

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Acts 11:30-36

1 Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, 3 "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." 4 But Peter began and explained it to them in order: 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. 6 Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. 7 And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' 8 But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' 10 This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. 11 And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea.

12 And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; 14 he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' 15 As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" 18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

ALSO READ

Joshua 5:13-15

Study Guide 8 May 2011



Summary

We see the Good News spread from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and then to the gentiles. What great acts did the apostles perform to achieve this? Almost nothing! God Himself is the advancer of His kingdom. The spread of the gospel, the conversion of Saul, Peter's vision for the salvation of the gentiles, the Ethiopian eunuch and more were all the work of God.

We then are simply to follow God as He leads. Just as Joshua bowed down to the pre-incarnate Jesus, the commander of the Lord's army, we too must get in step with God. We must realize that God does indeed speak to us, supernaturally and in our circumstances, and because He does, we must listen to His voice.

God's Word is our message. His Word is the message of Good News to all the world – our Creator, our fall, God's love and sacrifice and His eternal kingdom. We have to go and tell the world that we were once slaves to sin, but that Jesus died to set us free, and that they too must repent and receive God as Lord and Saviour.

Key points

God is the great evangelist spearheading the advance of the Gospel.

Join us as we study through the book of acts day by day in May. You can get your study guide book at the Welcome Desk or at www.rhc.org.sg/resources/sunday-sermons/acts-series

Questions

- >>What do you think is the best way to spread the gospel? >>What does it mean for us if God is the prime mover for evangelism?
- >>How does God speak to us?
- >>Is God telling you something?
- >>How can you listen to God better?
- >>What is the difference between "having God on our side" and "us being on God's side"?
- >>How can we preach the gospel in every situation?

Final thoughts

We need to teach the gospel of God to faithful men who will in turn teach others the fullness of the gospel.