

# **Life for All**

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 10:23-11:18.

B. Acts is rich with the work of the Holy Spirit.

## II. The outreach of Cornelius is the model of a home Bible study.

A. Cornelius gathers all of his friends.

B. A teacher is invited to share the gospel.

C. God hears the prayers of a nonbeliever as shown here. God hears any prayer so long as it is sincere.

## III. Peter's presentation of the gospel to the Gentiles.

A. God shows no partiality—He receives all people.

1. Cornelius was a good man, but he still was unregenerate and needed salvation.

2. However, he was temporally acceptable to God because he was honest.

B. Jesus is the Lord of all.

1. Jesus is to be received as Lord into the heart.

2. As a result, He becomes the Savior to that person.

3. Jesus did not come to display His deity—He came to display how man was intended to be.

4. One must be indwelt by God to be a whole person.

C. Jesus destroyed the effects of evil wherever He went.

1. He set people free.

2. He brought hope to people's hearts.

D. Jesus was put to death on the cross.

E. God raised Jesus from the dead.

1. It was no hallucination.

2. God's power was greater than man's was, and He broke the barrier of death.

3. Jesus Christ is the answer to death in every form.

F. Jesus is the one ordained by God to be the judge of the living and the dead.

1. Jesus is available to all men everywhere.

2. He is supremely important to all men as the ultimate person.

3. The most important question that we will ever face is what did you do with Jesus?

G. Everything Jesus did was predicted by the prophets.

1. Jesus takes care of guilt.

2. Through Jesus, sins are forgiven. Therefore, God loves you and accepts you.

IV. The Spirit interrupted Peter—as soon as the people heard, they believed.

V. The sign was the gift of languages and tongues that indicated to Peter the Gentiles were being received the same as the Jews.

A. Tongues were languages spoken on earth.

B. They were not for delivering messages to those present but for praising God.

C. This was a public demonstration—tongues are never privately exercised in the New Testament.

D. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers and not believers.

VI. The Gentiles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but they were still required to receive baptism by water.

VII. Peter responded to critics by telling them simply what God had done.

A. This is where faith always rests.

B. This is also what the Lord's Table is about.

**Application questions:**

1. How would you summarize the gospel? How does this compare with Peter's summary?

---

---

2. What is the speaker's argument for the use of tongues? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

---

---

3. How does the speaker suggest we respond to critics of our faith? What situations can this be the most helpful?

---

---