

## jenaministries – Part 6 Bible Miracles

### 4. Gentiles Received Holy Spirit

The way God included Gentiles to also receive the Holy Spirit was nothing shy of a miracle. Some could believe it consists of several miracles. (1) Peter had a vision, (2) a gentile Centurion was visited by an Angel, (3) God spoke to Peter giving clear instructions, and (4) the men sent by the Centurion found Peter right after his vision and God's instructions. God timed it out and performed each event perfectly.

When Jesus came to Earth, he only ministered to the Jews. After his crucifixion, it was well known that the Holy Spirit was only for God's chosen people, the Jews. God had to perform miracles in order to convince the disciples that the Holy Spirit is for the Gentiles also.

It starts with Peter on a roof and went into a trance and saw a vision (**Scriptures 1: Peter's Vision on Roof Acts 10:9-16**). He saw heaven open up and animals that Jews were not allowed to eat come down. A voice told Peter to kill and eat the animals and Peter said he would never eat anything impure or unclean. And the voice told Peter to not call anything impure that God has made clean. This happened three times. Peter was very perplexed.

Then three men came to the gate of the house where Peter was at and were looking for Peter. Before Peter knew of these three men, God explained to him not to hesitate to go with the three men, for God had sent them (**Scriptures 2: Peter Met Men Sent by Cornelius Acts 10:17-22**). The three men explained they were sent by a Centurion, Cornelius, who was visited by an angel. The angel told Cornelius to ask Peter to come to his house so he could hear Peter speak.

So Peter and a couple of Jewish brothers went with the three men to Cornelius' house. Cornelius explained how he was visited by an angel and what the angel said (**Scriptures 3: Cornelius Visited by an Angel Acts 10:23-33**). Peter was convinced that he was sent by God to teach Cornelius and his household about Jesus. And he taught them about the saving grace (**Scriptures 4: Peter Taught Gentiles About Jesus Acts 10:34-43**).

As Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit came upon the Gentiles and they spoke in tongues (**Scriptures 5: Holy Spirit Came Upon the Gentiles Acts 10:44-46**).

Peter came to realize that God's Holy Spirit is also for the Gentiles, and he baptized the Gentiles in water (**Scriptures 6: Peter Baptized Gentiles Acts 10:47-48**).

From then on, Gentiles were included as God's chosen people and received the same saving grace of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

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#### Scriptures 1: Peter's Vision on Roof

##### Acts 10:9-16

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

#### Scriptures 2: Peter Met Men Sent by Cornelius

##### Acts 10:17-22

While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them." Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?" The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say." Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

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#### Scriptures 3: Cornelius Visited by an Angel

##### Acts 10:23-33

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself." While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.' So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."

#### Scriptures 4: Peter Taught Gentiles About Jesus

##### Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good

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#### Scriptures 4: Peter Taught Gentiles About Jesus - continued

and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

#### Scriptures 5: Holy Spirit Came Upon the Gentiles

##### Acts 10:44-46

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said,

#### Scriptures 6: Peter Baptized Gentiles

##### Acts 10:47-48

"Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.