

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

Acts 10

August 17, 2025

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²⁷ While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸ He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?" (Acts 10-NIV)

When Kenny and Rebekah (chewbeka) were about 8 and 6, Danice and I conspired to send them off to Grandma Shirley's house for a week of fun and love, including eating breakfast on grandma's roof, in Ft Worth, Texas.

Chicken fried steak.

Howdy partner.

Dallas Clownboys.

And a ride on the tarantella train

The plan was simple. We would take Kenny and Rebekah to the Seattle's SeaTac airport, go to the American Airlines actual gate where they boarded the plane, give them to the American Airlines employees and they would put these **oversized lanyards** on them and then we would say "good-bye."

The oversized lanyards told everyone these kids belong to Ken and Danice Squires. Keep your hands off.

Before we left them, we gave them some final advice. Stay in your seat unless biology calls. Stay together and don't talk to strangers. If we said it once, we said it many times.

Then Shirley would drive to Dallas-Ft Worth, Texas airport that evening and pick them up safely and once she had them in her possession, immediately call us and relief us of our anxiety. Letting us know the kids are fine.

No person would think of such a practice today, I can still remember, saying to Danice, “let’s go they will be ok.” As they disappeared down the ramp to enter the plane, away we went.

I held Danice’s hand firmly and kept repeating the same mantra, “they are going to be ok.” We are doing the right thing. Think of all the fun they are going to have without us, think of all the fun we are going to have without them. Hurray for us!

Of course, Danice had her reasons to be worried. Travel can be scary for kids and parents, I might add.

Kids get lost. Kids get sick.

And kids do things that no other **animal** or **person** in God’s creation would ever think of doing. Despite the potential danger we sent them off anyway to the Lone Star state.

They had **no phone tracking** back in those days. They had **no cell** phones. We put their names on everything, luggage, collars of shirts, places that if **somehow** this one gets separated maybe they will eventually be reunited. Our goal was to do all we could to announce, “this boy and girl belong to Danice and Ken Squires.”

The lanyard certainly said that. The lanyard said, “hands off.” The lanyard said, “mess with these kids and find yourself in traction.”

I can tell you that Kenny and Rebekah made it safely to Texas and back. They had the time of their lives. Now, we were a bundle of nerves for about 6 hours that day, but we calmed down eventually.

It gives me great joy to tell you: God has done the same with you!

When you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, he took ownership of you personally and has been protecting and providing for you every step along the way.

Jesus lays public claim to you: **This child is mine.**

And you and I need all the protection and provision we can get from our great God. Life can be treacherous. Travel can be dangerous. Sons and daughters can rebel. Sometimes we relapse. The evil one can lure us. God wants the evil one and all of his minions to know,

This child belongs to me. Keep your grubby little hands off.

Daily we go through life with our lanyard on, declaring we belong to God. **Who does God entrust your protection? The Holy Spirit.**

You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. And that seal will last until our final day of redemption when we step into heaven, safe and secure. Here you go Father, this child is yours.

*When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.
(Ephesians 1:13b-NIV)*

A few chapters later God's word adds, *do not grieve the Holy Spirit,
...by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30b-NET)*

Paul was converted to Christ in Acts 9, now years later Paul spoke in the simple past tense, so as to emphasize an **"accomplished event."**

We are not being sealed.

We are not hoping to be sealed.

This once and for all time sealing by the Holy Spirit secures us all the way to heaven.

Oh, I like the **verb** seal. When I was a kid, I collected coins and stamps. I would separate the stamp from an envelope; I would break the seal. The good news of a relationship with Jesus, nothing can break the seal.

Not your badness.

Not your sadness,

...and not even your relapse.

Hey friend, you have to see this with your own eyes! Some of you who wonder, if God thinks you, are too much trouble. In an out of trouble. You are nothing but double trouble.

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8-NIV)

Can you think of another way you might use the idea of sealing. Oh, good, you got it. You twist the jar lids to seal the peanut butter. Seal the pickles. Any other illustrations?

Yes, there you go, you notarize the contract to seal the transaction. Sealing declares ownership and secures the contents. Look at your notes, I want you to see this point.

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When you seal something, or someone you are declaring, “this one is mine, and it is protected.” Marriage is an act of sealing. When you trusted in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins, put your faith in Christ to keep you, protect you and deliver you to your final destination, you get there safely because you are **sealed by the Holy Spirit**.

Satan might woo you. The opposing team might boo you. Your emotions might blue you. You are cocooned for safe keeping. You and Jesus enjoy the same sealing status. Look at John 6:27-

For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. (John 6:27b-NIV)

Listen carefully. The Greek word to describe both the seal of Jesus and the seal of saint is identical. They are the same word. Twinsees. Hurray for us!

News flash: When God sees you, He does not see your sin. (*Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19, Isaiah 43:25*)

What is the benefit of having the seal of the Holy Spirit, none is better than having our sins forgiven. No probation. No exceptions. No regrets. No reversals. God will not change his mind about you!

*I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more. (Isaiah 43:25-NIV)*

The Holy Spirit expresses his agency and purposes as a teacher, wind, intercessor, to seal, dove, flame, oil, riving of living water, tongues of fire and giver of gifts.

If you have just joined us, we are working our way through the book of Acts. Today we are in chapter 10. Do you realize your best life is living in the power of the Holy Spirit? And the Holy Spirit is referred to over 50 times in the book of Acts.

The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power. Why does God want to give us this power?

The book of Acts is a sequel to Jesus' life, and while Jesus only appears in the first 9 verses, Jesus wants his life and ministry to continue through the life of each of us. So, Acts, is the continuation of what Jesus did and taught in his life, regardless of person and even performance.

Every place Jesus wants to be, in the life of the broken and hurting, he sends you!

Everything Jesus wants to do in the life of an individual such as healing, encouragement, and salvation, he wants to do it through you, so he sends you.

Everything Jesus wants to teach others, he sends you.

So, the purpose of the Holy Spirit in Acts is to extend the life of Jesus, to exalt Jesus and to do that, he sends you. Miss this and your understanding of book of Acts will be fuzzy. Will be blurry.

Let's get Peter out of his trance.

While in a couple chapters, we will have to get him out of jail, here we only have to get him out of a spiritual trance. By the way, the word here for trance, is our word for *ecstasy*. *Amazement*.

Literally the trance "fell down" on Peter. He was out of himself. Peter was having a supernatural divine encounter with God. This was no normal prayer state on the roof of Simon the Tanner, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea at Joppa.

We have left him there since last week. Peter is praying and hungry at the same time. A deadly combination. God used Peter's hunger to change his perspective about who God loves. Who God sent Jesus to die for. Now, Jesus didn't die so we could eat barbecue pork. He died for a much more meaningful purpose than telling Peter the dietary code you have been living, is lifted. It is shifted. In fact, it is discarded.

While Peter is in another reality, a giant sheet with four corners is let down from heaven and settles right in front of him.

On the sheet is some cheeseburgers, lobster bisque. Crab cakes. And a bunch of other assorted animals. Let me invite you to look right at the text with me.

¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 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)

Peter is invited to do something that is repulsive to him and that is to eat food that is non-kosher or food that is forbidden from the standards God set according to the Law of Moses. (Lev 11)

God's goal is - help Peter; see this is just an illustration, just an example of a more important issue. If Peter gets the lesson, he will be God's tool, to build a bridge to the Gentiles.

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 contained in the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was. 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 what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ Peter said, "Oh, no, Lord. I've never so much as tasted food that was not kosher."

¹⁵ The voice came a second time: "If God says it's okay, it's okay."

¹⁶ This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the skies.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ As Peter, puzzled, sat there trying to figure out what it all meant, the men sent by Cornelius showed up at Simon's front door. They called in, asking if there was a Simon, also called Peter, staying there. Peter, lost in thought, didn't hear them, so the Spirit whispered to him, "Three men are knocking at the door looking for you. Get down there and go with them. Don't ask any questions. I sent them to get you." (Acts 10-MSG)

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.

God wanted Peter to move into a new season of grace or be left behind.

Peter, stop looking at Gentiles as these dirty sinners who God hates. A Jew prayed every day, "God thank you that you have not made me a women, sinner or Gentile."

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's house and provide instructions about faith.

Look how far Peter has come: (1) He stayed in the home of a tanner, one who skins animals. (2) He hosted the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then he went to Caesarea to preach Christ and tell Cornelius what he was missing in his faith journey.

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

If this bridge were not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa.

Question: What good would all the healings in the book of Acts, all the deliverances, all the jailings, beatings, and even the death of Stephen have been for, **if the message of Jesus atoning death were not unleashed worldwide.**

What a shallow life, if Peter is stuck in a rut over dietary practices that Jesus has lifted. The real message in the vision is not a dietary one, it is simply, Peter if Gentiles are to join the family of God, you will have to be able to eat at their tables.

By the way, this whole experience is happening in the town of Joppa, do we know anyone else, hint, hint, in the Old Testament who came to Joppa and had a run in with God-Jonah.

God sent Jesus to die and atoning death, and the salvation that Jesus' death offers is for everyone. And Peter, you are the one to carry that message to the Gentiles.

You have to understand we are about 10 years since Pentecost and now, the atoning death of Jesus is finally getting to the Gentiles. Up to this point, the church is almost all Jewish.

Peter gets moving, God is no respecter of persons, and those will be the first words out of Peter's mouth when he gets to the house of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion turned God-fearer.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. (Acts 10-NIV)

There are the fishermen, Jesus called and announced, Peter you are going to leave your fishing business and start to fish for men! Cornelius anticipating Peter's arrival has gathered all of his family and friends and they are packed into his home, probably a large wealthy home, and they are waiting for Peter's arrival.

They might be thinking, what's taking him so long. I'll bet he doesn't show up. Why would a Jew want to waste his time with us. Cornelius tells them, calm down, I had a vision and God showed me Peter will come and tell us about the Messiah Jesus Christ.

This will be the first time Cornelius has met Peter. He only knows about him because of a visitation from an angel - *Suddenly a man in shiny clothes stood before me. Send to Joppa for Simon, who is called Peter. (Acts 10:30-32)*

^{23b-25} The next morning he got up and went with them. Some of his friends from Joppa went along. A day later they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had his relatives and close friends waiting with him.

The minute Peter came through the door, Cornelius was up on his feet greeting him — and then down on his face worshipping him! (Acts 10:23-26-MSG)

Suddenly Cornelius sees Peter for the first time and is awestruck with humility. And begins to worship Peter. If an angel told you to get an apostle, that would be somewhat intimidating.

Cornelius has this emotional moment where he falls down on his face and starts to worship Peter. Cornelius is star struck by Peter.

Look at Peter's reaction, *Peter pulled him up and said, "None of that — I'm a man and only a man, no different from you." (Acts 10:26-MSG)*

Stand up, don't you dare worship me, I am just a man. And I am not different than you. Wow! Peter is starting to get it. We do not worship people.

There is a statue of Peter in St Peter's Basilica, in Vatican City in Rome. This statue was carved and placed in the 13th Century. The statue was made of bronze. Here is a startling fact: All of the toes on Peter's right foot are missing.

You want to know why? After 100's of thousands of pilgrims to the Vatican and bowing at Peter's statue and kissing his feet, the pilgrims have rubbed off his toes. It is still happening today.

- (1) do you know what the solution is: they need a tow truck, that's what they need.
That is a terrible joke.
- (2) Because otherwise Peter would feel very, defeated...oh, so bad.
- (3) Alright, anyway don't kick me out, ok, now I am just being a heel, let's move on.
- (4) Ok, I guess you got the idea, don't worship, Peter, Paul, or Mary.

Don't worship people. Don't venerate people. Don't pray to people. There is one mediator between God and man. And that is Jesus Christ.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5-NIV)

And you and I have direct access to God the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. Not through a pastor. Not through a priest. Only through Jesus Christ.

You have access directly to Jesus. Jesus is our direct access to God. How do we know? Look at what Jesus did. Look at the final 3 insights. They all make up the sermon that Peter preached. I have summarized it.

Peter told those gathered his eyewitness account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Acts 10:34-43)

Jesus Christ is the Savior of all and His life, death and resurrection leads all people to one of two destinies: judgement (10:42) or forgiveness of sins (10:43).

By sending the Holy Spirit upon the home of Cornelius and his family, God sent a clear message to all: Salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

In the end it is really about having our sins forgiven. And placing our faith in Jesus Christ atoning death and empowering work of the Spirit to send you into your world and be Jesus to the needs of hurting people.

Jesus death on the cross was the final payment for our sins.

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12-NIV)

I like to look at it this way, if what scientists say is true about the universe continuing to expand and will do so without limit, then my sins continue to move away from me. If you travel

north and south, you will reach the north or south pole. If you travel east to west Journey toward the east and you will never make it to the west.

East and west have no turning points. And neither does God, his forgiveness is irreversible.

Then there is this verse, *you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depth of the sea. (Micah 7:19b-NIV)*

God hurls our sins into the deepest ocean and puts out a no-fishing sign. Your sins are going glub, glub, glub while you go good-bye sins as you fly away to freedom.

Since today is baptism Sunday, congrats to all who are being baptized. But it is not too late for some of you! One day you will have to answer these two questions. Only 2. If you don't get them right, you are in trouble. He we go.

What did you do with your relationship with Jesus while on earth?

This question determines where you will spend eternity.

What did you do with the life Jesus Christ gave you.

This question determines how you spend eternity.

Ok, before we invite our candidates onto the stage and celebrate those being baptized, let's stand and read this final scripture and I want to invite anyone who wants to be baptized to go get in line. Yes, if you want to declare your faith in Jesus Christ, they have a tee shirt for you, you will be celebrated, but more than anything you are entering the family of God through baptism.

Scripture reassures us, *"No one who trusts God like this — heart and soul — will ever regret it. It's exactly the same no matter what a person's religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. "Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help." (Romans 10:13-MSG)*

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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 what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ Peter said, "Oh, no, Lord. I've never so much as tasted food that was not kosher."

¹⁵ The voice came a second time: "If God says it's okay, it's okay."

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¹⁷⁻²⁰ As Peter, puzzled, sat there trying to figure out what it all meant, the men sent by Cornelius showed up at Simon's front door. They called in, asking if there was a Simon, also called Peter, staying there. Peter, lost in thought, didn't hear them, so the Spirit whispered to him, "Three men are knocking at the door looking for you. Get down there and go with them. Don't ask any questions. I sent them to get you." (Acts 10-MSG)

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.

God wanted Peter to move into a new season of grace or be left behind.

Peter, stop looking at Gentiles as these dirty sinners who God hates. A Jew prayed every day, "God thank you that you have not made me a women, sinner or Gentile."

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's house and provide instructions about faith.

Look how far Peter has come: (1) He stayed in the home of a tanner, one who skins animals. (2) He hosted the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then he went to Caesarea to preach Christ and tell Cornelius what he was missing in his faith journey.

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

If this bridge were not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa.

Question: What good would all the healings in the book of Acts, all the deliverances, all the jailings, beatings, and even the death of Stephen have been for, **if the message of Jesus atoning death were not unleashed worldwide.**

What a shallow life, if Peter is stuck in a rut over dietary practices that Jesus has lifted. The real message in the vision is not a dietary one, it is simply, Peter if Gentiles are to join the family of God, you will have to be able to eat at their tables.

By the way, this whole experience is happening in the town of Joppa, do we know anyone else, hint, hint, in the Old Testament who came to Joppa and had a run in with God-Jonah.

God sent Jesus to die and atoning death, and the salvation that Jesus' death offers is for everyone. And Peter, you are the one to carry that message to the Gentiles.

You have to understand we are about 10 years since Pentecost and now, the atoning death of Jesus is finally getting to the Gentiles. Up to this point, the church is almost all Jewish.

Peter gets moving, God is no respecter of persons, and those will be the first words out of Peter's mouth when he gets to the house of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion turned God-fearer.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. (Acts 10-NIV)

There are the fishermen, Jesus called and announced, Peter you are going to leave your fishing business and start to fish for men! Cornelius anticipating Peter's arrival has gathered all of his family and friends and they are packed into his home, probably a large wealthy home, and they are waiting for Peter's arrival.

They might be thinking, what's taking him so long. I'll bet he doesn't show up. Why would a Jew want to waste his time with us. Cornelius tells them, calm down, I had a vision and God showed me Peter will come and tell us about the Messiah Jesus Christ.

This will be the first time Cornelius has met Peter. He only knows about him because of a visitation from an angel - *Suddenly a man in shiny clothes stood before me. Send to Joppa for Simon, who is called Peter. (Acts 10:30-32)*

^{23b-25} The next morning he got up and went with them. Some of his friends from Joppa went along. A day later they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had his relatives and close friends waiting with him.

The minute Peter came through the door, Cornelius was up on his feet greeting him — and then down on his face worshipping him! (Acts 10:23-26-MSG)

Suddenly Cornelius sees Peter for the first time and is awestruck with humility. And begins to worship Peter. If an angel told you to get an apostle, that would be somewhat intimidating.

Cornelius has this emotional moment where he falls down on his face and starts to worship Peter. Cornelius is star struck by Peter.

Look at Peter's reaction, *Peter pulled him up and said, "None of that — I'm a man and only a man, no different from you." (Acts 10:26-MSG)*

Stand up, don't you dare worship me, I am just a man. And I am not different than you. Wow! Peter is starting to get it. We do not worship people.

There is a statue of Peter in St Peter's Basilica, in Vatican City in Rome. This statue was carved and placed in the 13th Century. The statue was made of bronze. Here is a startling fact: All of the toes on Peter's right foot are missing.

You want to know why? After 100's of thousands of pilgrims to the Vatican and bowing at Peter's statue and kissing his feet, the pilgrims have rubbed off his toes. It is still happening today.

- (1) do you know what the solution is: they need a tow truck, that's what they need.
That is a terrible joke.
- (2) Because otherwise Peter would feel very, defeated...oh, so bad.
- (3) Alright, anyway don't kick me out, ok, now I am just being a heel, let's move on.
- (4) Ok, I guess you got the idea, don't worship, Peter, Paul, or Mary.

Don't worship people. Don't venerate people. Don't pray to people. There is one mediator between God and man. And that is Jesus Christ.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5-NIV)

And you and I have direct access to God the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. Not through a pastor. Not through a priest. Only through Jesus Christ.

You have access directly to Jesus. Jesus is our direct access to God. How do we know? Look at what Jesus did. Look at the final 3 insights. They all make up the sermon that Peter preached. I have summarized it.

Peter told those gathered his eyewitness account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Acts 10:34-43)

Jesus Christ is the Savior of all and His life, death and resurrection leads all people to one of two destinies: judgement (10:42) or forgiveness of sins (10:43).

By sending the Holy Spirit upon the home of Cornelius and his family, God sent a clear message to all: Salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

In the end it is really about having our sins forgiven. And placing our faith in Jesus Christ atoning death and empowering work of the Spirit to send you into your world and be Jesus to the needs of hurting people.

Jesus death on the cross was the final payment for our sins.

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12-NIV)

I like to look at it this way, if what scientists say is true about the universe continuing to expand and will do so without limit, then my sins continue to move away from me. If you travel

north and south, you will reach the north or south pole. If you travel east to west Journey toward the east and you will never make it to the west.

East and west have no turning points. And neither does God, his forgiveness is irreversible.

Then there is this verse, *you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depth of the sea. (Micah 7:19b-NIV)*

God hurls our sins into the deepest ocean and puts out a no-fishing sign. Your sins are going glub, glub, glub while you go good-bye sins as you fly away to freedom.

Since today is baptism Sunday, congrats to all who are being baptized. But it is not too late for some of you! One day you will have to answer these two questions. Only 2. If you don't get them right, you are in trouble. He we go.

What did you do with your relationship with Jesus while on earth?

This question determines where you will spend eternity.

What did you do with the life Jesus Christ gave you.

This question determines how you spend eternity.

Ok, before we invite our candidates onto the stage and celebrate those being baptized, let's stand and read this final scripture and I want to invite anyone who wants to be baptized to go get in line. Yes, if you want to declare your faith in Jesus Christ, they have a tee shirt for you, you will be celebrated, but more than anything you are entering the family of God through baptism.

Scripture reassures us, *"No one who trusts God like this — heart and soul — will ever regret it. It's exactly the same no matter what a person's religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. "Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help." (Romans 10:13-MSG)*

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

Acts 10

August 17, 2025

^{23b} The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. ²⁴ The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

²⁷ While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸ He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?" (Acts 10-NIV)

When Kenny and Rebekah (chewbeka) were about 8 and 6, Danice and I conspired to send them off to Grandma Shirley's house for a week of fun and love, including eating breakfast on grandma's roof, in Ft Worth, Texas.

Chicken fried steak.

Howdy partner.

Dallas Clownboys.

And a ride on the tarantella train

The plan was simple. We would take Kenny and Rebekah to the Seattle's SeaTac airport, go to the American Airlines actual gate where they boarded the plane, give them to the American Airlines employees and they would put these **oversized lanyards** on them and then we would say "good-bye."

The oversized lanyards told everyone these kids belong to Ken and Danice Squires. Keep your hands off.

Before we left them, we gave them some final advice. Stay in your seat unless biology calls. Stay together and don't talk to strangers. If we said it once, we said it many times.

Then Shirley would drive to Dallas-Ft Worth, Texas airport that evening and pick them up safely and once she had them in her possession, immediately call us and relief us of our anxiety. Letting us know the kids are fine.

No person would think of such a practice today, I can still remember, saying to Danice, “let’s go they will be ok.” As they disappeared down the ramp to enter the plane, away we went.

I held Danice’s hand firmly and kept repeating the same mantra, “they are going to be ok.” We are doing the right thing. Think of all the fun they are going to have without us, think of all the fun we are going to have without them. Hurray for us!

Of course, Danice had her reasons to be worried. Travel can be scary for kids and parents, I might add.

Kids get lost. Kids get sick.

And kids do things that no other **animal** or **person** in God’s creation would ever think of doing. Despite the potential danger we sent them off anyway to the Lone Star state.

They had **no phone tracking** back in those days. They had **no cell** phones. We put their names on everything, luggage, collars of shirts, places that if **somehow** this one gets separated maybe they will eventually be reunited. Our goal was to do all we could to announce, “this boy and girl belong to Danice and Ken Squires.”

The lanyard certainly said that. The lanyard said, “hands off.” The lanyard said, “mess with these kids and find yourself in traction.”

I can tell you that Kenny and Rebekah made it safely to Texas and back. They had the time of their lives. Now, we were a bundle of nerves for about 6 hours that day, but we calmed down eventually.

It gives me great joy to tell you: God has done the same with you!

When you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, he took ownership of you personally and has been protecting and providing for you every step along the way.

Jesus lays public claim to you: **This child is mine.**

And you and I need all the protection and provision we can get from our great God. Life can be treacherous. Travel can be dangerous. Sons and daughters can rebel. Sometimes we relapse. The evil one can lure us. God wants the evil one and all of his minions to know,

This child belongs to me. Keep your grubby little hands off.

Daily we go through life with our lanyard on, declaring we belong to God. **Who does God entrust your protection? The Holy Spirit.**

You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. And that seal will last until our final day of redemption when we step into heaven, safe and secure. Here you go Father, this child is yours.

*When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.
(Ephesians 1:13b-NIV)*

A few chapters later God's word adds, *do not grieve the Holy Spirit,
...by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30b-NET)*

Paul was converted to Christ in Acts 9, now years later Paul spoke in the simple past tense, so as to emphasize an **"accomplished event."**

We are not being sealed.

We are not hoping to be sealed.

This once and for all time sealing by the Holy Spirit secures us all the way to heaven.

Oh, I like the **verb** seal. When I was a kid, I collected coins and stamps. I would separate the stamp from an envelope; I would break the seal. The good news of a relationship with Jesus, nothing can break the seal.

Not your badness.

Not your sadness,

...and not even your relapse.

Hey friend, you have to see this with your own eyes! Some of you who wonder, if God thinks you, are too much trouble. In an out of trouble. You are nothing but double trouble.

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8-NIV)

Can you think of another way you might use the idea of sealing. Oh, good, you got it. You twist the jar lids to seal the peanut butter. Seal the pickles. Any other illustrations?

Yes, there you go, you notarize the contract to seal the transaction. Sealing declares ownership and secures the contents. Look at your notes, I want you to see this point.

Sealing declares ownership and secures the contents.

When you seal something, or someone you are declaring, “this one is mine, and it is protected.” Marriage is an act of sealing. When you trusted in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins, put your faith in Christ to keep you, protect you and deliver you to your final destination, you get there safely because you are **sealed by the Holy Spirit**.

Satan might woo you. The opposing team might boo you. Your emotions might blue you. You are cocooned for safe keeping. You and Jesus enjoy the same sealing status. Look at John 6:27-

For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. (John 6:27b-NIV)

Listen carefully. The Greek word to describe both the seal of Jesus and the seal of saint is identical. They are the same word. Twinsees. Hurray for us!

News flash: When God sees you, He does not see your sin. (*Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19, Isaiah 43:25*)

What is the benefit of having the seal of the Holy Spirit, none is better than having our sins forgiven. No probation. No exceptions. No regrets. No reversals. God will not change his mind about you!

*I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more. (Isaiah 43:25-NIV)*

The Holy Spirit expresses his agency and purposes as a teacher, wind, intercessor, to seal, dove, flame, oil, riving of living water, tongues of fire and giver of gifts.

If you have just joined us, we are working our way through the book of Acts. Today we are in chapter 10. Do you realize your best life is living in the power of the Holy Spirit? And the Holy Spirit is referred to over 50 times in the book of Acts.

The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power. Why does God want to give us this power?

The book of Acts is a sequel to Jesus' life, and while Jesus only appears in the first 9 verses, Jesus wants his life and ministry to continue through the life of each of us. So, Acts, is the continuation of what Jesus did and taught in his life, regardless of person and even performance.

Every place Jesus wants to be, in the life of the broken and hurting, he sends you!

Everything Jesus wants to do in the life of an individual such as healing, encouragement, and salvation, he wants to do it through you, so he sends you.

Everything Jesus wants to teach others, he sends you.

So, the purpose of the Holy Spirit in Acts is to extend the life of Jesus, to exalt Jesus and to do that, he sends you. Miss this and your understanding of book of Acts will be fuzzy. Will be blurry.

Let's get Peter out of his trance.

While in a couple chapters, we will have to get him out of jail, here we only have to get him out of a spiritual trance. By the way, the word here for trance, is our word for *ecstasy*. *Amazement*.

Literally the trance "fell down" on Peter. He was out of himself. Peter was having a supernatural divine encounter with God. This was no normal prayer state on the roof of Simon the Tanner, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea at Joppa.

We have left him there since last week. Peter is praying and hungry at the same time. A deadly combination. God used Peter's hunger to change his perspective about who God loves. Who God sent Jesus to die for. Now, Jesus didn't die so we could eat barbecue pork. He died for a much more meaningful purpose than telling Peter the dietary code you have been living, is lifted. It is shifted. In fact, it is discarded.

While Peter is in another reality, a giant sheet with four corners is let down from heaven and settles right in front of him.

On the sheet is some cheeseburgers, lobster bisque. Crab cakes. And a bunch of other assorted animals. Let me invite you to look right at the text with me.

¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 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)

Peter is invited to do something that is repulsive to him and that is to eat food that is non-kosher or food that is forbidden from the standards God set according to the Law of Moses. (Lev 11)

God's goal is - help Peter; see this is just an illustration, just an example of a more important issue. If Peter gets the lesson, he will be God's tool, to build a bridge to the Gentiles.

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.

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The plan was simple. We would take Kenny and Rebekah to the Seattle's SeaTac airport, go to the American Airlines actual gate where they boarded the plane, give them to the American Airlines employees and they would put these **oversized lanyards** on them and then we would say "good-bye."

The oversized lanyards told everyone these kids belong to Ken and Danice Squires. Keep your hands off.

Before we left them, we gave them some final advice. Stay in your seat unless biology calls. Stay together and don't talk to strangers. If we said it once, we said it many times.

Then Shirley would drive to Dallas-Ft Worth, Texas airport that evening and pick them up safely and once she had them in her possession, immediately call us and relief us of our anxiety. Letting us know the kids are fine.

No person would think of such a practice today, I can still remember, saying to Danice, “let’s go they will be ok.” As they disappeared down the ramp to enter the plane, away we went.

I held Danice’s hand firmly and kept repeating the same mantra, “they are going to be ok.” We are doing the right thing. Think of all the fun they are going to have without us, think of all the fun we are going to have without them. Hurray for us!

Of course, Danice had her reasons to be worried. Travel can be scary for kids and parents, I might add.

Kids get lost. Kids get sick.

And kids do things that no other **animal** or **person** in God’s creation would ever think of doing. Despite the potential danger we sent them off anyway to the Lone Star state.

They had **no phone tracking** back in those days. They had **no cell** phones. We put their names on everything, luggage, collars of shirts, places that if **somehow** this one gets separated maybe they will eventually be reunited. Our goal was to do all we could to announce, “this boy and girl belong to Danice and Ken Squires.”

The lanyard certainly said that. The lanyard said, “hands off.” The lanyard said, “mess with these kids and find yourself in traction.”

I can tell you that Kenny and Rebekah made it safely to Texas and back. They had the time of their lives. Now, we were a bundle of nerves for about 6 hours that day, but we calmed down eventually.

It gives me great joy to tell you: God has done the same with you!

When you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, he took ownership of you personally and has been protecting and providing for you every step along the way.

Jesus lays public claim to you: **This child is mine.**

And you and I need all the protection and provision we can get from our great God. Life can be treacherous. Travel can be dangerous. Sons and daughters can rebel. Sometimes we relapse. The evil one can lure us. God wants the evil one and all of his minions to know,

This child belongs to me. Keep your grubby little hands off.

Daily we go through life with our lanyard on, declaring we belong to God. **Who does God entrust your protection? The Holy Spirit.**

You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. And that seal will last until our final day of redemption when we step into heaven, safe and secure. Here you go Father, this child is yours.

*When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.
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A few chapters later God's word adds, *do not grieve the Holy Spirit,
...by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30b-NET)*

Paul was converted to Christ in Acts 9, now years later Paul spoke in the simple past tense, so as to emphasize an **"accomplished event."**

We are not being sealed.

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This once and for all time sealing by the Holy Spirit secures us all the way to heaven.

Oh, I like the **verb** seal. When I was a kid, I collected coins and stamps. I would separate the stamp from an envelope; I would break the seal. The good news of a relationship with Jesus, nothing can break the seal.

Not your badness.

Not your sadness,

...and not even your relapse.

Hey friend, you have to see this with your own eyes! Some of you who wonder, if God thinks you, are too much trouble. In an out of trouble. You are nothing but double trouble.

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8-NIV)

Can you think of another way you might use the idea of sealing. Oh, good, you got it. You twist the jar lids to seal the peanut butter. Seal the pickles. Any other illustrations?

Yes, there you go, you notarize the contract to seal the transaction. Sealing declares ownership and secures the contents. Look at your notes, I want you to see this point.

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When you seal something, or someone you are declaring, “this one is mine, and it is protected.” Marriage is an act of sealing. When you trusted in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins, put your faith in Christ to keep you, protect you and deliver you to your final destination, you get there safely because you are **sealed by the Holy Spirit**.

Satan might woo you. The opposing team might boo you. Your emotions might blue you. You are cocooned for safe keeping. You and Jesus enjoy the same sealing status. Look at John 6:27-

For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. (John 6:27b-NIV)

Listen carefully. The Greek word to describe both the seal of Jesus and the seal of saint is identical. They are the same word. Twinsees. Hurray for us!

News flash: When God sees you, He does not see your sin. (*Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19, Isaiah 43:25*)

What is the benefit of having the seal of the Holy Spirit, none is better than having our sins forgiven. No probation. No exceptions. No regrets. No reversals. God will not change his mind about you!

*I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
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The Holy Spirit expresses his agency and purposes as a teacher, wind, intercessor, to seal, dove, flame, oil, riving of living water, tongues of fire and giver of gifts.

If you have just joined us, we are working our way through the book of Acts. Today we are in chapter 10. Do you realize your best life is living in the power of the Holy Spirit? And the Holy Spirit is referred to over 50 times in the book of Acts.

The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power. Why does God want to give us this power?

The book of Acts is a sequel to Jesus' life, and while Jesus only appears in the first 9 verses, Jesus wants his life and ministry to continue through the life of each of us. So, Acts, is the continuation of what Jesus did and taught in his life, regardless of person and even performance.

Every place Jesus wants to be, in the life of the broken and hurting, he sends you!

Everything Jesus wants to do in the life of an individual such as healing, encouragement, and salvation, he wants to do it through you, so he sends you.

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So, the purpose of the Holy Spirit in Acts is to extend the life of Jesus, to exalt Jesus and to do that, he sends you. Miss this and your understanding of book of Acts will be fuzzy. Will be blurry.

Let's get Peter out of his trance.

While in a couple chapters, we will have to get him out of jail, here we only have to get him out of a spiritual trance. By the way, the word here for trance, is our word for *ecstasy*. *Amazement*.

Literally the trance "fell down" on Peter. He was out of himself. Peter was having a supernatural divine encounter with God. This was no normal prayer state on the roof of Simon the Tanner, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea at Joppa.

We have left him there since last week. Peter is praying and hungry at the same time. A deadly combination. God used Peter's hunger to change his perspective about who God loves. Who God sent Jesus to die for. Now, Jesus didn't die so we could eat barbecue pork. He died for a much more meaningful purpose than telling Peter the dietary code you have been living, is lifted. It is shifted. In fact, it is discarded.

While Peter is in another reality, a giant sheet with four corners is let down from heaven and settles right in front of him.

On the sheet is some cheeseburgers, lobster bisque. Crab cakes. And a bunch of other assorted animals. Let me invite you to look right at the text with me.

¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 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)

Peter is invited to do something that is repulsive to him and that is to eat food that is non-kosher or food that is forbidden from the standards God set according to the Law of Moses. (Lev 11)

God's goal is - help Peter; see this is just an illustration, just an example of a more important issue. If Peter gets the lesson, he will be God's tool, to build a bridge to the Gentiles.

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 contained in the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was. 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 what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ Peter said, "Oh, no, Lord. I've never so much as tasted food that was not kosher."

¹⁵ The voice came a second time: "If God says it's okay, it's okay."

¹⁶ This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the skies.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ As Peter, puzzled, sat there trying to figure out what it all meant, the men sent by Cornelius showed up at Simon's front door. They called in, asking if there was a Simon, also called Peter, staying there. Peter, lost in thought, didn't hear them, so the Spirit whispered to him, "Three men are knocking at the door looking for you. Get down there and go with them. Don't ask any questions. I sent them to get you." (Acts 10-MSG)

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.

God wanted Peter to move into a new season of grace or be left behind.

Peter, stop looking at Gentiles as these dirty sinners who God hates. A Jew prayed every day, "God thank you that you have not made me a women, sinner or Gentile."

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's house and provide instructions about faith.

Look how far Peter has come: (1) He stayed in the home of a tanner, one who skins animals. (2) He hosted the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then he went to Caesarea to preach Christ and tell Cornelius what he was missing in his faith journey.

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

If this bridge were not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa.

Question: What good would all the healings in the book of Acts, all the deliverances, all the jailings, beatings, and even the death of Stephen have been for, **if the message of Jesus atoning death were not unleashed worldwide.**

What a shallow life, if Peter is stuck in a rut over dietary practices that Jesus has lifted. The real message in the vision is not a dietary one, it is simply, Peter if Gentiles are to join the family of God, you will have to be able to eat at their tables.

By the way, this whole experience is happening in the town of Joppa, do we know anyone else, hint, hint, in the Old Testament who came to Joppa and had a run in with God-Jonah.

God sent Jesus to die and atoning death, and the salvation that Jesus' death offers is for everyone. And Peter, you are the one to carry that message to the Gentiles.

You have to understand we are about 10 years since Pentecost and now, the atoning death of Jesus is finally getting to the Gentiles. Up to this point, the church is almost all Jewish.

Peter gets moving, God is no respecter of persons, and those will be the first words out of Peter's mouth when he gets to the house of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion turned God-fearer.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. (Acts 10-NIV)

There are the fishermen, Jesus called and announced, Peter you are going to leave your fishing business and start to fish for men! Cornelius anticipating Peter's arrival has gathered all of his family and friends and they are packed into his home, probably a large wealthy home, and they are waiting for Peter's arrival.

They might be thinking, what's taking him so long. I'll bet he doesn't show up. Why would a Jew want to waste his time with us. Cornelius tells them, calm down, I had a vision and God showed me Peter will come and tell us about the Messiah Jesus Christ.

This will be the first time Cornelius has met Peter. He only knows about him because of a visitation from an angel - *Suddenly a man in shiny clothes stood before me. Send to Joppa for Simon, who is called Peter. (Acts 10:30-32)*

^{23b-25} The next morning he got up and went with them. Some of his friends from Joppa went along. A day later they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had his relatives and close friends waiting with him.

The minute Peter came through the door, Cornelius was up on his feet greeting him — and then down on his face worshipping him! (Acts 10:23-26-MSG)

Suddenly Cornelius sees Peter for the first time and is awestruck with humility. And begins to worship Peter. If an angel told you to get an apostle, that would be somewhat intimidating.

Cornelius has this emotional moment where he falls down on his face and starts to worship Peter. Cornelius is star struck by Peter.

Look at Peter's reaction, *Peter pulled him up and said, "None of that — I'm a man and only a man, no different from you." (Acts 10:26-MSG)*

Stand up, don't you dare worship me, I am just a man. And I am not different than you. Wow! Peter is starting to get it. We do not worship people.

There is a statue of Peter in St Peter's Basilica, in Vatican City in Rome. This statue was carved and placed in the 13th Century. The statue was made of bronze. Here is a startling fact: All of the toes on Peter's right foot are missing.

You want to know why? After 100's of thousands of pilgrims to the Vatican and bowing at Peter's statue and kissing his feet, the pilgrims have rubbed off his toes. It is still happening today.

- (1) do you know what the solution is: they need a tow truck, that's what they need.
That is a terrible joke.
- (2) Because otherwise Peter would feel very, defeated...oh, so bad.
- (3) Alright, anyway don't kick me out, ok, now I am just being a heel, let's move on.
- (4) Ok, I guess you got the idea, don't worship, Peter, Paul, or Mary.

Don't worship people. Don't venerate people. Don't pray to people. There is one mediator between God and man. And that is Jesus Christ.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5-NIV)

And you and I have direct access to God the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. Not through a pastor. Not through a priest. Only through Jesus Christ.

You have access directly to Jesus. Jesus is our direct access to God. How do we know? Look at what Jesus did. Look at the final 3 insights. They all make up the sermon that Peter preached. I have summarized it.

Peter told those gathered his eyewitness account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Acts 10:34-43)

Jesus Christ is the Savior of all and His life, death and resurrection leads all people to one of two destinies: judgement (10:42) or forgiveness of sins (10:43).

By sending the Holy Spirit upon the home of Cornelius and his family, God sent a clear message to all: Salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

In the end it is really about having our sins forgiven. And placing our faith in Jesus Christ atoning death and empowering work of the Spirit to send you into your world and be Jesus to the needs of hurting people.

Jesus death on the cross was the final payment for our sins.

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12-NIV)

I like to look at it this way, if what scientists say is true about the universe continuing to expand and will do so without limit, then my sins continue to move away from me. If you travel

north and south, you will reach the north or south pole. If you travel east to west Journey toward the east and you will never make it to the west.

East and west have no turning points. And neither does God, his forgiveness is irreversible.

Then there is this verse, *you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depth of the sea. (Micah 7:19b-NIV)*

God hurls our sins into the deepest ocean and puts out a no-fishing sign. Your sins are going glub, glub, glub while you go good-bye sins as you fly away to freedom.

Since today is baptism Sunday, congrats to all who are being baptized. But it is not too late for some of you! One day you will have to answer these two questions. Only 2. If you don't get them right, you are in trouble. He we go.

What did you do with your relationship with Jesus while on earth?

This question determines where you will spend eternity.

What did you do with the life Jesus Christ gave you.

This question determines how you spend eternity.

Ok, before we invite our candidates onto the stage and celebrate those being baptized, let's stand and read this final scripture and I want to invite anyone who wants to be baptized to go get in line. Yes, if you want to declare your faith in Jesus Christ, they have a tee shirt for you, you will be celebrated, but more than anything you are entering the family of God through baptism.

Scripture reassures us, *"No one who trusts God like this — heart and soul — will ever regret it. It's exactly the same no matter what a person's religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. "Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help." (Romans 10:13-MSG)*

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

Acts 10

August 17, 2025

^{23b} The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. ²⁴ The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

²⁷ While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸ He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?" (Acts 10-NIV)

When Kenny and Rebekah (chewbeka) were about 8 and 6, Danice and I conspired to send them off to Grandma Shirley's house for a week of fun and love, including eating breakfast on grandma's roof, in Ft Worth, Texas.

Chicken fried steak.

Howdy partner.

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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.

God wanted Peter to move into a new season of grace or be left behind.

Peter, stop looking at Gentiles as these dirty sinners who God hates. A Jew prayed every day, "God thank you that you have not made me a women, sinner or Gentile."

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's house and provide instructions about faith.

Look how far Peter has come: (1) He stayed in the home of a tanner, one who skins animals. (2) He hosted the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then he went to Caesarea to preach Christ and tell Cornelius what he was missing in his faith journey.

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

If this bridge were not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa.

Question: What good would all the healings in the book of Acts, all the deliverances, all the jailings, beatings, and even the death of Stephen have been for, **if the message of Jesus atoning death were not unleashed worldwide.**

What a shallow life, if Peter is stuck in a rut over dietary practices that Jesus has lifted. The real message in the vision is not a dietary one, it is simply, Peter if Gentiles are to join the family of God, you will have to be able to eat at their tables.

By the way, this whole experience is happening in the town of Joppa, do we know anyone else, hint, hint, in the Old Testament who came to Joppa and had a run in with God-Jonah.

God sent Jesus to die and atoning death, and the salvation that Jesus' death offers is for everyone. And Peter, you are the one to carry that message to the Gentiles.

You have to understand we are about 10 years since Pentecost and now, the atoning death of Jesus is finally getting to the Gentiles. Up to this point, the church is almost all Jewish.

Peter gets moving, God is no respecter of persons, and those will be the first words out of Peter's mouth when he gets to the house of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion turned God-fearer.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. (Acts 10-NIV)

There are the fishermen, Jesus called and announced, Peter you are going to leave your fishing business and start to fish for men! Cornelius anticipating Peter's arrival has gathered all of his family and friends and they are packed into his home, probably a large wealthy home, and they are waiting for Peter's arrival.

They might be thinking, what's taking him so long. I'll bet he doesn't show up. Why would a Jew want to waste his time with us. Cornelius tells them, calm down, I had a vision and God showed me Peter will come and tell us about the Messiah Jesus Christ.

This will be the first time Cornelius has met Peter. He only knows about him because of a visitation from an angel - *Suddenly a man in shiny clothes stood before me. Send to Joppa for Simon, who is called Peter. (Acts 10:30-32)*

^{23b-25} The next morning he got up and went with them. Some of his friends from Joppa went along. A day later they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had his relatives and close friends waiting with him.

The minute Peter came through the door, Cornelius was up on his feet greeting him — and then down on his face worshipping him! (Acts 10:23-26-MSG)

Suddenly Cornelius sees Peter for the first time and is awestruck with humility. And begins to worship Peter. If an angel told you to get an apostle, that would be somewhat intimidating.

Cornelius has this emotional moment where he falls down on his face and starts to worship Peter. Cornelius is star struck by Peter.

Look at Peter's reaction, *Peter pulled him up and said, "None of that — I'm a man and only a man, no different from you." (Acts 10:26-MSG)*

Stand up, don't you dare worship me, I am just a man. And I am not different than you. Wow! Peter is starting to get it. We do not worship people.

There is a statue of Peter in St Peter's Basilica, in Vatican City in Rome. This statue was carved and placed in the 13th Century. The statue was made of bronze. Here is a startling fact: All of the toes on Peter's right foot are missing.

You want to know why? After 100's of thousands of pilgrims to the Vatican and bowing at Peter's statue and kissing his feet, the pilgrims have rubbed off his toes. It is still happening today.

- (1) do you know what the solution is: they need a tow truck, that's what they need.
That is a terrible joke.
- (2) Because otherwise Peter would feel very, defeated...oh, so bad.
- (3) Alright, anyway don't kick me out, ok, now I am just being a heal, let's move on.
- (4) Ok, I guess you got the idea, don't worship, Peter, Paul, or Mary.

Don't worship people. Don't venerate people. Don't pray to people. There is one mediator between God and man. And that is Jesus Christ.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5-NIV)

And you and I have direct access to God the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. Not through a pastor. Not through a priest. Only through Jesus Christ.

You have access directly to Jesus. Jesus is our direct access to God. How do we know? Look at what Jesus did. Look at the final 3 insights. They all make up the sermon that Peter preached. I have summarized it.

Peter told those gathered his eyewitness account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Acts 10:34-43)

Jesus Christ is the Savior of all and His life, death and resurrection leads all people to one of two destinies: judgement (10:42) or forgiveness of sins (10:43).

By sending the Holy Spirit upon the home of Cornelius and his family, God sent a clear message to all: Salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

In the end it is really about having our sins forgiven. And placing out faith in Jesus Christ atoning death and empowering work of the Spirit to send you into your world and be Jesus to the needs of hurting people.

Jesus death on the cross was the final payment for our sins.

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12-NIV)

I like to look at it this way, if what scientists say is true about the universe continuing to expand and will do so without limit, then my sins continue to move away from me. If you travel

north and south, you will reach the north or south pole. If you travel east to west Journey toward the east and you will never make it to the west.

East and west have no turning points. And neither does God, his forgiveness is irreversible.

Then there is this verse, *you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depth of the sea. (Micah 7:19b-NIV)*

God hurls our sins into the deepest ocean and puts out a no-fishing sign. Your sins are going glub, glub, glub while you go good-bye sins as you fly away to freedom.

Since today is baptism Sunday, congrats to all who are being baptized. But it is not too late for some of you! One day you will have to answer these two questions. Only 2. If you don't get them right, you are in trouble. He we go.

What did you do with your relationship with Jesus while on earth?

This question determines where you will spend eternity.

What did you do with the life Jesus Christ gave you.

This question determines how you spend eternity.

Ok, before we invite our candidates onto the stage and celebrate those being baptized, let's stand and read this final scripture and I want to invite anyone who wants to be baptized to go get in line. Yes, if you want to declare your faith in Jesus Christ, they have a tee shirt for you, you will be celebrated, but more than anything you are entering the family of God through baptism.

Scripture reassures us, *"No one who trusts God like this — heart and soul — will ever regret it. It's exactly the same no matter what a person's religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. "Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help." (Romans 10:13-MSG)*

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

Acts 10

August 17, 2025

^{23b} The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. ²⁴ The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

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When Kenny and Rebekah (chewbeka) were about 8 and 6, Danice and I conspired to send them off to Grandma Shirley's house for a week of fun and love, including eating breakfast on grandma's roof, in Ft Worth, Texas.

Chicken fried steak.

Howdy partner.

Dallas Clownboys.

And a ride on the tarantella train

The plan was simple. We would take Kenny and Rebekah to the Seattle's SeaTac airport, go to the American Airlines actual gate where they boarded the plane, give them to the American Airlines employees and they would put these **oversized lanyards** on them and then we would say "good-bye."

The oversized lanyards told everyone these kids belong to Ken and Danice Squires. Keep your hands off.

Before we left them, we gave them some final advice. Stay in your seat unless biology calls. Stay together and don't talk to strangers. If we said it once, we said it many times.

Then Shirley would drive to Dallas-Ft Worth, Texas airport that evening and pick them up safely and once she had them in her possession, immediately call us and relief us of our anxiety. Letting us know the kids are fine.

No person would think of such a practice today, I can still remember, saying to Danice, “let’s go they will be ok.” As they disappeared down the ramp to enter the plane, away we went.

I held Danice’s hand firmly and kept repeating the same mantra, “they are going to be ok.” We are doing the right thing. Think of all the fun they are going to have without us, think of all the fun we are going to have without them. Hurray for us!

Of course, Danice had her reasons to be worried. Travel can be scary for kids and parents, I might add.

Kids get lost. Kids get sick.

And kids do things that no other **animal** or **person** in God’s creation would ever think of doing. Despite the potential danger we sent them off anyway to the Lone Star state.

They had **no phone tracking** back in those days. They had **no cell** phones. We put their names on everything, luggage, collars of shirts, places that if **somehow** this one gets separated maybe they will eventually be reunited. Our goal was to do all we could to announce, “this boy and girl belong to Danice and Ken Squires.”

The lanyard certainly said that. The lanyard said, “hands off.” The lanyard said, “mess with these kids and find yourself in traction.”

I can tell you that Kenny and Rebekah made it safely to Texas and back. They had the time of their lives. Now, we were a bundle of nerves for about 6 hours that day, but we calmed down eventually.

It gives me great joy to tell you: God has done the same with you!

When you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, he took ownership of you personally and has been protecting and providing for you every step along the way.

Jesus lays public claim to you: **This child is mine.**

And you and I need all the protection and provision we can get from our great God. Life can be treacherous. Travel can be dangerous. Sons and daughters can rebel. Sometimes we relapse. The evil one can lure us. God wants the evil one and all of his minions to know,

This child belongs to me. Keep your grubby little hands off.

Daily we go through life with our lanyard on, declaring we belong to God. **Who does God entrust your protection? The Holy Spirit.**

You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. And that seal will last until our final day of redemption when we step into heaven, safe and secure. Here you go Father, this child is yours.

*When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.
(Ephesians 1:13b-NIV)*

A few chapters later God's word adds, *do not grieve the Holy Spirit,
...by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30b-NET)*

Paul was converted to Christ in Acts 9, now years later Paul spoke in the simple past tense, so as to emphasize an **"accomplished event."**

We are not being sealed.

We are not hoping to be sealed.

This once and for all time sealing by the Holy Spirit secures us all the way to heaven.

Oh, I like the **verb** seal. When I was a kid, I collected coins and stamps. I would separate the stamp from an envelope; I would break the seal. The good news of a relationship with Jesus, nothing can break the seal.

Not your badness.

Not your sadness,

...and not even your relapse.

Hey friend, you have to see this with your own eyes! Some of you who wonder, if God thinks you, are too much trouble. In an out of trouble. You are nothing but double trouble.

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8-NIV)

Can you think of another way you might use the idea of sealing. Oh, good, you got it. You twist the jar lids to seal the peanut butter. Seal the pickles. Any other illustrations?

Yes, there you go, you notarize the contract to seal the transaction. Sealing declares ownership and secures the contents. Look at your notes, I want you to see this point.

Sealing declares ownership and secures the contents.

When you seal something, or someone you are declaring, “this one is mine, and it is protected.” Marriage is an act of sealing. When you trusted in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins, put your faith in Christ to keep you, protect you and deliver you to your final destination, you get there safely because you are **sealed by the Holy Spirit**.

Satan might woo you. The opposing team might boo you. Your emotions might blue you. You are cocooned for safe keeping. You and Jesus enjoy the same sealing status. Look at John 6:27-

For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. (John 6:27b-NIV)

Listen carefully. The Greek word to describe both the seal of Jesus and the seal of saint is identical. They are the same word. Twinsees. Hurray for us!

News flash: When God sees you, He does not see your sin. (*Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19, Isaiah 43:25*)

What is the benefit of having the seal of the Holy Spirit, none is better than having our sins forgiven. No probation. No exceptions. No regrets. No reversals. God will not change his mind about you!

*I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more. (Isaiah 43:25-NIV)*

The Holy Spirit expresses his agency and purposes as a teacher, wind, intercessor, to seal, dove, flame, oil, riving of living water, tongues of fire and giver of gifts.

If you have just joined us, we are working our way through the book of Acts. Today we are in chapter 10. Do you realize your best life is living in the power of the Holy Spirit? And the Holy Spirit is referred to over 50 times in the book of Acts.

The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power. Why does God want to give us this power?

The book of Acts is a sequel to Jesus' life, and while Jesus only appears in the first 9 verses, Jesus wants his life and ministry to continue through the life of each of us. So, Acts, is the continuation of what Jesus did and taught in his life, regardless of person and even performance.

Every place Jesus wants to be, in the life of the broken and hurting, he sends you!

Everything Jesus wants to do in the life of an individual such as healing, encouragement, and salvation, he wants to do it through you, so he sends you.

Everything Jesus wants to teach others, he sends you.

So, the purpose of the Holy Spirit in Acts is to extend the life of Jesus, to exalt Jesus and to do that, he sends you. Miss this and your understanding of book of Acts will be fuzzy. Will be blurry.

Let's get Peter out of his trance.

While in a couple chapters, we will have to get him out of jail, here we only have to get him out of a spiritual trance. By the way, the word here for trance, is our word for *ecstasy*. *Amazement*.

Literally the trance "fell down" on Peter. He was out of himself. Peter was having a supernatural divine encounter with God. This was no normal prayer state on the roof of Simon the Tanner, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea at Joppa.

We have left him there since last week. Peter is praying and hungry at the same time. A deadly combination. God used Peter's hunger to change his perspective about who God loves. Who God sent Jesus to die for. Now, Jesus didn't die so we could eat barbecue pork. He died for a much more meaningful purpose than telling Peter the dietary code you have been living, is lifted. It is shifted. In fact, it is discarded.

While Peter is in another reality, a giant sheet with four corners is let down from heaven and settles right in front of him.

On the sheet is some cheeseburgers, lobster bisque. Crab cakes. And a bunch of other assorted animals. Let me invite you to look right at the text with me.

¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 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)

Peter is invited to do something that is repulsive to him and that is to eat food that is non-kosher or food that is forbidden from the standards God set according to the Law of Moses. (Lev 11)

God's goal is - help Peter; see this is just an illustration, just an example of a more important issue. If Peter gets the lesson, he will be God's tool, to build a bridge to the Gentiles.

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 contained in the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was. 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 what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ Peter said, "Oh, no, Lord. I've never so much as tasted food that was not kosher."

¹⁵ The voice came a second time: "If God says it's okay, it's okay."

¹⁶ This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the skies.

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I held Danice’s hand firmly and kept repeating the same mantra, “they are going to be ok.” We are doing the right thing. Think of all the fun they are going to have without us, think of all the fun we are going to have without them. Hurray for us!

Of course, Danice had her reasons to be worried. Travel can be scary for kids and parents, I might add.

Kids get lost. Kids get sick.

And kids do things that no other **animal** or **person** in God’s creation would ever think of doing. Despite the potential danger we sent them off anyway to the Lone Star state.

They had **no phone tracking** back in those days. They had **no cell** phones. We put their names on everything, luggage, collars of shirts, places that if **somehow** this one gets separated maybe they will eventually be reunited. Our goal was to do all we could to announce, “this boy and girl belong to Danice and Ken Squires.”

The lanyard certainly said that. The lanyard said, “hands off.” The lanyard said, “mess with these kids and find yourself in traction.”

I can tell you that Kenny and Rebekah made it safely to Texas and back. They had the time of their lives. Now, we were a bundle of nerves for about 6 hours that day, but we calmed down eventually.

It gives me great joy to tell you: God has done the same with you!

When you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, he took ownership of you personally and has been protecting and providing for you every step along the way.

Jesus lays public claim to you: **This child is mine.**

And you and I need all the protection and provision we can get from our great God. Life can be treacherous. Travel can be dangerous. Sons and daughters can rebel. Sometimes we relapse. The evil one can lure us. God wants the evil one and all of his minions to know,

This child belongs to me. Keep your grubby little hands off.

Daily we go through life with our lanyard on, declaring we belong to God. **Who does God entrust your protection? The Holy Spirit.**

You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. And that seal will last until our final day of redemption when we step into heaven, safe and secure. Here you go Father, this child is yours.

*When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.
(Ephesians 1:13b-NIV)*

A few chapters later God's word adds, *do not grieve the Holy Spirit,
...by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30b-NET)*

Paul was converted to Christ in Acts 9, now years later Paul spoke in the simple past tense, so as to emphasize an **"accomplished event."**

We are not being sealed.

We are not hoping to be sealed.

This once and for all time sealing by the Holy Spirit secures us all the way to heaven.

Oh, I like the **verb** seal. When I was a kid, I collected coins and stamps. I would separate the stamp from an envelope; I would break the seal. The good news of a relationship with Jesus, nothing can break the seal.

Not your badness.

Not your sadness,

...and not even your relapse.

Hey friend, you have to see this with your own eyes! Some of you who wonder, if God thinks you, are too much trouble. In an out of trouble. You are nothing but double trouble.

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8-NIV)

Can you think of another way you might use the idea of sealing. Oh, good, you got it. You twist the jar lids to seal the peanut butter. Seal the pickles. Any other illustrations?

Yes, there you go, you notarize the contract to seal the transaction. Sealing declares ownership and secures the contents. Look at your notes, I want you to see this point.

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When you seal something, or someone you are declaring, “this one is mine, and it is protected.” Marriage is an act of sealing. When you trusted in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins, put your faith in Christ to keep you, protect you and deliver you to your final destination, you get there safely because you are **sealed by the Holy Spirit**.

Satan might woo you. The opposing team might boo you. Your emotions might blue you. You are cocooned for safe keeping. You and Jesus enjoy the same sealing status. Look at John 6:27-

For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. (John 6:27b-NIV)

Listen carefully. The Greek word to describe both the seal of Jesus and the seal of saint is identical. They are the same word. Twinsees. Hurray for us!

News flash: When God sees you, He does not see your sin. (*Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19, Isaiah 43:25*)

What is the benefit of having the seal of the Holy Spirit, none is better than having our sins forgiven. No probation. No exceptions. No regrets. No reversals. God will not change his mind about you!

*I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
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The Holy Spirit expresses his agency and purposes as a teacher, wind, intercessor, to seal, dove, flame, oil, riving of living water, tongues of fire and giver of gifts.

If you have just joined us, we are working our way through the book of Acts. Today we are in chapter 10. Do you realize your best life is living in the power of the Holy Spirit? And the Holy Spirit is referred to over 50 times in the book of Acts.

The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power. Why does God want to give us this power?

The book of Acts is a sequel to Jesus' life, and while Jesus only appears in the first 9 verses, Jesus wants his life and ministry to continue through the life of each of us. So, Acts, is the continuation of what Jesus did and taught in his life, regardless of person and even performance.

Every place Jesus wants to be, in the life of the broken and hurting, he sends you!

Everything Jesus wants to do in the life of an individual such as healing, encouragement, and salvation, he wants to do it through you, so he sends you.

Everything Jesus wants to teach others, he sends you.

So, the purpose of the Holy Spirit in Acts is to extend the life of Jesus, to exalt Jesus and to do that, he sends you. Miss this and your understanding of book of Acts will be fuzzy. Will be blurry.

Let's get Peter out of his trance.

While in a couple chapters, we will have to get him out of jail, here we only have to get him out of a spiritual trance. By the way, the word here for trance, is our word for *ecstasy*. *Amazement*.

Literally the trance "fell down" on Peter. He was out of himself. Peter was having a supernatural divine encounter with God. This was no normal prayer state on the roof of Simon the Tanner, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea at Joppa.

We have left him there since last week. Peter is praying and hungry at the same time. A deadly combination. God used Peter's hunger to change his perspective about who God loves. Who God sent Jesus to die for. Now, Jesus didn't die so we could eat barbecue pork. He died for a much more meaningful purpose than telling Peter the dietary code you have been living, is lifted. It is shifted. In fact, it is discarded.

While Peter is in another reality, a giant sheet with four corners is let down from heaven and settles right in front of him.

On the sheet is some cheeseburgers, lobster bisque. Crab cakes. And a bunch of other assorted animals. Let me invite you to look right at the text with me.

¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 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)

Peter is invited to do something that is repulsive to him and that is to eat food that is non-kosher or food that is forbidden from the standards God set according to the Law of Moses. (Lev 11)

God's goal is - help Peter; see this is just an illustration, just an example of a more important issue. If Peter gets the lesson, he will be God's tool, to build a bridge to the Gentiles.

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 contained in the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was. 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 what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ Peter said, "Oh, no, Lord. I've never so much as tasted food that was not kosher."

¹⁵ The voice came a second time: "If God says it's okay, it's okay."

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¹⁷⁻²⁰ As Peter, puzzled, sat there trying to figure out what it all meant, the men sent by Cornelius showed up at Simon's front door. They called in, asking if there was a Simon, also called Peter, staying there. Peter, lost in thought, didn't hear them, so the Spirit whispered to him, "Three men are knocking at the door looking for you. Get down there and go with them. Don't ask any questions. I sent them to get you." (Acts 10-MSG)

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.

God wanted Peter to move into a new season of grace or be left behind.

Peter, stop looking at Gentiles as these dirty sinners who God hates. A Jew prayed every day, "God thank you that you have not made me a women, sinner or Gentile."

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's house and provide instructions about faith.

Look how far Peter has come: (1) He stayed in the home of a tanner, one who skins animals. (2) He hosted the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then he went to Caesarea to preach Christ and tell Cornelius what he was missing in his faith journey.

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

If this bridge were not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa.

Question: What good would all the healings in the book of Acts, all the deliverances, all the jailings, beatings, and even the death of Stephen have been for, **if the message of Jesus atoning death were not unleashed worldwide.**

What a shallow life, if Peter is stuck in a rut over dietary practices that Jesus has lifted. The real message in the vision is not a dietary one, it is simply, Peter if Gentiles are to join the family of God, you will have to be able to eat at their tables.

By the way, this whole experience is happening in the town of Joppa, do we know anyone else, hint, hint, in the Old Testament who came to Joppa and had a run in with God-Jonah.

God sent Jesus to die and atoning death, and the salvation that Jesus' death offers is for everyone. And Peter, you are the one to carry that message to the Gentiles.

You have to understand we are about 10 years since Pentecost and now, the atoning death of Jesus is finally getting to the Gentiles. Up to this point, the church is almost all Jewish.

Peter gets moving, God is no respecter of persons, and those will be the first words out of Peter's mouth when he gets to the house of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion turned God-fearer.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. (Acts 10-NIV)

There are the fishermen, Jesus called and announced, Peter you are going to leave your fishing business and start to fish for men! Cornelius anticipating Peter's arrival has gathered all of his family and friends and they are packed into his home, probably a large wealthy home, and they are waiting for Peter's arrival.

They might be thinking, what's taking him so long. I'll bet he doesn't show up. Why would a Jew want to waste his time with us. Cornelius tells them, calm down, I had a vision and God showed me Peter will come and tell us about the Messiah Jesus Christ.

This will be the first time Cornelius has met Peter. He only knows about him because of a visitation from an angel - *Suddenly a man in shiny clothes stood before me. Send to Joppa for Simon, who is called Peter. (Acts 10:30-32)*

^{23b-25} The next morning he got up and went with them. Some of his friends from Joppa went along. A day later they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had his relatives and close friends waiting with him.

The minute Peter came through the door, Cornelius was up on his feet greeting him — and then down on his face worshipping him! (Acts 10:23-26-MSG)

Suddenly Cornelius sees Peter for the first time and is awestruck with humility. And begins to worship Peter. If an angel told you to get an apostle, that would be somewhat intimidating.

Cornelius has this emotional moment where he falls down on his face and starts to worship Peter. Cornelius is star struck by Peter.

Look at Peter's reaction, *Peter pulled him up and said, "None of that — I'm a man and only a man, no different from you." (Acts 10:26-MSG)*

Stand up, don't you dare worship me, I am just a man. And I am not different than you. Wow! Peter is starting to get it. We do not worship people.

There is a statue of Peter in St Peter's Basilica, in Vatican City in Rome. This statue was carved and placed in the 13th Century. The statue was made of bronze. Here is a startling fact: All of the toes on Peter's right foot are missing.

You want to know why? After 100's of thousands of pilgrims to the Vatican and bowing at Peter's statue and kissing his feet, the pilgrims have rubbed off his toes. It is still happening today.

- (1) do you know what the solution is: they need a tow truck, that's what they need.
That is a terrible joke.
- (2) Because otherwise Peter would feel very, defeated...oh, so bad.
- (3) Alright, anyway don't kick me out, ok, now I am just being a heal, let's move on.
- (4) Ok, I guess you got the idea, don't worship, Peter, Paul, or Mary.

Don't worship people. Don't venerate people. Don't pray to people. There is one mediator between God and man. And that is Jesus Christ.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5-NIV)

And you and I have direct access to God the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. Not through a pastor. Not through a priest. Only through Jesus Christ.

You have access directly to Jesus. Jesus is our direct access to God. How do we know? Look at what Jesus did. Look at the final 3 insights. They all make up the sermon that Peter preached. I have summarized it.

Peter told those gathered his eyewitness account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Acts 10:34-43)

Jesus Christ is the Savior of all and His life, death and resurrection leads all people to one of two destinies: judgement (10:42) or forgiveness of sins (10:43).

By sending the Holy Spirit upon the home of Cornelius and his family, God sent a clear message to all: Salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

In the end it is really about having our sins forgiven. And placing out faith in Jesus Christ atoning death and empowering work of the Spirit to send you into your world and be Jesus to the needs of hurting people.

Jesus death on the cross was the final payment for our sins.

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12-NIV)

I like to look at it this way, if what scientists say is true about the universe continuing to expand and will do so without limit, then my sins continue to move away from me. If you travel

north and south, you will reach the north or south pole. If you travel east to west Journey toward the east and you will never make it to the west.

East and west have no turning points. And neither does God, his forgiveness is irreversible.

Then there is this verse, *you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depth of the sea. (Micah 7:19b-NIV)*

God hurls our sins into the deepest ocean and puts out a no-fishing sign. Your sins are going glub, glub, glub while you go good-bye sins as you fly away to freedom.

Since today is baptism Sunday, congrats to all who are being baptized. But it is not too late for some of you! One day you will have to answer these two questions. Only 2. If you don't get them right, you are in trouble. He we go.

What did you do with your relationship with Jesus while on earth?

This question determines where you will spend eternity.

What did you do with the life Jesus Christ gave you.

This question determines how you spend eternity.

Ok, before we invite our candidates onto the stage and celebrate those being baptized, let's stand and read this final scripture and I want to invite anyone who wants to be baptized to go get in line. Yes, if you want to declare your faith in Jesus Christ, they have a tee shirt for you, you will be celebrated, but more than anything you are entering the family of God through baptism.

Scripture reassures us, *"No one who trusts God like this — heart and soul — will ever regret it. It's exactly the same no matter what a person's religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. "Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help." (Romans 10:13-MSG)*

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

Acts 10

August 17, 2025

^{23b} The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. ²⁴ The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

²⁷ While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸ He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?" (Acts 10-NIV)

When Kenny and Rebekah (chewbeka) were about 8 and 6, Danice and I conspired to send them off to Grandma Shirley's house for a week of fun and love, including eating breakfast on grandma's roof, in Ft Worth, Texas.

Chicken fried steak.

Howdy partner.

Dallas Clownboys.

And a ride on the tarantella train

The plan was simple. We would take Kenny and Rebekah to the Seattle's SeaTac airport, go to the American Airlines actual gate where they boarded the plane, give them to the American Airlines employees and they would put these **oversized lanyards** on them and then we would say "good-bye."

The oversized lanyards told everyone these kids belong to Ken and Danice Squires. Keep your hands off.

Before we left them, we gave them some final advice. Stay in your seat unless biology calls. Stay together and don't talk to strangers. If we said it once, we said it many times.

Then Shirley would drive to Dallas-Ft Worth, Texas airport that evening and pick them up safely and once she had them in her possession, immediately call us and relief us of our anxiety. Letting us know the kids are fine.

No person would think of such a practice today, I can still remember, saying to Danice, “let’s go they will be ok.” As they disappeared down the ramp to enter the plane, away we went.

I held Danice’s hand firmly and kept repeating the same mantra, “they are going to be ok.” We are doing the right thing. Think of all the fun they are going to have without us, think of all the fun we are going to have without them. Hurray for us!

Of course, Danice had her reasons to be worried. Travel can be scary for kids and parents, I might add.

Kids get lost.

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And kids do things that no other **animal** or **person** in God’s creation would ever think of doing. Despite the potential danger we sent them off anyway to the Lone Star state.

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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's house and provide instructions about faith.

Look how far Peter has come: (1) He stayed in the home of a tanner, one who skins animals. (2) He hosted the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then he went to Caesarea to preach Christ and tell Cornelius what he was missing in his faith journey.

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

If this bridge were not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa.

Question: What good would all the healings in the book of Acts, all the deliverances, all the jailings, beatings, and even the death of Stephen have been for, **if the message of Jesus atoning death were not unleashed worldwide.**

What a shallow life, if Peter is stuck in a rut over dietary practices that Jesus has lifted. The real message in the vision is not a dietary one, it is simply, Peter if Gentiles are to join the family of God, you will have to be able to eat at their tables.

By the way, this whole experience is happening in the town of Joppa, do we know anyone else, hint, hint, in the Old Testament who came to Joppa and had a run in with God-Jonah.

God sent Jesus to die and atoning death, and the salvation that Jesus' death offers is for everyone. And Peter, you are the one to carry that message to the Gentiles.

You have to understand we are about 10 years since Pentecost and now, the atoning death of Jesus is finally getting to the Gentiles. Up to this point, the church is almost all Jewish.

Peter gets moving, God is no respecter of persons, and those will be the first words out of Peter's mouth when he gets to the house of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion turned God-fearer.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. (Acts 10-NIV)

There are the fishermen, Jesus called and announced, Peter you are going to leave your fishing business and start to fish for men! Cornelius anticipating Peter's arrival has gathered all of his family and friends and they are packed into his home, probably a large wealthy home, and they are waiting for Peter's arrival.

They might be thinking, what's taking him so long. I'll bet he doesn't show up. Why would a Jew want to waste his time with us. Cornelius tells them, calm down, I had a vision and God showed me Peter will come and tell us about the Messiah Jesus Christ.

This will be the first time Cornelius has met Peter. He only knows about him because of a visitation from an angel - *Suddenly a man in shiny clothes stood before me. Send to Joppa for Simon, who is called Peter. (Acts 10:30-32)*

^{23b-25} The next morning he got up and went with them. Some of his friends from Joppa went along. A day later they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had his relatives and close friends waiting with him.

The minute Peter came through the door, Cornelius was up on his feet greeting him — and then down on his face worshipping him! (Acts 10:23-26-MSG)

Suddenly Cornelius sees Peter for the first time and is awestruck with humility. And begins to worship Peter. If an angel told you to get an apostle, that would be somewhat intimidating.

Cornelius has this emotional moment where he falls down on his face and starts to worship Peter. Cornelius is star struck by Peter.

Look at Peter's reaction, *Peter pulled him up and said, "None of that — I'm a man and only a man, no different from you." (Acts 10:26-MSG)*

Stand up, don't you dare worship me, I am just a man. And I am not different than you. Wow! Peter is starting to get it. We do not worship people.

There is a statue of Peter in St Peter's Basilica, in Vatican City in Rome. This statue was carved and placed in the 13th Century. The statue was made of bronze. Here is a startling fact: All of the toes on Peter's right foot are missing.

You want to know why? After 100's of thousands of pilgrims to the Vatican and bowing at Peter's statue and kissing his feet, the pilgrims have rubbed off his toes. It is still happening today.

- (1) do you know what the solution is: they need a tow truck, that's what they need.
That is a terrible joke.
- (2) Because otherwise Peter would feel very, defeated...oh, so bad.
- (3) Alright, anyway don't kick me out, ok, now I am just being a heel, let's move on.
- (4) Ok, I guess you got the idea, don't worship, Peter, Paul, or Mary.

Don't worship people. Don't venerate people. Don't pray to people. There is one mediator between God and man. And that is Jesus Christ.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5-NIV)

And you and I have direct access to God the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. Not through a pastor. Not through a priest. Only through Jesus Christ.

You have access directly to Jesus. Jesus is our direct access to God. How do we know? Look at what Jesus did. Look at the final 3 insights. They all make up the sermon that Peter preached. I have summarized it.

Peter told those gathered his eyewitness account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Acts 10:34-43)

Jesus Christ is the Savior of all and His life, death and resurrection leads all people to one of two destinies: judgement (10:42) or forgiveness of sins (10:43).

By sending the Holy Spirit upon the home of Cornelius and his family, God sent a clear message to all: Salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

In the end it is really about having our sins forgiven. And placing our faith in Jesus Christ atoning death and empowering work of the Spirit to send you into your world and be Jesus to the needs of hurting people.

Jesus death on the cross was the final payment for our sins.

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12-NIV)

I like to look at it this way, if what scientists say is true about the universe continuing to expand and will do so without limit, then my sins continue to move away from me. If you travel

north and south, you will reach the north or south pole. If you travel east to west Journey toward the east and you will never make it to the west.

East and west have no turning points. And neither does God, his forgiveness is irreversible.

Then there is this verse, *you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depth of the sea. (Micah 7:19b-NIV)*

God hurls our sins into the deepest ocean and puts out a no-fishing sign. Your sins are going glub, glub, glub while you go good-bye sins as you fly away to freedom.

Since today is baptism Sunday, congrats to all who are being baptized. But it is not too late for some of you! One day you will have to answer these two questions. Only 2. If you don't get them right, you are in trouble. He we go.

What did you do with your relationship with Jesus while on earth?

This question determines where you will spend eternity.

What did you do with the life Jesus Christ gave you.

This question determines how you spend eternity.

Ok, before we invite our candidates onto the stage and celebrate those being baptized, let's stand and read this final scripture and I want to invite anyone who wants to be baptized to go get in line. Yes, if you want to declare your faith in Jesus Christ, they have a tee shirt for you, you will be celebrated, but more than anything you are entering the family of God through baptism.

Scripture reassures us, *"No one who trusts God like this — heart and soul — will ever regret it. It's exactly the same no matter what a person's religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. "Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help." (Romans 10:13-MSG)*

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Ken

Acts 10

August 17, 2025

^{23b} The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. ²⁴ The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

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When Kenny and Rebekah (chewbeka) were about 8 and 6, Danice and I conspired to send them off to Grandma Shirley's house for a week of fun and love, including eating breakfast on grandma's roof, in Ft Worth, Texas.

Chicken fried steak.

Howdy partner.

Dallas Clownboys.

And a ride on the tarantella train

The plan was simple. We would take Kenny and Rebekah to the Seattle's SeaTac airport, go to the American Airlines actual gate where they boarded the plane, give them to the American Airlines employees and they would put these **oversized lanyards** on them and then we would say "good-bye."

The oversized lanyards told everyone these kids belong to Ken and Danice Squires. Keep your hands off.

Before we left them, we gave them some final advice. Stay in your seat unless biology calls. Stay together and don't talk to strangers. If we said it once, we said it many times.

Then Shirley would drive to Dallas-Ft Worth, Texas airport that evening and pick them up safely and once she had them in her possession, immediately call us and relief us of our anxiety. Letting us know the kids are fine.

No person would think of such a practice today, I can still remember, saying to Danice, “let’s go they will be ok.” As they disappeared down the ramp to enter the plane, away we went.

I held Danice’s hand firmly and kept repeating the same mantra, “they are going to be ok.” We are doing the right thing. Think of all the fun they are going to have without us, think of all the fun we are going to have without them. Hurray for us!

Of course, Danice had her reasons to be worried. Travel can be scary for kids and parents, I might add.

Kids get lost.

Kids get sick.

And kids do things that no other **animal** or **person** in God’s creation would ever think of doing. Despite the potential danger we sent them off anyway to the Lone Star state.

They had **no phone tracking** back in those days. They had **no cell** phones. We put their names on everything, luggage, collars of shirts, places that if **somehow** this one gets separated maybe they will eventually be reunited. Our goal was to do all we could to announce, “this boy and girl belong to Danice and Ken Squires.”

The lanyard certainly said that. The lanyard said, “hands off.” The lanyard said, “mess with these kids and find yourself in traction.”

I can tell you that Kenny and Rebekah made it safely to Texas and back. They had the time of their lives. Now, we were a bundle of nerves for about 6 hours that day, but we calmed down eventually.

It gives me great joy to tell you: God has done the same with you!

When you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, he took ownership of you personally and has been protecting and providing for you every step along the way.

Jesus lays public claim to you: **This child is mine.**

And you and I need all the protection and provision we can get from our great God. Life can be treacherous. Travel can be dangerous. Sons and daughters can rebel. Sometimes we relapse. The evil one can lure us. God wants the evil one and all of his minions to know,

This child belongs to me. Keep your grubby little hands off.

Daily we go through life with our lanyard on, declaring we belong to God. **Who does God entrust your protection? The Holy Spirit.**

You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. And that seal will last until our final day of redemption when we step into heaven, safe and secure. Here you go Father, this child is yours.

*When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.
(Ephesians 1:13b-NIV)*

A few chapters later God's word adds, *do not grieve the Holy Spirit,
...by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30b-NET)*

Paul was converted to Christ in Acts 9, now years later Paul spoke in the simple past tense, so as to emphasize an **"accomplished event."**

We are not being sealed.

We are not hoping to be sealed.

This once and for all time sealing by the Holy Spirit secures us all the way to heaven.

Oh, I like the **verb** seal. When I was a kid, I collected coins and stamps. I would separate the stamp from an envelope; I would break the seal. The good news of a relationship with Jesus, nothing can break the seal.

Not your badness.

Not your sadness,

...and not even your relapse.

Hey friend, you have to see this with your own eyes! Some of you who wonder, if God thinks you, are too much trouble. In an out of trouble. You are nothing but double trouble.

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8-NIV)

Can you think of another way you might use the idea of sealing. Oh, good, you got it. You twist the jar lids to seal the peanut butter. Seal the pickles. Any other illustrations?

Yes, there you go, you notarize the contract to seal the transaction. Sealing declares ownership and secures the contents. Look at your notes, I want you to see this point.

Sealing declares ownership and secures the contents.

When you seal something, or someone you are declaring, “this one is mine, and it is protected.” Marriage is an act of sealing. When you trusted in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins, put your faith in Christ to keep you, protect you and deliver you to your final destination, you get there safely because you are **sealed by the Holy Spirit**.

Satan might woo you. The opposing team might boo you. Your emotions might blue you. You are cocooned for safe keeping. You and Jesus enjoy the same sealing status. Look at John 6:27-

For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. (John 6:27b-NIV)

Listen carefully. The Greek word to describe both the seal of Jesus and the seal of saint is identical. They are the same word. Twinsees. Hurray for us!

News flash: When God sees you, He does not see your sin. (*Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19, Isaiah 43:25*)

What is the benefit of having the seal of the Holy Spirit, none is better than having our sins forgiven. No probation. No exceptions. No regrets. No reversals. God will not change his mind about you!

*I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more. (Isaiah 43:25-NIV)*

The Holy Spirit expresses his agency and purposes as a teacher, wind, intercessor, to seal, dove, flame, oil, riving of living water, tongues of fire and giver of gifts.

If you have just joined us, we are working our way through the book of Acts. Today we are in chapter 10. Do you realize your best life is living in the power of the Holy Spirit? And the Holy Spirit is referred to over 50 times in the book of Acts.

The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power. Why does God want to give us this power?

The book of Acts is a sequel to Jesus' life, and while Jesus only appears in the first 9 verses, Jesus wants his life and ministry to continue through the life of each of us. So, Acts, is the continuation of what Jesus did and taught in his life, regardless of person and even performance.

Every place Jesus wants to be, in the life of the broken and hurting, he sends you!

Everything Jesus wants to do in the life of an individual such as healing, encouragement, and salvation, he wants to do it through you, so he sends you.

Everything Jesus wants to teach others, he sends you.

So, the purpose of the Holy Spirit in Acts is to extend the life of Jesus, to exalt Jesus and to do that, he sends you. Miss this and your understanding of book of Acts will be fuzzy. Will be blurry.

Let's get Peter out of his trance.

While in a couple chapters, we will have to get him out of jail, here we only have to get him out of a spiritual trance. By the way, the word here for trance, is our word for *ecstasy*. *Amazement*.

Literally the trance "fell down" on Peter. He was out of himself. Peter was having a supernatural divine encounter with God. This was no normal prayer state on the roof of Simon the Tanner, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea at Joppa.

We have left him there since last week. Peter is praying and hungry at the same time. A deadly combination. God used Peter's hunger to change his perspective about who God loves. Who God sent Jesus to die for. Now, Jesus didn't die so we could eat barbecue pork. He died for a much more meaningful purpose than telling Peter the dietary code you have been living, is lifted. It is shifted. In fact, it is discarded.

While Peter is in another reality, a giant sheet with four corners is let down from heaven and settles right in front of him.

On the sheet is some cheeseburgers, lobster bisque. Crab cakes. And a bunch of other assorted animals. Let me invite you to look right at the text with me.

¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 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)

Peter is invited to do something that is repulsive to him and that is to eat food that is non-kosher or food that is forbidden from the standards God set according to the Law of Moses. (Lev 11)

God's goal is - help Peter; see this is just an illustration, just an example of a more important issue. If Peter gets the lesson, he will be God's tool, to build a bridge to the Gentiles.

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 contained in the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was. 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 what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ Peter said, "Oh, no, Lord. I've never so much as tasted food that was not kosher."

¹⁵ The voice came a second time: "If God says it's okay, it's okay."

¹⁶ This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the skies.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ As Peter, puzzled, sat there trying to figure out what it all meant, the men sent by Cornelius showed up at Simon's front door. They called in, asking if there was a Simon, also called Peter, staying there. Peter, lost in thought, didn't hear them, so the Spirit whispered to him, "Three men are knocking at the door looking for you. Get down there and go with them. Don't ask any questions. I sent them to get you." (Acts 10-MSG)

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.

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Peter, stop looking at Gentiles as these dirty sinners who God hates. A Jew prayed every day, "God thank you that you have not made me a women, sinner or Gentile."

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Kids get sick.

And kids do things that no other **animal** or **person** in God’s creation would ever think of doing. Despite the potential danger we sent them off anyway to the Lone Star state.

They had **no phone tracking** back in those days. They had **no cell** phones. We put their names on everything, luggage, collars of shirts, places that if **somehow** this one gets separated maybe they will eventually be reunited. Our goal was to do all we could to announce, “this boy and girl belong to Danice and Ken Squires.”

The lanyard certainly said that. The lanyard said, “hands off.” The lanyard said, “mess with these kids and find yourself in traction.”

I can tell you that Kenny and Rebekah made it safely to Texas and back. They had the time of their lives. Now, we were a bundle of nerves for about 6 hours that day, but we calmed down eventually.

It gives me great joy to tell you: God has done the same with you!

When you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, he took ownership of you personally and has been protecting and providing for you every step along the way.

Jesus lays public claim to you: **This child is mine.**

And you and I need all the protection and provision we can get from our great God. Life can be treacherous. Travel can be dangerous. Sons and daughters can rebel. Sometimes we relapse. The evil one can lure us. God wants the evil one and all of his minions to know,

This child belongs to me. Keep your grubby little hands off.

Daily we go through life with our lanyard on, declaring we belong to God. **Who does God entrust your protection? The Holy Spirit.**

You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. And that seal will last until our final day of redemption when we step into heaven, safe and secure. Here you go Father, this child is yours.

*When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.
(Ephesians 1:13b-NIV)*

A few chapters later God's word adds, *do not grieve the Holy Spirit,
...by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30b-NET)*

Paul was converted to Christ in Acts 9, now years later Paul spoke in the simple past tense, so as to emphasize an **"accomplished event."**

We are not being sealed.

We are not hoping to be sealed.

This once and for all time sealing by the Holy Spirit secures us all the way to heaven.

Oh, I like the **verb** seal. When I was a kid, I collected coins and stamps. I would separate the stamp from an envelope; I would break the seal. The good news of a relationship with Jesus, nothing can break the seal.

Not your badness.

Not your sadness,

...and not even your relapse.

Hey friend, you have to see this with your own eyes! Some of you who wonder, if God thinks you, are too much trouble. In an out of trouble. You are nothing but double trouble.

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8-NIV)

Can you think of another way you might use the idea of sealing. Oh, good, you got it. You twist the jar lids to seal the peanut butter. Seal the pickles. Any other illustrations?

Yes, there you go, you notarize the contract to seal the transaction. Sealing declares ownership and secures the contents. Look at your notes, I want you to see this point.

Sealing declares ownership and secures the contents.

When you seal something, or someone you are declaring, “this one is mine, and it is protected.” Marriage is an act of sealing. When you trusted in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins, put your faith in Christ to keep you, protect you and deliver you to your final destination, you get there safely because you are **sealed by the Holy Spirit**.

Satan might woo you. The opposing team might boo you. Your emotions might blue you. You are cocooned for safe keeping. You and Jesus enjoy the same sealing status. Look at John 6:27-

For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. (John 6:27b-NIV)

Listen carefully. The Greek word to describe both the seal of Jesus and the seal of saint is identical. They are the same word. Twinsees. Hurray for us!

News flash: When God sees you, He does not see your sin. (*Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19, Isaiah 43:25*)

What is the benefit of having the seal of the Holy Spirit, none is better than having our sins forgiven. No probation. No exceptions. No regrets. No reversals. God will not change his mind about you!

*I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more. (Isaiah 43:25-NIV)*

The Holy Spirit expresses his agency and purposes as a teacher, wind, intercessor, to seal, dove, flame, oil, riving of living water, tongues of fire and giver of gifts.

If you have just joined us, we are working our way through the book of Acts. Today we are in chapter 10. Do you realize your best life is living in the power of the Holy Spirit? And the Holy Spirit is referred to over 50 times in the book of Acts.

The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power. Why does God want to give us this power?

The book of Acts is a sequel to Jesus' life, and while Jesus only appears in the first 9 verses, Jesus wants his life and ministry to continue through the life of each of us. So, Acts, is the continuation of what Jesus did and taught in his life, regardless of person and even performance.

Every place Jesus wants to be, in the life of the broken and hurting, he sends you!

Everything Jesus wants to do in the life of an individual such as healing, encouragement, and salvation, he wants to do it through you, so he sends you.

Everything Jesus wants to teach others, he sends you.

So, the purpose of the Holy Spirit in Acts is to extend the life of Jesus, to exalt Jesus and to do that, he sends you. Miss this and your understanding of book of Acts will be fuzzy. Will be blurry.

Let's get Peter out of his trance.

While in a couple chapters, we will have to get him out of jail, here we only have to get him out of a spiritual trance. By the way, the word here for trance, is our word for *ecstasy*. *Amazement*.

Literally the trance "fell down" on Peter. He was out of himself. Peter was having a supernatural divine encounter with God. This was no normal prayer state on the roof of Simon the Tanner, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea at Joppa.

We have left him there since last week. Peter is praying and hungry at the same time. A deadly combination. God used Peter's hunger to change his perspective about who God loves. Who God sent Jesus to die for. Now, Jesus didn't die so we could eat barbecue pork. He died for a much more meaningful purpose than telling Peter the dietary code you have been living, is lifted. It is shifted. In fact, it is discarded.

While Peter is in another reality, a giant sheet with four corners is let down from heaven and settles right in front of him.

On the sheet is some cheeseburgers, lobster bisque. Crab cakes. And a bunch of other assorted animals. Let me invite you to look right at the text with me.

¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 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)

Peter is invited to do something that is repulsive to him and that is to eat food that is non-kosher or food that is forbidden from the standards God set according to the Law of Moses. (Lev 11)

God's goal is - help Peter; see this is just an illustration, just an example of a more important issue. If Peter gets the lesson, he will be God's tool, to build a bridge to the Gentiles.

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 contained in the sheet represent food that is not Kosher. It does not say what the food was. 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 what we are doing is really fighting with God. How's that going?

Look at how Peter's testimony and story unfolds.

¹⁴ Peter said, "Oh, no, Lord. I've never so much as tasted food that was not kosher."

¹⁵ The voice came a second time: "If God says it's okay, it's okay."

¹⁶ This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the skies.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ As Peter, puzzled, sat there trying to figure out what it all meant, the men sent by Cornelius showed up at Simon's front door. They called in, asking if there was a Simon, also called Peter, staying there. Peter, lost in thought, didn't hear them, so the Spirit whispered to him, "Three men are knocking at the door looking for you. Get down there and go with them. Don't ask any questions. I sent them to get you." (Acts 10-MSG)

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.

God wanted Peter to move into a new season of grace or be left behind.

Peter, stop looking at Gentiles as these dirty sinners who God hates. A Jew prayed every day, "God thank you that you have not made me a women, sinner or Gentile."

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's house and provide instructions about faith.

Look how far Peter has come: (1) He stayed in the home of a tanner, one who skins animals. (2) He hosted the guests with a meal and night's stay. (3) Then he went to Caesarea to preach Christ and tell Cornelius what he was missing in his faith journey.

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

If this bridge were not built or crossed by Peter, Jesus' message of salvation to the world, would end before it barely got to Joppa.

Question: What good would all the healings in the book of Acts, all the deliverances, all the jailings, beatings, and even the death of Stephen have been for, **if the message of Jesus atoning death were not unleashed worldwide.**

What a shallow life, if Peter is stuck in a rut over dietary practices that Jesus has lifted. The real message in the vision is not a dietary one, it is simply, Peter if Gentiles are to join the family of God, you will have to be able to eat at their tables.

By the way, this whole experience is happening in the town of Joppa, do we know anyone else, hint, hint, in the Old Testament who came to Joppa and had a run in with God-Jonah.

God sent Jesus to die and atoning death, and the salvation that Jesus' death offers is for everyone. And Peter, you are the one to carry that message to the Gentiles.

You have to understand we are about 10 years since Pentecost and now, the atoning death of Jesus is finally getting to the Gentiles. Up to this point, the church is almost all Jewish.

Peter gets moving, God is no respecter of persons, and those will be the first words out of Peter's mouth when he gets to the house of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion turned God-fearer.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. (Acts 10-NIV)

There are the fishermen, Jesus called and announced, Peter you are going to leave your fishing business and start to fish for men! Cornelius anticipating Peter's arrival has gathered all of his family and friends and they are packed into his home, probably a large wealthy home, and they are waiting for Peter's arrival.

They might be thinking, what's taking him so long. I'll bet he doesn't show up. Why would a Jew want to waste his time with us. Cornelius tells them, calm down, I had a vision and God showed me Peter will come and tell us about the Messiah Jesus Christ.

This will be the first time Cornelius has met Peter. He only knows about him because of a visitation from an angel - *Suddenly a man in shiny clothes stood before me. Send to Joppa for Simon, who is called Peter. (Acts 10:30-32)*

^{23b-25} The next morning he got up and went with them. Some of his friends from Joppa went along. A day later they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had his relatives and close friends waiting with him.

The minute Peter came through the door, Cornelius was up on his feet greeting him — and then down on his face worshipping him! (Acts 10:23-26-MSG)

Suddenly Cornelius sees Peter for the first time and is awestruck with humility. And begins to worship Peter. If an angel told you to get an apostle, that would be somewhat intimidating.

Cornelius has this emotional moment where he falls down on his face and starts to worship Peter. Cornelius is star struck by Peter.

Look at Peter's reaction, *Peter pulled him up and said, "None of that — I'm a man and only a man, no different from you." (Acts 10:26-MSG)*

Stand up, don't you dare worship me, I am just a man. And I am not different than you. Wow! Peter is starting to get it. We do not worship people.

There is a statue of Peter in St Peter's Basilica, in Vatican City in Rome. This statue was carved and placed in the 13th Century. The statue was made of bronze. Here is a startling fact: All of the toes on Peter's right foot are missing.

You want to know why? After 100's of thousands of pilgrims to the Vatican and bowing at Peter's statue and kissing his feet, the pilgrims have rubbed off his toes. It is still happening today.

- (1) do you know what the solution is: they need a tow truck, that's what they need.
That is a terrible joke.
- (2) Because otherwise Peter would feel very, defeated...oh, so bad.
- (3) Alright, anyway don't kick me out, ok, now I am just being a heel, let's move on.
- (4) Ok, I guess you got the idea, don't worship, Peter, Paul, or Mary.

Don't worship people. Don't venerate people. Don't pray to people. There is one mediator between God and man. And that is Jesus Christ.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5-NIV)

And you and I have direct access to God the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. Not through a pastor. Not through a priest. Only through Jesus Christ.

You have access directly to Jesus. Jesus is our direct access to God. How do we know? Look at what Jesus did. Look at the final 3 insights. They all make up the sermon that Peter preached. I have summarized it.

Peter told those gathered his eyewitness account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Acts 10:34-43)

Jesus Christ is the Savior of all and His life, death and resurrection leads all people to one of two destinies: judgement (10:42) or forgiveness of sins (10:43).

By sending the Holy Spirit upon the home of Cornelius and his family, God sent a clear message to all: Salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

In the end it is really about having our sins forgiven. And placing our faith in Jesus Christ atoning death and empowering work of the Spirit to send you into your world and be Jesus to the needs of hurting people.

Jesus death on the cross was the final payment for our sins.

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12-NIV)

I like to look at it this way, if what scientists say is true about the universe continuing to expand and will do so without limit, then my sins continue to move away from me. If you travel

north and south, you will reach the north or south pole. If you travel east to west Journey toward the east and you will never make it to the west.

East and west have no turning points. And neither does God, his forgiveness is irreversible.

Then there is this verse, *you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depth of the sea. (Micah 7:19b-NIV)*

God hurls our sins into the deepest ocean and puts out a no-fishing sign. Your sins are going glub, glub, glub while you go good-bye sins as you fly away to freedom.

Since today is baptism Sunday, congrats to all who are being baptized. But it is not too late for some of you! One day you will have to answer these two questions. Only 2. If you don't get them right, you are in trouble. He we go.

What did you do with your relationship with Jesus while on earth?

This question determines where you will spend eternity.

What did you do with the life Jesus Christ gave you.

This question determines how you spend eternity.

Ok, before we invite our candidates onto the stage and celebrate those being baptized, let's stand and read this final scripture and I want to invite anyone who wants to be baptized to go get in line. Yes, if you want to declare your faith in Jesus Christ, they have a tee shirt for you, you will be celebrated, but more than anything you are entering the family of God through baptism.

Scripture reassures us, *"No one who trusts God like this — heart and soul — will ever regret it. It's exactly the same no matter what a person's religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. "Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help." (Romans 10:13-MSG)*