



GRAND OPENING BY GOD

ACTS: Church 101

Acts 10:24-48

Sunday, November 28, 2021

WHERE WE'VE BEEN: A Review

Acts 10:19 (NASB) *While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself." ²¹ Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?" 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." ²³ So [Peter] he invited them in and gave them lodging.*

OPENING FOR JESUS: A Positive Experience

1. Remember that God PREPARES my audience. 10:23b-26

Acts 10:23b (NASB) *And on the next day he [Peter] got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ On the following day he entered Caesarea.*

Acts 10:24b (NASB) *Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am just a man."*

Acts 10:27 (NASB) *As he [Peter] talked with him, he entered and found many people assembled. ²⁸ And he 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."*

2. God prepares ME for this encounter. 10:27-29

Acts 10:30 (NASB) *Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments, ³¹ and he said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³² Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon the tanner by the sea.' ³³ So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."*

3. Let my audience tell THEIR story. 10:30-33

4. Keep the message SIMPLE. 10:34-43

Point 1 – I'm on a journey of discovery, too.

Acts 10:34 (NASB) *Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.*

Point 2 – Start with Jesus.

Acts 10:36 (NASB) *"The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all) - ³⁷ you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. ³⁸ You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."*

Point 3 – Bring in the cross and the resurrection.

Acts 10:39 (NASB) *"We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. ⁴⁰ God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead."*

Different cultures focus on different aspects of the gospel.

European/Western Culture: Guilt and Innocence. Our focus is on the cross and resurrection taking away our sin and guilt, declaring that we now stand before God justified.

Asian Culture: Shame and Honor. Here the focus is that Jesus' death on the cross takes away that which would dishonor or shame us. Because we are united with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection, we are now honored with Him.

African/South American: Power and Fear. Here the focus is that Jesus' death on the cross conquers that which we fear. We now have power over all that had controlled us before.

Point 4 – Lead them to a point of decision.

Acts 10:42 (NASB) *"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."*

Isaiah 55:6 (NIV) *Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon. ⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. ⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is My word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

5. Watch for PROGRESS and follow-up. 10:44-48

Acts 10:44 (NASB) *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. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.*

Acts 10:46b (NASB) *Then Peter answered,*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.*

A WATERSHED ISSUE

1 Corinthians 15:1 (NIV) *Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.*² *By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.*³ *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*⁴ *that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*⁵ *and that He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.*⁶ *After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*

1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures – Jesus was our substitute, our sacrificial lamb.
2. He was buried – He actually died.
3. He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures – This proves that He was who He said He was – the Son of God. The sacrifice was complete.
4. He appeared... to both individuals and groups.

So, what's our response?

Romans 10:6 (NLT) *But faith's way of getting right with God says, "Don't say in your heart, 'Who will go up to heaven' (to bring Christ down to earth)."*⁷ *And don't say, 'Who will go down to the place of the dead' (to bring Christ back to life again)."*⁸ *In fact, it says, "The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart."* *And that message is the very message about faith that we preach:*⁹ *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*¹⁰ *For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.*¹¹ *As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced."*¹² *Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on Him.*¹³ *For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."*

John 1:9 (NASB) *There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.*¹⁰ *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.*¹¹ *He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.*¹² *But as many as **received** Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who **believe** in His name,*¹³ *who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*