

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

ACTS Chapter 11 (ESV p. 1018)

Verse 1- When Peter returned to Jerusalem, rumors had already been spread that he had preached to the Gentiles).

Verse 2- The circumcised Jews were waiting for Peter to chastise him for entering the home of uncircumcised people and eating with them, i.e. disobeying Jewish law and their covenant with God (Genesis 17:10-14) (ESV p. 13)

Verse 4-14- Peter immediately explained in detail what happened that caused him to do such a thing. Throughout his explanation, notice how many references were made to heaven and the Holy Spirit:

v.5- “a large sheet being let down from heaven.”

v.9- “the voice spoke from heaven a second time.”

v.10- “it was all pulled up to heaven again”

v. 12- “The Spirit told me to have no hesitation”

v. 13- “He told us how he had seen an angel appear”

Verse 14- Peter basically told them that since the angel told them that he would bring them a message on how they could be saved, he simply did what the angel said. He did what Jesus had commissioned them all to do. (Acts 1:8-ESV p. 1006)

Verse 15- Peter went on to say that while he was speaking, he witnessed them receive the Holy Spirit. How? Because of what he and others heard from them. He did not mention cloven tongues falling as in Acts chapter 2, but he did mention hearing them speak in tongues and praising God (Acts 10:46). Keep in mind that the tongues (different languages) that they heard may have been just members of the centurion’s household who were servants from other lands. What is most important is that they were heard praising God, proving their baptism into the family of believers.

Verse 16- Peter told his critics that this reminded him of what Jesus told them (Acts 1:5-ESV p. 1006), “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” So, what did this mean? What is the difference? John gave an explanation that mentioned that Baptism with the Holy Spirit is more powerful (Matthew 3:11-12- ESV p. 897) John was given authority to baptize people to show repentance, a physical symbol of their conviction for sin, in keeping with God’s old covenant with Israel. Then, Jesus’s birth, death and resurrection brought the new covenant, full pardon for sin and a new baptism through the

in-dwelling Holy Spirit which promised a full ongoing purification of the soul (1 Peter 3:21-22- [ESV p. 1118-1119](#)), (See also Mark 16:16 – [ESV p. 946](#)).

Verse 17- Then, Peter finished his explanation for his actions with this statement, “If God gave them the same gift he gave us... who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?” Scripture consistently warns against getting in God’s way or disobedience to God. (Isaiah 1:19-20-[ESV p. 631](#)) (Isaiah 45:9-12- [ESV p. 675](#)), (Romans 9:20-21- [ESV p. 1047](#)) So, simply stated. Peter told his critics that he had obeyed the Lord as the Holy Spirit had guided him.

Verse 18- Pointing them toward God and his word, enabled Peter to silence his critics and to persuade them that what he had done was part of God’s plan. God’s word instructs us that we should follow this example when we speak to those with opposing views (2 Timothy 2:24-26- [ESV p. 1098](#)). We present. God persuades.