

UNSTOPPABLE POWER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

“WHY GOD SENDS GOOD PEOPLE TO HELL”

ACTS 10:1-48

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

JANUARY 16, 2022

Introduction: Our study of Acts has led us to a milestone event in the history of the church – the salvation of the first Gentile. As we look at the miraculous story of a centurion named Cornelius, we will discover three truths about how God saves those who have never heard about Jesus Christ.

I. The Context Of Acts 10

Matthew 16:13-19 ¹³ “Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ ¹⁴ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.’ ¹⁵ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.’”

II. Everyone Has A Knowledge Of God (Acts 10:1-8)

Acts 10:1-2 ¹ “Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, ² a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually.”

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- A. **Cornelius Feared the True God**
- B. **Cornelius Prayed and Gave Money to God**
- C. **Cornelius Sought to Know God Personally**

Acts 10:3-6 ³ “About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, ‘Cornelius!’ ⁴ And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, ‘What is it, Lord?’ And he said to him, ‘Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵ Now dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter; ⁶ he is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea.’”

Romans 1:19-21 ¹⁹ “Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

III. **Anyone Who Desires Further Revelation About God Will Receive It** (Acts 10:9-23)

Acts 10:9 “On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.”

Acts 10:15-16 ¹⁵ “Again a voice came to him a second time, ‘What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.’ ¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.”

Colossians 2:16 “Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day —”

Acts 10:22 “They said, ‘Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you.’”

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IV. No One Is Saved Apart From Personal Faith In Jesus Christ (Acts 10:24-48)

A. Peter Meets Cornelius (Acts 10:24-33)

Acts 10:28-29 ²⁸ “And he [Peter] said to them, ‘You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean. ²⁹ That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me.’”

B. Peter Preaches the Gospel (Acts 10:34-43)

Acts 10:42-43 ⁴² “And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

C. Peter Witnesses the Supernatural Results (Acts 10: 44-48)

Acts 10:44-45 ⁴⁴ “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. ⁴⁵ All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.”

Acts 10:47-48 ⁴⁷ “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he? ⁴⁸ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.”

V. Application For Us Today

A. Like Peter, We Must Be Available to Proclaim the Gospel to Others

B. Like Peter, We Must Want to Proclaim the Gospel to Others

Conclusion