

Subject	Lessons from Acts Series	4410
		Acts 2
Title	7 Lessons from Acts 10	
Proposition	To study Acts 10.	
Objective	To consider seven lessons which Acts 10 helps me to consider and appreciate and apply in my own life.	

7 Lessons from Acts 10

Introduction:

1. This chapter tells about the visions of TWO MEN.
2. It was God's plan that the saving message would be delivered **FROM man TO man.**
 - 1) Cornelius received a vision from the Lord toward the end of getting him to send after God's messenger.
 - 2) Peter received a vision from the Lord toward the end of being helpful when he was sent for by a Gentile.
3. The beautiful attitude of Cornelius is seen in that he immediately did what he was told to do and he waited for the coming of Peter with his kinsmen and near friends.
 - 1) He told Peter for what reason they were waiting.
 - 2) Acts 10:33 **Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.**
4. Peter's great statement of verses 34-35 should cause all of our hearts to rejoice—Acts 10:34-35 **Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: (35) But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.**
5. Peter preaches Jesus to the assembled ones at Cornelius' household and a very SPECIAL SIGN is presented to SANCTION and express the approval of the Lord over what was happening.
 - 1) The Holy Spirit fell on them and they spoke in tongues and magnified God—Acts 10:46 **For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,**
 - 2) Of course, this sign made it QUITE OBVIOUS that salvation could not be withheld from these Gentiles.
 - 3) They were baptized in the name of the Lord.

DISCUSSION: Acts 10 Helps me in that it—

I. Tells about a very SIGNIFICANT conversion (Acts 10; 11.1-18).

1. The amount of space Luke devotes to giving the account of this conversion suggests HOW VERY IMPORTANT it was (Acts 10.1-48; 11.1-18). 66 verses.
2. It was in the conversion of this Roman centurion that God made PERFECTLY CLEAR His intentions with regard to the Gentiles!
3. It is TRUE that other Gentiles had been saved prior to this.

- 1) But that was Gentiles who had become Jews through the process of becoming a proselyte to Judaism.
- 2) First, become a Jew, then a Christian was what had been done.
4. The baptism of Cornelius was bringing that concept to an end.
 - 1) It is certainly true that certain Christians of a Jewish background were very SLOW in coming to that realization.
 - 2) There was a LOT of opposition among the group of Judaizing teachers with whom Paul had so much trouble.
 - 3) Galatians 3:25-29 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. (26) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (29) And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
 - 4) But when we get to Acts 15, a special meeting helped further to make ABSOLUTELY CLEAR such a position was not approved of God.
5. Acts 10 is such an important chapter because it demonstrates that the Lord died for all men and desires the salvation of ALL men!

Acts 10 Helps me in that it—

II. Demonstrates so clearly that a man of really good character is still LOST without obeying the gospel (10.2).

Acts 10:2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

1. The description of Cornelius causes you to want to shake his hand and pat him on the back.
2. He was truly a good person.
3. You and I know so many people who are just like Cornelius—a really good person, and yet they have a problem, and that problem is SIN.
4. There is no way for goodness to deal with the sin problem of mankind!
5. The only way that sin can be dealt with is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ!
6. This is why Ananias had a very specific message for Saul of Tarsus— Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
7. Cornelius was a really good man, but he was a lost man, in need of a message from God.
 - 1) He was instructed to call for Simon, whose surname is Peter.
 - 2) And Simon, whose surname was Peter, would come and tell him WHAT HE OUGHT TO DO (v. 6).

Acts 10 Helps me in that it—

III. Shows that the system of Patriarchy continued on until the gospel was preached to the Gentiles (Acts 10.4).

Acts 10:4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

1. A. G. Freed is famous for the chart he drew regarding how God dealt with the Gentiles.
2. In his chart he has the system of Patriarch lasting until Acts 10.
 - 1) I, personally, agree with what brother Freed was saying.
 - 2) The gospel, up until Acts 10, had not been proclaimed to the Gentiles.
 - 3) I believe that Cornelius could have rejected the words that Peter presented to him and he would have found himself in a LOST condition from that point forward.
3. However, verse 4 indicates that he was in speaking terms with God already when Peter came to him with a message he would be required to respond to.
4. His prayers were heard by God.
5. Under Patriarchy, God dealt with heads of families.
6. Under the Mosaic Law, God spoke to a chosen people and gave them a Law.
7. Gentiles were excluded from that law.
8. Now there was a universal law which had to be obeyed by ALL men, including the Gentiles.
 - 1) Cornelius was the first to receive that message.
 - 2) Thankfully, he had the good sense to respond positively to that message!

Acts 10 Helps me in that it—

IV. Tells me what men OUGHT TO DO (10.6).

Acts 10:6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

1. Take a look at the word: OUGHTEST here.
 - 1) 71.34 δεῖν^a: to be that which must necessarily take place¹.
 - 2) Of course, it is assumed that Cornelius **WANTS** what is being offered: THE APPROVAL OF THE GOD HE HAS BEEN PRAYING TO.
 - 3) He will be told words that will guide him into the approval of the God he seeks to please!
2. Do you realize that God is arranging for the Apostle Peter to go to Cornelius to tell him...
 - 1) THE VERY MOST IMPORTANT thing any person can tell another person?
 - 2) He will tell Cornelius what he must do to be saved from sin and live eternally with God!
 - 3) The beautiful words Cornelius spoke to Peter when he arrived are classic: Acts 10:33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

¹ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 671.

- 1- Now, some people today want us to believe that man cannot do anything to be saved.
- 2- That Christ did it all.
- 3- This passage is a strong denial of that concept.
- 4- There were things **GOD COMMANDED** which Cornelius and others were wanting to hear!
- 4) Cornelius had a **TRUE** and **GENUINE** love for God and for the souls of men.
 - 1- How do we know this?
 - 2- Notice verse 24... Acts 10:24 **And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.**
3. It does not matter what ANY man says, God does have commands.
4. If we are the friend of someone (or even just an acquaintance), the very finest thing we can do for that friend is to do what Peter did for Cornelius.
5. There are things men **OUGHT** to do—they are revealed in Scripture—we need to tell others!

Acts 10 Helps me in that it—

V. Gives me a better understanding of the meaning of the word: LORD (10.14).

Acts 10:14 **But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.**

1. Peter was quite well aware **TO WHOM** he was speaking when he responded to the command: **KILL AND EAT.**
2. Yet, he told **THE LORD: NOT SO, LORD.**
 - 1) I want to point out to all of us, it is entirely **INAPPROPRIATE** to use that combination of words!!!
 - 2) You cannot fully understand the meaning of the word **LORD**, and at the same time call someone **LORD** and say **NO.**
 - 3) To have a **LORD** is to have someone to whom you are obedient—Someone to Whom you say **YES** every single time.
 - 4) He is not your **LORD** if you choose to disobey Him!
 - 5) Peter was highly inconsistent with his choice of words when he said to **HIS LORD, NOT SO!!!**
3. God has spoken to you and me through the written word.
 - 1) He has given to us certain commands.
 - 2) In one of my Bibles, I have every command highlighted in **RED.**
 - 3) It is a totally confused and inappropriate thing for me to see a command in Scripture and then in my own mind to say: **WELL, I DON'T THINK I WILL OBEY!**
 - 4) Yet, how many times do we hear (or know of) people reading things from Scripture and saying: *I see what it says, but I think God wants me to do otherwise???*
4. Jesus is **ONLY** the **LORD** to those who obey Him!!!

Acts 10 Helps me in that it—

Vi. Improves my understanding of HERMENEUTICS (Acts 10.23).

Acts 10:23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

1. Acts 10.23 speaks of CERTAIN brethren from Joppa going with Peter to Cornelius' house.
2. If I search just a little bit further, I will find out the EXACT number of those CERTAIN brethren who went with Peter.
3. Acts 11:12 *And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house: The number was SIX.*
4. What I can learn here is that sometimes in some other part of Scripture more is revealed about the very passage I am studying.
5. The Bible is ONE BOOK.
 - 1) The Bible deals with very many topics.
 - 2) If I have a topic I wish to study, I should make every effort to search the Scriptures to see ALL that God's Book says about that given topic.
 - 3) There is such a thing as IMMEDIATE CONTEXT, i.e., the verses immediately surrounding the text I am studying.
 - 4) There is REMOTE CONTEXT, which would include other passages in the Bible that deal with the same matter.
 - 5) I have not fully studied any Bible topic until I have searched to see if more has been revealed about the topic or passage in some other Bible passage!
6. There are so many RICH BLESSINGS to be had when we put forth the effort to learn all that God has revealed on any given topic or text.
7. Acts 10 talks about CERTAIN brethren accompanying Peter to Caesarea.
 - 1) This was such a strange thing for any Jew to do—enter into the home of a Gentile.
 - 2) Peter had some explaining to do after he taught Cornelius and his household.
 - 3) Acts 11 gives the record of Peter's report to his Jewish brethren.
 - 4) Thankfully, Peter's detailed explanation was understood and everyone took the correct message from the event.
 - 5) Acts 11:18 *When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*
 - 6) In the report Peter gave, we learn about the small detail of how MANY brethren accompanied him to Cornelius' house.
 - 7) How much enlightenment from Scripture do we MISS OUT ON by not searching to see if something else has been revealed???

Acts 10 Helps me in that it—

VII. Reveals something about Holy Spirit Baptism (10.44).

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

1. What exactly is this that happened—what happened when the Holy Spirit fell on those who heard the word?
2. The question is often discussed: **DID CORNELIUS AND HIS HOUSEHOLD RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**
3. Personally, I say NO!, but this is not a widely held view among our brethren.
 - 1) Many years ago I read an article written by Graham Cain in *THE DEFENDER*, April 1995.
 - 2) I was very impressed with his reasoning and have never seen anything to convince me otherwise.
4. He made a list of what actually happened as recorded in Acts 10 and 11 at Cornelius' house and later as Peter explains why he did what he did...
 - 1) Peter spoke to them (10.34-43).
 - 2) While he was speaking the Holy Spirit fell on those who heard the word (10.44).
 - 3) Astonishment was the result: “because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit” (10.45).
 - 4) The Jews knew that the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles because: **THEY HEARD THEM SPEAK WITH TONGUES (10.46).**
 - 5) Peter stated that this amazing development caused him to remember something—Acts 11:16 **Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.**
 - 6) Peter went on to explain and defend his actions in this matter by saying: Acts 11:17 **Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?**
 - 1- We are usually advised at this point that the expression **LIKE GIFT** means: **EXACTLY THE SAME GIFT IN EXTENT AND FULLNESS**
 - 2- Question: What **EXACTLY** was the gift?
 - 3- It was, of course, the ability to speak in tongues.
 - 4- What else? *Nothing.*
 - 5- Then to what did verse 16 refer?
 - 6- Evidently it reminded Peter of Pentecost when this same, **EXACT** gift of tongues was that which was poured out upon the apostles, causing great excitement and attention among the people who saw it.
 - 7- These, then, received exactly the same gift (speaking with tongues) that the apostles received in Acts 2.4.
 - 8- **FURTHER QUESTIONS:**
 - 1] Was there a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind (Acts 2.2)? **NO**
 - 2] Did cloven tongues like as of fire appear and set upon each of them (2.3)? **NO**

- 3] Were those of the household of Cornelius from henceforth **GUIDED INTO ALL TRUTH** (Jn 16.13)? **NO**
- 4] Did the Comforter teach them all things (John 14.26)? **NO**
- 5] Did all of the (or any part of them) have the power to perform miracles? To impart the Holy Spirit on others in any way by the laying on of their hands? **NO**
- 9- In both cases the Spirit was **POURED OUT** directly from God, but that, apparently, was what it took to convince the Jewish mind that Gentiles were **INCLUDED** in the gospel of God's grace!
- 10- This was the way God bore witness to them as Peter explained in Acts 15.8 at the council in Jerusalem.
- 7) Brother Cain suggests: *LOOK AT THE DUCK.*
 - 1- We have long known that when we see a feathered creature which looks, walks, and quacks like a duck we have just about a 100% chance of being correct when we conclude that it, in fact, **IS** a duck.
 - 2- Using this idea, we can examine the things that transpired on these two occasions (Acts 2 and Acts 10). *They did NOT.*
- 8) Look the same,
 - 1- Sound the same.
 - 2- Produce the same.
- 9) How, then, can we insist that they **WERE THE SAME?**
 - 1- Speaking in tongues is **NOT** Holy Spirit baptism in the same way that a **QUACK** is not a **DUCK**.
 - 2- Each is an element, or a constituent part of the whole.
- 10) To **CONCLUDE...**
 - 1- The Bible does **NOT** say they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 - 2- Their subsequent actions do not (by silence of the Bible) indicate they were.
 - 3- These are not things that have to do with our salvation.
 - 4- They are questions of interest, however.
 - 5- They might possibly help us by stimulating and sharpening our skills in interpretation of the Bible text.
 - 6- Anything that will prompt us to a deeper study of the Holy Scriptures is always beneficial.

Conclusion:

1. So the 48 verses of Acts 10 have much to challenge our interest and steadfast study.
2. Let's continue to learn lessons from our **HISTORY BOOK**.