

PETER IN ACTS

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In our last study, we made a character study of the apostle Peter. We looked closely at his relationship with Christ. 2 expressions described Simon Peter very well:

ABSOLUTE DEVOTION & DEEP AFFECTION

You remember we said that when Jesus met Simon for the first time, he told him: *“You are Simon, I’m going to call you Peter – a rock.”*

- Simon Peter was called to be a Rock - a fisher of men, an apostle, to receive the keys of the kingdom of heaven, to strengthen his brothers, to feed his lambs and to be a witness...

It was a long process to transform Simon Peter into a Rock...

- It took time and many experiences positive and negative: He first needed to be taught, trained and guided by Jesus; then it took the painful experience of his fall;
- Another important thing that we should not neglect is that when he was forgiven and restored by Jesus, he accepted his forgiveness.

This is a real problem among Christians. They cannot accept their own forgiveness and continue living in guilt, and cannot attain the state of victorious living

But, It was not until Simon personally received the baptism of the Holy Spirit that he became the “rock” fulfilling Jesus’ prophecy.

The 1st part of Acts gives us a detailed record of his work as an apostle.

Again he is shown as the most outstanding apostle. (He is the only apostle mentioned by name-leading in discussion or taking action described in Acts...) *Otherwise, we read the apostles...*

- In Acts 1, he stood up and proposed a replacement for Judas and set the criteria...
- On the day of Pentecost, he was among the first to be baptized with the HS
- He was EMPOWERED by the Holy Spirit
- He is the most outstanding figure in the greatest event after the resurrection—**Pentecost**
- He was empowered to preach the Gospel on that day and led Sinners to repent and believe. As a result, 3000 received Christ as Messiah.* # Ac 2:14
- He was empowered to heal the lame man at the gate of the temple Acts 3- and again he preached an anointed message with the result of 5000 believing.
- When they were arrested and put in prison, Peter boldly defended himself and his companions.
- He was endued with spiritual authority and gifts in dealing with the situation of Ananias & Saphira..
- Then the HS made Peter a channel of blessing in healing the sick (with his shadow?) Acts 5:15,16 – *“the sick and those tormented by evil spirits and all were healed.”*
- When persecuted by jealous Sadducees, He was endued with boldness and wisdom and was miraculously delivered from prison by an angel and back early in the morning in the temple courts, preaching...

When the HS takes hold of our character, returns it into something positive- here we see Peter’s determination...

- When the persecution arose under Stephen, He and the apostles bravely remained with the church giving leadership in this time of darkness.
- When the church heard of the revival in Samaria, Peter & John were sent to investigate and confirm the faith of the new believers.
- Peter & John laid their hands on them & prayed for them to be baptized in the Holy Spirit
- Peter rebuked Simon the sorcerer severely for wanting to buy the gift of the HS.
- They stayed in Samaria long enough to testified and proclaim the word and then they returned to Jerusalem preaching the Gospel in many Samaritan villages...
- Back in Jerusalem, he met Paul for the first time. Paul wrote that among the apostles, he only met Peter and stayed with him for 15 days, then he met briefly with James.
- Then he went on another apostolic tour to visit the churches established in the area of Lydda and Joppa.

- He healed the paralytic Aenas and that brought all those who live in Lydda to the Lord.
- Dorcas was raised from the dead in the same manner as the daughter of Jairus. Again many turned to the Lord.
- Peter stayed in Joppa for some time.
- Probably the most important work after the day of Pentecost was when Peter visited Cornelius in Acts 10...

Today we are not continuing a character study, but we want to understand the importance of His work.

We will focus on Peter's most significant impact of his Apostolic ministry

We also want to understand how the Holy Spirit transformed Peter and used him open the door of the kingdom of God to the gentiles...

But before, let's see how God prepared the event...

BACKGROUND TO STORY - MISSIONARY JOURNEY LED BY GOD

Acts 9:31 (NIV) Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

- We see in the following verses an illustration of that through the apostolic ministry of Peter Acts 9:32 (NIV) As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. 33 There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. 34 "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. 35 All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

- Jesus told Peter: "Feed my lambs, strengthen your brothers..."
- Peter was led by the HS when he travelled and visited the churches;
- He was empowered by the HS, enabling him with the gift of healing that led to "35 All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord."
- Peter's words and method were an echo of the words and method of JC, his master.
- "Arise and make your bed" - get up and take care of your mat...
- Then the brothers in Joppa came in Lydda to beg him come quickly, for a sister had passed away.

Acts 9:38 (NIV) Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" 40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

- Again in the method and words of Peter we see an echo of how Jesus raised Jairus daughter from the dead. "Tabitha cumi"
- As a result, v. 42 ...many believed in the Lord. Peter was the fisher of men, Jesus called him to be.
- Remember the purpose of the book of Acts is to show that everything Jesus began to do and teach, He was still doing it- here through Peter the rock, the apostle.
- The next verse introduces us to our story:

Acts 9:43 (NIV) Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

- Joppa became a place of a new vision for Peter & then to the whole church.

FACTS CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE CHURCH UP TO NOW

- Until now, the Christian church was Hebrew. Christianity was still very much practiced in a way similar to Judaism
- The Apostles were all Hebrews.
- Since Pentecost, church growth was almost exclusively Hebrew
- In Jerusalem the disciples were still worshipping in the temple.
- It is true that the church included Greek-speaking Hebrews, (but they were still Hebrews).
- When Philip reached Samaria and the news came to the apostles "as a great surprise" that Samaria had received the Word. This was the first opening, but the Samaritans were still Israelites with a mixture of paganism and Judaism.
- So, so far, the church had not made any offer of salvation to the Gentiles; for they had the opinion that salvation was strictly for the Jews, the descendants of Abraham.
- Early disciples heard Jesus speak of God as the God of Abraham

- This prejudice prevented them from preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles.
- In Acts 10, we will see in details how God convinced Peter and the church that he accepts both gentiles and Jews.
- From Acts chapter 10, we see a wonderful movement of inclusion—*God will give the keys of the kingdom to Peter* & the door will be opened to the gentiles for the first time to enter the church.
- The conversion of Cornelius and his household was the greatest controversy to hit the church. It could very easily have divided it.

PETER

We will see how God worked in two different places to fulfill his larger plan of redemption. *God's ways are so much higher than our ways... & plans*

Acts 10:9 (NIV) About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. 10 He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 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 of the earth and birds of the air.

13 Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." 14 "*Surely not, Lord!*" Peter replied. "*I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.*"

15 The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

16 This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

17 While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. 18 They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

19 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you.

20 So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

- Even though at Pentecost, Peter interpreted the OT prophecy, saying that God was pouring out his Spirit upon "all flesh".
- In the same sermon, he also said that the promise of the Spirit was "**for all who are far off**," plainly including the Gentiles

It is clear that he still did not fully understand the meaning of it and its application.

- You see Peter was still a Hebrew born of Hebrew parents with strong prejudice.

SO JOPPA WILL BE A PLACE OF NEW VISION

V. 10 He fell into a trance - A state in which the soul can perceive things beyond the reach of the natural senses

- The Bible says nothing of the condition into which Peter fell during this vision.
- V. 11 (the important point is not the trance, but the vision and its application)
- God was about to open Peter's eyes to the truth that "*Every creature of God is good (to eat); and nothing is to be rejected, if it be received with thanksgiving....*" (1 Timothy 4:4)
- V. 14 Peter was still the same man. The Hebrew Peter reacted to the vision, saying "*Surely not, Lord!*" ... "*I have never eaten anything unclean*".
- Peter needed a transformation of mind in order to understand God's global plan of redemption.
- V. 15 ... "**What God has cleansed you must not call common** [declare profane, defiled, unclean in the sense of not being usable by God]."

V. 17 While Peter was very perplexed about the meaning of the vision - Peter's vision needed an interpretation. What was he supposed to do now?

- The Spirit spoke to him: "*There are 3 men looking for you... Don't hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.*"
- Peter must have been shocked when he opened the door and saw 3 gentiles at his door (two servants and a soldier) (Acts 10:7).
- The idea that God could send and use Gentiles was entirely new to Peter.
- He probably wondered why God told him to go with them and why God had sent them.
- All Peter needed to know was that the Spirit said, *I have sent them, Go with them...*

Acts 10:21 (NKJV) Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, "Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?"

22 And they said, "Cornelius [the] centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear

words from you." 23 Then he invited them in and lodged [them]. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

- V. 21-23- Peter asked the men **"For what reason have you come?"**

Peter was invited to the house of Cornelius, who needed to hear words from him.

Of course, this was an invitation Peter couldn't pass up - or could he?

- A Gentile - worse yet, an officer in the Roman army - wanted to hear the gospel from Peter. Peter has never done anything like this before! How will he respond?

23 Then he invited them in and lodged [them].

- We can see the change in Peter's heart by the way he invited them in and lodged them. Lodged them is literally *"to entertain as a guest."*

"Centuries ago another Jew had come to Joppa with a message from his God for the gentiles.

Jonah, the prophet, took a ship from Joppa and disobeyed the divine call." (Gaebelein)

Peter was willing to go against customs and prejudice to follow God's revelation...

Are you a Jonah or a Peter?

THE VISIT TO CORNELIUS HOUSE

V. 23 He took some brethren along to accompany him

- Peter took the precaution of taking witnesses with him.
- Peter knew that going to visit a Gentile's home could lead to serious misunderstandings and disputes.
- Peter is showing maturity in his leadership. He wanted every word and act to be certified by competent witnesses.
- *When the HS guides someone, it doesn't take away the responsibility to act prudently in all things.*

PETER EXPLAIN WHY HE CAME

Acts 10:27 (NIV) 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 a Gentile or visit him. **But God has shown me** that I should not call any man impure or unclean.

29 So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. *May I ask why you sent for me?"*

"Peter went inside" –is one of the shortest, yet most important passages of this section.

- Peter's introduction was probably spoken as much for the brethren who were with him as it was for the benefit of the people gathered.
- Though still with his Hebrew mentality, and not yet fully understanding everything that is going on, he shows that his mind is open and that the old prejudice is melting away.
- In saying: **"But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean."** Peter makes clear that now he understands that the vision of the great sheet was about people, not food.
- *He has learned the lesson of the vision. His heart and mind are being changed as he sees what is really happening around him, he progressively grasps what God wants to do through him.*

He still needs to assert the situation: **"May I ask why you sent for me?"**

- From verse 30-33, Cornelius explains himself and concludes: **"...and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."**
- Peter's vision needed interpretation... Here it comes...
- Two men, 30 miles apart, received each a vision. They had to be brought together in order to understand fully the meaning of their vision.
- *Cornelius' experience explained to Peter the meaning of his vision.*
- *When Peter came in the house and saw all the things there, he understood the vision.*
- Peter's visit and message will explain to Cornelius the meaning and reason of the angel's visit.

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

36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

- This declaration that God's salvation was available to people of "every nation" was a new element never found in Peter's previous sermon.
- Peter's entire speech, as recorded here, requires only fifty-eight seconds to be read aloud
- **V. 34 "I now perceive or realize"** For the first time in history, this truth is being understood, preached and applied...
- Salvation and acceptance by God are not for Jews only...
- V. 36- Even if the word was sent to Israel first, **"Jesus Christ is the Lord of All..."**

Acts 10:35 "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. (NKJV) God accepts men from every nation. Aren't we glad?"

V. 35 MIGHT RAISE A FEW QUESTIONS...

Many of us have heard people asking: "What happens to those in far away land that never heard about Jesus?" How can they be saved?

Can people be saved through works of righteousness?

- Verse 35 combined with Cornelius experience may help us answer some of these questions.

CORNELIUS

- Was Cornelius saved by his righteous works?
- His religious background

Acts 10:1 (NIV) At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. 2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

3 One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" 4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.

- Cornelius saw a vision, (a clear manifestation-phaneros-openly)
- The angel knew his name and gave him very clear and specific instructions.
- That vision was clear. It didn't need any explanation or symbolic interpretation.

The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

5 Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. 6 He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea." "He will tell you what you must do."

THE ANGEL WORDS REVEALS HIS SPIRITUAL STATE

- What was Cornelius prayer? What was he asking the Lord?
- In V. 6 Certain manuscripts add: "...He will tell you what you must do."

Acts 10:6 (NKJV) "He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do."

Acts 11:14 (NKJV) 'who will tell you words [rhema] by which you and all your household will be saved.'

- Cornelius was in a spiritual crisis (a state in which he was seeking how to be saved, to be right with God, to have peace with God), He was looking for the true meaning of life...
- Sometimes a spiritual crisis comes progressively
- Sometimes a spiritual crisis comes when confronted by sudden events (death, chronic disease)
- Sometimes a spiritual crisis comes when confronted by the Gospel.

Cornelius quickly trusted and obeyed the words of the angel. He didn't postpone it until later, trying to find out or reason any other way from his own doing...

GOD'S FOREKNOWLEDGE

Roma 8:29 (NIV) For those God foreknew he also predestined [determined in advance] to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

3 important expressions:

1. Those God foreknow
2. Determined in advance
3. He also called

One thing we learn about God is that he is OMNISCIENT. He knows everything. Since he is also eternal, he knows things from an eternal perspective. He knows things past and things future.

Here in Rom 8:29, we read that God knows people in advance. God has determined in advance a plan, a unique way of salvation for all men—*Through believing that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, we may receive eternal life in his name.*

- Acts 10:34 says that God shows no favoritism for a particular nation.
- *Acts 10:35 says that in every nation, if there are people who fear the Lord and by their way of life show that they seek God and they really are concerned about immortality and being right with God, God will not exclude them, but he will find the right way to have the truth of the gospel reach out to them.*
- It also confirms by other scriptures...

Roma 2:6 (NIV) God "will give to each person according to what he has done." 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

Jere 29:13 (NIV) You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Hebr 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

- I cannot explain it, but I know that God is impartial.
- He knows every man inside-out, their past and future.
- He is the Supreme judge of all conscience and motives.
- In his infinite mercy, goodness, power and wisdom, God knows how to reach out to every individual who earnestly seeks him.

(This is very clear in Cornelius experience)

V. 4 "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God."

God sent him an angel with specific instructions. In doing this, God acknowledged his prayers and his charity, and his attitude toward God.

How can we build a memorial for God? Something that will remain after us?

- Are good deeds enough to build a memorial before God?
- Someone said that "*Cornelius was a do-gooder*";
- But there is a great distinction between Cornelius and most "*do-gooders*" today.
- The first difference is this: Cornelius did alms with his own money, as where many "charitable organizations" practice all their charities by spending other people's money, not their own.

The **true memorial** which ascends into the presence of the Father in heaven is made up of the prayers and alms of those who loved God and seek to know and do his will. (a God-fearing heart

A **big question** comes to mind, "*Why did not the angel himself tell Cornelius what to do to be saved?*" The purpose of Cornelius' for asking Peter to come was to speak words "*by which which you and all your household will be saved*" (Acts 11:14);

- Jesus committed this task to man— He committed to the apostles, and to the church, the word of reconciliation (1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18,19; 1 Tim. 3:15; and 2 Tim. 2:2).
- God generally does not use vision, but he can and he does when he wants.
- Generally, now, he uses his body on earth—the church anointed in the power of the HS equipped with the spiritual gifts.
- That's why he commissioned us to go into the entire world and preached the gospel to every ethnic group...

THE GOSPEL

Acts 10:37-43 (NIV) You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached-- 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

39 "We are **witnesses** of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.

41 He was not seen by all the people, but by **witnesses** whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to **testify** that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

- Peter's sermon was short, but complete

V. 37, 38 He assumed that they already knew about Jesus, so he gives a very good summary of who Jesus was and what he did.

V. 39, 40 He affirms his spiritual authority as witnesses of everything he did, of his death and his resurrection

V. 41, 42 He affirms that they were specially chosen to see Jesus alive after his resurrection and he was not seen by all the people. **Why?** Salvation is obtained by faith.

- He was commanded to preach and testify that Jesus is appointed to be the judge of all. (the element of JUDGMENT is included)

V. 43 The brief sermon concludes with **God's promise of salvation**: Whoever believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins in his name.

- Note it carefully: Whoever believes! Jew or Gentile! Black or white! Rich or poor!

(44-48) GOD-FEARING GENTILES ARE SAVED , FILLED WITH THE HS, AND BAPTIZED .

Acts 10:44 (NIV) While Peter was still speaking these words; the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God Then Peter said, 47 "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

- The HS shows us that they have believed in Jesus Christ in their heart.
- The moment of a person's salvation isn't necessarily when they raise a hand or come forward at an evangelistic invitation. It is at the moment they surrender to God and embrace Jesus in the sincerity of their hearts. (*Raising a hand or coming forward is only means of helping people to publicly confess their faith*)
- **The Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word . . . they heard them speak in tongues and praising God:**
- Their Baptism in the Holy Spirit came with the demonstration of speaking in tongues.
- This was a filling with the Holy Spirit in two ways.
 1. First, in the sense that He indwells and abides in every believer.
 2. Second, in the sense of a special empowering with gifts and graces from the Holy Spirit.
 - There are 2 practices of the speaking in tongues.

Here we have a good example of where they spoke with tongues, when they worshipped and magnified God, not to teach men (Gift of tongue with the gift of interpretation). The audience was God, not man, as is consistent with the principle of 1 Corinthians 14:2.]

- Another point to clarify is that salvation is an experience that is independent of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- You are saved by faith in Jesus. You receive the HS in your heart when you're born again.
- The baptism of the HS is called the gift of the father and is another blessing to equip you with power to preach and minister.
- There are no classes of spirituality in the church- first class-baptize and 2nd class not baptize
- If you don't have it, but you have Jesus - Rejoice in your salvation- you are not less saved, but you should seek to be baptized in the HS, because it is scriptural.
- The outpouring here was like that on Pentecost (Acts 11:15)
- Peter makes clear that they have received the Holy Spirit just as they had.

The clear intention was to confirm the reception of Gentiles into the church of Jesus Christ and to Show that God was loving and blessing the Gentiles just as He loved and blessed the Jews, and He did it while they were still Gentiles!

QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM

48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ

- Therefore the *baptism of the Spirit* did not take the place of the *baptism by water*.
- The baptism in water did not save them. Instead, their baptism recognized the salvation they had already received.
- There is no regulated order in receiving either the baptism in water or the baptism in the Spirit

Verse 48. *To be baptized in the name of the Lord.*

Baptized in the name of Jesus Christ; implied their *public profession of Christianity*, as they believed in Christ Jesus as their Saviour and Lord; for. They professed to be his disciples and followers.

- **Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.**
They felt the necessity of more instruction, and asked him to continue his ministry a little longer among them;
- This was the beginning of the new Christian Church, as Jesus intended it to be, composed of Jews and Gentiles, partaking of the same baptism, united under the same *Head*, made partakers of the same Spirit, and members in the same body.
- Now was the middle wall of partition broken down, and the Gentiles admitted to the same privileges with the Jews

After he returned to Jerusalem from Joppa, he had to defend his conduct in front of the brothers in Jerusalem. CHAPTER 11

"You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"

- how wise it was of Peter to take six witnesses with him to Caesarea and his meeting with Cornelius (Acts 10:23; 11:12).

2. (4-15) Peter explains his ministry to the Gentiles.

c. The conclusion is important: "The Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning" shows that God's endorsement was on this ministry to the Gentiles.

3. (16-18) Peter quoted the words of Jesus about the baptism of the HS.

"Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If therefore God gave them the same gift as *He gave us* when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?" When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

- **Peter** because of his intimacy with his Lord was able to submit to the leading of the Spirit and move along with God in the same direction.

His ministry was a true work of the Spirit

- There are many today who look at some work or manifestation and say, "look what God is doing."
- But activity and manifestation isn't enough to validated a work of God. It must also be in line with God's Word. This work among the Gentiles passed both tests.

This ministry at Cornelius house was the crown of Peter's ministry.

- Immediately after this, we read beginning in Acts 11:19 about the great revival in Antioch.

Acts 11:20 (NIV) Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.

21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

- The Church in Antioch grew as a result of Peter's apostolic ministry.
- From that time on Gentiles turned to the Lord.

- Then we find him put in prison by king Herod Agrippa, but in the night an angel of the Lord open the prison gates. He went to find refuge in the house of Mary.
- His miraculous deliverance marks the close of Peter's recorded history.
- From that time Peter probably continued his apostolic ministry...
- He took part in the deliberations of the council in Jerusalem in Acts 15.
- He probably traveled as far as Corinth and maybe Rome.
- We have 1st and 2nd Peter written by him.
- The church has a lot to learn from and to be thankful for Peter's ministry.
- The first look into NT's preaching and the greatest sermons content come from Peter.

He was God's instrument to open the door of faith to both Jews and Gentiles.