God shows no partiality…

Anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable…

-- God "heard" Cornelius's prayer, too (v. 31; cf. 11:14)
-- The "word" of peace through Jesus is for him, too (v. 36)
-- Jesus is Lord and Judge of non-Jews, too (vv. 36, 42)
-- Even non-Jews can believe in him and receive forgiveness of sins through his name, too (v. 43)

36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace
through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37 you yourselves know what
happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the
baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and
healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39
And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews
and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40
but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, 41 not to
all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses,
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he
commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one
appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all
the prophets bear witness that **everyone who believes in him**
receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

- The word, the good news to be declared, is God's;
- which he intentionally sent to Israel,
- and which is the good news of peace through Jesus Christ;
- it is good news about who he is, what he did, and what happened to him in real space and time;
- some of which was publicly known by them, but was especially witnessed by the apostles;
- but the good news is more than historical information—its meaning is what matters and must be declared;
- the good news of peace is for anyone, and anyone who believes in Jesus Christ receives forgiveness of sins.

What did Peter conclude? (vv. 44-48)

44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all
who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised
who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy
Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing
them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 47
"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have
received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them
to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to
remain for some days.

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles…

Sunday, November 22, 2026 **ACTS—The Confident Witness of Jesus Christ**
Danny Capon, *Pastor* No. 25 | Witnessing beyond Jerusalem, pt. 6

Acts 10:24-48

Review

Acts depicts the *continuing* ministry of Jesus Christ. Though he has ascended, the witness of Jesus continues by the power of the Spirit through the spread of the gospel for the growth of the church. Those who hear and believe the witness of Jesus Christ can and should be confident following his way.

(1:1-26) Waiting for the Spirit—Confirming the Twelve Apostles

(2:1-47) Receiving of the Spirit—Birthing the Church

What then do we see in Acts 3 and following?

The witness of Jesus Christ goes from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. How?

What did the witness (and witnesses) of Jesus Christ encounter?

How did the witness (and witnesses) of Jesus Christ prevail?

Witnessing beyond Jerusalem, pt. 6 **10:24-48**

Overview

(3:1-8:3) Witnessing in Jerusalem

(8:4-12:25) Witnessing beyond Jerusalem

Who is the witness of Jesus Christ *for*?

Who needs it? Who can receive it? Who should hear it? Who needs to respond to it?

What does the witness of Jesus Christ come up against as it goes beyond Jerusalem?

(8:5-40) Philip takes the witness of Jesus Christ beyond the Jewish people

(9:1-31) Jesus chooses Saul to take his witness to the Jewish people and beyond

(**9:32-11:18**) God prepares Peter to support his Son's witness going to the Gentiles

(9:32-43) He sees the Lord work through him and moves closer to Gentiles

(**10:1-48**) **He visits Gentiles and proclaims to them the witness of Jesus**

(11:1-18) He defends the witness of Jesus going to the Gentiles

Peter's ministry demonstrates that the witness of Jesus Christ is for people who are beyond the Jews—it is *even* for the Gentiles (non-Jews).

What's going on here?

- Jesus Christ had commanded his apostles to be his witnesses "in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (1:8).
- They had been faithfully witnessing in Jerusalem and as a result of the "word of God…increas(ing)," the "number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem" (6:7).

- As a result of “great persecution against the church in Jerusalem,” many believers were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria, like Philip, who “went about preaching the word” (8:1, 4).
- Jesus Christ convincingly converted Saul, who had been persecuting “the saints in Jerusalem,” and enabled “the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria” to multiply (9:13, 31).

Will the witness of Jesus Christ go beyond, not just geographically, but ethnically?

Is it necessary for Peter to be involved in the witness of Jesus Christ going beyond, not just geographically, but ethnically?

Observations about 10:1-11:18

-- Though Philip was already in Caesarea (8:40), God moved Peter there via Lydda and Joppa (9:32, 38).

-- While in Lydda and Joppa, Peter saw clearly the Lord work through him as he moves farther from Jerusalem, while people send for him to help and many people in those areas “turned to the Lord” (9:35, 42).

-- Peter stayed in Joppa “for many days with one Simon, a tanner,” whose trade involved dead animal and whose house, by the sea, was where Peter saw a vision of “all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds” (10:12).

-- Throughout this passage (10:1-11:18)—which illustrates scenarios that are similar to Saul and Ananias (9:1-19) and Philip and the Ethiopian (8:26-40)—there is an obvious conclusion (10:45-47; 11:15-17), but a progression to get there:

Peter pondered the meaning of the vision of the animals (10:1-23a)
Peter declared the gospel to people of another nation (10:23b-48)
Peter defended his ministry to uncircumcised men (11:1-18)

Peter became confident that the witness of Jesus Christ is *even* for the Gentiles—brought *by* Jewish believers, without converting to Judaism.

How? (What did this mean?)

He visited people of another nation and declared the gospel to them. (10:23b-48)

Peter confessed to Cornelius his changed practice toward people of another nation (10:23b-33).

ESV **Acts 10:23**b…The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. [24] And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

Day 1	**Day 2**	**Day 3**	**Day 4**
vv. 1-8 Cornelius’s vision, sends 3 people	vv. 9-23a Peter’s vision, 3 people arrive	vv. 23b Peter, 3 people, 6 brothers from Joppa go	vv. 24-48 They all arrive, Cornelius hosts, Peter declares

What did Peter say to Cornelius? (vv. 25-29)

25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. [26] But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man."

27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. [28] And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew **to associate with** or **to visit** anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. [29] So when I was sent for, I came without objection. **I ask then why you sent for me**."

You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with…

Whose law?

To what extent?

But God has shown me that I should not call…

eating all kinds of animals > **associating with anyone of another nation**
not calling anyone common or unclean

What changed?

When did it change?

What did Cornelius say to Peter? (vv. 30-33)

30 And Cornelius said, "Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing [31] and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. [32] Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.' [33] So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore **we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord**."

Peter confessed to Cornelius the good news of peace through Jesus Christ for everyone regardless of their nation (10:34-48).

ESV **Acts 10:34** So Peter opened his mouth and said…

What did Peter say? (vv. 34-43)

34 "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, [35] but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.