



Greater Life Church Central

"Loving and Leading People to a Greater Life"

Pastor Nate Stewart, Lead Servant

The Year of Awakening

Awake. Arise. Advance.

2770 Glebe Rd. Lemon Grove, CA 91945

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DON'T STAND IN GOD'S WAY

Acts 11:1–18 GW

1 The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that people who were not Jewish had accepted God's word. 2 However, when Peter went to Jerusalem, the believers who insisted on circumcision began to argue with him. 3 They said, "You went to visit men who were uncircumcised, and you even ate with them." 4 Then Peter began to explain to them point by point what had happened. He said, 5 "I was praying in the city of Joppa when I fell into a trance. I saw something like a large linen sheet being lowered by its four corners from the sky. The sheet came near me. 6 I looked into the sheet very closely and saw tame animals, wild animals, reptiles, and birds. 7 I also heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter! Kill these animals, and eat them.' 8 "But I answered, 'I can't do that, Lord! I've never put anything impure or unclean into my mouth.' 9 "A voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Don't say that the things which God has made clean are impure.' 10 This happened three times. Then everything was pulled back into the sky again. 11 "At that moment three men arrived at the house where we were staying. They had been sent from Caesarea to find me. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them without any hesitation. Six believers *from Joppa* went with me, and we visited Cornelius' home. 13 "He told us that he had seen an angel standing in his home. The angel told him, 'Send messengers to Joppa, and summon a man whose name is Simon Peter. 14 He will give you a message that will save you and everyone in your home.' 15 "When I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came to these people. This was the same thing that happened to us in the beginning. 16 I remembered that the Lord had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit.' 17 When they believed, God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. So who was I to interfere with God?" 18 When the others heard this, they had no further objections. They praised God by saying, "Then God has also led people who are not Jewish to turn to him so that they can change the way they think and act and have eternal life."



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MAIN POINT:

We must surrender our preferences, prejudices, and assumptions so we can participate in what God is doing

INTRODUCTION:

We can love God and still struggle with how He chooses to work. In Acts 11, some believers criticized Peter for entering a Gentile home and eating with them before celebrating what God had done.

Defining Getting in God's Way: Resisting His revealed will because it challenges our preferences, traditions, prejudices, or desire for control.

Three Dangers of Getting in God's Way

1. We can put our traditions above God's truth. — Mark 7:8–13
2. We can discourage people who are trying to draw near. Matthew 19:13–14
3. We can find ourselves opposing God Himself. — Acts 5:38–39

Point 1. RECOGNIZE YOUR _____ Acts 11:1–3

- You can hear good news and still focus on the wrong thing. v. 1
- Religious commitment does not make us immune to prejudice. v. 2
- Their complaint exposed the boundary they were protecting. v. 3
- Examine whether your objection comes from Scripture or discomfort. vv. 1–3



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Point 2. _____ **YOUR REASONING Acts 11:4–16**

- Listen to the whole account before reaching a conclusion. v. 4
- Recognize that God may need to correct a deeply held conviction. vv. 5–10
- Follow the Spirit's direction beyond familiar boundaries. vv. 11–12
- Remember that God is already working before you arrive. vv. 13–14
- Measure your interpretation by the Lord's words. v. 15–16

Point 3. _____ **GOD'S REACH — Acts 11:17–18**

- Recognize that God gave them the same gift. v. 17
- Accept that you do not have authority to overrule God. — v. 17
- Be willing to stop defending your objection. v. 18
- Let correction lead you into celebration. v. 18