



Greater Life Church Central

"Loving and Leading People to a Greater Life"

Pastor Nate Stewart, Lead Servant

The Year of Awakening

Awake. Arise. Advance.

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ACTS 10: WHEN GOD BREAKS THE BARRIERS (PART 1)

Focus Scripture: Acts 10:1-23 (GW)

Main Point:

God will challenge our traditions, preferences, and prejudices when they stand in the way of His purpose.

Introduction:

Acts 10 is a major turning point in the book of Acts. Jesus declared in **Acts 1:8** that the Gospel would move from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, and ultimately to the ends of the earth.

Leading Up to Acts 10:

- **Acts 2:** The Holy Spirit falls and the church is born.
- **Acts 3–5:** The church grows despite persecution and opposition.
- **Acts 6–7:** Stephen's ministry and martyrdom push the church beyond its comfort zone.
- **Acts 8:** The Gospel reaches Samaria and the Ethiopian eunuch.
- **Acts 9:** Saul is converted, and Peter continues ministering throughout the region.
- **Acts 10:** God opens the door for the Gospel to reach the Gentiles in a powerful new way.

Acts 10 isn't only about Cornelius being changed, it's also about Peter being stretched.

1. GOD _____ THE PERSON BEFORE YOU ARRIVE – Acts 10:1–8

Cornelius was a Roman centurion who was devout, God-fearing, generous, and committed to prayer.

- God was already working in Cornelius before Peter arrived.



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- Peter didn't create Cornelius' hunger; he was sent to where God was already moving.
- Never assume God isn't working simply because you can't see it.
- **We don't start God's work, we join God's work.**

2. GOD WILL WORK _____ BEFORE HE WORKS THROUGH YOU

- Acts 10:9-16

While Cornelius' men are traveling, Peter receives a vision that challenges everything he had traditionally believed about what was clean and unclean.

"What God has cleansed you must not call common." Acts 10:15

- The vision wasn't just about Peter's menu—it was about his mindset.
- Peter loved God but still had areas where his thinking needed to change.
- You can be saved, gifted, and anointed and still need to be stretched.
- **Sometimes God has to change your thinking before He can expand your assignment.**

3. SOMETIMES YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT WILL MAKE YOU _____.

- Acts 10:17-23

As Peter considers the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius arrive. The Holy Spirit instructs Peter to go with them.

- Revelation must eventually become obedience.
- God will sometimes send people and opportunities we didn't expect.
- Different doesn't automatically mean wrong.
- Unfamiliar doesn't automatically mean ungodly.
- **Sometimes the assignment making you uncomfortable is the assignment God is using to enlarge you.**

Personal Challenge:

What is God trying to stretch in me so He can use me at another level?