



THE MESSENGER

JULY 23 , 2023

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

Today

Our Next Gospel Meeting

TBD

Weekly Bible Studies

Thursday at 1 on Zoom

Friday at 1 on Zoom

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

February 3, 7:30

Address and Contact

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Christ

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WHAT ABOUT CORNELIUS?

In this final article responding to Frank Turek's recent podcast, "7 Reasons Why Baptism is NOT Required for Salvation", we will be considering the salvation of Cornelius. Mr. Turek claims this event shows that baptism is not essential. Let's consider it together.

Acts 10 is a unique chapter. The first seven verses introduce us to Cornelius, a devout Gentile believer in God. An angel told him to send for Peter. To this point, Gentiles had not been brought into the kingdom. This shows us a new element to God's plan. Such times are unique and often accompanied by signs and miracles.

God needed to prepare Peter. Verses 9-23 show us the vision God used to accomplish it as well as the instruction to accompany the messengers sent from Cornelius to retrieve Peter.

In verses 23b-33 Peter, accompanied by several Jewish Christians, visit Cornelius. He asked why he'd been summoned. Cornelius explained his angelic visitor and their eagerness to hear the message God had entrusted to Peter.

In verses 34-43 Peter delivered the gospel message. As he spoke the Holy Spirit suddenly came upon Cornelius and the others. Peter realized this had happened because Cornelius and his friends began speaking in tongues and extolling God. (44-46) In this passage, "the gift of the Holy Spirit" was a *miraculous* outpouring of the Spirit empowering them to speak in tongues. Peter asked if anyone could withhold baptism from them seeing as the Holy Spirit had come upon them just as upon Peter and the others. He then commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. (47-48)

Members Needing Our Prayers

The Waller family, John Thompson, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Glenda Miller, Michael Edwards, Alyse Nash, Mary Bishop, Helen Thomas, Patty Hill, Eli Kempton, Sophie Brown, Fay Thomas, Edra Bernard, Valari Jones-Butler (Valari is Gina Seabolt's former co-worker. Her daughter is undergoing chemo for breast cancer. Her 21 year old nephew was killed in a shooting), Charlie Hoy, Marc Nations, Janice Parsons, Veronica Bowman, Charles Bishop, Allison Walker, Mark Nickles, Dwayne Harrod, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Patty Hill

To Our Guests

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Here is the argument Mr. Turek and those who think like him make: "Peter said the Holy Spirit had fallen on Cornelius and the others just as he had upon Peter and his companions *before* baptism was commanded. Thus, they were saved before baptism."

I disagree with this argument. The evidence that Cornelius and his people had received the Holy Spirit was a miracle. (44-47) When Peter was called upon to explain his actions to his unhappy Jewish brethren, note what he said. "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them *just as on us at the beginning*." (11:15) Peter had to go all the way back to the Holy Spirit coming upon the apostles in Acts 2 to find something comparable. This tells us that "the gift of the Holy Spirit" given to Cornelius and his people *was not typical*. It was something new. Unless Mr. Turek is willing to say that what happened with Cornelius happens to everyone, (consider what that would mean) then he cannot use this case as typical. Besides that, Peter commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus for the same reason *everyone* is commanded to be baptized. (10:48)

It is not hard to understand these things if one will simply accept what God says and do it. Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Marcus Lake	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	James Weatherholt	

