

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

August 10, 2025

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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-NIV)

Men, who doesn't love to come home from work and get arrested by an amazing smell? You are intoxicated. You are intrigued. You are interested.

Like Sherlock Holmes you go on a quest to discover the mystery. If you are like me, I have terrible skills of observation. The furniture is rearranged and if Danice does not point it out, I may sit where my favorite chair once was and end up on the coffee table. That's embarrassing don't you think?

You pass by your wife for days, wondering why does she look so different? Still beautiful, but different. You are afraid to ask, if you get it wrong, then you are in trouble.

New blouse? New blush? Oh, new boots?

She takes 5 inches off her gorgeous hair, and you go around scratching your head saying, "I should know this." "I should know this."

When she can't take it anymore, she orders on-line from Amazon the latest marital best seller, *I married a Gorilla*.

Back to the smell that is intoxicating. Is it flowers? You don't see any, it's not her birthday or Mother's Day, is it?

Is it the fragrance of perfume, she uses it sparingly? You don't even know her favorite.

Then you go, that must be food. You are hungry and you can't go wrong by asking, "hey babe, that smell, is that dinner?"

My brain often short circuits when it comes to knowing what is happening around me. You say it sheepishly, but you really want to know.

She gives you that look from across room and makes that little huffing sound, rolls those southern bell eyes, and puts her hands on her hips and says, **“that smell is from some oils I bought.”**

Oils?

Oils, how could I have missed that? You know oils. Valvoline. Quaker State. And what man doesn't love the smell of Pennzoil, you can hear the Nascar engines revving up, as you pour Pennzoil it into your car's engine.

Then suddenly she walks over and opens her purse, it is full of small bottles. Myrrh. Lavender. Cinnamon. Sandalwood. You are wondering, did my wife go to the market in Jerusalem this afternoon while you were at work?

Did an oil sheik move in down the street and you missed making their acquaintance. She put some oil in a diffuser. She put some oil on her beautiful skin.

“In fact, the water you have been drinking since you came in the door, has essential oils in it,” she says. Lavender. You wondered why the water tasted funny?

Your wife has become quite a student of essential oils. She tells you they are as old as King Solomon. For thousands of years people from the middle east have been extracting these liquids from herbs, flowers, fruits.

She tells you, “Essential oils will help you sleep. Make your rough skin smooth. Help you digest. Stay focused. And even relax.”

You think these oils must be a wonder drug, because every man wants to digest, focus and relax. Ok, pastor we know you are going somewhere with this. And since we are in the book of Acts talking about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit must have something to do with these essential oils.

Are you telling me pastor, that oils have something to do with the energizing power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, yes, yes. You bet your sweet cinnamon, myrrh, and sandalwood they do.

In fact, in our study today in Chapter 10 of Acts we read this verse about our Savior, *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. (Acts 10:38a)*

Whenever you see the use of anointing in the Bible, the idea is oil is being poured out and this is a representation of the Holy Spirit. This is the activity of the Holy Spirit. And the activity that we are looking at today is the arrival of the Holy Spirit into the home of a Roman soldier named Cornelius.

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. (Acts 10)* Circle the word **poured out**.

The Holy Spirit is ready to show up in your midst and do the supernatural. Who wants that?

Who wants to open yourself up to the essential oil of the Holy Spirit?

Who wants the fragrance of the Holy Spirit's power poured out on you?

Who wants the essential Holy Spirit oil to provide God's activity in the giving of gifts for service?

Jesus began his ministry by announcing, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me."* (Luke 4:18a-NIV)

Look at the relationship between oil, anointing and Holy Spirit. Anointing oil is a picture for the Holy Spirit.

God is wanting to pour out on you, not your wife's essential oils she keeps in her purse, but the power-packing, heart-healing, spiritual gift giving 3rd member of the trinity, the mighty, Holy Spirit. The oil of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit.

If you are in Christ, your life is filled to overflowing with the Spirit of God. God promised this to his people for hundreds of years. Then the promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:17,

*In the last days, God says,
I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)*

In fact, can you join me by saying, *I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)* Look at that part of the verse.

The lead verb "**pour out**," it needs some love. The Greek word is *ek-keo*. It is the idea of more than enough. Abundance. To overflow.

Let's give it some love, by highlighting what it really means to 21st Century western Christians. Stop with me for a minute at this red light of meaning-*ek-keo*.

God does not provide an eye-dropper provision of Holy Spirit anointing.

God does not provide a teaspoon amount of Holy Spirit provision.

The Holy Spirit's daily provision is no dab, tiny sprinkling, small splash, or an occasional drop.

God douses and drenches us with Himself. God pours out, *ek-keo* an abundance of Holy Spirit power, gifts, healing from Himself upon all who are Christ followers.

Look at this verse in Titus 3:5-6, ⁵ *he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:5-6-NIV)*

Today is your day to receive an abundance of Holy Spirit power, provision, gifts, spiritual language, speaking in tongues, deliverance from the devils hold through rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:6-NIV)

*God has so doused you with the Holy Spirit that you can never be in a place where the Holy Spirit is not.

*God has so provided an abundance of Holy Spirit outpouring that you can never serve without the availability of all the spiritual gifts to do the job.

Gifts of healing. Gifts of supernatural miracles.

Gifts of spiritual language, speaking in tongues so you can communicate with your Heavenly Father, which goes beyond earthly communication.

Your heavenly Father wants to invite you into this relationship with him, ¹⁶ *I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit. (Ephesians 3:16-NCV)*

And this gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all peoples and today we will see the Spirit's activity introduced to the first Gentile in Acts 10 named Cornelius.

Peter and John have been traveling through Samaria, and this mixed breed of Jews the Samaritans, have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ *Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8-NIV)*

Even with the inclusion of the Samaritans into the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, this new church filled with converted Jews to Jesus was still very Jewish. To Jewish. Exclusively Jewish. Jesus accepted the Samaritans, so what are the disciples to do but follow their leader.

In Samaria, the Jewish church added new believers who were set free from sorcery (Simon) and who would hear the gospel and then return to Ethiopia (Ethiopian Eunuch) and start churches in Jesus' name in Africa.

The importance of what the Holy Spirit does next is underscored by the amount of text Luke gives to the conversion of Cornelius. A story which is repeated 3 times in Acts! The dramatic and supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit moves out beyond Jewish borders of Jerusalem and Samaria and now penetrates Gentile territory.

Remember, this is what Jesus told the disciple to do. ⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* (Acts 1:8-NIV)

In fact, the book of Luke is written by a Gentile doctor, to a Gentile named Theophilus about a Gentile soldier and his household of Gentiles who convert to Jesus Christ and are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 9 Saul and Ananias received instructions from God. Then in Acts 10 Cornelius and Peter received instructions from God.

God wants to speak to you. As we see in Acts 9 and 10, God speaks to Saul, Ananias, Cornelius, and Peter. God wants to speak to Donald Smith and Donald Trump. To Jake Tapper and Jake Turner.

Over 8 billion people live on planet earth. There is one supernatural and all merciful God who inhabits and runs the show on this planet, and he wants to talk with you.

To you personally. To you privately. To you passionately.

The Holy Spirit spoke through someone 36 times in Acts.

God speaks to us through his bible. God speaks to us through other individuals. God speaks to us through preaching. But I also believe God wants to speak to you through his still small voice. Visions. Dreams. Even puts some people in a trance as we will see.

Then there are whispers. Promptings. Impressions. Nudging's that you know come from God. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* (John 10:27-NKJV)

What makes our faith special, is that our Great God is not off in some distant galaxy far away, God dwells within us through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Did you know this?

Again, don't underestimate the value of your testimony.

Your story is the testimony you share about (1) How God's grace has saved you, (2) How the Holy Spirit in you makes it possible for you to live for God, and how (3) God uses his purposes and plan in you to point your family and friends to Jesus.

It has been about 5/6 years since Pentecost. Peter has recently been preaching among the Samaritans and has made his way to Joppa, along the Mediterranean coast where the first miracle of raising someone from the dead has taken place. (Acts 9:32-42)

Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead and word spreads, and many come to faith in Christ. So, Peter stays many days in Joppa in the home of a tanner named Simon.

Even though Peter had been open to the Samaritans being Christians, Joppa was as far north Peter was going. He would have never volunteered to go north another 30 miles where a Roman soldier named Cornelius was searching for God. Cornelius lived in Caesarea, which was a cesspool of Gentiles, and gentile living.

The Jews believed that God only created Gentiles to be the firewood for the flames of hell. Jews were very clannish, superior, and better than all other races.

The Roman city of Caesarea was dedicated to Ceaser Augustus. Everything that the Jew hated about Gentiles was represented in Caesarea.

Bath houses were a hot bed of sexual immorality. Chariot races in the Colosseum. Elaborate buildings and the worship of the Roman gods-Cupid. Apollo. Mercury. The Roman theatre drew crowds by the 1000's that glorified the Gentile world of the Romans.

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. (Acts 10:1-NIV)

35 miles up the coast from Joppa was Rome's Palestinian capital known as Caesarea. This was the center of Roman government and Roman occupation. It was the showplace of Roman culture. Its citizens were both Jews and Gentiles. Don't forget....

Your testimony is unique because no one else has walked the path you have journeyed. Today we are going to see the testimony of Cornelius unfold in front of our very eyes. It is such an important testimony it covers chapters 10 and 11 of Acts.

Stationed there was an officer in the Roman army named Cornelius who was as Roman as they came. As a soldier he oversaw 100 men in the Italian regiment (600 men). This cohort or regiment had worldwide fame, so it was given the name Italian regiment. Home grown boys from the heart of Rome, Italy.

² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. (Acts 10-NIV)

Cornelius and his family had tired of pagan myths and empty dead Roman religious rituals, they were disillusioned by Roman gods who offered no answer to **sins forgiven**, and so Cornelius had turned to the God of Judaism in hopes of finding salvation.

Now, this was no ordinary God-fearer, Cornelius was all the way in. He was a Gentile soldier living a super-all-out effort of Jewish faith.

There were many God-fearers like Cornelius in Palestine, and they proved ready to hear the message of Jesus atoning death and to convert quickly and freely. ¹⁶*Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! (Acts 13:16-NIV)*

Cornelius was sincere about following Jewish faith. He gave generously. He fasted regularly. He went to worship with the Jews weekly. And he prayed 3 times a day.

He was not permitted to offer sacrifice in the temple because he had not been circumcised. Cornelius did everything Jewish but circumcision. Many Gentiles became Jewish worshippers but **did not** accept circumcision. I don't think that needs any comments.

Cornelius had respectable Jewish religion. Yet, he still lacked salvation in through Jesus Christ.

Cornelius was a do-gooder, yet he still lacked salvation in Jesus Christ.

Cornelius had started out well spiritually, but still had some missing pieces, because he lacked salvation through Jesus Christ.

³*One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"*

⁴*Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. (Acts 10-NIV)*

With military precision, God told Cornelius who to request to come and give him new orders from the Almighty. (Acts 10:1-8)

⁵*Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Cornelius is a person whom you might think is a really good person. There are many people in the world like Cornelius. Good, moral, decent, and ethical people. Kind. Generous. Even religious.

You might know people like that.

The problem with Cornelius and people like Cornelius is that they think being good, righteous, moral is good enough.

News flash. The clue phone is ringing. It is for you, good and moral person, **being good is not enough.**

God has already evaluated our efforts to be good and moral, and he has found every one of us to be guilty. The Bible says that even our best good and moral efforts are like filthy rags. The NET puts it in on the real:

*We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a **menstrual rag** in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

That is harsh and rude. But sometimes rude is real. We are all sinners; there is not a good and moral person that ever lived except Jesus. Because of this standard, God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, because we can't get to heaven based on our goodness and morality. (John 3:16)

Jesus did not die for good and moral people; **he died for sinners.** In his death, if you receive his salvation, you will experience this truth: I Am No Longer A Slave.

Being good is not good enough!

Cornelius was not aware that a piece of the spiritual puzzle was missing, and God was going to use Peter to fill in the missing pieces. Cornelius longed for God, but he was stuck in a Jewish religious journey and Rome's powerless pagan deities, so he had moved on.

God speaks to Cornelius in a very divine and specific way and tells him to go find the apostle Peter and have him come and tell you what to do. He is nearby, in Joppa. He has the answers to the longing in your heart. Go get Peter and he will fill in the gaps. So, Cornelius does just that.

Peters encounter with Jesus.

Now, God must deal with Peter. Peter is a Jew and Jews do not associate with Gentiles. Peter is going to have a theological collision with years of inbred prejudice.

Peter will be shocked when in his Jewishness, God tells him to go to the home of a Gentile and share the message of my death, burial, and resurrection and like so many others in Acts 1-9, they will become Christ followers. What happened next: An explosion in Peter's mind.

Peter longed for God, but he, too, was stuck in a Jewish religious journey, so God told Peter the barriers between Jews and Gentiles must come down! (Acts 10:27-29)

God goes to work on Peter. And he does it in a unique way. Peter too has an encounter with the Lord. Peter is hungry and Jesus uses it to change his prejudice against Gentiles.

God will use a vision of food to teach Peter that Gentiles are not unacceptable to God. Peter became hungry while he was praying, God used the hunger as an opportunity to crash the prayer party.

^{9b} Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. (Acts 10-NIV)

While Peter is praying on the roof of Simon's house, he slips into a trance. Kinda like so many of you when I preach on Sunday mornings.

Peter falls into a trance. In the trance Peter sees a huge tablecloth being lowered from the heavens. On the tablecloth spread out before him are all types of reptiles, birds, and four-footed animals.

¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." (Acts 10-NIV)

Obvious question. What is going on here? Let tell you what God has done for 1000's of years. What he is doing theologically. Spiritually. Then I will take you back to what God is doing to Peter specially.

God destroyed the barriers between Jews and Gentiles by humbling the Jews and knocking them off their privileged position.

God humbled the Gentiles by declaring salvation is found only in a Jewish Savior named Jesus Christ.

Wow! That is amazing. What a great God. To invite all people into an eternal family where we are all brothers and sisters regardless of race. Regardless of past sin if it is under the blood!

Peter was asked to do something that was completely repulsive to him. This would be like asking someone who was a lifelong abstainer from alcohol to have a drink with you. You would be shocked. You would be offended. You might even be irate.

The animals on the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was, I am thinking, you are hungry...

...you are praying, and coming down on the sheet is pulled pork barbecue, Lobster Bisque soup, crab cakes and some Alder Plank Salmon. This is all stuff that Peter was not to eat, yet God instructed Peter to do just that.

Peter was instructed to Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.

Everything was alive and needed preparation. Preparation of the food was repulsive. **Prejudice dies hard.** But God wanted Peter to move into God's new season of grace or be left behind.

God would not even allow Peter, the leading apostle to stop what God was doing amongst the Gentiles. Let's be honest, so often many times what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ *"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."*
¹⁵ *The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."*

¹⁶ *This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.*
¹⁷ *While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate.¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Jews had received very elaborate instructions from Moses on Sinai about what to come in contact with and what not come in contact with.

The idea was that a Jew was not to come into contact with something that was impure. But Jesus made it blindingly clear that Old Testament prohibitions had ended. The New Testament way of relating to Christ was not in keeping rules, but in being governed by the Holy Spirit.

I am so glad I am a Christian under the New Testament. Let me read to you what Jesus says in Mark 7:18-19,

^{18b} *"Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them?"* ¹⁹ *For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) (Mark 7-NIV)*

Now, you may not want to eat certain foods, which is your choice.

There are not any limitations because of Jesus. As the smorgasbord disappeared, Peter hears foreign Gentile voices. They are at the gate of Simon the Tanner. They are appealing to

Peter to come a day's journey to their boss and master house and provide instructions about faith.

Look at how far Peter has come: (1) He is in the home of a tanner, one who skins hides. You are not to touch a dead animal. (1) Peter will host the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then Peter will go to Caesarea and preach Christ and reveal what Cornelius is missing in his journey of faith.

Time to change Peter. The old rules of separation from Gentiles must be scrapped if the Jesus movement was to go global, to the ends of the earth.

If this bridge was not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa. And what good would all of the healings, deliverances and even death of Stephen been for, if the message of Jesus atoning death was not unleashed worldwide.

Why are we at Bethel existing and having church if we are not willing to open the doors- because ***All People Matter to God***.

God invites all who want salvation in Jesus Christ to encounter Jesus through repentance, forgiveness, water baptism and to receive the Holy Spirit's power and spiritual gifts.

Father,

I am grateful that as a Jew or Gentile Your gift of salvation is made available to me without merit. Today I renounce the thinking that being good and moral is "good enough."

Today I declare Your salvation plan as none other than,

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2-NIV)

Like Peter, I no longer see people whom You created as either clean or unclean. Father, I have never looked into the eyes of a person, for whom Jesus did not die.

And finally, may I never forget that my best efforts to please You, apart from Jesus Christ are nothing but filthy rags. So today I put my salvation trust in Jesus Christ who died an atoning death through faith and receive forgiveness of sins.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

BACK OF HANDOUT

How To Receive The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

- Start by affirming that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a “gateway,” a “door,” - to the operation of spiritual gifts. (*1 Corinthians 12-14*)
- Ask the Father to fill you with the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 1:5, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:17, Acts 8:7, Acts 10:44, Acts 19:6*)
- Next, receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Tongues are often the “gateway” gift.
- Also, be open to allowing the Holy Spirit to activate spiritual gifts just as He determines. (*1 Corinthians 12:11*)
- Often, gifts are activated by the laying on of hands, as in *Acts 8:17* and *Acts 19:6*.

Acts 19:6 (NIV) - When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

- Finally, speaking in tongues comes as a flow of utterances and staccato-like syllables. The experience is one of delight and worship.

Spiritual language opens the door to next-level spiritual power for prayer, worship, and warfare.

Romans 8:26 (NIV) - In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

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Men, who doesn't love to come home from work and get arrested by an amazing smell? You are intoxicated. You are intrigued. You are interested.

Like Sherlock Holmes you go on a quest to discover the mystery. If you are like me, I have terrible skills of observation. The furniture is rearranged and if Danice does not point it out, I may sit where my favorite chair once was and end up on the coffee table. That's embarrassing don't you think?

You pass by your wife for days, wondering why does she look so different? Still beautiful, but different. You are afraid to ask, if you get it wrong, then you are in trouble.

New blouse? New blush? Oh, new boots?

She takes 5 inches off her gorgeous hair, and you go around scratching your head saying, "I should know this." "I should know this."

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Then suddenly she walks over and opens her purse, it is full of small bottles. Myrrh. Lavender. Cinnamon. Sandalwood. You are wondering, did my wife go to the market in Jerusalem this afternoon while you were at work?

Did an oil sheik move in down the street and you missed making their acquaintance. She put some oil in a diffuser. She put some oil on her beautiful skin.

“In fact, the water you have been drinking since you came in the door, has essential oils in it,” she says. Lavender. You wondered why the water tasted funny?

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God does not provide a teaspoon amount of Holy Spirit provision.

The Holy Spirit's daily provision is no dab, tiny sprinkling, small splash, or an occasional drop.

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*God has so doused you with the Holy Spirit that you can never be in a place where the Holy Spirit is not.

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Gifts of healing. Gifts of supernatural miracles.

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Cornelius and his family had tired of pagan myths and empty dead Roman religious rituals, they were disillusioned by Roman gods who offered no answer to **sins forgiven**, and so Cornelius had turned to the God of Judaism in hopes of finding salvation.

Now, this was no ordinary God-fearer, Cornelius was all the way in. He was a Gentile soldier living a super-all-out effort of Jewish faith.

There were many God-fearers like Cornelius in Palestine, and they proved ready to hear the message of Jesus atoning death and to convert quickly and freely. ¹⁶*Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! (Acts 13:16-NIV)*

Cornelius was sincere about following Jewish faith. He gave generously. He fasted regularly. He went to worship with the Jews weekly. And he prayed 3 times a day.

He was not permitted to offer sacrifice in the temple because he had not been circumcised. Cornelius did everything Jewish but circumcision. Many Gentiles became Jewish worshippers but **did not** accept circumcision. I don't think that needs any comments.

Cornelius had respectable Jewish religion. Yet, he still lacked salvation in through Jesus Christ.

Cornelius was a do-gooder, yet he still lacked salvation in Jesus Christ.

Cornelius had started out well spiritually, but still had some missing pieces, because he lacked salvation through Jesus Christ.

³*One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"*

⁴*Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. (Acts 10-NIV)*

With military precision, God told Cornelius who to request to come and give him new orders from the Almighty. (Acts 10:1-8)

⁵*Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Cornelius is a person whom you might think is a really good person. There are many people in the world like Cornelius. Good, moral, decent, and ethical people. Kind. Generous. Even religious.

You might know people like that.

The problem with Cornelius and people like Cornelius is that they think being good, righteous, moral is good enough.

News flash. The clue phone is ringing. It is for you, good and moral person, **being good is not enough.**

God has already evaluated our efforts to be good and moral, and he has found every one of us to be guilty. The Bible says that even our best good and moral efforts are like filthy rags. The NET puts it in on the real:

*We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a **menstrual rag** in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

That is harsh and rude. But sometimes rude is real. We are all sinners; there is not a good and moral person that ever lived except Jesus. Because of this standard, God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, because we can't get to heaven based on our goodness and morality. (John 3:16)

Jesus did not die for good and moral people; **he died for sinners.** In his death, if you receive his salvation, you will experience this truth: I Am No Longer A Slave.

Being good is not good enough!

Cornelius was not aware that a piece of the spiritual puzzle was missing, and God was going to use Peter to fill in the missing pieces. Cornelius longed for God, but he was stuck in a Jewish religious journey and Rome's powerless pagan deities, so he had moved on.

God speaks to Cornelius in a very divine and specific way and tells him to go find the apostle Peter and have him come and tell you what to do. He is nearby, in Joppa. He has the answers to the longing in your heart. Go get Peter and he will fill in the gaps. So, Cornelius does just that.

Peters encounter with Jesus.

Now, God must deal with Peter. Peter is a Jew and Jews do not associate with Gentiles. Peter is going to have a theological collision with years of inbred prejudice.

Peter will be shocked when in his Jewishness, God tells him to go to the home of a Gentile and share the message of my death, burial, and resurrection and like so many others in Acts 1-9, they will become Christ followers. What happened next: An explosion in Peter's mind.

Peter longed for God, but he, too, was stuck in a Jewish religious journey, so God told Peter the barriers between Jews and Gentiles must come down! (Acts 10:27-29)

God goes to work on Peter. And he does it in a unique way. Peter too has an encounter with the Lord. Peter is hungry and Jesus uses it to change his prejudice against Gentiles.

God will use a vision of food to teach Peter that Gentiles are not unacceptable to God. Peter became hungry while he was praying, God used the hunger as an opportunity to crash the prayer party.

^{9b} Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. (Acts 10-NIV)

While Peter is praying on the roof of Simon's house, he slips into a trance. Kinda like so many of you when I preach on Sunday mornings.

Peter falls into a trance. In the trance Peter sees a huge tablecloth being lowered from the heavens. On the tablecloth spread out before him are all types of reptiles, birds, and four-footed animals.

¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." (Acts 10-NIV)

Obvious question. What is going on here? Let tell you what God has done for 1000's of years. What he is doing theologically. Spiritually. Then I will take you back to what God is doing to Peter specially.

God destroyed the barriers between Jews and Gentiles by humbling the Jews and knocking them off their privileged position.

God humbled the Gentiles by declaring salvation is found only in a Jewish Savior named Jesus Christ.

Wow! That is amazing. What a great God. To invite all people into an eternal family where we are all brothers and sisters regardless of race. Regardless of past sin if it is under the blood!

Peter was asked to do something that was completely repulsive to him. This would be like asking someone who was a lifelong abstainer from alcohol to have a drink with you. You would be shocked. You would be offended. You might even be irate.

The animals on the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was, I am thinking, you are hungry...

...you are praying, and coming down on the sheet is pulled pork barbecue, Lobster Bisque soup, crab cakes and some Alder Plank Salmon. This is all stuff that Peter was not to eat, yet God instructed Peter to do just that.

Peter was instructed to Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.

Everything was alive and needed preparation. Preparation of the food was repulsive. **Prejudice dies hard.** But God wanted Peter to move into God's new season of grace or be left behind.

God would not even allow Peter, the leading apostle to stop what God was doing amongst the Gentiles. Let's be honest, so often many times what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ *"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."*
¹⁵ *The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."*

¹⁶ *This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.*
¹⁷ *While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate.¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Jews had received very elaborate instructions from Moses on Sinai about what to come in contact with and what not come in contact with.

The idea was that a Jew was not to come into contact with something that was impure. But Jesus made it blindingly clear that Old Testament prohibitions had ended. The New Testament way of relating to Christ was not in keeping rules, but in being governed by the Holy Spirit.

I am so glad I am a Christian under the New Testament. Let me read to you what Jesus says in Mark 7:18-19,

^{18b} *"Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them?"* ¹⁹ *For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) (Mark 7-NIV)*

Now, you may not want to eat certain foods, which is your choice.

There are not any limitations because of Jesus. As the smorgasbord disappeared, Peter hears foreign Gentile voices. They are at the gate of Simon the Tanner. They are appealing to

Peter to come a day's journey to their boss and master house and provide instructions about faith.

Look at how far Peter has come: (1) He is in the home of a tanner, one who skins hides. You are not to touch a dead animal. (1) Peter will host the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then Peter will go to Caesarea and preach Christ and reveal what Cornelius is missing in his journey of faith.

Time to change Peter. The old rules of separation from Gentiles must be scrapped if the Jesus movement was to go global, to the ends of the earth.

If this bridge was not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa. And what good would all of the healings, deliverances and even death of Stephen been for, if the message of Jesus atoning death was not unleashed worldwide.

Why are we at Bethel existing and having church if we are not willing to open the doors- because ***All People Matter to God***.

God invites all who want salvation in Jesus Christ to encounter Jesus through repentance, forgiveness, water baptism and to receive the Holy Spirit's power and spiritual gifts.

Father,

I am grateful that as a Jew or Gentile Your gift of salvation is made available to me without merit. Today I renounce the thinking that being good and moral is "good enough."

Today I declare Your salvation plan as none other than,

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2-NIV)

Like Peter, I no longer see people whom You created as either clean or unclean. Father, I have never looked into the eyes of a person, for whom Jesus did not die.

And finally, may I never forget that my best efforts to please You, apart from Jesus Christ are nothing but filthy rags. So today I put my salvation trust in Jesus Christ who died an atoning death through faith and receive forgiveness of sins.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

BACK OF HANDOUT

How To Receive The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

- Start by affirming that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a “gateway,” a “door,” - to the operation of spiritual gifts. (*1 Corinthians 12-14*)
- Ask the Father to fill you with the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 1:5, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:17, Acts 8:7, Acts 10:44, Acts 19:6*)
- Next, receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Tongues are often the “gateway” gift.
- Also, be open to allowing the Holy Spirit to activate spiritual gifts just as He determines. (*1 Corinthians 12:11*)
- Often, gifts are activated by the laying on of hands, as in *Acts 8:17* and *Acts 19:6*.

Acts 19:6 (NIV) - When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

- Finally, speaking in tongues comes as a flow of utterances and staccato-like syllables. The experience is one of delight and worship.

Spiritual language opens the door to next-level spiritual power for prayer, worship, and warfare.

Romans 8:26 (NIV) - In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

August 10, 2025

*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-NIV)

Men, who doesn't love to come home from work and get arrested by an amazing smell? You are intoxicated. You are intrigued. You are interested.

Like Sherlock Holmes you go on a quest to discover the mystery. If you are like me, I have terrible skills of observation. The furniture is rearranged and if Danice does not point it out, I may sit where my favorite chair once was and end up on the coffee table. That's embarrassing don't you think?

You pass by your wife for days, wondering why does she look so different? Still beautiful, but different. You are afraid to ask, if you get it wrong, then you are in trouble.

New blouse? New blush? Oh, new boots?

She takes 5 inches off her gorgeous hair, and you go around scratching your head saying, "I should know this." "I should know this."

When she can't take it anymore, she orders on-line from Amazon the latest marital best seller, *I married a Gorilla*.

Back to the smell that is intoxicating. Is it flowers? You don't see any, it's not her birthday or Mother's Day, is it?

Is it the fragrance of perfume, she uses it sparingly? You don't even know her favorite.

Then you go, that must be food. You are hungry and you can't go wrong by asking, "hey babe, that smell, is that dinner?"

My brain often short circuits when it comes to knowing what is happening around me. You say it sheepishly, but you really want to know.

She gives you that look from across room and makes that little huffing sound, rolls those southern bell eyes, and puts her hands on her hips and says, **“that smell is from some oils I bought.”**

Oils?

Oils, how could I have missed that? You know oils. Valvoline. Quaker State. And what man doesn't love the smell of Pennzoil, you can hear the Nascar engines revving up, as you pour Pennzoil it into your car's engine.

Then suddenly she walks over and opens her purse, it is full of small bottles. Myrrh. Lavender. Cinnamon. Sandalwood. You are wondering, did my wife go to the market in Jerusalem this afternoon while you were at work?

Did an oil sheik move in down the street and you missed making their acquaintance. She put some oil in a diffuser. She put some oil on her beautiful skin.

“In fact, the water you have been drinking since you came in the door, has essential oils in it,” she says. Lavender. You wondered why the water tasted funny?

Your wife has become quite a student of essential oils. She tells you they are as old as King Solomon. For thousands of years people from the middle east have been extracting these liquids from herbs, flowers, fruits.

She tells you, “Essential oils will help you sleep. Make your rough skin smooth. Help you digest. Stay focused. And even relax.”

You think these oils must be a wonder drug, because every man wants to digest, focus and relax. Ok, pastor we know you are going somewhere with this. And since we are in the book of Acts talking about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit must have something to do with these essential oils.

Are you telling me pastor, that oils have something to do with the energizing power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, yes, yes. You bet your sweet cinnamon, myrrh, and sandalwood they do.

In fact, in our study today in Chapter 10 of Acts we read this verse about our Savior, *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. (Acts 10:38a)*

Whenever you see the use of anointing in the Bible, the idea is oil is being poured out and this is a representation of the Holy Spirit. This is the activity of the Holy Spirit. And the activity that we are looking at today is the arrival of the Holy Spirit into the home of a Roman soldier named Cornelius.

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. (Acts 10)* Circle the word **poured out**.

The Holy Spirit is ready to show up in your midst and do the supernatural. Who wants that?

Who wants to open yourself up to the essential oil of the Holy Spirit?

Who wants the fragrance of the Holy Spirit's power poured out on you?

Who wants the essential Holy Spirit oil to provide God's activity in the giving of gifts for service?

Jesus began his ministry by announcing, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me."* (Luke 4:18a-NIV)

Look at the relationship between oil, anointing and Holy Spirit. Anointing oil is a picture for the Holy Spirit.

God is wanting to pour out on you, not your wife's essential oils she keeps in her purse, but the power-packing, heart-healing, spiritual gift giving 3rd member of the trinity, the mighty, Holy Spirit. The oil of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit.

If you are in Christ, your life is filled to overflowing with the Spirit of God. God promised this to his people for hundreds of years. Then the promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:17,

*In the last days, God says,
I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)*

In fact, can you join me by saying, *I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)* Look at that part of the verse.

The lead verb "**pour out**," it needs some love. The Greek word is *ek-keo*. It is the idea of more than enough. Abundance. To overflow.

Let's give it some love, by highlighting what it really means to 21st Century western Christians. Stop with me for a minute at this red light of meaning-*ek-keo*.

God does not provide an eye-dropper provision of Holy Spirit anointing.

God does not provide a teaspoon amount of Holy Spirit provision.

The Holy Spirit's daily provision is no dab, tiny sprinkling, small splash, or an occasional drop.

God douses and drenches us with Himself. God pours out, *ek-keo* an abundance of Holy Spirit power, gifts, healing from Himself upon all who are Christ followers.

Look at this verse in Titus 3:5-6, ⁵ *he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:5-6-NIV)*

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At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. (Acts 10:1-NIV)

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Now, this was no ordinary God-fearer, Cornelius was all the way in. He was a Gentile soldier living a super-all-out effort of Jewish faith.

There were many God-fearers like Cornelius in Palestine, and they proved ready to hear the message of Jesus atoning death and to convert quickly and freely. ¹⁶*Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! (Acts 13:16-NIV)*

Cornelius was sincere about following Jewish faith. He gave generously. He fasted regularly. He went to worship with the Jews weekly. And he prayed 3 times a day.

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Cornelius had respectable Jewish religion. Yet, he still lacked salvation in through Jesus Christ.

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The problem with Cornelius and people like Cornelius is that they think being good, righteous, moral is good enough.

News flash. The clue phone is ringing. It is for you, good and moral person, **being good is not enough.**

God has already evaluated our efforts to be good and moral, and he has found every one of us to be guilty. The Bible says that even our best good and moral efforts are like filthy rags. The NET puts it in on the real:

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That is harsh and rude. But sometimes rude is real. We are all sinners; there is not a good and moral person that ever lived except Jesus. Because of this standard, God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, because we can't get to heaven based on our goodness and morality. (John 3:16)

Jesus did not die for good and moral people; **he died for sinners.** In his death, if you receive his salvation, you will experience this truth: I Am No Longer A Slave.

Being good is not good enough!

Cornelius was not aware that a piece of the spiritual puzzle was missing, and God was going to use Peter to fill in the missing pieces. Cornelius longed for God, but he was stuck in a Jewish religious journey and Rome's powerless pagan deities, so he had moved on.

God speaks to Cornelius in a very divine and specific way and tells him to go find the apostle Peter and have him come and tell you what to do. He is nearby, in Joppa. He has the answers to the longing in your heart. Go get Peter and he will fill in the gaps. So, Cornelius does just that.

Peters encounter with Jesus.

Now, God must deal with Peter. Peter is a Jew and Jews do not associate with Gentiles. Peter is going to have a theological collision with years of inbred prejudice.

Peter will be shocked when in his Jewishness, God tells him to go to the home of a Gentile and share the message of my death, burial, and resurrection and like so many others in Acts 1-9, they will become Christ followers. What happened next: An explosion in Peter's mind.

Peter longed for God, but he, too, was stuck in a Jewish religious journey, so God told Peter the barriers between Jews and Gentiles must come down! (Acts 10:27-29)

God goes to work on Peter. And he does it in a unique way. Peter too has an encounter with the Lord. Peter is hungry and Jesus uses it to change his prejudice against Gentiles.

God will use a vision of food to teach Peter that Gentiles are not unacceptable to God. Peter became hungry while he was praying, God used the hunger as an opportunity to crash the prayer party.

^{9b} Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. (Acts 10-NIV)

While Peter is praying on the roof of Simon's house, he slips into a trance. Kinda like so many of you when I preach on Sunday mornings.

Peter falls into a trance. In the trance Peter sees a huge tablecloth being lowered from the heavens. On the tablecloth spread out before him are all types of reptiles, birds, and four-footed animals.

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Obvious question. What is going on here? Let tell you what God has done for 1000's of years. What he is doing theologically. Spiritually. Then I will take you back to what God is doing to Peter specially.

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God humbled the Gentiles by declaring salvation is found only in a Jewish Savior named Jesus Christ.

Wow! That is amazing. What a great God. To invite all people into an eternal family where we are all brothers and sisters regardless of race. Regardless of past sin if it is under the blood!

Peter was asked to do something that was completely repulsive to him. This would be like asking someone who was a lifelong abstainer from alcohol to have a drink with you. You would be shocked. You would be offended. You might even be irate.

The animals on the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was, I am thinking, you are hungry...

...you are praying, and coming down on the sheet is pulled pork barbecue, Lobster Bisque soup, crab cakes and some Alder Plank Salmon. This is all stuff that Peter was not to eat, yet God instructed Peter to do just that.

Peter was instructed to Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.

Everything was alive and needed preparation. Preparation of the food was repulsive. **Prejudice dies hard.** But God wanted Peter to move into God's new season of grace or be left behind.

God would not even allow Peter, the leading apostle to stop what God was doing amongst the Gentiles. Let's be honest, so often many times what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ *"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."*
¹⁵ *The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."*

¹⁶ *This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.*
¹⁷ *While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate.¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Jews had received very elaborate instructions from Moses on Sinai about what to come in contact with and what not come in contact with.

The idea was that a Jew was not to come into contact with something that was impure. But Jesus made it blindingly clear that Old Testament prohibitions had ended. The New Testament way of relating to Christ was not in keeping rules, but in being governed by the Holy Spirit.

I am so glad I am a Christian under the New Testament. Let me read to you what Jesus says in Mark 7:18-19,

^{18b} *"Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them?"* ¹⁹ *For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) (Mark 7-NIV)*

Now, you may not want to eat certain foods, which is your choice.

There are not any limitations because of Jesus. As the smorgasbord disappeared, Peter hears foreign Gentile voices. They are at the gate of Simon the Tanner. They are appealing to

Peter to come a day's journey to their boss and master house and provide instructions about faith.

Look at how far Peter has come: (1) He is in the home of a tanner, one who skins hides. You are not to touch a dead animal. (1) Peter will host the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then Peter will go to Caesarea and preach Christ and reveal what Cornelius is missing in his journey of faith.

Time to change Peter. The old rules of separation from Gentiles must be scrapped if the Jesus movement was to go global, to the ends of the earth.

If this bridge was not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa. And what good would all of the healings, deliverances and even death of Stephen been for, if the message of Jesus atoning death was not unleashed worldwide.

Why are we at Bethel existing and having church if we are not willing to open the doors- because ***All People Matter to God***.

God invites all who want salvation in Jesus Christ to encounter Jesus through repentance, forgiveness, water baptism and to receive the Holy Spirit's power and spiritual gifts.

Father,

I am grateful that as a Jew or Gentile Your gift of salvation is made available to me without merit. Today I renounce the thinking that being good and moral is "good enough."

Today I declare Your salvation plan as none other than,

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2-NIV)

Like Peter, I no longer see people whom You created as either clean or unclean. Father, I have never looked into the eyes of a person, for whom Jesus did not die.

And finally, may I never forget that my best efforts to please You, apart from Jesus Christ are nothing but filthy rags. So today I put my salvation trust in Jesus Christ who died an atoning death through faith and receive forgiveness of sins.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

BACK OF HANDOUT

How To Receive The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

- Start by affirming that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a “gateway,” a “door,” - to the operation of spiritual gifts. (*1 Corinthians 12-14*)
- Ask the Father to fill you with the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 1:5, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:17, Acts 8:7, Acts 10:44, Acts 19:6*)
- Next, receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Tongues are often the “gateway” gift.
- Also, be open to allowing the Holy Spirit to activate spiritual gifts just as He determines. (*1 Corinthians 12:11*)
- Often, gifts are activated by the laying on of hands, as in *Acts 8:17* and *Acts 19:6*.

Acts 19:6 (NIV) - When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

- Finally, speaking in tongues comes as a flow of utterances and staccato-like syllables. The experience is one of delight and worship.

Spiritual language opens the door to next-level spiritual power for prayer, worship, and warfare.

Romans 8:26 (NIV) - In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

August 10, 2025

*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-NIV)

Men, who doesn't love to come home from work and get arrested by an amazing smell? You are intoxicated. You are intrigued. You are interested.

Like Sherlock Holmes you go on a quest to discover the mystery. If you are like me, I have terrible skills of observation. The furniture is rearranged and if Danice does not point it out, I may sit where my favorite chair once was and end up on the coffee table. That's embarrassing don't you think?

You pass by your wife for days, wondering why does she look so different? Still beautiful, but different. You are afraid to ask, if you get it wrong, then you are in trouble.

New blouse? New blush? Oh, new boots?

She takes 5 inches off her gorgeous hair, and you go around scratching your head saying, "I should know this." "I should know this."

When she can't take it anymore, she orders on-line from Amazon the latest marital best seller, *I married a Gorilla*.

Back to the smell that is intoxicating. Is it flowers? You don't see any, it's not her birthday or Mother's Day, is it?

Is it the fragrance of perfume, she uses it sparingly? You don't even know her favorite.

Then you go, that must be food. You are hungry and you can't go wrong by asking, "hey babe, that smell, is that dinner?"

My brain often short circuits when it comes to knowing what is happening around me. You say it sheepishly, but you really want to know.

She gives you that look from across room and makes that little huffing sound, rolls those southern bell eyes, and puts her hands on her hips and says, **“that smell is from some oils I bought.”**

Oils?

Oils, how could I have missed that? You know oils. Valvoline. Quaker State. And what man doesn't love the smell of Pennzoil, you can hear the Nascar engines revving up, as you pour Pennzoil it into your car's engine.

Then suddenly she walks over and opens her purse, it is full of small bottles. Myrrh. Lavender. Cinnamon. Sandalwood. You are wondering, did my wife go to the market in Jerusalem this afternoon while you were at work?

Did an oil sheik move in down the street and you missed making their acquaintance. She put some oil in a diffuser. She put some oil on her beautiful skin.

“In fact, the water you have been drinking since you came in the door, has essential oils in it,” she says. Lavender. You wondered why the water tasted funny?

Your wife has become quite a student of essential oils. She tells you they are as old as King Solomon. For thousands of years people from the middle east have been extracting these liquids from herbs, flowers, fruits.

She tells you, “Essential oils will help you sleep. Make your rough skin smooth. Help you digest. Stay focused. And even relax.”

You think these oils must be a wonder drug, because every man wants to digest, focus and relax. Ok, pastor we know you are going somewhere with this. And since we are in the book of Acts talking about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit must have something to do with these essential oils.

Are you telling me pastor, that oils have something to do with the energizing power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, yes, yes. You bet your sweet cinnamon, myrrh, and sandalwood they do.

In fact, in our study today in Chapter 10 of Acts we read this verse about our Savior, *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. (Acts 10:38a)*

Whenever you see the use of anointing in the Bible, the idea is oil is being poured out and this is a representation of the Holy Spirit. This is the activity of the Holy Spirit. And the activity that we are looking at today is the arrival of the Holy Spirit into the home of a Roman soldier named Cornelius.

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. (Acts 10)* Circle the word **poured out**.

The Holy Spirit is ready to show up in your midst and do the supernatural. Who wants that?

Who wants to open yourself up to the essential oil of the Holy Spirit?

Who wants the fragrance of the Holy Spirit's power poured out on you?

Who wants the essential Holy Spirit oil to provide God's activity in the giving of gifts for service?

Jesus began his ministry by announcing, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me."* (Luke 4:18a-NIV)

Look at the relationship between oil, anointing and Holy Spirit. Anointing oil is a picture for the Holy Spirit.

God is wanting to pour out on you, not your wife's essential oils she keeps in her purse, but the power-packing, heart-healing, spiritual gift giving 3rd member of the trinity, the mighty, Holy Spirit. The oil of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit.

If you are in Christ, your life is filled to overflowing with the Spirit of God. God promised this to his people for hundreds of years. Then the promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:17,

*In the last days, God says,
I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)*

In fact, can you join me by saying, *I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)* Look at that part of the verse.

The lead verb "**pour out**," it needs some love. The Greek word is *ek-keo*. It is the idea of more than enough. Abundance. To overflow.

Let's give it some love, by highlighting what it really means to 21st Century western Christians. Stop with me for a minute at this red light of meaning-*ek-keo*.

God does not provide an eye-dropper provision of Holy Spirit anointing.

God does not provide a teaspoon amount of Holy Spirit provision.

The Holy Spirit's daily provision is no dab, tiny sprinkling, small splash, or an occasional drop.

God douses and drenches us with Himself. God pours out, *ek-keo* an abundance of Holy Spirit power, gifts, healing from Himself upon all who are Christ followers.

Look at this verse in Titus 3:5-6, ⁵ *he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:5-6-NIV)*

Today is your day to receive an abundance of Holy Spirit power, provision, gifts, spiritual language, speaking in tongues, deliverance from the devils hold through rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:6-NIV)

*God has so doused you with the Holy Spirit that you can never be in a place where the Holy Spirit is not.

*God has so provided an abundance of Holy Spirit outpouring that you can never serve without the availability of all the spiritual gifts to do the job.

Gifts of healing. Gifts of supernatural miracles.

Gifts of spiritual language, speaking in tongues so you can communicate with your Heavenly Father, which goes beyond earthly communication.

Your heavenly Father wants to invite you into this relationship with him, ¹⁶ *I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit. (Ephesians 3:16-NCV)*

And this gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all peoples and today we will see the Spirit's activity introduced to the first Gentile in Acts 10 named Cornelius.

Peter and John have been traveling through Samaria, and this mixed breed of Jews the Samaritans, have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ *Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8-NIV)*

Even with the inclusion of the Samaritans into the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, this new church filled with converted Jews to Jesus was still very Jewish. To Jewish. Exclusively Jewish. Jesus accepted the Samaritans, so what are the disciples to do but follow their leader.

In Samaria, the Jewish church added new believers who were set free from sorcery (Simon) and who would hear the gospel and then return to Ethiopia (Ethiopian Eunuch) and start churches in Jesus' name in Africa.

The importance of what the Holy Spirit does next is underscored by the amount of text Luke gives to the conversion of Cornelius. A story which is repeated 3 times in Acts! The dramatic and supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit moves out beyond Jewish borders of Jerusalem and Samaria and now penetrates Gentile territory.

Remember, this is what Jesus told the disciple to do. ⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" (Acts 1:8-NIV)

In fact, the book of Luke is written by a Gentile doctor, to a Gentile named Theophilus about a Gentile soldier and his household of Gentiles who convert to Jesus Christ and are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 9 Saul and Ananias received instructions from God. Then in Acts 10 Cornelius and Peter received instructions from God.

God wants to speak to you. As we see in Acts 9 and 10, God speaks to Saul, Ananias, Cornelius, and Peter. God wants to speak to Donald Smith and Donald Trump. To Jake Tapper and Jake Turner.

Over 8 billion people live on planet earth. There is one supernatural and all merciful God who inhabits and runs the show on this planet, and he wants to talk with you.

To you personally. To you privately. To you passionately.

The Holy Spirit spoke through someone 36 times in Acts.

God speaks to us through his bible. God speaks to us through other individuals. God speaks to us through preaching. But I also believe God wants to speak to you through his still small voice. Visions. Dreams. Even puts some people in a trance as we will see.

Then there are whispers. Promptings. Impressions. Nudging's that you know come from God. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* (John 10:27-NKJV)

What makes our faith special, is that our Great God is not off in some distant galaxy far away, God dwells within us through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Did you know this?

Again, don't underestimate the value of your testimony.

Your story is the testimony you share about (1) How God's grace has saved you, (2) How the Holy Spirit in you makes it possible for you to live for God, and how (3) God uses his purposes and plan in you to point your family and friends to Jesus.

It has been about 5/6 years since Pentecost. Peter has recently been preaching among the Samaritans and has made his way to Joppa, along the Mediterranean coast where the first miracle of raising someone from the dead has taken place. (Acts 9:32-42)

Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead and word spreads, and many come to faith in Christ. So, Peter stays many days in Joppa in the home of a tanner named Simon.

Even though Peter had been open to the Samaritans being Christians, Joppa was as far north Peter was going. He would have never volunteered to go north another 30 miles where a Roman soldier named Cornelius was searching for God. Cornelius lived in Caesarea, which was a cesspool of Gentiles, and gentile living.

The Jews believed that God only created Gentiles to be the firewood for the flames of hell. Jews were very clannish, superior, and better than all other races.

The Roman city of Caesarea was dedicated to Ceaser Augustus. Everything that the Jew hated about Gentiles was represented in Caesarea.

Bath houses were a hot bed of sexual immorality. Chariot races in the Colosseum. Elaborate buildings and the worship of the Roman gods-Cupid. Apollo. Mercury. The Roman theatre drew crowds by the 1000's that glorified the Gentile world of the Romans.

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. (Acts 10:1-NIV)

35 miles up the coast from Joppa was Rome's Palestinian capital known as Caesarea. This was the center of Roman government and Roman occupation. It was the showplace of Roman culture. Its citizens were both Jews and Gentiles. Don't forget....

Your testimony is unique because no one else has walked the path you have journeyed. Today we are going to see the testimony of Cornelius unfold in front of our very eyes. It is such an important testimony it covers chapters 10 and 11 of Acts.

Stationed there was an officer in the Roman army named Cornelius who was as Roman as they came. As a soldier he oversaw 100 men in the Italian regiment (600 men). This cohort or regiment had worldwide fame, so it was given the name Italian regiment. Home grown boys from the heart of Rome, Italy.

² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. (Acts 10-NIV)

Cornelius and his family had tired of pagan myths and empty dead Roman religious rituals, they were disillusioned by Roman gods who offered no answer to **sins forgiven**, and so Cornelius had turned to the God of Judaism in hopes of finding salvation.

Now, this was no ordinary God-fearer, Cornelius was all the way in. He was a Gentile soldier living a super-all-out effort of Jewish faith.

There were many God-fearers like Cornelius in Palestine, and they proved ready to hear the message of Jesus atoning death and to convert quickly and freely. ¹⁶*Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! (Acts 13:16-NIV)*

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News flash. The clue phone is ringing. It is for you, good and moral person, **being good is not enough.**

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Jesus did not die for good and moral people; **he died for sinners.** In his death, if you receive his salvation, you will experience this truth: I Am No Longer A Slave.

Being good is not good enough!

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God speaks to Cornelius in a very divine and specific way and tells him to go find the apostle Peter and have him come and tell you what to do. He is nearby, in Joppa. He has the answers to the longing in your heart. Go get Peter and he will fill in the gaps. So, Cornelius does just that.

Peters encounter with Jesus.

Now, God must deal with Peter. Peter is a Jew and Jews do not associate with Gentiles. Peter is going to have a theological collision with years of inbred prejudice.

Peter will be shocked when in his Jewishness, God tells him to go to the home of a Gentile and share the message of my death, burial, and resurrection and like so many others in Acts 1-9, they will become Christ followers. What happened next: An explosion in Peter's mind.

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Peter falls into a trance. In the trance Peter sees a huge tablecloth being lowered from the heavens. On the tablecloth spread out before him are all types of reptiles, birds, and four-footed animals.

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Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

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I am so glad I am a Christian under the New Testament. Let me read to you what Jesus says in Mark 7:18-19,

^{18b} *"Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them?"* ¹⁹ *For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) (Mark 7-NIV)*

Now, you may not want to eat certain foods, which is your choice.

There are not any limitations because of Jesus. As the smorgasbord disappeared, Peter hears foreign Gentile voices. They are at the gate of Simon the Tanner. They are appealing to

Peter to come a day's journey to their boss and master house and provide instructions about faith.

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Today I declare Your salvation plan as none other than,

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2-NIV)

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In Jesus' Name, Amen.

BACK OF HANDOUT

How To Receive The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

- Start by affirming that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a “gateway,” a “door,” - to the operation of spiritual gifts. (*1 Corinthians 12-14*)
- Ask the Father to fill you with the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 1:5, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:17, Acts 8:7, Acts 10:44, Acts 19:6*)
- Next, receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Tongues are often the “gateway” gift.
- Also, be open to allowing the Holy Spirit to activate spiritual gifts just as He determines. (*1 Corinthians 12:11*)
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The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

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*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.*

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Men, who doesn't love to come home from work and get arrested by an amazing smell? You are intoxicated. You are intrigued. You are interested.

Like Sherlock Holmes you go on a quest to discover the mystery. If you are like me, I have terrible skills of observation. The furniture is rearranged and if Danice does not point it out, I may sit where my favorite chair once was and end up on the coffee table. That's embarrassing don't you think?

You pass by your wife for days, wondering why does she look so different? Still beautiful, but different. You are afraid to ask, if you get it wrong, then you are in trouble.

New blouse? New blush? Oh, new boots?

She takes 5 inches off her gorgeous hair, and you go around scratching your head saying, "I should know this." "I should know this."

When she can't take it anymore, she orders on-line from Amazon the latest marital best seller, *I married a Gorilla*.

Back to the smell that is intoxicating. Is it flowers? You don't see any, it's not her birthday or Mother's Day, is it?

Is it the fragrance of perfume, she uses it sparingly? You don't even know her favorite.

Then you go, that must be food. You are hungry and you can't go wrong by asking, "hey babe, that smell, is that dinner?"

My brain often short circuits when it comes to knowing what is happening around me. You say it sheepishly, but you really want to know.

She gives you that look from across room and makes that little huffing sound, rolls those southern bell eyes, and puts her hands on her hips and says, **“that smell is from some oils I bought.”**

Oils?

Oils, how could I have missed that? You know oils. Valvoline. Quaker State. And what man doesn't love the smell of Pennzoil, you can hear the Nascar engines revving up, as you pour Pennzoil it into your car's engine.

Then suddenly she walks over and opens her purse, it is full of small bottles. Myrrh. Lavender. Cinnamon. Sandalwood. You are wondering, did my wife go to the market in Jerusalem this afternoon while you were at work?

Did an oil sheik move in down the street and you missed making their acquaintance. She put some oil in a diffuser. She put some oil on her beautiful skin.

“In fact, the water you have been drinking since you came in the door, has essential oils in it,” she says. Lavender. You wondered why the water tasted funny?

Your wife has become quite a student of essential oils. She tells you they are as old as King Solomon. For thousands of years people from the middle east have been extracting these liquids from herbs, flowers, fruits.

She tells you, “Essential oils will help you sleep. Make your rough skin smooth. Help you digest. Stay focused. And even relax.”

You think these oils must be a wonder drug, because every man wants to digest, focus and relax. Ok, pastor we know you are going somewhere with this. And since we are in the book of Acts talking about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit must have something to do with these essential oils.

Are you telling me pastor, that oils have something to do with the energizing power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, yes, yes. You bet your sweet cinnamon, myrrh, and sandalwood they do.

In fact, in our study today in Chapter 10 of Acts we read this verse about our Savior, *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. (Acts 10:38a)*

Whenever you see the use of anointing in the Bible, the idea is oil is being poured out and this is a representation of the Holy Spirit. This is the activity of the Holy Spirit. And the activity that we are looking at today is the arrival of the Holy Spirit into the home of a Roman soldier named Cornelius.

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. (Acts 10)* Circle the word **poured out**.

The Holy Spirit is ready to show up in your midst and do the supernatural. Who wants that?

Who wants to open yourself up to the essential oil of the Holy Spirit?

Who wants the fragrance of the Holy Spirit's power poured out on you?

Who wants the essential Holy Spirit oil to provide God's activity in the giving of gifts for service?

Jesus began his ministry by announcing, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me."* (Luke 4:18a-NIV)

Look at the relationship between oil, anointing and Holy Spirit. Anointing oil is a picture for the Holy Spirit.

God is wanting to pour out on you, not your wife's essential oils she keeps in her purse, but the power-packing, heart-healing, spiritual gift giving 3rd member of the trinity, the mighty, Holy Spirit. The oil of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit.

If you are in Christ, your life is filled to overflowing with the Spirit of God. God promised this to his people for hundreds of years. Then the promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:17,

*In the last days, God says,
I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)*

In fact, can you join me by saying, *I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)* Look at that part of the verse.

The lead verb "**pour out**," it needs some love. The Greek word is *ek-keo*. It is the idea of more than enough. Abundance. To overflow.

Let's give it some love, by highlighting what it really means to 21st Century western Christians. Stop with me for a minute at this red light of meaning-*ek-keo*.

God does not provide an eye-dropper provision of Holy Spirit anointing.

God does not provide a teaspoon amount of Holy Spirit provision.

The Holy Spirit's daily provision is no dab, tiny sprinkling, small splash, or an occasional drop.

God douses and drenches us with Himself. God pours out, *ek-keo* an abundance of Holy Spirit power, gifts, healing from Himself upon all who are Christ followers.

Look at this verse in Titus 3:5-6, ⁵ *he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:5-6-NIV)*

Today is your day to receive an abundance of Holy Spirit power, provision, gifts, spiritual language, speaking in tongues, deliverance from the devils hold through rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:6-NIV)

*God has so doused you with the Holy Spirit that you can never be in a place where the Holy Spirit is not.

*God has so provided an abundance of Holy Spirit outpouring that you can never serve without the availability of all the spiritual gifts to do the job.

Gifts of healing. Gifts of supernatural miracles.

Gifts of spiritual language, speaking in tongues so you can communicate with your Heavenly Father, which goes beyond earthly communication.

Your heavenly Father wants to invite you into this relationship with him, ¹⁶ *I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit. (Ephesians 3:16-NCV)*

And this gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all peoples and today we will see the Spirit's activity introduced to the first Gentile in Acts 10 named Cornelius.

Peter and John have been traveling through Samaria, and this mixed breed of Jews the Samaritans, have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ *Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8-NIV)*

Even with the inclusion of the Samaritans into the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, this new church filled with converted Jews to Jesus was still very Jewish. To Jewish. Exclusively Jewish. Jesus accepted the Samaritans, so what are the disciples to do but follow their leader.

In Samaria, the Jewish church added new believers who were set free from sorcery (Simon) and who would hear the gospel and then return to Ethiopia (Ethiopian Eunuch) and start churches in Jesus' name in Africa.

The importance of what the Holy Spirit does next is underscored by the amount of text Luke gives to the conversion of Cornelius. A story which is repeated 3 times in Acts! The dramatic and supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit moves out beyond Jewish borders of Jerusalem and Samaria and now penetrates Gentile territory.

Remember, this is what Jesus told the disciple to do. ⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* (Acts 1:8-NIV)

In fact, the book of Luke is written by a Gentile doctor, to a Gentile named Theophilus about a Gentile soldier and his household of Gentiles who convert to Jesus Christ and are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 9 Saul and Ananias received instructions from God. Then in Acts 10 Cornelius and Peter received instructions from God.

God wants to speak to you. As we see in Acts 9 and 10, God speaks to Saul, Ananias, Cornelius, and Peter. God wants to speak to Donald Smith and Donald Trump. To Jake Tapper and Jake Turner.

Over 8 billion people live on planet earth. There is one supernatural and all merciful God who inhabits and runs the show on this planet, and he wants to talk with you.

To you personally. To you privately. To you passionately.

The Holy Spirit spoke through someone 36 times in Acts.

God speaks to us through his bible. God speaks to us through other individuals. God speaks to us through preaching. But I also believe God wants to speak to you through his still small voice. Visions. Dreams. Even puts some people in a trance as we will see.

Then there are whispers. Promptings. Impressions. Nudging's that you know come from God. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* (John 10:27-NKJV)

What makes our faith special, is that our Great God is not off in some distant galaxy far away, God dwells within us through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Did you know this?

Again, don't underestimate the value of your testimony.

Your story is the testimony you share about (1) How God's grace has saved you, (2) How the Holy Spirit in you makes it possible for you to live for God, and how (3) God uses his purposes and plan in you to point your family and friends to Jesus.

It has been about 5/6 years since Pentecost. Peter has recently been preaching among the Samaritans and has made his way to Joppa, along the Mediterranean coast where the first miracle of raising someone from the dead has taken place. (Acts 9:32-42)

Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead and word spreads, and many come to faith in Christ. So, Peter stays many days in Joppa in the home of a tanner named Simon.

Even though Peter had been open to the Samaritans being Christians, Joppa was as far north Peter was going. He would have never volunteered to go north another 30 miles where a Roman soldier named Cornelius was searching for God. Cornelius lived in Caesarea, which was a cesspool of Gentiles, and gentile living.

The Jews believed that God only created Gentiles to be the firewood for the flames of hell. Jews were very clannish, superior, and better than all other races.

The Roman city of Caesarea was dedicated to Ceaser Augustus. Everything that the Jew hated about Gentiles was represented in Caesarea.

Bath houses were a hot bed of sexual immorality. Chariot races in the Colosseum. Elaborate buildings and the worship of the Roman gods-Cupid. Apollo. Mercury. The Roman theatre drew crowds by the 1000's that glorified the Gentile world of the Romans.

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. (Acts 10:1-NIV)

35 miles up the coast from Joppa was Rome's Palestinian capital known as Caesarea. This was the center of Roman government and Roman occupation. It was the showplace of Roman culture. Its citizens were both Jews and Gentiles. Don't forget....

Your testimony is unique because no one else has walked the path you have journeyed. Today we are going to see the testimony of Cornelius unfold in front of our very eyes. It is such an important testimony it covers chapters 10 and 11 of Acts.

Stationed there was an officer in the Roman army named Cornelius who was as Roman as they came. As a soldier he oversaw 100 men in the Italian regiment (600 men). This cohort or regiment had worldwide fame, so it was given the name Italian regiment. Home grown boys from the heart of Rome, Italy.

² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. (Acts 10-NIV)

Cornelius and his family had tired of pagan myths and empty dead Roman religious rituals, they were disillusioned by Roman gods who offered no answer to **sins forgiven**, and so Cornelius had turned to the God of Judaism in hopes of finding salvation.

Now, this was no ordinary God-fearer, Cornelius was all the way in. He was a Gentile soldier living a super-all-out effort of Jewish faith.

There were many God-fearers like Cornelius in Palestine, and they proved ready to hear the message of Jesus atoning death and to convert quickly and freely. ¹⁶*Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! (Acts 13:16-NIV)*

Cornelius was sincere about following Jewish faith. He gave generously. He fasted regularly. He went to worship with the Jews weekly. And he prayed 3 times a day.

He was not permitted to offer sacrifice in the temple because he had not been circumcised. Cornelius did everything Jewish but circumcision. Many Gentiles became Jewish worshippers but **did not** accept circumcision. I don't think that needs any comments.

Cornelius had respectable Jewish religion. Yet, he still lacked salvation in through Jesus Christ.

Cornelius was a do-gooder, yet he still lacked salvation in Jesus Christ.

Cornelius had started out well spiritually, but still had some missing pieces, because he lacked salvation through Jesus Christ.

³*One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"*

⁴*Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. (Acts 10-NIV)*

With military precision, God told Cornelius who to request to come and give him new orders from the Almighty. (Acts 10:1-8)

⁵*Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Cornelius is a person whom you might think is a really good person. There are many people in the world like Cornelius. Good, moral, decent, and ethical people. Kind. Generous. Even religious.

You might know people like that.

The problem with Cornelius and people like Cornelius is that they think being good, righteous, moral is good enough.

News flash. The clue phone is ringing. It is for you, good and moral person, **being good is not enough.**

God has already evaluated our efforts to be good and moral, and he has found every one of us to be guilty. The Bible says that even our best good and moral efforts are like filthy rags. The NET puts it in on the real:

*We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a **menstrual rag** in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

That is harsh and rude. But sometimes rude is real. We are all sinners; there is not a good and moral person that ever lived except Jesus. Because of this standard, God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, because we can't get to heaven based on our goodness and morality. (John 3:16)

Jesus did not die for good and moral people; **he died for sinners.** In his death, if you receive his salvation, you will experience this truth: I Am No Longer A Slave.

Being good is not good enough!

Cornelius was not aware that a piece of the spiritual puzzle was missing, and God was going to use Peter to fill in the missing pieces. Cornelius longed for God, but he was stuck in a Jewish religious journey and Rome's powerless pagan deities, so he had moved on.

God speaks to Cornelius in a very divine and specific way and tells him to go find the apostle Peter and have him come and tell you what to do. He is nearby, in Joppa. He has the answers to the longing in your heart. Go get Peter and he will fill in the gaps. So, Cornelius does just that.

Peters encounter with Jesus.

Now, God must deal with Peter. Peter is a Jew and Jews do not associate with Gentiles. Peter is going to have a theological collision with years of inbred prejudice.

Peter will be shocked when in his Jewishness, God tells him to go to the home of a Gentile and share the message of my death, burial, and resurrection and like so many others in Acts 1-9, they will become Christ followers. What happened next: An explosion in Peter's mind.

Peter longed for God, but he, too, was stuck in a Jewish religious journey, so God told Peter the barriers between Jews and Gentiles must come down! (Acts 10:27-29)

God goes to work on Peter. And he does it in a unique way. Peter too has an encounter with the Lord. Peter is hungry and Jesus uses it to change his prejudice against Gentiles.

God will use a vision of food to teach Peter that Gentiles are not unacceptable to God. Peter became hungry while he was praying, God used the hunger as an opportunity to crash the prayer party.

^{9b} Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. (Acts 10-NIV)

While Peter is praying on the roof of Simon's house, he slips into a trance. Kinda like so many of you when I preach on Sunday mornings.

Peter falls into a trance. In the trance Peter sees a huge tablecloth being lowered from the heavens. On the tablecloth spread out before him are all types of reptiles, birds, and four-footed animals.

¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." (Acts 10-NIV)

Obvious question. What is going on here? Let tell you what God has done for 1000's of years. What he is doing theologically. Spiritually. Then I will take you back to what God is doing to Peter specially.

God destroyed the barriers between Jews and Gentiles by humbling the Jews and knocking them off their privileged position.

God humbled the Gentiles by declaring salvation is found only in a Jewish Savior named Jesus Christ.

Wow! That is amazing. What a great God. To invite all people into an eternal family where we are all brothers and sisters regardless of race. Regardless of past sin if it is under the blood!

Peter was asked to do something that was completely repulsive to him. This would be like asking someone who was a lifelong abstainer from alcohol to have a drink with you. You would be shocked. You would be offended. You might even be irate.

The animals on the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was, I am thinking, you are hungry...

...you are praying, and coming down on the sheet is pulled pork barbecue, Lobster Bisque soup, crab cakes and some Alder Plank Salmon. This is all stuff that Peter was not to eat, yet God instructed Peter to do just that.

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Like Sherlock Holmes you go on a quest to discover the mystery. If you are like me, I have terrible skills of observation. The furniture is rearranged and if Danice does not point it out, I may sit where my favorite chair once was and end up on the coffee table. That's embarrassing don't you think?

You pass by your wife for days, wondering why does she look so different? Still beautiful, but different. You are afraid to ask, if you get it wrong, then you are in trouble.

New blouse? New blush? Oh, new boots?

She takes 5 inches off her gorgeous hair, and you go around scratching your head saying, "I should know this." "I should know this."

When she can't take it anymore, she orders on-line from Amazon the latest marital best seller, *I married a Gorilla*.

Back to the smell that is intoxicating. Is it flowers? You don't see any, it's not her birthday or Mother's Day, is it?

Is it the fragrance of perfume, she uses it sparingly? You don't even know her favorite.

Then you go, that must be food. You are hungry and you can't go wrong by asking, "hey babe, that smell, is that dinner?"

My brain often short circuits when it comes to knowing what is happening around me. You say it sheepishly, but you really want to know.

She gives you that look from across room and makes that little huffing sound, rolls those southern bell eyes, and puts her hands on her hips and says, **“that smell is from some oils I bought.”**

Oils?

Oils, how could I have missed that? You know oils. Valvoline. Quaker State. And what man doesn't love the smell of Pennzoil, you can hear the Nascar engines revving up, as you pour Pennzoil it into your car's engine.

Then suddenly she walks over and opens her purse, it is full of small bottles. Myrrh. Lavender. Cinnamon. Sandalwood. You are wondering, did my wife go to the market in Jerusalem this afternoon while you were at work?

Did an oil sheik move in down the street and you missed making their acquaintance. She put some oil in a diffuser. She put some oil on her beautiful skin.

“In fact, the water you have been drinking since you came in the door, has essential oils in it,” she says. Lavender. You wondered why the water tasted funny?

Your wife has become quite a student of essential oils. She tells you they are as old as King Solomon. For thousands of years people from the middle east have been extracting these liquids from herbs, flowers, fruits.

She tells you, “Essential oils will help you sleep. Make your rough skin smooth. Help you digest. Stay focused. And even relax.”

You think these oils must be a wonder drug, because every man wants to digest, focus and relax. Ok, pastor we know you are going somewhere with this. And since we are in the book of Acts talking about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit must have something to do with these essential oils.

Are you telling me pastor, that oils have something to do with the energizing power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, yes, yes. You bet your sweet cinnamon, myrrh, and sandalwood they do.

In fact, in our study today in Chapter 10 of Acts we read this verse about our Savior, *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. (Acts 10:38a)*

Whenever you see the use of anointing in the Bible, the idea is oil is being poured out and this is a representation of the Holy Spirit. This is the activity of the Holy Spirit. And the activity that we are looking at today is the arrival of the Holy Spirit into the home of a Roman soldier named Cornelius.

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. (Acts 10)* Circle the word **poured out**.

The Holy Spirit is ready to show up in your midst and do the supernatural. Who wants that?

Who wants to open yourself up to the essential oil of the Holy Spirit?

Who wants the fragrance of the Holy Spirit's power poured out on you?

Who wants the essential Holy Spirit oil to provide God's activity in the giving of gifts for service?

Jesus began his ministry by announcing, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me."* (Luke 4:18a-NIV)

Look at the relationship between oil, anointing and Holy Spirit. Anointing oil is a picture for the Holy Spirit.

God is wanting to pour out on you, not your wife's essential oils she keeps in her purse, but the power-packing, heart-healing, spiritual gift giving 3rd member of the trinity, the mighty, Holy Spirit. The oil of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit.

If you are in Christ, your life is filled to overflowing with the Spirit of God. God promised this to his people for hundreds of years. Then the promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:17,

*In the last days, God says,
I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)*

In fact, can you join me by saying, *I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)* Look at that part of the verse.

The lead verb "**pour out**," it needs some love. The Greek word is *ek-keo*. It is the idea of more than enough. Abundance. To overflow.

Let's give it some love, by highlighting what it really means to 21st Century western Christians. Stop with me for a minute at this red light of meaning-*ek-keo*.

God does not provide an eye-dropper provision of Holy Spirit anointing.

God does not provide a teaspoon amount of Holy Spirit provision.

The Holy Spirit's daily provision is no dab, tiny sprinkling, small splash, or an occasional drop.

God douses and drenches us with Himself. God pours out, *ek-keo* an abundance of Holy Spirit power, gifts, healing from Himself upon all who are Christ followers.

Look at this verse in Titus 3:5-6, ⁵ *he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:5-6-NIV)*

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*God has so doused you with the Holy Spirit that you can never be in a place where the Holy Spirit is not.

*God has so provided an abundance of Holy Spirit outpouring that you can never serve without the availability of all the spiritual gifts to do the job.

Gifts of healing. Gifts of supernatural miracles.

Gifts of spiritual language, speaking in tongues so you can communicate with your Heavenly Father, which goes beyond earthly communication.

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And this gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all peoples and today we will see the Spirit's activity introduced to the first Gentile in Acts 10 named Cornelius.

Peter and John have been traveling through Samaria, and this mixed breed of Jews the Samaritans, have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ *Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8-NIV)*

Even with the inclusion of the Samaritans into the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, this new church filled with converted Jews to Jesus was still very Jewish. To Jewish. Exclusively Jewish. Jesus accepted the Samaritans, so what are the disciples to do but follow their leader.

In Samaria, the Jewish church added new believers who were set free from sorcery (Simon) and who would hear the gospel and then return to Ethiopia (Ethiopian Eunuch) and start churches in Jesus' name in Africa.

The importance of what the Holy Spirit does next is underscored by the amount of text Luke gives to the conversion of Cornelius. A story which is repeated 3 times in Acts! The dramatic and supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit moves out beyond Jewish borders of Jerusalem and Samaria and now penetrates Gentile territory.

Remember, this is what Jesus told the disciple to do. ⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" (Acts 1:8-NIV)

In fact, the book of Luke is written by a Gentile doctor, to a Gentile named Theophilus about a Gentile soldier and his household of Gentiles who convert to Jesus Christ and are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 9 Saul and Ananias received instructions from God. Then in Acts 10 Cornelius and Peter received instructions from God.

God wants to speak to you. As we see in Acts 9 and 10, God speaks to Saul, Ananias, Cornelius, and Peter. God wants to speak to Donald Smith and Donald Trump. To Jake Tapper and Jake Turner.

Over 8 billion people live on planet earth. There is one supernatural and all merciful God who inhabits and runs the show on this planet, and he wants to talk with you.

To you personally. To you privately. To you passionately.

The Holy Spirit spoke through someone 36 times in Acts.

God speaks to us through his bible. God speaks to us through other individuals. God speaks to us through preaching. But I also believe God wants to speak to you through his still small voice. Visions. Dreams. Even puts some people in a trance as we will see.

Then there are whispers. Promptings. Impressions. Nudging's that you know come from God. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* (John 10:27-NKJV)

What makes our faith special, is that our Great God is not off in some distant galaxy far away, God dwells within us through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Did you know this?

Again, don't underestimate the value of your testimony.

Your story is the testimony you share about (1) How God's grace has saved you, (2) How the Holy Spirit in you makes it possible for you to live for God, and how (3) God uses his purposes and plan in you to point your family and friends to Jesus.

It has been about 5/6 years since Pentecost. Peter has recently been preaching among the Samaritans and has made his way to Joppa, along the Mediterranean coast where the first miracle of raising someone from the dead has taken place. (Acts 9:32-42)

Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead and word spreads, and many come to faith in Christ. So, Peter stays many days in Joppa in the home of a tanner named Simon.

Even though Peter had been open to the Samaritans being Christians, Joppa was as far north Peter was going. He would have never volunteered to go north another 30 miles where a Roman soldier named Cornelius was searching for God. Cornelius lived in Caesarea, which was a cesspool of Gentiles, and gentile living.

The Jews believed that God only created Gentiles to be the firewood for the flames of hell. Jews were very clannish, superior, and better than all other races.

The Roman city of Caesarea was dedicated to Ceaser Augustus. Everything that the Jew hated about Gentiles was represented in Caesarea.

Bath houses were a hot bed of sexual immorality. Chariot races in the Colosseum. Elaborate buildings and the worship of the Roman gods-Cupid. Apollo. Mercury. The Roman theatre drew crowds by the 1000's that glorified the Gentile world of the Romans.

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. (Acts 10:1-NIV)

35 miles up the coast from Joppa was Rome's Palestinian capital known as Caesarea. This was the center of Roman government and Roman occupation. It was the showplace of Roman culture. Its citizens were both Jews and Gentiles. Don't forget....

Your testimony is unique because no one else has walked the path you have journeyed. Today we are going to see the testimony of Cornelius unfold in front of our very eyes. It is such an important testimony it covers chapters 10 and 11 of Acts.

Stationed there was an officer in the Roman army named Cornelius who was as Roman as they came. As a soldier he oversaw 100 men in the Italian regiment (600 men). This cohort or regiment had worldwide fame, so it was given the name Italian regiment. Home grown boys from the heart of Rome, Italy.

² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. (Acts 10-NIV)

Cornelius and his family had tired of pagan myths and empty dead Roman religious rituals, they were disillusioned by Roman gods who offered no answer to **sins forgiven**, and so Cornelius had turned to the God of Judaism in hopes of finding salvation.

Now, this was no ordinary God-fearer, Cornelius was all the way in. He was a Gentile soldier living a super-all-out effort of Jewish faith.

There were many God-fearers like Cornelius in Palestine, and they proved ready to hear the message of Jesus atoning death and to convert quickly and freely. ¹⁶*Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! (Acts 13:16-NIV)*

Cornelius was sincere about following Jewish faith. He gave generously. He fasted regularly. He went to worship with the Jews weekly. And he prayed 3 times a day.

He was not permitted to offer sacrifice in the temple because he had not been circumcised. Cornelius did everything Jewish but circumcision. Many Gentiles became Jewish worshippers but **did not** accept circumcision. I don't think that needs any comments.

Cornelius had respectable Jewish religion. Yet, he still lacked salvation in through Jesus Christ.

Cornelius was a do-gooder, yet he still lacked salvation in Jesus Christ.

Cornelius had started out well spiritually, but still had some missing pieces, because he lacked salvation through Jesus Christ.

³*One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"*

⁴*Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. (Acts 10-NIV)*

With military precision, God told Cornelius who to request to come and give him new orders from the Almighty. (Acts 10:1-8)

⁵*Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Cornelius is a person whom you might think is a really good person. There are many people in the world like Cornelius. Good, moral, decent, and ethical people. Kind. Generous. Even religious.

You might know people like that.

The problem with Cornelius and people like Cornelius is that they think being good, righteous, moral is good enough.

News flash. The clue phone is ringing. It is for you, good and moral person, **being good is not enough.**

God has already evaluated our efforts to be good and moral, and he has found every one of us to be guilty. The Bible says that even our best good and moral efforts are like filthy rags. The NET puts it in on the real:

*We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a **menstrual rag** in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

That is harsh and rude. But sometimes rude is real. We are all sinners; there is not a good and moral person that ever lived except Jesus. Because of this standard, God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, because we can't get to heaven based on our goodness and morality. (John 3:16)

Jesus did not die for good and moral people; **he died for sinners.** In his death, if you receive his salvation, you will experience this truth: I Am No Longer A Slave.

Being good is not good enough!

Cornelius was not aware that a piece of the spiritual puzzle was missing, and God was going to use Peter to fill in the missing pieces. Cornelius longed for God, but he was stuck in a Jewish religious journey and Rome's powerless pagan deities, so he had moved on.

God speaks to Cornelius in a very divine and specific way and tells him to go find the apostle Peter and have him come and tell you what to do. He is nearby, in Joppa. He has the answers to the longing in your heart. Go get Peter and he will fill in the gaps. So, Cornelius does just that.

Peters encounter with Jesus.

Now, God must deal with Peter. Peter is a Jew and Jews do not associate with Gentiles. Peter is going to have a theological collision with years of inbred prejudice.

Peter will be shocked when in his Jewishness, God tells him to go to the home of a Gentile and share the message of my death, burial, and resurrection and like so many others in Acts 1-9, they will become Christ followers. What happened next: An explosion in Peter's mind.

Peter longed for God, but he, too, was stuck in a Jewish religious journey, so God told Peter the barriers between Jews and Gentiles must come down! (Acts 10:27-29)

God goes to work on Peter. And he does it in a unique way. Peter too has an encounter with the Lord. Peter is hungry and Jesus uses it to change his prejudice against Gentiles.

God will use a vision of food to teach Peter that Gentiles are not unacceptable to God. Peter became hungry while he was praying, God used the hunger as an opportunity to crash the prayer party.

^{9b} Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. (Acts 10-NIV)

While Peter is praying on the roof of Simon's house, he slips into a trance. Kinda like so many of you when I preach on Sunday mornings.

Peter falls into a trance. In the trance Peter sees a huge tablecloth being lowered from the heavens. On the tablecloth spread out before him are all types of reptiles, birds, and four-footed animals.

¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." (Acts 10-NIV)

Obvious question. What is going on here? Let tell you what God has done for 1000's of years. What he is doing theologically. Spiritually. Then I will take you back to what God is doing to Peter specially.

God destroyed the barriers between Jews and Gentiles by humbling the Jews and knocking them off their privileged position.

God humbled the Gentiles by declaring salvation is found only in a Jewish Savior named Jesus Christ.

Wow! That is amazing. What a great God. To invite all people into an eternal family where we are all brothers and sisters regardless of race. Regardless of past sin if it is under the blood!

Peter was asked to do something that was completely repulsive to him. This would be like asking someone who was a lifelong abstainer from alcohol to have a drink with you. You would be shocked. You would be offended. You might even be irate.

The animals on the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was, I am thinking, you are hungry...

...you are praying, and coming down on the sheet is pulled pork barbecue, Lobster Bisque soup, crab cakes and some Alder Plank Salmon. This is all stuff that Peter was not to eat, yet God instructed Peter to do just that.

Peter was instructed to Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.

Everything was alive and needed preparation. Preparation of the food was repulsive. **Prejudice dies hard.** But God wanted Peter to move into God's new season of grace or be left behind.

God would not even allow Peter, the leading apostle to stop what God was doing amongst the Gentiles. Let's be honest, so often many times what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ *"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."*
¹⁵ *The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."*

¹⁶ *This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.*
¹⁷ *While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate.¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Jews had received very elaborate instructions from Moses on Sinai about what to come in contact with and what not come in contact with.

The idea was that a Jew was not to come into contact with something that was impure. But Jesus made it blindingly clear that Old Testament prohibitions had ended. The New Testament way of relating to Christ was not in keeping rules, but in being governed by the Holy Spirit.

I am so glad I am a Christian under the New Testament. Let me read to you what Jesus says in Mark 7:18-19,

^{18b} *"Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them?"¹⁹ For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) (Mark 7-NIV)*

Now, you may not want to eat certain foods, which is your choice.

There are not any limitations because of Jesus. As the smorgasbord disappeared, Peter hears foreign Gentile voices. They are at the gate of Simon the Tanner. They are appealing to

Peter to come a day's journey to their boss and master house and provide instructions about faith.

Look at how far Peter has come: (1) He is in the home of a tanner, one who skins hides. You are not to touch a dead animal. (1) Peter will host the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then Peter will go to Caesarea and preach Christ and reveal what Cornelius is missing in his journey of faith.

Time to change Peter. The old rules of separation from Gentiles must be scrapped if the Jesus movement was to go global, to the ends of the earth.

If this bridge was not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa. And what good would all of the healings, deliverances and even death of Stephen been for, if the message of Jesus atoning death was not unleashed worldwide.

Why are we at Bethel existing and having church if we are not willing to open the doors- because ***All People Matter to God***.

God invites all who want salvation in Jesus Christ to encounter Jesus through repentance, forgiveness, water baptism and to receive the Holy Spirit's power and spiritual gifts.

Father,

I am grateful that as a Jew or Gentile Your gift of salvation is made available to me without merit. Today I renounce the thinking that being good and moral is "good enough."

Today I declare Your salvation plan as none other than,

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2-NIV)

Like Peter, I no longer see people whom You created as either clean or unclean. Father, I have never looked into the eyes of a person, for whom Jesus did not die.

And finally, may I never forget that my best efforts to please You, apart from Jesus Christ are nothing but filthy rags. So today I put my salvation trust in Jesus Christ who died an atoning death through faith and receive forgiveness of sins.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

BACK OF HANDOUT

How To Receive The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

- **Start by affirming that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a “gateway,” a “door,” - to the operation of spiritual gifts.** (*1 Corinthians 12-14*)
- **Ask the Father to fill you with the Holy Spirit.** (*Acts 1:5, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:17, Acts 8:7, Acts 10:44, Acts 19:6*)
- **Next, receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Tongues are often the “gateway” gift.**
- **Also, be open to allowing the Holy Spirit to activate spiritual gifts just as He determines.** (*1 Corinthians 12:11*)
- **Often, gifts are activated by the laying on of hands, as in Acts 8:17 and Acts 19:6.**

Acts 19:6 (NIV) - When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

- **Finally, speaking in tongues comes as a flow of utterances and staccato-like syllables. The experience is one of delight and worship.**

Spiritual language opens the door to next-level spiritual power for prayer, worship, and warfare.

Romans 8:26 (NIV) - In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

August 10, 2025

*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-NIV)

Men, who doesn't love to come home from work and get arrested by an amazing smell? You are intoxicated. You are intrigued. You are interested.

Like Sherlock Holmes you go on a quest to discover the mystery. If you are like me, I have terrible skills of observation. The furniture is rearranged and if Danice does not point it out, I may sit where my favorite chair once was and end up on the coffee table. That's embarrassing don't you think?

You pass by your wife for days, wondering why does she look so different? Still beautiful, but different. You are afraid to ask, if you get it wrong, then you are in trouble.

New blouse? New blush? Oh, new boots?

She takes 5 inches off her gorgeous hair, and you go around scratching your head saying, "I should know this." "I should know this."

When she can't take it anymore, she orders on-line from Amazon the latest marital best seller, *I married a Gorilla*.

Back to the smell that is intoxicating. Is it flowers? You don't see any, it's not her birthday or Mother's Day, is it?

Is it the fragrance of perfume, she uses it sparingly? You don't even know her favorite.

Then you go, that must be food. You are hungry and you can't go wrong by asking, "hey babe, that smell, is that dinner?"

My brain often short circuits when it comes to knowing what is happening around me. You say it sheepishly, but you really want to know.

She gives you that look from across room and makes that little huffing sound, rolls those southern bell eyes, and puts her hands on her hips and says, **“that smell is from some oils I bought.”**

Oils?

Oils, how could I have missed that? You know oils. Valvoline. Quaker State. And what man doesn't love the smell of Pennzoil, you can hear the Nascar engines revving up, as you pour Pennzoil it into your car's engine.

Then suddenly she walks over and opens her purse, it is full of small bottles. Myrrh. Lavender. Cinnamon. Sandalwood. You are wondering, did my wife go to the market in Jerusalem this afternoon while you were at work?

Did an oil sheik move in down the street and you missed making their acquaintance. She put some oil in a diffuser. She put some oil on her beautiful skin.

“In fact, the water you have been drinking since you came in the door, has essential oils in it,” she says. Lavender. You wondered why the water tasted funny?

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Cornelius was a do-gooder, yet he still lacked salvation in Jesus Christ.

Cornelius had started out well spiritually, but still had some missing pieces, because he lacked salvation through Jesus Christ.

³*One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"*

⁴*Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. (Acts 10-NIV)*

With military precision, God told Cornelius who to request to come and give him new orders from the Almighty. (Acts 10:1-8)

⁵*Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Cornelius is a person whom you might think is a really good person. There are many people in the world like Cornelius. Good, moral, decent, and ethical people. Kind. Generous. Even religious.

You might know people like that.

The problem with Cornelius and people like Cornelius is that they think being good, righteous, moral is good enough.

News flash. The clue phone is ringing. It is for you, good and moral person, **being good is not enough.**

God has already evaluated our efforts to be good and moral, and he has found every one of us to be guilty. The Bible says that even our best good and moral efforts are like filthy rags. The NET puts it in on the real:

*We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a **menstrual rag** in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

That is harsh and rude. But sometimes rude is real. We are all sinners; there is not a good and moral person that ever lived except Jesus. Because of this standard, God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, because we can't get to heaven based on our goodness and morality. (John 3:16)

Jesus did not die for good and moral people; **he died for sinners.** In his death, if you receive his salvation, you will experience this truth: I Am No Longer A Slave.

Being good is not good enough!

Cornelius was not aware that a piece of the spiritual puzzle was missing, and God was going to use Peter to fill in the missing pieces. Cornelius longed for God, but he was stuck in a Jewish religious journey and Rome's powerless pagan deities, so he had moved on.

God speaks to Cornelius in a very divine and specific way and tells him to go find the apostle Peter and have him come and tell you what to do. He is nearby, in Joppa. He has the answers to the longing in your heart. Go get Peter and he will fill in the gaps. So, Cornelius does just that.

Peters encounter with Jesus.

Now, God must deal with Peter. Peter is a Jew and Jews do not associate with Gentiles. Peter is going to have a theological collision with years of inbred prejudice.

Peter will be shocked when in his Jewishness, God tells him to go to the home of a Gentile and share the message of my death, burial, and resurrection and like so many others in Acts 1-9, they will become Christ followers. What happened next: An explosion in Peter's mind.

Peter longed for God, but he, too, was stuck in a Jewish religious journey, so God told Peter the barriers between Jews and Gentiles must come down! (Acts 10:27-29)

God goes to work on Peter. And he does it in a unique way. Peter too has an encounter with the Lord. Peter is hungry and Jesus uses it to change his prejudice against Gentiles.

God will use a vision of food to teach Peter that Gentiles are not unacceptable to God. Peter became hungry while he was praying, God used the hunger as an opportunity to crash the prayer party.

^{9b} Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. (Acts 10-NIV)

While Peter is praying on the roof of Simon's house, he slips into a trance. Kinda like so many of you when I preach on Sunday mornings.

Peter falls into a trance. In the trance Peter sees a huge tablecloth being lowered from the heavens. On the tablecloth spread out before him are all types of reptiles, birds, and four-footed animals.

¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." (Acts 10-NIV)

Obvious question. What is going on here? Let tell you what God has done for 1000's of years. What he is doing theologically. Spiritually. Then I will take you back to what God is doing to Peter specially.

God destroyed the barriers between Jews and Gentiles by humbling the Jews and knocking them off their privileged position.

God humbled the Gentiles by declaring salvation is found only in a Jewish Savior named Jesus Christ.

Wow! That is amazing. What a great God. To invite all people into an eternal family where we are all brothers and sisters regardless of race. Regardless of past sin if it is under the blood!

Peter was asked to do something that was completely repulsive to him. This would be like asking someone who was a lifelong abstainer from alcohol to have a drink with you. You would be shocked. You would be offended. You might even be irate.

The animals on the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was, I am thinking, you are hungry...

...you are praying, and coming down on the sheet is pulled pork barbecue, Lobster Bisque soup, crab cakes and some Alder Plank Salmon. This is all stuff that Peter was not to eat, yet God instructed Peter to do just that.

Peter was instructed to Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.

Everything was alive and needed preparation. Preparation of the food was repulsive. **Prejudice dies hard.** But God wanted Peter to move into God's new season of grace or be left behind.

God would not even allow Peter, the leading apostle to stop what God was doing amongst the Gentiles. Let's be honest, so often many times what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ *"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."*
¹⁵ *The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."*

¹⁶ *This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.*
¹⁷ *While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate.¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Jews had received very elaborate instructions from Moses on Sinai about what to come in contact with and what not come in contact with.

The idea was that a Jew was not to come into contact with something that was impure. But Jesus made it blindingly clear that Old Testament prohibitions had ended. The New Testament way of relating to Christ was not in keeping rules, but in being governed by the Holy Spirit.

I am so glad I am a Christian under the New Testament. Let me read to you what Jesus says in Mark 7:18-19,

^{18b} *"Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them?"* ¹⁹ *For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) (Mark 7-NIV)*

Now, you may not want to eat certain foods, which is your choice.

There are not any limitations because of Jesus. As the smorgasbord disappeared, Peter hears foreign Gentile voices. They are at the gate of Simon the Tanner. They are appealing to

Peter to come a day's journey to their boss and master house and provide instructions about faith.

Look at how far Peter has come: (1) He is in the home of a tanner, one who skins hides. You are not to touch a dead animal. (1) Peter will host the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then Peter will go to Caesarea and preach Christ and reveal what Cornelius is missing in his journey of faith.

Time to change Peter. The old rules of separation from Gentiles must be scrapped if the Jesus movement was to go global, to the ends of the earth.

If this bridge was not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa. And what good would all of the healings, deliverances and even death of Stephen been for, if the message of Jesus atoning death was not unleashed worldwide.

Why are we at Bethel existing and having church if we are not willing to open the doors- because ***All People Matter to God***.

God invites all who want salvation in Jesus Christ to encounter Jesus through repentance, forgiveness, water baptism and to receive the Holy Spirit's power and spiritual gifts.

Father,

I am grateful that as a Jew or Gentile Your gift of salvation is made available to me without merit. Today I renounce the thinking that being good and moral is "good enough."

Today I declare Your salvation plan as none other than,

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2-NIV)

Like Peter, I no longer see people whom You created as either clean or unclean. Father, I have never looked into the eyes of a person, for whom Jesus did not die.

And finally, may I never forget that my best efforts to please You, apart from Jesus Christ are nothing but filthy rags. So today I put my salvation trust in Jesus Christ who died an atoning death through faith and receive forgiveness of sins.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

BACK OF HANDOUT

How To Receive The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

- **Start by affirming that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a “gateway,” a “door,” - to the operation of spiritual gifts.** (*1 Corinthians 12-14*)
- **Ask the Father to fill you with the Holy Spirit.** (*Acts 1:5, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:17, Acts 8:7, Acts 10:44, Acts 19:6*)
- **Next, receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Tongues are often the “gateway” gift.**
- **Also, be open to allowing the Holy Spirit to activate spiritual gifts just as He determines.** (*1 Corinthians 12:11*)
- **Often, gifts are activated by the laying on of hands, as in Acts 8:17 and Acts 19:6.**

Acts 19:6 (NIV) - When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

- **Finally, speaking in tongues comes as a flow of utterances and staccato-like syllables. The experience is one of delight and worship.**

Spiritual language opens the door to next-level spiritual power for prayer, worship, and warfare.

Romans 8:26 (NIV) - In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

August 10, 2025

*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-NIV)

Men, who doesn't love to come home from work and get arrested by an amazing smell? You are intoxicated. You are intrigued. You are interested.

Like Sherlock Holmes you go on a quest to discover the mystery. If you are like me, I have terrible skills of observation. The furniture is rearranged and if Danice does not point it out, I may sit where my favorite chair once was and end up on the coffee table. That's embarrassing don't you think?

You pass by your wife for days, wondering why does she look so different? Still beautiful, but different. You are afraid to ask, if you get it wrong, then you are in trouble.

New blouse? New blush? Oh, new boots?

She takes 5 inches off her gorgeous hair, and you go around scratching your head saying, "I should know this." "I should know this."

When she can't take it anymore, she orders on-line from Amazon the latest marital best seller, *I married a Gorilla*.

Back to the smell that is intoxicating. Is it flowers? You don't see any, it's not her birthday or Mother's Day, is it?

Is it the fragrance of perfume, she uses it sparingly? You don't even know her favorite.

Then you go, that must be food. You are hungry and you can't go wrong by asking, "hey babe, that smell, is that dinner?"

My brain often short circuits when it comes to knowing what is happening around me. You say it sheepishly, but you really want to know.

She gives you that look from across room and makes that little huffing sound, rolls those southern bell eyes, and puts her hands on her hips and says, **“that smell is from some oils I bought.”**

Oils?

Oils, how could I have missed that? You know oils. Valvoline. Quaker State. And what man doesn't love the smell of Pennzoil, you can hear the Nascar engines revving up, as you pour Pennzoil it into your car's engine.

Then suddenly she walks over and opens her purse, it is full of small bottles. Myrrh. Lavender. Cinnamon. Sandalwood. You are wondering, did my wife go to the market in Jerusalem this afternoon while you were at work?

Did an oil sheik move in down the street and you missed making their acquaintance. She put some oil in a diffuser. She put some oil on her beautiful skin.

“In fact, the water you have been drinking since you came in the door, has essential oils in it,” she says. Lavender. You wondered why the water tasted funny?

Your wife has become quite a student of essential oils. She tells you they are as old as King Solomon. For thousands of years people from the middle east have been extracting these liquids from herbs, flowers, fruits.

She tells you, “Essential oils will help you sleep. Make your rough skin smooth. Help you digest. Stay focused. And even relax.”

You think these oils must be a wonder drug, because every man wants to digest, focus and relax. Ok, pastor we know you are going somewhere with this. And since we are in the book of Acts talking about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit must have something to do with these essential oils.

Are you telling me pastor, that oils have something to do with the energizing power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, yes, yes. You bet your sweet cinnamon, myrrh, and sandalwood they do.

In fact, in our study today in Chapter 10 of Acts we read this verse about our Savior, *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. (Acts 10:38a)*

Whenever you see the use of anointing in the Bible, the idea is oil is being poured out and this is a representation of the Holy Spirit. This is the activity of the Holy Spirit. And the activity that we are looking at today is the arrival of the Holy Spirit into the home of a Roman soldier named Cornelius.

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. (Acts 10)* Circle the word **poured out**.

The Holy Spirit is ready to show up in your midst and do the supernatural. Who wants that?

Who wants to open yourself up to the essential oil of the Holy Spirit?

Who wants the fragrance of the Holy Spirit's power poured out on you?

Who wants the essential Holy Spirit oil to provide God's activity in the giving of gifts for service?

Jesus began his ministry by announcing, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me."* (Luke 4:18a-NIV)

Look at the relationship between oil, anointing and Holy Spirit. Anointing oil is a picture for the Holy Spirit.

God is wanting to pour out on you, not your wife's essential oils she keeps in her purse, but the power-packing, heart-healing, spiritual gift giving 3rd member of the trinity, the mighty, Holy Spirit. The oil of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit.

If you are in Christ, your life is filled to overflowing with the Spirit of God. God promised this to his people for hundreds of years. Then the promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:17,

*In the last days, God says,
I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)*

In fact, can you join me by saying, *I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)* Look at that part of the verse.

The lead verb "**pour out**," it needs some love. The Greek word is *ek-keo*. It is the idea of more than enough. Abundance. To overflow.

Let's give it some love, by highlighting what it really means to 21st Century western Christians. Stop with me for a minute at this red light of meaning-*ek-keo*.

God does not provide an eye-dropper provision of Holy Spirit anointing.

God does not provide a teaspoon amount of Holy Spirit provision.

The Holy Spirit's daily provision is no dab, tiny sprinkling, small splash, or an occasional drop.

God douses and drenches us with Himself. God pours out, *ek-keo* an abundance of Holy Spirit power, gifts, healing from Himself upon all who are Christ followers.

Look at this verse in Titus 3:5-6, ⁵ *he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:5-6-NIV)*

Today is your day to receive an abundance of Holy Spirit power, provision, gifts, spiritual language, speaking in tongues, deliverance from the devils hold through rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:6-NIV)

*God has so doused you with the Holy Spirit that you can never be in a place where the Holy Spirit is not.

*God has so provided an abundance of Holy Spirit outpouring that you can never serve without the availability of all the spiritual gifts to do the job.

Gifts of healing. Gifts of supernatural miracles.

Gifts of spiritual language, speaking in tongues so you can communicate with your Heavenly Father, which goes beyond earthly communication.

Your heavenly Father wants to invite you into this relationship with him, ¹⁶ *I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit. (Ephesians 3:16-NCV)*

And this gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all peoples and today we will see the Spirit's activity introduced to the first Gentile in Acts 10 named Cornelius.

Peter and John have been traveling through Samaria, and this mixed breed of Jews the Samaritans, have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ *Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8-NIV)*

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At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. (Acts 10:1-NIV)

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The problem with Cornelius and people like Cornelius is that they think being good, righteous, moral is good enough.

News flash. The clue phone is ringing. It is for you, good and moral person, **being good is not enough.**

God has already evaluated our efforts to be good and moral, and he has found every one of us to be guilty. The Bible says that even our best good and moral efforts are like filthy rags. The NET puts it in on the real:

*We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a **menstrual rag** in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

That is harsh and rude. But sometimes rude is real. We are all sinners; there is not a good and moral person that ever lived except Jesus. Because of this standard, God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, because we can't get to heaven based on our goodness and morality. (John 3:16)

Jesus did not die for good and moral people; **he died for sinners.** In his death, if you receive his salvation, you will experience this truth: I Am No Longer A Slave.

Being good is not good enough!

Cornelius was not aware that a piece of the spiritual puzzle was missing, and God was going to use Peter to fill in the missing pieces. Cornelius longed for God, but he was stuck in a Jewish religious journey and Rome's powerless pagan deities, so he had moved on.

God speaks to Cornelius in a very divine and specific way and tells him to go find the apostle Peter and have him come and tell you what to do. He is nearby, in Joppa. He has the answers to the longing in your heart. Go get Peter and he will fill in the gaps. So, Cornelius does just that.

Peters encounter with Jesus.

Now, God must deal with Peter. Peter is a Jew and Jews do not associate with Gentiles. Peter is going to have a theological collision with years of inbred prejudice.

Peter will be shocked when in his Jewishness, God tells him to go to the home of a Gentile and share the message of my death, burial, and resurrection and like so many others in Acts 1-9, they will become Christ followers. What happened next: An explosion in Peter's mind.

Peter longed for God, but he, too, was stuck in a Jewish religious journey, so God told Peter the barriers between Jews and Gentiles must come down! (Acts 10:27-29)

God goes to work on Peter. And he does it in a unique way. Peter too has an encounter with the Lord. Peter is hungry and Jesus uses it to change his prejudice against Gentiles.

God will use a vision of food to teach Peter that Gentiles are not unacceptable to God. Peter became hungry while he was praying, God used the hunger as an opportunity to crash the prayer party.

^{9b} Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. (Acts 10-NIV)

While Peter is praying on the roof of Simon's house, he slips into a trance. Kinda like so many of you when I preach on Sunday mornings.

Peter falls into a trance. In the trance Peter sees a huge tablecloth being lowered from the heavens. On the tablecloth spread out before him are all types of reptiles, birds, and four-footed animals.

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Obvious question. What is going on here? Let tell you what God has done for 1000's of years. What he is doing theologically. Spiritually. Then I will take you back to what God is doing to Peter specially.

God destroyed the barriers between Jews and Gentiles by humbling the Jews and knocking them off their privileged position.

God humbled the Gentiles by declaring salvation is found only in a Jewish Savior named Jesus Christ.

Wow! That is amazing. What a great God. To invite all people into an eternal family where we are all brothers and sisters regardless of race. Regardless of past sin if it is under the blood!

Peter was asked to do something that was completely repulsive to him. This would be like asking someone who was a lifelong abstainer from alcohol to have a drink with you. You would be shocked. You would be offended. You might even be irate.

The animals on the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was, I am thinking, you are hungry...

...you are praying, and coming down on the sheet is pulled pork barbecue, Lobster Bisque soup, crab cakes and some Alder Plank Salmon. This is all stuff that Peter was not to eat, yet God instructed Peter to do just that.

Peter was instructed to Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.

Everything was alive and needed preparation. Preparation of the food was repulsive. **Prejudice dies hard.** But God wanted Peter to move into God's new season of grace or be left behind.

God would not even allow Peter, the leading apostle to stop what God was doing amongst the Gentiles. Let's be honest, so often many times what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ *"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."*
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Jews had received very elaborate instructions from Moses on Sinai about what to come in contact with and what not come in contact with.

The idea was that a Jew was not to come into contact with something that was impure. But Jesus made it blindingly clear that Old Testament prohibitions had ended. The New Testament way of relating to Christ was not in keeping rules, but in being governed by the Holy Spirit.

I am so glad I am a Christian under the New Testament. Let me read to you what Jesus says in Mark 7:18-19,

^{18b} *"Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them?"* ¹⁹ *For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) (Mark 7-NIV)*

Now, you may not want to eat certain foods, which is your choice.

There are not any limitations because of Jesus. As the smorgasbord disappeared, Peter hears foreign Gentile voices. They are at the gate of Simon the Tanner. They are appealing to

Peter to come a day's journey to their boss and master house and provide instructions about faith.

Look at how far Peter has come: (1) He is in the home of a tanner, one who skins hides. You are not to touch a dead animal. (1) Peter will host the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then Peter will go to Caesarea and preach Christ and reveal what Cornelius is missing in his journey of faith.

Time to change Peter. The old rules of separation from Gentiles must be scrapped if the Jesus movement was to go global, to the ends of the earth.

If this bridge was not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa. And what good would all of the healings, deliverances and even death of Stephen been for, if the message of Jesus atoning death was not unleashed worldwide.

Why are we at Bethel existing and having church if we are not willing to open the doors- because ***All People Matter to God***.

God invites all who want salvation in Jesus Christ to encounter Jesus through repentance, forgiveness, water baptism and to receive the Holy Spirit's power and spiritual gifts.

Father,

I am grateful that as a Jew or Gentile Your gift of salvation is made available to me without merit. Today I renounce the thinking that being good and moral is "good enough."

Today I declare Your salvation plan as none other than,

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2-NIV)

Like Peter, I no longer see people whom You created as either clean or unclean. Father, I have never looked into the eyes of a person, for whom Jesus did not die.

And finally, may I never forget that my best efforts to please You, apart from Jesus Christ are nothing but filthy rags. So today I put my salvation trust in Jesus Christ who died an atoning death through faith and receive forgiveness of sins.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

BACK OF HANDOUT

How To Receive The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

- **Start by affirming that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a “gateway,” a “door,” - to the operation of spiritual gifts.** (*1 Corinthians 12-14*)
- **Ask the Father to fill you with the Holy Spirit.** (*Acts 1:5, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:17, Acts 8:7, Acts 10:44, Acts 19:6*)
- **Next, receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Tongues are often the “gateway” gift.**
- **Also, be open to allowing the Holy Spirit to activate spiritual gifts just as He determines.** (*1 Corinthians 12:11*)
- **Often, gifts are activated by the laying on of hands, as in Acts 8:17 and Acts 19:6.**

Acts 19:6 (NIV) - When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

- **Finally, speaking in tongues comes as a flow of utterances and staccato-like syllables. The experience is one of delight and worship.**

Spiritual language opens the door to next-level spiritual power for prayer, worship, and warfare.

Romans 8:26 (NIV) - In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

August 10, 2025

*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-NIV)

Men, who doesn't love to come home from work and get arrested by an amazing smell? You are intoxicated. You are intrigued. You are interested.

Like Sherlock Holmes you go on a quest to discover the mystery. If you are like me, I have terrible skills of observation. The furniture is rearranged and if Danice does not point it out, I may sit where my favorite chair once was and end up on the coffee table. That's embarrassing don't you think?

You pass by your wife for days, wondering why does she look so different? Still beautiful, but different. You are afraid to ask, if you get it wrong, then you are in trouble.

New blouse? New blush? Oh, new boots?

She takes 5 inches off her gorgeous hair, and you go around scratching your head saying, "I should know this." "I should know this."

When she can't take it anymore, she orders on-line from Amazon the latest marital best seller, *I married a Gorilla*.

Back to the smell that is intoxicating. Is it flowers? You don't see any, it's not her birthday or Mother's Day, is it?

Is it the fragrance of perfume, she uses it sparingly? You don't even know her favorite.

Then you go, that must be food. You are hungry and you can't go wrong by asking, "hey babe, that smell, is that dinner?"

My brain often short circuits when it comes to knowing what is happening around me. You say it sheepishly, but you really want to know.

She gives you that look from across room and makes that little huffing sound, rolls those southern bell eyes, and puts her hands on her hips and says, **“that smell is from some oils I bought.”**

Oils?

Oils, how could I have missed that? You know oils. Valvoline. Quaker State. And what man doesn't love the smell of Pennzoil, you can hear the Nascar engines revving up, as you pour Pennzoil it into your car's engine.

Then suddenly she walks over and opens her purse, it is full of small bottles. Myrrh. Lavender. Cinnamon. Sandalwood. You are wondering, did my wife go to the market in Jerusalem this afternoon while you were at work?

Did an oil sheik move in down the street and you missed making their acquaintance. She put some oil in a diffuser. She put some oil on her beautiful skin.

“In fact, the water you have been drinking since you came in the door, has essential oils in it,” she says. Lavender. You wondered why the water tasted funny?

Your wife has become quite a student of essential oils. She tells you they are as old as King Solomon. For thousands of years people from the middle east have been extracting these liquids from herbs, flowers, fruits.

She tells you, “Essential oils will help you sleep. Make your rough skin smooth. Help you digest. Stay focused. And even relax.”

You think these oils must be a wonder drug, because every man wants to digest, focus and relax. Ok, pastor we know you are going somewhere with this. And since we are in the book of Acts talking about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit must have something to do with these essential oils.

Are you telling me pastor, that oils have something to do with the energizing power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, yes, yes. You bet your sweet cinnamon, myrrh, and sandalwood they do.

In fact, in our study today in Chapter 10 of Acts we read this verse about our Savior, *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. (Acts 10:38a)*

Whenever you see the use of anointing in the Bible, the idea is oil is being poured out and this is a representation of the Holy Spirit. This is the activity of the Holy Spirit. And the activity that we are looking at today is the arrival of the Holy Spirit into the home of a Roman soldier named Cornelius.

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. (Acts 10)* Circle the word **poured out**.

The Holy Spirit is ready to show up in your midst and do the supernatural. Who wants that?

Who wants to open yourself up to the essential oil of the Holy Spirit?

Who wants the fragrance of the Holy Spirit's power poured out on you?

Who wants the essential Holy Spirit oil to provide God's activity in the giving of gifts for service?

Jesus began his ministry by announcing, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me."* (Luke 4:18a-NIV)

Look at the relationship between oil, anointing and Holy Spirit. Anointing oil is a picture for the Holy Spirit.

God is wanting to pour out on you, not your wife's essential oils she keeps in her purse, but the power-packing, heart-healing, spiritual gift giving 3rd member of the trinity, the mighty, Holy Spirit. The oil of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit.

If you are in Christ, your life is filled to overflowing with the Spirit of God. God promised this to his people for hundreds of years. Then the promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:17,

*In the last days, God says,
I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)*

In fact, can you join me by saying, *I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)* Look at that part of the verse.

The lead verb "**pour out**," it needs some love. The Greek word is *ek-keo*. It is the idea of more than enough. Abundance. To overflow.

Let's give it some love, by highlighting what it really means to 21st Century western Christians. Stop with me for a minute at this red light of meaning-*ek-keo*.

God does not provide an eye-dropper provision of Holy Spirit anointing.

God does not provide a teaspoon amount of Holy Spirit provision.

The Holy Spirit's daily provision is no dab, tiny sprinkling, small splash, or an occasional drop.

God douses and drenches us with Himself. God pours out, *ek-keo* an abundance of Holy Spirit power, gifts, healing from Himself upon all who are Christ followers.

Look at this verse in Titus 3:5-6, ⁵ *he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:5-6-NIV)*

Today is your day to receive an abundance of Holy Spirit power, provision, gifts, spiritual language, speaking in tongues, deliverance from the devils hold through rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:6-NIV)

*God has so doused you with the Holy Spirit that you can never be in a place where the Holy Spirit is not.

*God has so provided an abundance of Holy Spirit outpouring that you can never serve without the availability of all the spiritual gifts to do the job.

Gifts of healing. Gifts of supernatural miracles.

Gifts of spiritual language, speaking in tongues so you can communicate with your Heavenly Father, which goes beyond earthly communication.

Your heavenly Father wants to invite you into this relationship with him, ¹⁶ *I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit. (Ephesians 3:16-NCV)*

And this gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all peoples and today we will see the Spirit's activity introduced to the first Gentile in Acts 10 named Cornelius.

Peter and John have been traveling through Samaria, and this mixed breed of Jews the Samaritans, have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ *Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8-NIV)*

Even with the inclusion of the Samaritans into the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, this new church filled with converted Jews to Jesus was still very Jewish. To Jewish. Exclusively Jewish. Jesus accepted the Samaritans, so what are the disciples to do but follow their leader.

In Samaria, the Jewish church added new believers who were set free from sorcery (Simon) and who would hear the gospel and then return to Ethiopia (Ethiopian Eunuch) and start churches in Jesus' name in Africa.

The importance of what the Holy Spirit does next is underscored by the amount of text Luke gives to the conversion of Cornelius. A story which is repeated 3 times in Acts! The dramatic and supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit moves out beyond Jewish borders of Jerusalem and Samaria and now penetrates Gentile territory.

Remember, this is what Jesus told the disciple to do. ⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" (Acts 1:8-NIV)

In fact, the book of Luke is written by a Gentile doctor, to a Gentile named Theophilus about a Gentile soldier and his household of Gentiles who convert to Jesus Christ and are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 9 Saul and Ananias received instructions from God. Then in Acts 10 Cornelius and Peter received instructions from God.

God wants to speak to you. As we see in Acts 9 and 10, God speaks to Saul, Ananias, Cornelius, and Peter. God wants to speak to Donald Smith and Donald Trump. To Jake Tapper and Jake Turner.

Over 8 billion people live on planet earth. There is one supernatural and all merciful God who inhabits and runs the show on this planet, and he wants to talk with you.

To you personally. To you privately. To you passionately.

The Holy Spirit spoke through someone 36 times in Acts.

God speaks to us through his bible. God speaks to us through other individuals. God speaks to us through preaching. But I also believe God wants to speak to you through his still small voice. Visions. Dreams. Even puts some people in a trance as we will see.

Then there are whispers. Promptings. Impressions. Nudging's that you know come from God. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* (John 10:27-NKJV)

What makes our faith special, is that our Great God is not off in some distant galaxy far away, God dwells within us through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Did you know this?

Again, don't underestimate the value of your testimony.

Your story is the testimony you share about (1) How God's grace has saved you, (2) How the Holy Spirit in you makes it possible for you to live for God, and how (3) God uses his purposes and plan in you to point your family and friends to Jesus.

It has been about 5/6 years since Pentecost. Peter has recently been preaching among the Samaritans and has made his way to Joppa, along the Mediterranean coast where the first miracle of raising someone from the dead has taken place. (Acts 9:32-42)

Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead and word spreads, and many come to faith in Christ. So, Peter stays many days in Joppa in the home of a tanner named Simon.

Even though Peter had been open to the Samaritans being Christians, Joppa was as far north Peter was going. He would have never volunteered to go north another 30 miles where a Roman soldier named Cornelius was searching for God. Cornelius lived in Caesarea, which was a cesspool of Gentiles, and gentile living.

The Jews believed that God only created Gentiles to be the firewood for the flames of hell. Jews were very clannish, superior, and better than all other races.

The Roman city of Caesarea was dedicated to Ceaser Augustus. Everything that the Jew hated about Gentiles was represented in Caesarea.

Bath houses were a hot bed of sexual immorality. Chariot races in the Colosseum. Elaborate buildings and the worship of the Roman gods-Cupid. Apollo. Mercury. The Roman theatre drew crowds by the 1000's that glorified the Gentile world of the Romans.

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. (Acts 10:1-NIV)

35 miles up the coast from Joppa was Rome's Palestinian capital known as Caesarea. This was the center of Roman government and Roman occupation. It was the showplace of Roman culture. Its citizens were both Jews and Gentiles. Don't forget....

Your testimony is unique because no one else has walked the path you have journeyed. Today we are going to see the testimony of Cornelius unfold in front of our very eyes. It is such an important testimony it covers chapters 10 and 11 of Acts.

Stationed there was an officer in the Roman army named Cornelius who was as Roman as they came. As a soldier he oversaw 100 men in the Italian regiment (600 men). This cohort or regiment had worldwide fame, so it was given the name Italian regiment. Home grown boys from the heart of Rome, Italy.

² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. (Acts 10-NIV)

Cornelius and his family had tired of pagan myths and empty dead Roman religious rituals, they were disillusioned by Roman gods who offered no answer to **sins forgiven**, and so Cornelius had turned to the God of Judaism in hopes of finding salvation.

Now, this was no ordinary God-fearer, Cornelius was all the way in. He was a Gentile soldier living a super-all-out effort of Jewish faith.

There were many God-fearers like Cornelius in Palestine, and they proved ready to hear the message of Jesus atoning death and to convert quickly and freely. ¹⁶*Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! (Acts 13:16-NIV)*

Cornelius was sincere about following Jewish faith. He gave generously. He fasted regularly. He went to worship with the Jews weekly. And he prayed 3 times a day.

He was not permitted to offer sacrifice in the temple because he had not been circumcised. Cornelius did everything Jewish but circumcision. Many Gentiles became Jewish worshippers but **did not** accept circumcision. I don't think that needs any comments.

Cornelius had respectable Jewish religion. Yet, he still lacked salvation in through Jesus Christ.

Cornelius was a do-gooder, yet he still lacked salvation in Jesus Christ.

Cornelius had started out well spiritually, but still had some missing pieces, because he lacked salvation through Jesus Christ.

³*One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"*

⁴*Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. (Acts 10-NIV)*

With military precision, God told Cornelius who to request to come and give him new orders from the Almighty. (Acts 10:1-8)

⁵*Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea. (Acts 10-NIV)*

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The problem with Cornelius and people like Cornelius is that they think being good, righteous, moral is good enough.

News flash. The clue phone is ringing. It is for you, good and moral person, **being good is not enough.**

God has already evaluated our efforts to be good and moral, and he has found every one of us to be guilty. The Bible says that even our best good and moral efforts are like filthy rags. The NET puts it in on the real:

*We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a **menstrual rag** in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

That is harsh and rude. But sometimes rude is real. We are all sinners; there is not a good and moral person that ever lived except Jesus. Because of this standard, God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, because we can't get to heaven based on our goodness and morality. (John 3:16)

Jesus did not die for good and moral people; **he died for sinners.** In his death, if you receive his salvation, you will experience this truth: I Am No Longer A Slave.

Being good is not good enough!

Cornelius was not aware that a piece of the spiritual puzzle was missing, and God was going to use Peter to fill in the missing pieces. Cornelius longed for God, but he was stuck in a Jewish religious journey and Rome's powerless pagan deities, so he had moved on.

God speaks to Cornelius in a very divine and specific way and tells him to go find the apostle Peter and have him come and tell you what to do. He is nearby, in Joppa. He has the answers to the longing in your heart. Go get Peter and he will fill in the gaps. So, Cornelius does just that.

Peters encounter with Jesus.

Now, God must deal with Peter. Peter is a Jew and Jews do not associate with Gentiles. Peter is going to have a theological collision with years of inbred prejudice.

Peter will be shocked when in his Jewishness, God tells him to go to the home of a Gentile and share the message of my death, burial, and resurrection and like so many others in Acts 1-9, they will become Christ followers. What happened next: An explosion in Peter's mind.

Peter longed for God, but he, too, was stuck in a Jewish religious journey, so God told Peter the barriers between Jews and Gentiles must come down! (Acts 10:27-29)

God goes to work on Peter. And he does it in a unique way. Peter too has an encounter with the Lord. Peter is hungry and Jesus uses it to change his prejudice against Gentiles.

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^{9b} Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. (Acts 10-NIV)

While Peter is praying on the roof of Simon's house, he slips into a trance. Kinda like so many of you when I preach on Sunday mornings.

Peter falls into a trance. In the trance Peter sees a huge tablecloth being lowered from the heavens. On the tablecloth spread out before him are all types of reptiles, birds, and four-footed animals.

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Everything was alive and needed preparation. Preparation of the food was repulsive. **Prejudice dies hard.** But God wanted Peter to move into God's new season of grace or be left behind.

God would not even allow Peter, the leading apostle to stop what God was doing amongst the Gentiles. Let's be honest, so often many times what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ *"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."*
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Father,

I am grateful that as a Jew or Gentile Your gift of salvation is made available to me without merit. Today I renounce the thinking that being good and moral is "good enough."

Today I declare Your salvation plan as none other than,

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2-NIV)

Like Peter, I no longer see people whom You created as either clean or unclean. Father, I have never looked into the eyes of a person, for whom Jesus did not die.

And finally, may I never forget that my best efforts to please You, apart from Jesus Christ are nothing but filthy rags. So today I put my salvation trust in Jesus Christ who died an atoning death through faith and receive forgiveness of sins.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

BACK OF HANDOUT

How To Receive The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

- Start by affirming that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a “gateway,” a “door,” - to the operation of spiritual gifts. (*1 Corinthians 12-14*)
- Ask the Father to fill you with the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 1:5, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:17, Acts 8:7, Acts 10:44, Acts 19:6*)
- Next, receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Tongues are often the “gateway” gift.
- Also, be open to allowing the Holy Spirit to activate spiritual gifts just as He determines. (*1 Corinthians 12:11*)
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The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

August 10, 2025

*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-NIV)

Men, who doesn't love to come home from work and get arrested by an amazing smell? You are intoxicated. You are intrigued. You are interested.

Like Sherlock Holmes you go on a quest to discover the mystery. If you are like me, I have terrible skills of observation. The furniture is rearranged and if Danice does not point it out, I may sit where my favorite chair once was and end up on the coffee table. That's embarrassing don't you think?

You pass by your wife for days, wondering why does she look so different? Still beautiful, but different. You are afraid to ask, if you get it wrong, then you are in trouble.

New blouse? New blush? Oh, new boots?

She takes 5 inches off her gorgeous hair, and you go around scratching your head saying, "I should know this." "I should know this."

When she can't take it anymore, she orders on-line from Amazon the latest marital best seller, *I married a Gorilla*.

Back to the smell that is intoxicating. Is it flowers? You don't see any, it's not her birthday or Mother's Day, is it?

Is it the fragrance of perfume, she uses it sparingly? You don't even know her favorite.

Then you go, that must be food. You are hungry and you can't go wrong by asking, "hey babe, that smell, is that dinner?"

My brain often short circuits when it comes to knowing what is happening around me. You say it sheepishly, but you really want to know.

She gives you that look from across room and makes that little huffing sound, rolls those southern bell eyes, and puts her hands on her hips and says, **“that smell is from some oils I bought.”**

Oils?

Oils, how could I have missed that? You know oils. Valvoline. Quaker State. And what man doesn't love the smell of Pennzoil, you can hear the Nascar engines revving up, as you pour Pennzoil it into your car's engine.

Then suddenly she walks over and opens her purse, it is full of small bottles. Myrrh. Lavender. Cinnamon. Sandalwood. You are wondering, did my wife go to the market in Jerusalem this afternoon while you were at work?

Did an oil sheik move in down the street and you missed making their acquaintance. She put some oil in a diffuser. She put some oil on her beautiful skin.

“In fact, the water you have been drinking since you came in the door, has essential oils in it,” she says. Lavender. You wondered why the water tasted funny?

Your wife has become quite a student of essential oils. She tells you they are as old as King Solomon. For thousands of years people from the middle east have been extracting these liquids from herbs, flowers, fruits.

She tells you, “Essential oils will help you sleep. Make your rough skin smooth. Help you digest. Stay focused. And even relax.”

You think these oils must be a wonder drug, because every man wants to digest, focus and relax. Ok, pastor we know you are going somewhere with this. And since we are in the book of Acts talking about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit must have something to do with these essential oils.

Are you telling me pastor, that oils have something to do with the energizing power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, yes, yes. You bet your sweet cinnamon, myrrh, and sandalwood they do.

In fact, in our study today in Chapter 10 of Acts we read this verse about our Savior, *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. (Acts 10:38a)*

Whenever you see the use of anointing in the Bible, the idea is oil is being poured out and this is a representation of the Holy Spirit. This is the activity of the Holy Spirit. And the activity that we are looking at today is the arrival of the Holy Spirit into the home of a Roman soldier named Cornelius.

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. (Acts 10)* Circle the word **poured out**.

The Holy Spirit is ready to show up in your midst and do the supernatural. Who wants that?

Who wants to open yourself up to the essential oil of the Holy Spirit?

Who wants the fragrance of the Holy Spirit's power poured out on you?

Who wants the essential Holy Spirit oil to provide God's activity in the giving of gifts for service?

Jesus began his ministry by announcing, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me."* (Luke 4:18a-NIV)

Look at the relationship between oil, anointing and Holy Spirit. Anointing oil is a picture for the Holy Spirit.

God is wanting to pour out on you, not your wife's essential oils she keeps in her purse, but the power-packing, heart-healing, spiritual gift giving 3rd member of the trinity, the mighty, Holy Spirit. The oil of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit.

If you are in Christ, your life is filled to overflowing with the Spirit of God. God promised this to his people for hundreds of years. Then the promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:17,

*In the last days, God says,
I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)*

In fact, can you join me by saying, *I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people. (Acts 2:17a-NIV)* Look at that part of the verse.

The lead verb "**pour out**," it needs some love. The Greek word is *ek-keo*. It is the idea of more than enough. Abundance. To overflow.

Let's give it some love, by highlighting what it really means to 21st Century western Christians. Stop with me for a minute at this red light of meaning-*ek-keo*.

God does not provide an eye-dropper provision of Holy Spirit anointing.

God does not provide a teaspoon amount of Holy Spirit provision.

The Holy Spirit's daily provision is no dab, tiny sprinkling, small splash, or an occasional drop.

God douses and drenches us with Himself. God pours out, *ek-keo* an abundance of Holy Spirit power, gifts, healing from Himself upon all who are Christ followers.

Look at this verse in Titus 3:5-6, ⁵ *he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:5-6-NIV)*

Today is your day to receive an abundance of Holy Spirit power, provision, gifts, spiritual language, speaking in tongues, deliverance from the devils hold through rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he **poured out** on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Titus 3:6-NIV)

*God has so doused you with the Holy Spirit that you can never be in a place where the Holy Spirit is not.

*God has so provided an abundance of Holy Spirit outpouring that you can never serve without the availability of all the spiritual gifts to do the job.

Gifts of healing. Gifts of supernatural miracles.

Gifts of spiritual language, speaking in tongues so you can communicate with your Heavenly Father, which goes beyond earthly communication.

Your heavenly Father wants to invite you into this relationship with him, ¹⁶ *I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit. (Ephesians 3:16-NCV)*

And this gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all peoples and today we will see the Spirit's activity introduced to the first Gentile in Acts 10 named Cornelius.

Peter and John have been traveling through Samaria, and this mixed breed of Jews the Samaritans, have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ *Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8-NIV)*

Even with the inclusion of the Samaritans into the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, this new church filled with converted Jews to Jesus was still very Jewish. To Jewish. Exclusively Jewish. Jesus accepted the Samaritans, so what are the disciples to do but follow their leader.

In Samaria, the Jewish church added new believers who were set free from sorcery (Simon) and who would hear the gospel and then return to Ethiopia (Ethiopian Eunuch) and start churches in Jesus' name in Africa.

The importance of what the Holy Spirit does next is underscored by the amount of text Luke gives to the conversion of Cornelius. A story which is repeated 3 times in Acts! The dramatic and supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit moves out beyond Jewish borders of Jerusalem and Samaria and now penetrates Gentile territory.

Remember, this is what Jesus told the disciple to do. ⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* (Acts 1:8-NIV)

In fact, the book of Luke is written by a Gentile doctor, to a Gentile named Theophilus about a Gentile soldier and his household of Gentiles who convert to Jesus Christ and are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 9 Saul and Ananias received instructions from God. Then in Acts 10 Cornelius and Peter received instructions from God.

God wants to speak to you. As we see in Acts 9 and 10, God speaks to Saul, Ananias, Cornelius, and Peter. God wants to speak to Donald Smith and Donald Trump. To Jake Tapper and Jake Turner.

Over 8 billion people live on planet earth. There is one supernatural and all merciful God who inhabits and runs the show on this planet, and he wants to talk with you.

To you personally. To you privately. To you passionately.

The Holy Spirit spoke through someone 36 times in Acts.

God speaks to us through his bible. God speaks to us through other individuals. God speaks to us through preaching. But I also believe God wants to speak to you through his still small voice. Visions. Dreams. Even puts some people in a trance as we will see.

Then there are whispers. Promptings. Impressions. Nudging's that you know come from God. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* (John 10:27-NKJV)

What makes our faith special, is that our Great God is not off in some distant galaxy far away, God dwells within us through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Did you know this?

Again, don't underestimate the value of your testimony.

Your story is the testimony you share about (1) How God's grace has saved you, (2) How the Holy Spirit in you makes it possible for you to live for God, and how (3) God uses his purposes and plan in you to point your family and friends to Jesus.

It has been about 5/6 years since Pentecost. Peter has recently been preaching among the Samaritans and has made his way to Joppa, along the Mediterranean coast where the first miracle of raising someone from the dead has taken place. (Acts 9:32-42)

Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead and word spreads, and many come to faith in Christ. So, Peter stays many days in Joppa in the home of a tanner named Simon.

Even though Peter had been open to the Samaritans being Christians, Joppa was as far north Peter was going. He would have never volunteered to go north another 30 miles where a Roman soldier named Cornelius was searching for God. Cornelius lived in Caesarea, which was a cesspool of Gentiles, and gentile living.

The Jews believed that God only created Gentiles to be the firewood for the flames of hell. Jews were very clannish, superior, and better than all other races.

The Roman city of Caesarea was dedicated to Ceaser Augustus. Everything that the Jew hated about Gentiles was represented in Caesarea.

Bath houses were a hot bed of sexual immorality. Chariot races in the Colosseum. Elaborate buildings and the worship of the Roman gods-Cupid. Apollo. Mercury. The Roman theatre drew crowds by the 1000's that glorified the Gentile world of the Romans.

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. (Acts 10:1-NIV)

35 miles up the coast from Joppa was Rome's Palestinian capital known as Caesarea. This was the center of Roman government and Roman occupation. It was the showplace of Roman culture. Its citizens were both Jews and Gentiles. Don't forget....

Your testimony is unique because no one else has walked the path you have journeyed. Today we are going to see the testimony of Cornelius unfold in front of our very eyes. It is such an important testimony it covers chapters 10 and 11 of Acts.

Stationed there was an officer in the Roman army named Cornelius who was as Roman as they came. As a soldier he oversaw 100 men in the Italian regiment (600 men). This cohort or regiment had worldwide fame, so it was given the name Italian regiment. Home grown boys from the heart of Rome, Italy.

² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. (Acts 10-NIV)

Cornelius and his family had tired of pagan myths and empty dead Roman religious rituals, they were disillusioned by Roman gods who offered no answer to **sins forgiven**, and so Cornelius had turned to the God of Judaism in hopes of finding salvation.

Now, this was no ordinary God-fearer, Cornelius was all the way in. He was a Gentile soldier living a super-all-out effort of Jewish faith.

There were many God-fearers like Cornelius in Palestine, and they proved ready to hear the message of Jesus atoning death and to convert quickly and freely. ¹⁶*Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! (Acts 13:16-NIV)*

Cornelius was sincere about following Jewish faith. He gave generously. He fasted regularly. He went to worship with the Jews weekly. And he prayed 3 times a day.

He was not permitted to offer sacrifice in the temple because he had not been circumcised. Cornelius did everything Jewish but circumcision. Many Gentiles became Jewish worshippers but **did not** accept circumcision. I don't think that needs any comments.

Cornelius had respectable Jewish religion. Yet, he still lacked salvation in through Jesus Christ.

Cornelius was a do-gooder, yet he still lacked salvation in Jesus Christ.

Cornelius had started out well spiritually, but still had some missing pieces, because he lacked salvation through Jesus Christ.

³*One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"*

⁴*Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. (Acts 10-NIV)*

With military precision, God told Cornelius who to request to come and give him new orders from the Almighty. (Acts 10:1-8)

⁵*Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Cornelius is a person whom you might think is a really good person. There are many people in the world like Cornelius. Good, moral, decent, and ethical people. Kind. Generous. Even religious.

You might know people like that.

The problem with Cornelius and people like Cornelius is that they think being good, righteous, moral is good enough.

News flash. The clue phone is ringing. It is for you, good and moral person, **being good is not enough.**

God has already evaluated our efforts to be good and moral, and he has found every one of us to be guilty. The Bible says that even our best good and moral efforts are like filthy rags. The NET puts it in on the real:

*We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a **menstrual rag** in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

That is harsh and rude. But sometimes rude is real. We are all sinners; there is not a good and moral person that ever lived except Jesus. Because of this standard, God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, because we can't get to heaven based on our goodness and morality. (John 3:16)

Jesus did not die for good and moral people; **he died for sinners.** In his death, if you receive his salvation, you will experience this truth: I Am No Longer A Slave.

Being good is not good enough!

Cornelius was not aware that a piece of the spiritual puzzle was missing, and God was going to use Peter to fill in the missing pieces. Cornelius longed for God, but he was stuck in a Jewish religious journey and Rome's powerless pagan deities, so he had moved on.

God speaks to Cornelius in a very divine and specific way and tells him to go find the apostle Peter and have him come and tell you what to do. He is nearby, in Joppa. He has the answers to the longing in your heart. Go get Peter and he will fill in the gaps. So, Cornelius does just that.

Peters encounter with Jesus.

Now, God must deal with Peter. Peter is a Jew and Jews do not associate with Gentiles. Peter is going to have a theological collision with years of inbred prejudice.

Peter will be shocked when in his Jewishness, God tells him to go to the home of a Gentile and share the message of my death, burial, and resurrection and like so many others in Acts 1-9, they will become Christ followers. What happened next: An explosion in Peter's mind.

Peter longed for God, but he, too, was stuck in a Jewish religious journey, so God told Peter the barriers between Jews and Gentiles must come down! (Acts 10:27-29)

God goes to work on Peter. And he does it in a unique way. Peter too has an encounter with the Lord. Peter is hungry and Jesus uses it to change his prejudice against Gentiles.

God will use a vision of food to teach Peter that Gentiles are not unacceptable to God. Peter became hungry while he was praying, God used the hunger as an opportunity to crash the prayer party.

^{9b} Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. (Acts 10-NIV)

While Peter is praying on the roof of Simon's house, he slips into a trance. Kinda like so many of you when I preach on Sunday mornings.

Peter falls into a trance. In the trance Peter sees a huge tablecloth being lowered from the heavens. On the tablecloth spread out before him are all types of reptiles, birds, and four-footed animals.

¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." (Acts 10-NIV)

Obvious question. What is going on here? Let tell you what God has done for 1000's of years. What he is doing theologically. Spiritually. Then I will take you back to what God is doing to Peter specially.

God destroyed the barriers between Jews and Gentiles by humbling the Jews and knocking them off their privileged position.

God humbled the Gentiles by declaring salvation is found only in a Jewish Savior named Jesus Christ.

Wow! That is amazing. What a great God. To invite all people into an eternal family where we are all brothers and sisters regardless of race. Regardless of past sin if it is under the blood!

Peter was asked to do something that was completely repulsive to him. This would be like asking someone who was a lifelong abstainer from alcohol to have a drink with you. You would be shocked. You would be offended. You might even be irate.

The animals on the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was, I am thinking, you are hungry...

...you are praying, and coming down on the sheet is pulled pork barbecue, Lobster Bisque soup, crab cakes and some Alder Plank Salmon. This is all stuff that Peter was not to eat, yet God instructed Peter to do just that.

Peter was instructed to Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.

Everything was alive and needed preparation. Preparation of the food was repulsive. **Prejudice dies hard.** But God wanted Peter to move into God's new season of grace or be left behind.

God would not even allow Peter, the leading apostle to stop what God was doing amongst the Gentiles. Let's be honest, so often many times what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ *"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."*
¹⁵ *The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."*

¹⁶ *This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.*
¹⁷ *While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate.¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. (Acts 10-NIV)*

Jews had received very elaborate instructions from Moses on Sinai about what to come in contact with and what not come in contact with.

The idea was that a Jew was not to come into contact with something that was impure. But Jesus made it blindingly clear that Old Testament prohibitions had ended. The New Testament way of relating to Christ was not in keeping rules, but in being governed by the Holy Spirit.

I am so glad I am a Christian under the New Testament. Let me read to you what Jesus says in Mark 7:18-19,

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Peter to come a day's journey to their boss and master house and provide instructions about faith.

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