

The Vision that Shocked Peter



HOPE CHAPEL
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Recap



- Moses prayed that all God's people would have the Holy Spirit (Numbers 11)
- The promise God gave to Abraham was that people would be filled with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3)
- Peter says this promise was fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2)
- The Spirit of **Reality** will guide you into all **Reality** (John 16)

Where we left off...



- ‘In the last days,’ God says,
 ‘I will pour out my **Spirit upon all people.**
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young men will see visions,
and your old men will dream dreams.
In those days **I will pour out my Spirit**
even on my servants—men and women alike—
and they will prophesy.

Peter is Filled with the Spirit



- After Pentecost, Peter and the Apostles were filled with the Spirit as Jesus had promised
- As a result, they are full of transcendent joy; divine healings and other miraculous events take place; they prophesy (bubble up, ferment) and speak in tongues; people's lives are radically and irreversibly transformed
- BUT... there was still a problem with their thinking...

Who is the Blessing for?



- The Jews thought that only the physical descendants of Abraham qualified for the **promise** (the Holy Spirit)
- Moses prayed 'I would that all **God's people...** would have the Spirit'
- Who are **God's people**?

Peter's Vision



- Having prophesied that people would see visions after receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter found himself having a vision:
- Peter went to pray and he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and a sheet came down containing all kinds of animals. 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, “**Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.**”

Peter's Vision



- Three men are sent by a Roman centurion called Cornelius
- Peter goes with them to meet Cornelius and his household and preaches the gospel to them. “...But **God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.**”

Acts 10:28
- While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. Those 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.

Who are God's People?



- Peter concludes that God must have accepted Cornelius and the others because the evidence was that they were **filled with the Holy Spirit**
- But if the promise was for Abraham's descendents, then how can this be the case?
- It takes the Apostle Paul to explain this to us in Galatians:

The Seed of Abraham



- Galatians 3 – all about receiving the life of the Spirit
- He redeemed us in order that **the blessing given to Abraham** might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive **the promise of the Spirit.**
- The promises were spoken to Abraham and to **his seed**. Scripture does **not say “and to seeds,”** meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning **one person, who is Christ.**

The Seed of Abraham



- If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
- God solves the problem by choosing Christ, and putting us all in Christ.
- The promise comes by **faith**. Faith means we believe something is true, but faith does not *make* anything true.

Truth is God's Department



- What has God made true for us?
 - He has chosen Christ to be the sole recipient of His blessing
 - He has transplanted us into Christ so that everything Christ is and has becomes ours (including the Holy Spirit)
 - He has confirmed this by pouring out His Spirit on all people (and especially on believers)
- If we don't **know** about it or we don't **believe** it, then we can't **enter into the benefit** of it

How do we see ourselves/ others?



Unworthy	Worthy
Impure	Pure
Unclean	Clean
Unholy	Holy
Unaccepted	Accepted
Can't receive the Holy Spirit	Has already had Holy Spirit poured out on them
Is excluded from the promise	Is included in the promise because of Christ
Must become qualified	Is already qualified
The 'Out' crowd	The 'In' crowd