

“Good News for All”

Introduction

During the early days of the Christian church, the power of the Holy Spirit was quite evident. Believers spoke in tongues, while the apostles and others performed wondrous miracles and signs among the people. How has the power of the Holy Spirit impacted your life? How do you use this gift to help spread the Gospel message?

Today's Lesson Objectives

- **Explore** the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- **Value** the leadership of Peter in the early church and his relationship with Christ
- **Spread** the Good News that Christ is for all who want to know Him

Scripture

Acts 10:34-47 (KJV)

Devotional Reading:

Acts 15:6-18

About Today's Lesson...

Have you ever felt alienated or desponded because you were left out of a particular group or activity? How did you respond in these situations, especially if you felt that the reasons for exclusion were unfair? It is certainly no secret that in life, barriers can arise that keep us from what we perceive to be valuable and worthwhile experiences. So the question becomes, how can these barriers be removed? During the birth and growth of the early Christian church, the Gospel message first went to the Jews (although as a nation, they continually rejected it). The nation of Israel was very strict regarding adherence to the laws given via Moses and to laws regarding circumcision. People who did not follow these Jewish rites and customs (e.g., Gentiles) were considered outcasts - impure and unclean with respect to receiving the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But in Acts 10:28, Peter, after hearing from God, has acquired a new mindset. This verse reads in part “...but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean” (KJV). And with this statement, a barrier to the Gospel message had been removed.

As we enter today's lesson, we find that through divine intervention, Peter has uncharacteristically entered the home of a devout Roman army officer and his family (all Gentiles). Peter's mission was to preach the Gospel to this Gentile family and to all in attendance. Peter then shared the Gospel message, all in attendance received the Holy Spirit, and then those in attendance were baptized.

Romans 2:11 (KJV) says “For there is no respect of persons with God.” God does not show favoritism. He accepts all who fear Him and obey Him - whether Jew or Gentile. And this is Good News for All.

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