

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Outline #6 The Ministry of Peter

Scripture Song: Oh, give thanks to the LORD! (Psalm 105:1–5)

1. Signs and wonders in the ministry of Peter

- a) Acts 4:12-16, in Jerusalem
- b) Acts 9:32-35, in Lydda, Luke 5:17-26
- c) Acts 9:36-46, in Joppa
- d) What do these three stories have in common?
- e) Jesus warned of false signs and wonders, Matt. 7:22–23. How can we distinguish between the true and the false? Matt. 7:15–20, Mark 16:20

2. The conversion of Cornelius

- a) Acts 10:1-8, a message to Cornelius
- b) Acts 10:9-16, 17-23, messages to Peter
- c) Acts 10:24–27, 30–33 what do the actions of Cornelius reveal about God's work in his life?
- d) Acts 10:28, what important revelation did the Holy Spirit give to Peter? What prejudices have we absorbed from our culture that might hinder our witness for Christ?

3. The gift of the Holy Spirit

- a) Acts 10:44-48
- b) How does this supernatural sign confirm the testimony of Peter recorded in Acts 11:28?
- c) Was the gift of tongues given here for a different purpose that on the Day of Pentecost? What is the relationship between these two events?

- d) How did Jewish Christians in Jerusalem react to the news of Peter's experience in Caesarea? Acts 11:1–3
- e) What important lesson can we learn from Peter's testimony and the response Christian leaders in Jerusalem? Acts 11:4–18
- f) While Peter was ministering in Judea, what was happening in Antioch? How was the Holy Spirit also at work there? Acts 11:19–21

4. Persecution by Herod Agrippa

- a) Acts 12:1-4, James, brother of John, is executed
- b) How did Christian believers respond when Peter was arrested? Acts 12:5. Had they also prayed for James? Why does God answer our prayers in ways we might not prefer?
- c) Acts 12:6–10, the supernatural deliverance of Peter
- d) What can we learn from the reaction of those who were praying for Peter? Acts 12:11–17
- e) Why are we admonished to pray without ceasing, being watchful, with thanksgiving? Colossians 4:2
- f) What important lesson can we learn from the closing scenes of Herod Agrippa's life? Acts 12:18–23
- g) Why is the brief testimony recorded in Acts 12:24 an important conclusion to this account of persecution by those opposed to the work of God?
- h) How have you seen God work in difficult situations?