

Name: _____

Date: _____

PETER'S MINISTRY TO THE GENTILES

"He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?'" (Acts 19:2a)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God's Will</i>	The gift of salvation is also for Gentiles. The evidence of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. Water baptism is necessary for the remission of sins.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God's salvation is for all; He shows no partiality.
<i>Good Work</i>	Show no partiality in preaching the gospel; study and understand the doctrine of the Holy Spirit; and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

A. Cornelius Calls for Peter (Acts 10:7–33)

The vision God sent to Peter in addition to His instructions clearly indicated God's wishes. Peter, despite the customs he had followed his entire life, obeyed without hesitation. Even though Cornelius was a Gentile, Peter refused to let Cornelius worship him, and treated him as an equal.

B. Peter Preaches to Cornelius and His Household (Acts 10:34–43)

Although Peter strictly abided by Jewish laws and traditions, when it came to choosing between custom and God's will, he immediately followed God's will. Our own biases are often a result of ignorance or indifference to those who are not like us. Other times, our bias is because of our ego. When we believe ourselves to be better than others in any way, we forget that everything we have comes from God (1 Cor 4:7).

C. The Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44–48)

There are many other beliefs regarding the Holy Spirit, but by studying examples from the Bible, we know that speaking in tongues is evidence of His presence. We also know that being baptized in both water and the Spirit is necessary for salvation, even for a good person such as Cornelius.

D. Peter's Defense Before the Jewish Brothers (Acts 11:1–18)

Peter's defense of Cornelius and the acceptance by the Jerusalem brethren shows us that following God's will requires setting aside our own expectations and seeking out the path that God wants us to follow. This means learning to avoid partiality, thoroughly studying God's word, and praying for His wisdom.

Life Application

- 1. *Treat Everybody Equally:*** It is critical that we have a firm foundation in biblical knowledge and spiritual wisdom so that we do not act on our biases or stereotypical beliefs. All people are created by God, and it is God's will that all men be saved (1 Tim 2:4). Who are we to favor some while disliking others?
- 2. *Recognize the Holy Spirit:*** The Bible describes the Holy Spirit as something that you can "see and hear" (Acts 2:33), and the Acts of the Apostles teaches us clearly that the sign of receiving the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues.
- 3. *Pray to God for the Fullness of the Holy Spirit:*** Pursuing the fullness of the Holy Spirit is a lifelong process in which we must submit completely to the direction of the Holy Spirit so that we continually walk according to God's will (Gal 5:16; Rom 8:1, 5).

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Lesson 5 Homework Assignment

Peter's Ministry to the Gentiles

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Acts 19:2a):

1. What does Paul's question in Acts 19:2 tell us about how one receives the Holy Spirit?
2. What was the Jewish custom regarding interacting with Gentiles? How did Peter react to God's instruction to go to Cornelius?
3. What are two reasons we often show partiality to certain people or groups of people?
4. How did those present know that the Holy Spirit had truly descended upon the Gentiles?
5. What attitude should we have in order to make the correct decisions for the church?
6. Have you ever treated someone with partiality? How can you avoid this in the future?