Jewish companions during their trip to Joppa, and we can be sure their questions were many, one thing was certain: This was real. This nullified their tradition of tribalism and exclusion. God had used His Spirit to make it abundantly clear: He is a God who unifies.
- These new believers were baptized with water, just as they had been baptized with the Holy Spirit. This was a moment of obedience not only for the new believers, but for Peter as well. A clear acknowledgment that Jesus is Lord of all.

Review 10:44-48.

- ❖ What event left the Jewish believers in the room “amazed?”
- ❖ In what two ways did this manifest?
- While speaking in other tongues (languages) is not always seen at the time of conversion in Scripture, this became a moment of holy confirmation for Peter and the other Jewish believers with him as they engaged with people who had a different native tongue.
- This small group of Jews and Gentiles gathered in Cornelius’s home experienced their own “Pentecost.” Just as the Holy Spirit fell in **Acts 2** at Pentecost—uniting people of different languages in their understanding of the Word—the Spirit fell again in **Acts 10**, this time uniting Jews and Gentiles in one faith.

Acts 11:1-3

11 The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³ and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

Review 11:1-3.

- In 11:1–3, something remarkable has just happened: Gentiles have received the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. Instead of celebration, however, Peter is criticized: “*You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.*”
- The issue was not whether Gentiles heard the gospel — it was *how* Peter associated with them and what that implied.
- Peter’s decision to enter and eat with uncircumcised Gentiles implied that they were fully accepted by God through faith in Christ — without circumcision or adherence to the Law.
- To many Jewish believers, this suggested that the traditional covenant boundary markers were no longer required, which felt like a radical and threatening shift in how God’s people were defined.
- ❖ What core gospel issue was at stake in this conflict?
- ❖ How did their man-made practices cloud their acceptance of God's purpose and plan?