

Back To Basics

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THE GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL

Johnie Edwards

The apostle Paul put the gospel of Christ in a nutshell when he wrote, “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ **died** for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was **buried**, and that he **arose** again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

1) **THE POWER OF GOD TO SAVE.** The gospel of Christ is the power of God to save sinners. Paul penned, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...” (Rom. 1:16). The gospel contains facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed, and promises to enjoy. Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...” (Mk. 16:16). Believing that Jesus is the Son of God, believing the gospel, which includes believing “that God hath raised him from the dead” (Rom. 10:9), are facts to be believed. Repenting of past sins, confessing one’s faith in Christ and being baptized are commands to be obeyed (Acts 17:30; Mt. 10:32; Acts 2:38). Salvation from past sins and eternal salvation, if faithful, are promises to be enjoyed (1 Jn. 2:25; Rev.

2:10). No wonder Paul could tell the Corinthians, “...I declare unto you the gospel, by which also ye are saved” (1 Cor. 15:1-2).

2) **THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST.** The great thing about Christ, His life, His death, and His resurrection is His ascension back to His Father. In fact, all of this would be without meaning, had Jesus not ascended to heaven to occupy His throne (Eph. 4:8-9; Acts 2:30-34).

Christ was given a great position, at His ascension. A careful reading of Ephesians 1:19-23 will teach us that when Christ ascended, He was set at the Father’s right hand in the heavenly places, given a name above all names, and made the head of the church.

At His ascension, Christ was made High Priest. Christ could not have been priest on earth (Heb. 8:4; 7:14), because of law teaching about priests. At His ascension, He became High Priest (Heb. 4:15). Thus, He is our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).

Christ was made King, at His ascension. He was given a kingdom when He came to the Ancient of days (Dan. 7:13-14; Acts 1:9-11), made to reign as “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Rev. 17:14).



THE SOWER'S SEED

Basic Sermon Starters

"HE THAT GOETH FORTH AND WEEPETH, BEARING PRECIOUS SEED, SHALL DOUBTLESS COME AGAIN WITH REJOICING, BRINGING HIS SHEAVES WITH HIM."

SOME WHO CANNOT PLEASE GOD

Introduction

1. Our chief desire must be to please God (Col. 1:10; 1 Th. 4:1; 1 Jn. 3:22).
2. The Bible records some who pleased God and those with whom God was not pleased (Heb. 11:5; 1 Cor. 10:5).
3. Let's look at some who cannot please God.

Discussion

I. FOLKS WITHOUT FAITH

- A. Hebrews 11:6
- B. John 8:24
- C. Faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17).

II. THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH

- A. Romans 8:8
- B. There are two groups of people: the fleshly and the spiritual (Rom. 8:1-14).
- C. Discuss Galatians 5:16-25.

III. CHILDREN WHO DISOBEY THEIR PARENTS

- A. Colossians 3:20
- B. Ephesians 6:1-3

- C. The law taught respect for parental authority (Ex. 20:12; Lev. 19:3; Dt. 21:18-21).

IV. INDIVIDUALS WHO PLEASE THEMSELVES

- A. Romans 15:1, 3
- B. You cannot just do what pleases you and at the same time be pleasing to God.

V. THOSE WHO TRY TO PLEASE MEN

- A. Galatians 1:10
- B. You may please men, but not be pleasing to God.
- C. Saul, an example (1 Sam. 15:24).

VI. ENTANGLED SOLDIERS

- A. 2 Timothy 2:4
- B. The cares of this life choke the word (Lk. 8:14).
- C. This gets in the way of many today and keeps them from pleasing God.

Conclusion

1. Is God pleased with you this day?
2. Won't you come and do those things that are pleasing to Him?

Back To Basics

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YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. THE BIBLE HAS ANSWERS.

John Isaac Edwards

According to a recent USA SNAPSHOTS report on “What adults would ask a god or supreme being if they could get a direct and immediate answer,” 16% would ask, “Why do bad things happen?”; 19% “Will I have life after death?” and 34% “What’s my purpose here?”

Jehovah God, Supreme Ruler of the universe (Is. 45:20-22), who hath made us (Ps. 100:3), has revealed everything we need to know in the Bible. We just need to take the time to investigate the Book of God to learn.

1) **WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?** Job wrestled with this question, in the long ago, and a study of the book bearing his name shows the devil was the source of his misfortune. In the beginning, sin gave birth to the bad. Before “the transgression” (1 Tim. 2:14), everything was said to be good; there was no knowledge of evil. Anytime God’s laws are disregarded or broken, whether in the natural world or in the spiritual realm, bad things happen. “Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard” (Prov. 13:15). Sometimes things we perceive as bad are for our good (Gen. 50:20).

2) **WILL I HAVE LIFE AFTER DEATH?** The book of immortality entertains the timeless question, “If a man die, shall he live again?” (Job 14:14). The book of Job reveals “there is a spirit in man” (Job 32:8), and “though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God” (Job 19:26). There is life beyond the grave as the Bible affirms the bodily resurrection of man (Jn. 5:28-29; Acts 24:15). The Hebrew writer penned, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”

(Heb. 9:27). John sets the judgment scene in Revelation 20:12-15, in which we will either hear the Lord say, “enter” or “depart” (Mt. 25:21, 41). The cursed shall “go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Mt. 25:46). Where will you spend eternity?

3) **WHAT IS MY PURPOSE HERE?** How sad that so many go through life without knowing what it is all about, and miss the whole point of everything! It is best summed up in these words: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Eccl. 12:13).

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A MOTHER'S INSTRUCTION TO HER DAUGHTER

Melba Edwards

Many mothers today are instructing their daughters how to be successful in this world, without giving much or any instruction how to be successful spiritually. This is very sad, because our time with our daughters is very short. Our influence as mothers is very great. God has laid down some very valuable responsibilities that we must teach our daughters.

1) **I MUST INSTRUCT MY DAUGHTER TO HIDE THE WORD IN HER HEART.** The Psalmist penned these words in Psalm 119:11. The reason he gives for hiding the word of God in the heart is, “that I might not sin against thee.” What a valuable lesson to our daughters, and what trouble it will keep them from!

2) **I MUST INSTRUCT MY DAUGHTER TO BE OBEDIENT TO HER PARENTS.** As soon as a child is born, she must learn there are rules to be obeyed. Paul wrote in Colossians 3:20, “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.” Jesus was subject to His parents (Lk. 2:51).

3) **I MUST INSTRUCT MY DAUGHTER HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN.** She must hear God's word, be taught to believe His word, repent of her sins, confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and then be buried with Him by baptism. It does not just happen; she must be instructed.

4) **I MUST INSTRUCT MY DAUGHTER TO BE A KEEPER AT HOME.** She must be

taught how to be a homemaker (Ti. 2:5). This would include things like cooking, sewing, cleaning, laundry, etc. We need to teach our daughters how to enjoy this work, and that it is God-given.

5) **I MUST INSTRUCT MY DAUGHTER TO KEEP HERSELF PURE.** She must be taught to guard herself against temptations that will come her way (1 Tim. 5:22). These may include cigarettes, drinking, drugs, unlawful sexual behavior, filthy speech. She must be taught to guard herself against the places she goes, things she touches, sees, hears, smells, and tastes. This instruction must begin early!

6) **I MUST INSTRUCT MY DAUGHTER TO BE FULL OF GOOD WORKS.** If our daughters are involved in good works, like Dorcas (Acts 9:36), perhaps they will not have time for the evil temptations that will come their way.

7) **I MUST INSTRUCT MY DAUGHTER TO LOVE HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN.** This truth must be taught (Ti. 2:4). We must instruct our daughters to submit to their own husbands (Col. 3:18). Since it is God's law, it is an honorable role. The Lord makes a woman to be a joyful mother of children (Ps. 113:9). Our children are a precious gift from God.

8) **I MUST INSTRUCT MY DAUGHTER HOW TO LIVE SO HEAVEN WILL BE HER HOME.** She must be taught to be faithful unto death to receive a crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

WHY ARE YOU WAITING?

Dathan V. Rader

Acts 22:16 says, “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” These are the words of Ananias, the preacher, as he spoke to Saul of Tarsus.

There are two main points in this passage. The first is, “Why are you waiting?” The second is, “Arise and be baptized.”

1) **WHY ARE YOU WAITING?** What are some reasons that people give for waiting when it comes to baptism? First of all, some people say that they are waiting for a convenient time. We have an example of Felix doing this in Acts 24:25.

Another reason some people wait is because they are waiting until they have a better Bible knowledge. We need to understand that we will never know everything there is in the Bible, because each time we study, we learn more. In Acts 2, about three thousand people were baptized after hearing only one gospel sermon. We are always going to be learning more about the Bible.

The last reason that some might give is that they are waiting until they can live a perfect Christian life. We need to learn that every Christian will sin. John wrote, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 Jn. 1:8). Christ is the only man who lived the perfect life. Nobody will ever live that kind of life.

Those are some reasons why people wait. Why should we not wait when it comes to baptism? There are two main reasons.

First, the Lord could return when we least

expect it. Peter said, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10).

Second, we could die when we least expect it. The Hebrew writer said, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27).

2) **ARISE AND BE BAPTIZED.** The second thing in Acts 22:16 is, “Arise and be baptized.” What are some reasons for baptism? In Matthew 28:19 we see that baptism was commanded by Christ. Our text (Acts 22:16) shows that our sins are washed away in baptism. Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mk. 16:16).

“Arise and be baptized” speaks of the urgency of baptism. Notice that when Ananias told Saul to arise and be baptized, he didn’t say, “Do that when there is a convenient time.” Rather, he told Saul to arise immediately. One reason Ananias was so concerned about Saul was that he realized that if he wasn’t baptized, he would be eternally punished (2 Th. 1:7-9).

In this article, I have talked about the importance of baptism and have given several reasons for it. I have also pointed out that there should be no tarrying or waiting when it comes to baptism because of the danger of eternal punishment.

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THE DECEPTIVE NATURE OF SIN

Jeremy Sweets

“**T**herefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12). Paul’s admonition to the Corinthians is advice that we all must heed. Sin is deceptive in nature. It creeps up on people and catches them off guard. That is why Peter sounds the following warning: “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). Satan is extremely skillful at his occupation. He is a liar and the father of lies (Jn. 8:44). The devil will resort to any means necessary, including outright deception, to send a soul to hell. As Paul, we must strive for a godly attitude “in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes” (2 Cor. 2:11). Satan’s sales pitch presents sin as fun, glamorous, popular, satisfying and good. However, sin ends up being more than we bargained for.

1) SIN TAKES YOU FURTHER THAN YOU WANT TO GO. Satan works his deception a little at a time. First, he attacks the attitude. He desires an outlook that is complacent and comfortable with sin in the world. Next, he sells the lie that a person can commit a single sin, without making a lifestyle of it. Before long, men are ensnared in the habitual practice of sin, and Satan is the victor. He has clouded the mind, seared the conscience, hardened the heart, and turned another soul away from the Lord (Eph. 4:17-19). Satan is happy with small victories, winning a soul a little bit at a time.

2) SIN KEEPS YOU LONGER THAN YOU WANT TO STAY. Sin presents itself as a momentary engagement, a passing pleasure, and a single night of fun. This is true, but there is a catch.

For the enjoyment to continue, the sin must persist. Jesus knew the nature of sin and proclaimed that “everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin” (Jn. 8:34). In other words, sin is addictive. If we obey our lusts, sin will become our master (Rom. 12:12-23; 2 Pet. 2:19).

3) SIN COSTS YOU MORE THAN YOU WANT TO PAY. While the pleasures of sin may be momentary, the consequences are not. Proverbs 13:15 teaches, “Good understanding produces favor, but the way of the treacherous is hard.” Physical sickness, STD’s, heartache, and broken homes are all consequences of sin. Sin also brings shame and guilt, stripping a person’s decency. Sin squelches hope, providing no sense of purpose for this life. If all of this were not bad enough, the greatest consequence will come after we die - eternal punishment in the lake that burns with fire (2 Th. 1:8-9; Rev. 20:10, 15).

We do not have to fall victim to the lies of Satan, however. The Lord has granted us a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). To avoid the clutches of sin, we must keep a constant check on our attitude and our actions. We must first obey the gospel and receive forgiveness of sins (Mk. 16:15-16). We must hate sin and expose error (Ps. 119:104, 128; Eph. 5:11). We must “keep watching and praying” (Mt. 26:41). We must pay closer attention to God’s word lest we *drift* away from it (Heb. 2:1). We must make no provision for the flesh, choosing rather a life of godliness (Rom. 13:13-14; 1 Tim. 6:11; Ti. 2:11-12).

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BACK TO THE BIBLE - THE NAME OF THE CHURCH

George Hickman

There are some in the church of Christ who want to change the name of the church. Some years back, there was a meeting with some so-called scholars who tried to come up with a name to replace the designation, "church of Christ." One suggestion was to change the name of the church to "the net work of saints." It is time we go back to the Bible for the name of the church.

Names mean something. They indicate an object, place, or person. We attach great importance to names. Washington, Lincoln, and Wilson are names that will live in the hearts of people. Everyone who wants to be correct strives to use the right names for the right things. So why not call the church by the right name?

In a study of the right names, we must first appreciate the importance attached to the name of Christ. Notice He has the highest name ever given (Phil. 2:9-11). It is the only name through which a man can reach the salvation of his soul (Acts 4:12). Through his name sinners are justified from their sins (Acts 10:43). Christians have their sins forgiven for His name's sake (1 Jn. 2:12). We call on His name for salvation (Rom. 10:13).

Note some things we are to do in the name of Christ:

- ☞ Preach the gospel (Lk. 24:47).
- ☞ Baptize (Acts 2:38).
- ☞ Gather together (1 Cor. 5:4).
- ☞ Pray (Jn. 14:13-14).
- ☞ Do all (Col. 3:17).

To name the name of Christ is to belong to Him (2 Tim. 2:19). To hold fast His name is

to be true to Him (Rev. 2:13). Christ used His name generously in the New Testament. His name is applied to the church as a whole (Acts 20:28). It was used for local churches, as Paul said, "The churches of Christ salute you" in Romans 16:16. Christ said, "...upon this rock I will build my church..." (Mt. 16:18). He purchased the church with His blood (Acts 20:28). He is the Saviour of the church (Eph. 5:23). And in John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Why call the church anything except what it is - the church of Christ?

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INTRODUCING



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STEPHEN'S SERMON IN JERUSALEM

by Tom O'Neal

In Acts 6 we have the background of Stephen's sermon. He was preaching, but certain ones of the synagogue disputed with him and were not able to resist him (vv. 9-10). As always, when men are not able to deal with the truth, they obtained false witnesses that charged Stephen with (1) speaking blasphemy against God and Moses, (2) the holy place, (3) the law, (4) that Christ would destroy the temple, and (5) change Moses' customs. The high priest asked Stephen if the charges were true, to which he replied, thus, his sermon in Acts 7.

1) **ABRAHAM - OUR FATHER.** Stephen begins by recalling how God spoke to Abraham and made a promise to him that He would give him and his seed a land (vv. 3-5). God said that Abraham's seed would be bondmen in a strange land for four hundred years (vv. 6-7). God gave the covenant of circumcision to Abraham and he circumcised Isaac after he was born on the eighth day (v. 8). Jacob is the father of the twelve patriarchs.

2) **JOSEPH - THE GOVERNOR.** Joseph is sold by his brothers into Egypt, but God is with him and he is made governor over all of Egypt (vv. 9-10). With a famine over all of Egypt and Canaan, Jacob hearing there was corn in Egypt, he sent his sons twice to buy food (vv. 11-16). When the time of God's promise drew near, the people had multiplied in Egypt and another king arose who did not know Joseph (vv. 17-18). This king did not treat Joseph's family well and it was during this time that Moses was born (vv. 19-20).

3) **JOSEPH - THE DELIVER.** When Moses was born, he grew up in the court of Pharaoh, being educated in all the wisdom of Egypt (vv. 20-22). Moses flees to Median when his actions are not understood (vv. 23-29) until God calls him (vv. 30-36). Israel rejects God (vv. 37-53). They resisted the Holy Spirit (v. 51) and persecuted the prophets that showed the coming of Christ (v. 52). As their fathers had done, those to whom Stephen spoke (1) resisted the Holy Spirit (v. 51) and (2) betrayed Jesus and murdered Him (vv. 51-52).

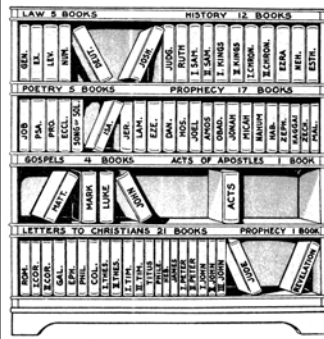
Stephen did not get to preach the resurrection of Jesus, for at this point they were cut to the heart and gnashed on him with their teeth (v. 54). They cast Stephen out of the city, stoned him to death and laid their clothes at the feet of Saul (vv. 54-58). Thus, Stephen is the first martyr for Christ of which we have a record.

Instead of changing their lives to conform with the truth Stephen preached, they thought they could change things by killing the preacher. Stephen is dead and they are still guilty of being "stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears," of "resist[ing] the Holy Spirit," of being the "betrayers and murderers" of Jesus Christ. Nothing will or can change the truth!

Those of us who preach are extremely fortunate to live in the greatest nation that has ever been on the face of the earth - the United States of America. Our laws have protected us from such treatment as Stephen received. However, there are winds of change. How long gospel preachers will be able to preach the gospel without fear of physical harm, only God knows. When the time comes that it is no longer politically correct to preach against sin - homosexuality, lesbianism, false religion - we need to determine to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

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BROWSING THROUGH GOD'S LIBRARY



by
Joe Corley

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In our last article, we browsed through that section of God's New Testament library called History. We now enter the section called **Special Epistles**, sometimes called *Pauline Epistles* because Paul is likely the author of all fourteen books from Romans to Hebrews, with Hebrews being the possible exception.

Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and 1 & 2 Thessalonians were written to churches in these cities (Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse, and Thessalonica). 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon were written to individuals. Galatians was addressed to "the churches of Galatia." Hebrews was written to Hebrew Christians dwelling in Palestine.

Romans was written at Corinth on Paul's third journey. The theme is *Justification by Faith*. The church at Corinth, established by Paul, was plagued by numerous problems. **1 Corinthians**, written likely from Ephesus, addressed these problems in an effort to correct them. It appears to have accomplished its purpose, for in **2 Corinthians**, written a few months later from Macedonia, Paul commends them for their positive reception of the first letter. The churches of Galatia, composed of Gentile Christians, had started out well, but had been influenced by Jewish teachers to believe that

they had to be circumcised and keep the law of Moses. The book of **Galatians** was written to show the falacy of that claim.

Paul wrote at least four books while a prisoner at Rome: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. The books of **Ephesians** and **Colossians** are very similar, both dealing with God's scheme of redemption, and various duties of Christians. The Philippian church had helped Paul perhaps more than any other church. **Philippians**, Paul's epistle to them, is expressive of deep appreciation for their love and concern. **1 & 2 Thessalonians** were both likely written from Corinth a few months apart. He reminds them in the first epistle of their persecutions when they first received the gospel and commends them for their continued faithfulness. The second epistle was written to correct some erroneous views concerning the second coming. **1 & 2 Timothy** were written to Timothy, a younger preacher, Paul's *son in the faith*. The time when the first letter was written is unknown. **2 Timothy** was written during a possible second imprisonment at Rome. Both epistles were written to instruct Timothy regarding his work as an evangelist. **Titus** was also a young preacher to whom Paul wrote for the same purpose. **Philemon** was a Christian friend of Paul's who lived at Colosse, whose slave, Onesimus, had run away. Somehow, Onesimus had met up with Paul at Rome and had been converted. Paul returned him to his master, instreating Philemon to receive him back both as a servant and a brother in the Lord.

The last book in this section, **Hebrews**, was written because Hebrew Christians in Palestine were in great danger of apostatizing and reverting back to Judaism. This epistle was written to prevent this from happening.

We will explore the **General Epistles** in our next article.

Kid's Activity Page

Paul Adams

Memory Verse: *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself” (Luke 10:27).*

Fill In The Blanks

In Luke 10:30-37, Jesus teaches about the Good Samaritan. He answers the question, “Who is my neighbor?” and teaches us about kindness and good works. Fill in the blanks with the words found in the box below.

A man was going from _____ to _____. He was robbed by some _____ who left him _____ dead. As he was lying on the side of the road, a _____ and then a _____ passed by on the other side and did not help the man. Then, a man passed by who was a _____. He had _____ on the wounded man. He cared for his wounds and brought him to an _____ and took care of him. The Samaritan left _____ so that the wounded man would be cared for after he left. He promised to pay any other amount that was needed. The Samaritan showed _____ and was truly a _____ to the man who had been robbed.

money

mercy

inn

neighbor

Jericho

half

Levite

compassion

priest

thieves

Samaritan

Jerusalem

*“Suffer the little children to come unto me,
and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14).*

Question: *“I’ve been reading Acts 10 about when Cornelius was saved. Can you tell me what role miracles played in his conversion?”*

Answer: The Scriptures teach that the three miracles are incidental to the conversion of Cornelius and his household. Let’s take a look at these in Acts 10-11.

MIRACLE NUMBER ONE: VISION OF CORNELIUS

A reading of Acts 10:3-8 will reveal that Cornelius “saw in a vision...an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.” He asked, “What is it, Lord?” After talking to him about his prayers, the angel said, “...send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter...he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do...” Cornelius then “called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier...and...sent them to Joppa.” Please learn that the only thing the angel really did, so far as converting Cornelius, was get the preacher and Cornelius together.

MIRACLE NUMBER TWO: TRANCE OF PETER

Peter’s housetop trance shows “heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth...And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is **common or unclean**. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath **cleansed**, that call not thou **common**...” (Acts 10:9-16). As the men from Cornelius approached Peter about going to the house of Cornelius, the Holy Spirit said, “go with them...” (Acts 10:17-20). Peter meets with Cornelius and explains how that “...God showed me that I should not call any man **common or unclean**” (Acts 10:24-28). How did God show this to Peter? With that sheet-like thing let down before him.

MIRACLE NUMBER THREE: BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Please note Acts 10:44: “While Peter yet speake these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word.” When studying this conversion, it is essential that one read Acts 11 which relates the story “by order” (Acts 11:4). Just when did the Holy Spirit fall on this group? “As I began to speak” - before the sermon was ever preached (Acts 11:15). But why did the Holy Spirit fall on them? To convince the Jews, “Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life” (Acts 11:17-18). These three miracles really had nothing to do directly in saving Cornelius. He, like everyone else who has been saved, heard words (Acts 11:14), that produced faith (Rom. 10:17) and was commanded to be baptized in the name of the Lord (Acts 10:47-48).

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