

# Sermon Discussion Questions

**Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell    Topic: Acts    Scripture – Acts 9:32-10:48**

- Briefly summarize the main points of the sermon.
- What questions do you still have from today's sermon?
- Read Vv. 9:32-43
  - In verses 32-35, how does Peter's healing of Aeneas compare to Jesus' healing of the paralyzed man in Luke 5:17-26?
  - What was the result of Aeneas being healed (v. 35)? How does this align with the purpose of miracles in the early church?
  - Why was Peter called to Joppa when Tabitha (Dorcas) died?
  - What similarities do you see between Peter raising Tabitha in verses 40-41 and Jesus raising Jairus' daughter in Mark 5:38-42?
  - How does verse 42 summarize the impact of these miracles? What does this tell us about how signs and wonders contributed to the spread of the gospel?
  - Are signs and wonders needed for the Gospel to go forward today? Why or why not?
  - What is the primary way the Gospel is spread to the world today?
- Read Vv. 10:1-8
  - What do we learn about Cornelius in verses 1-2? Why is it significant that he was a God-fearing Gentile?
  - How does the angel describe Cornelius' prayers and generosity in verse 4? What does this reveal about God's awareness of those who seek Him?
  - Why do you think God told Cornelius to send for Peter instead of giving him the gospel message directly?
  - Cornelius was a religious man, yet he still needed to hear the gospel. What does this teach us about salvation? (See John 14:6 and Acts 4:12.)
- Read Vv. 10:9-23
  - In verses 9-10, what is Peter doing when he receives his vision? Why might this be significant?
  - What does Peter's vision in verses 11-16 symbolize, and how does it challenge Jewish dietary laws? (See Leviticus 11:1-8)
  - In verse 15, what does God mean when He says, "What God has made clean, do not call common"? How does this prepare Peter for what comes next?
  - How does the Holy Spirit's command in verse 19-20 reinforce the meaning of Peter's vision?
  - Peter struggled with accepting something new from God. Have you ever wrestled with God's direction because it didn't fit your expectations? How did you respond?
- Read Vv. 10:24-43
  - How does Cornelius' response to Peter (v. 25) show his reverence? How does Peter correct him in verse 26?
  - In verses 27-29, what change in Peter's thinking does he acknowledge? How does this reflect the significance of his vision?
  - What does Cornelius' explanation in verses 30-33 show about his eagerness to receive God's message?
  - What does Peter mean in verse 34 when he says, "God shows no partiality"? How does this contrast with Jewish expectations? (See Deuteronomy 10:17-18)
  - In verses 36-43, how does Peter summarize the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus? How does this message compare to Peter's sermons in Acts 2 and Acts 3?
  - What does Peter emphasize about Jesus in verse 42? How does this reinforce the universal nature of the gospel?
  - How does verse 43 connect to Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah? (See Isaiah 53:11 and Jeremiah 31:34.)
- Read Vv. 10:44-48
  - What happens while Peter is still speaking in verse 44? How does this compare to Pentecost in Acts 2?
  - Why were the Jewish believers amazed at what happened in verse 45? What does this reveal about their expectations?
  - What evidence shows that the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit (v. 46)? How does this reinforce that God accepted them?
  - In verses 47-48, why is baptism significant here? How does it confirm their full inclusion in the church?
  - How does this passage show that salvation is by faith alone and not by works or religious background? (See Ephesians 2:8-9)
  - What does this passage teach us about the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation? How should this shape your confidence in sharing the gospel?