

Commander of 100 men in a Roman legion

Cornelius...

- Was a devout man
- Feared God
- Gave alms
- Prayed continually

...But he still lacked something

Two of the three Jewish hours of prayer
Acts 2:15; 3:1

Unusual Event #1
Angel to the Gentile (1-8)

Built on the Mediterranean shore by Herod the Great, and named for Caesar Augustus

~30 miles south of Caesarea on the Mediterranean

Unusual event #2
Vision to Peter (9-24)

Represented all animals of the land and air

Clean & Unclean Animals are specified in **Leviticus 11**

"Common" – anything in general use by the Gentiles

"Unclean" – anything forbidden by the Law of Moses

Unusual event #3
Apostle to the Gentiles (25-43)

Cornelius had called together his family and friends – v. 24

1 At **Caesarea** there was a man named **Cornelius**, a *centurion* of what was known as the **Italian Cohort**,
2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.
3 About the **ninth hour** of the day he saw clearly in a **vision** an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius."
4 And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?"
5 And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God."
6 And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.

9 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the **sixth hour** to pray.

10 And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a **trance**

ἔκστασις – ekstasis
lit. displacement of the mind, ecstasy

11 and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth.

12 In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.

13 And there came a voice to him: "**Rise, Peter; kill and eat.**"

14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."

15 And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."

16 This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

21 And Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?"

22 And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say."

25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.

Cornelius still needed to hear the message that Peter had to say.

προσκυνέω – proskuneō
Sign of respect to one in authority

26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man."

27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered.

i.e. Contrary to Jewish Customs:
Not prohibited by the law of Moses, though it prohibited intermarriages and religious involvement
-Lev 18:24-30
-Deut 7:1-5
-Ezra 9:10-15

28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean."

The meaning of the vision – v. 15

Rom 2:11
Rom 10:12-13
Gal 3:28
Eph 2:11-22
Jam 2:1-4

The apostles
were his
witnesses
(Acts 1:8)

34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand
that God shows no partiality,
35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is
right is acceptable to him.

Peter Preached
Jesus...

- God Anointed (38)
- God Raised (39-41)
- God Appointed (42)

39 And **we are witnesses** of all that he did both in the country
of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by
hanging him on a tree,
40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,
41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God
as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from
the dead.

Implied Contrast:
Believes in **Him**
instead of in self
(Acts 13:38-39)

Unusual event #4
Spirit to the
Gentiles (44-48)

There had to be a
sign to the Jews
that the Gentile's
were accepted by
God! (Acts 11:17)

Just as happened to
the apostles in Acts
2:1-4; 11:15-16

43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who
believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his
name."

44 While Peter was still saying these things, **the Holy Spirit
fell on all who heard the word.**

45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had
come with Peter were **amazed**, because the gift of the Holy
Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.

46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and
extolling God. Then Peter declared, *Languages* Acts 2:5

47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who
have received the Holy Spirit **just as we have**?"

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of
Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

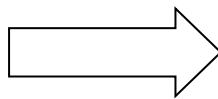
Baptism of the
Holy Spirit:

-Matt 3:11
-Acts 1:5
-Acts 2:1-4; 17
-Joel 2:28

Used to introduce
the Gospel to the
Jews and Gentiles

**One-Time "Contracts"
With the Spirit**

- *Samson
- Judges 14 & 15
- *Mary
- Matt 1:18-21
- Luke 1:26-38
- *Apostles
- Acts 1 & 2
- *Spiritual Gifts
- Acts 8
- I Cor 12



We should not expect
our conversion to
follow the same
pattern - this was a
one-time "contract"
with the Spirit

Hours of Prayer

Acts 2:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

Acts 3:1 (ESV)

¹ Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

“Trance” - Greek NASB Number: 1611

Greek Word: ἔκστασις

Transliterated Word: *ekstasis*

Root: from [1839](#);

Definition: a displacement (of the mind), i.e. *bewilderment, ecstasy*:--

List of English Words and Number of Times Used

amazement (1),
astonishment (2),
completely* (1),
trance (3).

An asterisk () indicates that at least one other original language word was also translated as this English word. Look up this word in the English NASB concordance for the additional original language word(s).*

—NASB Greek-Hebrew Dictionary

Unclean Animals

Leviticus 11:1-47 (ESV)

¹ And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them, ² "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, These are the living things that you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth. ³ Whatever parts the hoof and is cloven-footed and chews the cud, among the animals, you may eat. ⁴ Nevertheless, among those that chew the cud or part the hoof, you shall not eat these: The camel, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you. ⁵ And the rock badger, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you. ⁶ And the hare, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you. ⁷ And the pig, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. ⁸ You shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you.

⁹ "These you may eat, of all that are in the waters. Everything in the waters that has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers, you may eat. ¹⁰ But anything in the seas or the rivers that has not fins and scales, of the swarming creatures in the waters and of the living creatures that are in the waters, is detestable to you. ¹¹ You shall regard them as detestable; you shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall detest their carcasses. ¹² Everything in the waters that has not fins and scales is detestable to you.

¹³ "And these you shall detest among the birds; they shall not be eaten; they are detestable: the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture, ¹⁴ the kite, the falcon of any kind, ¹⁵ every raven of any kind, ¹⁶ the ostrich, the nighthawk, the sea gull, the hawk of any kind, ¹⁷ the little owl, the cormorant, the short-eared owl, ¹⁸ the barn owl, the tawny owl, the carrion vulture, ¹⁹ the stork, the heron of any kind, the hoopoe, and the bat.

²⁰ "All winged insects that go on all fours are detestable to you. ²¹ Yet among the winged insects that go on all fours you may eat those that have jointed legs above their feet, with which to hop on the ground. ²² Of them you may eat: the locust of any kind, the bald locust of any kind, the cricket of any kind, and the grasshopper of any kind. ²³ But all other winged insects that have four feet are detestable to you.

²⁴ "And by these you shall become unclean. Whoever touches their carcass shall be unclean until the evening, ²⁵ and whoever carries any part of their carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening. ²⁶ Every animal that parts the hoof but is not cloven-footed or does not chew the cud is unclean to you. Everyone who touches them shall be unclean. ²⁷ And all that walk on their paws, among the animals that go on all fours, are unclean to you. Whoever touches their carcass shall be unclean until the evening, ²⁸ and he who carries their carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening; they are unclean to you.

²⁹ "And these are unclean to you among the swarming things that swarm on the ground: the mole rat, the mouse, the great lizard of any kind, ³⁰ the gecko, the monitor lizard, the lizard, the sand lizard, and the chameleon. ³¹ These are unclean to you among all that swarm. Whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until the evening. ³² And anything on which any of them falls when they are dead shall be unclean, whether it is an article of wood or a garment or a skin or a sack, any article that is used for any purpose. It must be put into water, and it shall be unclean until the evening; then it shall be clean. ³³ And if any of them falls into any earthenware vessel, all that is in it shall be unclean, and you shall break it. ³⁴ Any food in it that could be eaten, on which water comes, shall be unclean. And all drink that could be drunk from every such vessel shall be unclean. ³⁵ And everything on which any part of their carcass falls shall be unclean. Whether oven or stove, it shall be broken in pieces. They are unclean and shall

remain unclean for you. ³⁶ Nevertheless, a spring or a cistern holding water shall be clean, but whoever touches a carcass in them shall be unclean. ³⁷ And if any part of their carcass falls upon any seed grain that is to be sown, it is clean, ³⁸ but if water is put on the seed and any part of their carcass falls on it, it is unclean to you.

³⁹ "And if any animal which you may eat dies, whoever touches its carcass shall be unclean until the evening, ⁴⁰ and whoever eats of its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening. And whoever carries the carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening.

⁴¹ "Every swarming thing that swarms on the ground is detestable; it shall not be eaten. ⁴² Whatever goes on its belly, and whatever goes on all fours, or whatever has many feet, any swarming thing that swarms on the ground, you shall not eat, for they are detestable. ⁴³ You shall not make yourselves detestable with any swarming thing that swarms, and you shall not defile yourselves with them, and become unclean through them. ⁴⁴ For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. ⁴⁵ For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."

⁴⁶ This is the law about beast and bird and every living creature that moves through the waters and every creature that swarms on the ground, ⁴⁷ to make a distinction between the unclean and the clean and between the living creature that may be eaten and the living creature that may not be eaten.

"Worshiped" - Greek NASB Number: 4352

Greek Word: προσκυνέω

Transliterated Word: *proskuneō*

Root: from [4314](#) and pôros *kuneō* (to kiss);

Definition: to do reverence to:--

List of English Words and Number of Times Used

bow down (1),
bow down before (1),
bowed down (1),
bowed down before (2),
bowing before (1),
bowing down (1),
prostrated himself before (1),
worship (32),
worshiped (17),
worshippers (1),
worshipping (1),
worships (1).

—NASB Greek-Hebrew Dictionary

Association with Gentiles

Leviticus 18:24-30 (ESV)

²⁴ "Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, ²⁵ and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. ²⁶ But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you ²⁷ (for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these abominations, so that the land became unclean), ²⁸ lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you. ²⁹ For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people. ³⁰ So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the Lord your God."

Deuteronomy 7:1-5 (ESV)

¹ "When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than yourselves, ² and when the Lord your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. ³ You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, ⁴ for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. ⁵ But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.

Ezra 9:10-15 (ESV)

¹⁰ "And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments, ¹¹ which you commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land that you are entering, to take possession of it, is a land impure with the impurity of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations that have filled it from end to end with their uncleanness. ¹² Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.' ¹³ And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, seeing that you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserved and have given us such a remnant as this, ¹⁴ shall we break your commandments again and intermarry with the peoples who practice these abominations? Would you not be angry with us until you consumed us, so that there should be no remnant, nor any to escape? ¹⁵ O LORD the God of Israel, you are just, for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is today. Behold, we are before you in our guilt, for none can stand before you because of this."

Impartiality of God / Gospel to the Gentiles

Romans 2:6-11 (ESV)

⁶ He will render to each one according to his works: ⁷ to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸ but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. ⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹ For God shows no partiality.

Romans 10:11-13 (ESV)

¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Galatians 3:28 (ESV)

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:11-22 (ESV)

¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

James 2:1-13 (ESV)

¹ My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the

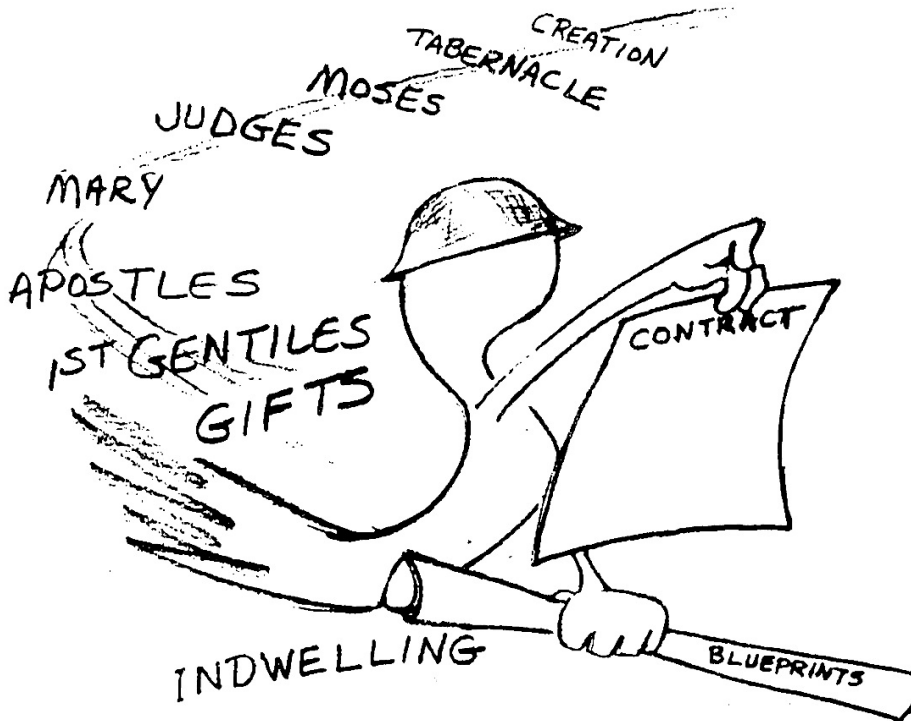
Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.¹¹ For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Believes in Him

Acts 13:38-39 (ESV)

³⁸ Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything ³⁹ from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

One-Time "Contracts" That God Made Through His Spirit For a Specific Purpose:



- Samson Judges 14 & 15
- Mary Matt 1:18-21; Luke 1:26-38
- Apostles Acts 1 & 2
- First Gentiles Acts 10 & 11
- Spiritual Gifts Acts 8; I Cor 12

Judges 14:6 (ESV)

⁶ Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

Matthew 1:18-21 (ESV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Acts 8:14-17 (ESV)

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4-10 (ESV)

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

The Fulfillment of Jesus’ Promise to the Apostles (Acts 1&2)

What are the arguments that the promises made in Acts 1:5 & 8 were a one time “contract” made only to the apostles?

- John 14-16: The same promise was made to the apostles as Jesus ate with them at the passover meal.
- Acts 1:1-8: A series of relative pronouns links the promises to the apostles in verse 2.
- Acts 1:9-11: Those who were given the promise were described by the “two men in white” as “Men of Galilee.” This description fits the apostles (except for Judas who was not present).
- Acts 1:12-13: Those who were given the promise are listed by name in verse 13.
- Acts 1:26 - 2:1: Apostles are directly referenced in the last verse of chapter one, and a personal pronoun in 2:1 links the next words to the apostles.
- Acts 2:1-4, 14: All who received the baptism of the Spirit spoke in other languages, yet only twelve were speaking in verse 14.

Acts 11:1–18 (ESV)

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 I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ 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.”