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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

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**“THEY GOT THE WORD”**

**Acts 10:27-48**

***Acts 10:27 "And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together***."

***Acts 10:28 "And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean."***

***Acts 10:29 "Therefore came I [unto you] without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?"***

When they arrived, Cornelius was waiting along with his relatives and close friends, and he fell down and worshiped Peter. These were all Gentiles. But Peter would have none of that: he lifted him up and addressed the large gathering. Peter has just arrived at Cornelius' home and Peter told Cornelius not to worship him, that he was a man. He got right to the point: It’s forbidden for a Jewish man to visit a foreigner. This encounter, with the sheet let down from heaven, has shown Peter that he was wrong in calling any man common. At a clear word from God, Peter had changed his convictions on a matter and obeyed at once. Given the Bible’s clear teaching on racial equality, since all people come from one source it doesn’t require years of training and seminars to embrace the truth. It simply requires a quick willingness to take God at his Word. We must see people as God sees them. We are all made in the image of God, not just one nationality. The Jews thought themselves to be better than anyone else. They thought all other people to be less than they were. Jesus disproved this when He ate with the publicans and sinners. Prejudice is learned behavior and not right. Bias is personal choice and is not right or wrong. God does not make different classes of people. People make classes. All people were made in the image and likeness of God.

***Genesis 1:26-28***

***26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.***

***27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.***

***Acts 17:26***

***26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;***

Peter is saying, I learned my lesson well that God was showing me about calling things common. I came without hesitation, even though I knew you were not Jewish because I felt that was what God would have me to do. Now, what did you send for me for? Gainsaying means promptly. He was not prompted, he just came.

***Acts 10:30 "And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,"***

***Acts 10:31 "And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God."***

***Acts 10:32 "Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of [one] Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee."***

***Acts 10:33 "Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God."***

This is a repetition of the very thing that had happened to Cornelius. Cornelius explained his own heavenly revelation that had prompted him to send for Peter. The man in bright clothing was the angel of the Lord. God respects a person who fasts and prays from their heart. This Cornelius truly loved God and wanted to please Him. God answered Cornelius' prayer by telling him where to get help. God even prepared Peter to accept Cornelius, before the servants got there, and asked him to come. Cornelius obeyed God immediately. Now he tells Peter that he is pleased that he came, and that he knows God will speak to him through Peter. He is expecting instructions from God. Then he concluded, “so now we are all in the presence of God to hear everything you have been commanded by the Lord to share.” God had sovereignly orchestrated events so that Peter had been invited to his own evangelistic crusade with a crowd ready and willing to listen.

***Acts 10:34 "Then Peter opened [his] mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:"***

***Acts 10:35 "But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."***

This actually is the Holy Spirit speaking through Peter. All Peter had to do was open his mouth. The rest came from God. Now I truly understand that God doesn’t show favoritism. Peter had come to understand what Paul would later write to the Roman church.

***Romans 3:29 “Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:”***

Perceive, here, means to comprehend or understand. God had made Peter understand that God is no respecter of persons. God loves all of His creation. No ethnic or racial group is superior to another or gets preferential treatment from God. He accepts all who come to him on his terms. This means that if you love God and keep His commandments, he accepts you. All believers in Christ whether white, black, yellow, or brown are all spiritual Israel and heirs according to the promise. God wants us to fear Him enough to obey Him. He is our heavenly Father.

***Romans 8:16-17***

***16The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:***

***17And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.***

***Acts 10:36 "The word which [God] sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (He is Lord of all:)"***

***Acts 10:37 "That word, [I say], ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;"***

***Acts 10:38 "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."***

God sent the Scriptures to the physical house of Israel by Moses and the prophets. These Scriptures from Genesis to Malachi told of Jesus Christ (the Lord of all). Jesus Christ is the King of Peace. The Word is Jesus. Jesus is Saviour of the world. This is the good news preached. Jesus was from Galilee. John the Baptist preached to repent and be baptized that the Saviour of the world, the Messiah was coming. Here, we see Peter telling these Gentiles that Jesus Christ is their Saviour too. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Ghost in the likeness of a dove came and sat upon Him. Jesus was not only filled with power, but was, in fact, power itself. His power was not limited as ours is. He was the fullness of the Godhead bodily. He healed all, not some as we do, in His name. He healed in His own name, we must use His name. Jesus has all power in heaven and earth.

***Acts 10:39 "And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:"***

***Acts 10:40 "Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;"***

***Acts 10:41 "Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, [even] to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead."***

Peter, here, relates that even though Jesus did only good, the rulers of the temple had him crucified on a wooden cross. Peter tells them that he saw it with his own eyes. Peter is explaining here that, as no mere man could do, Jesus rose from the grave on the third day after His crucifixion. He was seen of over five hundred, but He was with His apostles the most time during the forty days that He walked on the earth, after He arose from the grave, and before He was carried into heaven. He lets them know that it wasn't just a vision of Jesus that they saw, because he ate and drank with them. It was really Him and they were eyewitnesses.

***Acts 10:42 "And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God [to be] the Judge of quick and dead."***

***Acts 10:43 "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."***

This is what Peter and the other apostles had been commanded to preach, because the risen Lord Jesus is coming back one day to judge the living and the dead. Forgiveness of sins is available to everyone who believes in him. Jesus is the Judge of all the earth. When we die, we stand before Jesus to be judged. He is the one who decides whether we go to heaven or to hell. He is the great Shepherd. If we are His sheep we will go to heaven, if we are not His followers we will go to hell. All who preach are to preach the good news of Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world. It pleased God that by the foolishness of preaching man can be saved. All of the prophets, prophesied of Jesus. The plan of salvation is so simple that many cannot believe.

***Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”***

God wants all of us. That is why we must believe in our heart. He does not want us to be ashamed of Him, and that is why we must confess Him with our mouth. He gave His body on the cross that we can have our sins washed away in His precious blood. If we believe in the name of Jesus Christ, we are truly Christians who are saved.

***John 1:12 “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”***

***Romans 10:9-10***

***9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.***

***10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***

***Acts 10:44 "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word."***

At that moment, the Holy Spirit came down on all of the Gentiles who heard the message. These people loved God and freely accepted the message Peter brought. This hearing the word here has to do with their inner man hearing and believing. They received the Holy Ghost as the 120 had at Pentecost.

***Acts 10:45 "And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."***

***Acts 10:46 "For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,"***

The Jewish Christians with Peter were amazed as they heard them speaking in other tongues just as Peter and the other apostles had done on the day of Pentecost. The baptism of the Holy Ghost is a promised gift. You cannot earn or buy the Holy Ghost. It is a supernatural, invisible, yet audible, gift of God.

***Acts 2:4-8***

***4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.***

***5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.***

***6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.***

***7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?***

***8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?***

***Acts 8:18-19***

***18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,***

***19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.***

This is God's way of showing these pious Jews that He loves the Gentiles, too. These Jews with Peter had thought you had to be a natural Jew to receive God. God taught them a lesson here. All who love God can receive God.

***Acts 10:47 "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?"***

***Acts 10:48 "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."***

God had not only baptized them in the Holy Ghost, but gave the evidence, as well (they spoke with tongues). Peter, in a word, is saying, If God found them worthy of baptism, who are we to deny them? You see, if they refused them water baptism after God had baptized them in the Holy Ghost, they would be siding against God. They would, in fact, be questioning God's wisdom. Peter says, if they are alright with God, they better be alright with us. Peter did not ask any more. He told them to baptize them in water in the name of the Lord. They asked Peter to stay a few days. I would guess that this was so they could be taught more about Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world. Since they had received the Holy Spirit just as the Jewish believers had, Peter knew they could do nothing other than baptize them in the name of Jesus Christ. This was a Gentile Pentecost, an event bringing Jews and Gentiles together into the family of God. When an Olympic athlete wins a gold medal, they do not ask the athlete what song he or she would like to hear played at the award ceremony. They play the anthem of the country that the athlete represents. No matter how diverse the athletes are from a given country, they compete under the same flag. Similarly, believers in Jesus Christ who are baptized with the Holy Ghost, come from every tribe, tongue, nation, race, and gender. But to identify the as His they all speak in tongues as the spirit gives the utterance! These different aspects of humanity are part of God’s creation and, therefore, are not obliterated by the gospel. But they are not the most important things about us. We do not primarily represent our race; we represent God’s kingdom. We live, work, and worship together under his banner, not our own.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Why did Peter tell Cornelius not to worship him?
2. Peter told Cornelius that what was against Jewish law?
3. Peter had come without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What did Peter ask Cornelius?
5. How many days before had Cornelius been fasting?
6. When Cornelius prayed, what had he seen?
7. What message had God sent Cornelius?
8. In verse 32, Peter was called by what other name?
9. What had they all come to hear of Peter?
10. In verse 34, "...Peter opened his mouth..." means what?
11. What had Peter perceived of God?
12. Who is accepted of God?
13. What had God sent to the children of Israel?
14. Who is Lord of all?
15. Who preached baptism?
16. Who is the Word?
17. What is the good news that is preached?
18. What did Jesus do on earth?
19. Who witnessed Jesus after His resurrection?
20. Who is the Judge of the "...quick and dead.."?
21. What gives you remission of your sins?
22. What happened while Peter spoke?
23. Who were astonished at this happening?
24. What did Peter say they could not forbid?
25. What did Peter command them to do?