

* ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus



A.B. Simpson
(1843-1919)

Founder of The Christian
and Missionary Alliance

* Acts 11:1-18

The Gospel to the Gentiles (pt. 2)

Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, ³ saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them."

⁴ But Peter began *speaking* and *proceeded* to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me, ⁶ and when I had fixed my gaze on it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

⁸ But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky.

¹¹ And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were *staying*, having been sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them without making distinctions. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man's house. ¹³ And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; ¹⁴ and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as *He did* upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as *He gave* to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life."

(Acts 11:1-18)

Gentile Inclusion

1. A New People of God

- Gentiles are fully and equally included in the messianic community through faith in Christ without submission to the Mosaic Law
- the outpouring of the Spirit promised to Israel for its cleansing is equally poured out on the Gentiles

Gentile Inclusion

➤ Implication:

Anyone who stands in the way of the full incorporation of others into the church, when they genuinely trust in Jesus, stands in opposition to God

Gentile Inclusion

2. A Necessary Faith in Jesus

Q: is it necessary to hear and believe in the gospel (message of Jesus) in order to be saved?

Gentile Inclusion

2. A Necessary Faith in Jesus

- Cornelius needed to hear the gospel and believe on Jesus to be "saved" (11:14,18)
- Cornelius was a Gentile 'God-fearer' not an example of a 'saved pagan'

Gentile Inclusion

➤ Implications:

1. Since the coming of Jesus into the world, He alone is the explicit object of all saving faith
2. There is an urgency to the missionary task – those who have never heard are lost apart from faith in Jesus

¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; ¹³for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

¹⁴How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

(Romans 10:12-15)