

Acts 10:23-11:18 Marks of Revival

I came to faith in Jesus Christ in 1973 - and started attending CCCM in 1974 -

A) about 6 years into a Revival Known as the Jesus people movement

B) At that time the Revival was still going strong and would continue for another 8-10 yrs.

C) Powerful time - Church was packed - people getting saved -

1) young people were EXCITED about Jesus

“Revival is when God's people return to God and God returns to them, and everyone sees the difference.” Henry Blackaby

C) Culture was changing - People were changing - and the world was taking notice.

JPM Revival spread across the United States and into other parts of the World

A) In our Calvary Chapel Movement it resulted in over 2,000 churches being planted.

B) Note: It didn't happen through some plan or strategy of man -

C) It happened as a Sovereign work of God - pouring out his Spirit.

Pastor Chuck Smith Favorite Bible Commentator

We cannot organize revival, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from Heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again. - G. Campbell Morgan

Here is Acts 10 we see what it looks like to set our sails to catch the wind COMES from Heaven -

A) Noted last week looked at V.1-23 that Chapter 10 - is a Pivotal chapter in the book of Acts

B) We noted last week that Acts ch 10 puts us at the 10 year mark in the life of the Early church

C) Ten years from when the Holy Spirit was first poured out on the day of Pentecost

In that ten year time span we have seen the city of Jerusalem radically impacted -

A) 10k plus people coming to faith

B) We have seen in spite of great persecution the gospel has spread to many other Jewish communities

1) And even impacted the city of Samaria

C) Now the reason Ch. 10 - is a Pivotal chapter in the book of Acts

1) It serves as a pivot point in the story of the Church

D) Because in Acts chapter 10 we see a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit

The work of Jesus and the message of the gospel impacts a Gentile family

A) And will from here spread throughout the middle east

B) On into Europe and even into different parts of Asia and Africa

C) In fact - All of us here today who are followers of Jesus and who are not Jewish

1) are the by-product of what takes place here in Acts 10

This chapter gives us some FIVE Marks that can lead to Revival - that I want us to consider today.

A) It was pastor Adrian Rogers who once said “Study the history of revival. God has always sent revival in the darkest days.” Adrian Rogers

B) If you were with us this Wednesday night - Pastor Barry Stagner did an impactful job of describing how we are living in the darkest of days

C) We are primed for either the coming of Jesus or a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit.

1) I am up for either one

So let's Consider 5 Marks that lead can to Revival that we see in this Chapter.

A) #1 It was birthed in Prayer. -

B) Study Revival - find - that Every revival that has ever occurred in the history of the church -

1) Has been birthed in Prayer

Prayer is the burden of revival; repentance is the breakthrough of revival; evangelism is the blessing of revival; holiness is the bounty of revival - Steve Camp

C)Now Last week we looked at V.1-23 -And we saw how the events of this chapter

1)started with two men in two different cities 35 miles apart were praying

The first a man we were introduced to was a Roman Centurion by the name of Cornelius praying

A)Cornelius is a Roman - he works for the bad guys -

B)he was born in raised in a pagan idolatrous society

1)but God has been drawing him - doing a work in his heart

C)He has turned from his idols and has begun to seek Jehovah the God of Israel.

In V.2 he is described as² a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people,

A)He is seeking God - but he doesn't know Jesus yet

B)But we are also told in V. 2 that he is a man of prayer he *prayed to God always*

C)During a time of prayer - he is visited by an Angel 1)who tells him to send men to Joppa which was 35 miles from where he was living in Caesarea

D)These men were to seek out a man named Simon Peter -

1)who was staying at the house of Simon the Tanner.

E)The Angel tells Cornelius that Peter will tell you what you need to do

1)So First we see - this thing starts with Cornelius in Prayer

35 miles away In Joppa Peter is also in Prayer - he is on a roof top at Lunch -praying

A)Sees a Vision - sheet - Picnic blanket all these animals on it - -

B)and Peter is Hungry - problem is the animals are not Kosher

1)Forbidden for the Jewish people to eat -

C)In this time of prayer/ in this vision Peter/ hears the Lord say - Rise Peter kill and eat

D)Peter's response is No way Lord - not doing that
- 1)My lips have never touched - something unclean - not starting now.

Jesus in the vision says to Peter -V.15¹⁵ And a voice *spoke* to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common

A)This scenario and exchange is repeated 3 times -

B)the vision ends and Peter is pondering the meaning - what was that all about -

1)He is about to find out

Pick up in V. 17 17 Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. 18 And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there.

19 While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you.

20 Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."

Doubting nothing - Peter don't over analyze this: - Just Go - The vision is going to be revealed ON THE WAY!

21 Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, "Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?"

22 And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you." 23 Then he invited them in and lodged them.

On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

24 And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.

Here we see the next Mark that often leads to Revival

A)#2 there is an attitude of Expectation that precedes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

B)V.24 Cornelius was waiting for them - idea is waiting eagerly with a sense of expectation and excitement

C)Notice V.33 as Cornelius recaps how his response when he was told by the Angel to send for Peter

Acts 10:33 "So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

Attitude of Expectation and Eagerness -

A)I wonder how our LIVES would change if we showed up here really believing we are meeting with God

B)This is His word – Powerful – change lives
1)God is going to speak to us today!

C)Charles Spurgeon declared: "If we want revival, we must revive our hunger and reverence for the Word of God."

D)So there is this attitude of expectation that preceded this outpouring

Let's consider the next Mark that leads to Revival that we see in this passage

A)#3 There is a Spirit of Humility -

25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. 26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."

B)Don't miss the significance of what Cornelius does here in bowing before Peter

B)Talked about this last week - the Romans thought they were the superior race

1)and everyone else was inferior to them - And were meant to serve them

C)And Cornelius was placed by the Emperor to his post in Israel to make that PT. very clear.

1)The Jewish people are under the Romans - subservient to the Romans

D)So for Cornelius a Roman official to bow before a Jewish man was a huge mark of Humility

Meekness and Humility are trademarks of the work of God in the heart of a man.

A)**We will never meet God in revival until we have first met Him in brokenness.**- Nancy Leigh DeMoss

B)Humility is born in brokenness, realizing that Jesus is greater than we are

C)Jesus is King and not me - / Coming to him with humble hearts

Now Peter handles the situation the right way - revealing a Humility of his own

A) But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."

B)I am man just like - you don't worship me

C)This is so great!! - We see Peter refusing to take from man the glory that belongs to God alone.

1)And there's a big lesson there - Hearts that would be used by God must be humble hearts.

D)I have never had anyone bow down to Worship me - nor would I want to

1)But back in the day when I used to speak at a lot of Youth camps Kids get saved or touch -

2)Sign my Bible - Awkward

Listen I believe the very fact that God ends up pouring his spirit out on Cornelius and all his house

A)Was directly related to his expectant and humble heart!

B)Both Peter and James declared - **God resist the proud - but he gives grace to the Humble.** 1 Peter 5:5-6 / James 4:6-7

B)So after - Peter lifts up Cornelius and says- I am a man just like you - then we read in V.27

²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. ²⁸ Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

²⁹ Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. ☺ I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?" ³⁰ So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was

fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,³¹ and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.'

³²Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.' ³³So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

#4 There is a willingness to follow the Spirit's leading even though it goes against tradition

A)By even being in the same room with these gentile People - Peter is breaking with years of tradition

²⁸ Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

B)What is happening here required an openness by Peter to the Holy Spirit!

C)By going with them Peter was going against 1500 years of religious tradition.

1)Jews don't eat with Gentiles

D)Entering the house of Cornelius went completely against the grain of prevailing Jewish thought.

Orthodox Jews were certain that God did indeed show partiality,

A)That God showed partiality TOWARDS the Jews, and partiality AGAINST the Gentiles.

B)Many Jews in Peter's day thought that God - loved the Jews, but hated Gentiles.

C)RABBIS taught that Gentiles were Dogs - Unclean - Fuel for the fires of Hell

D)So Entering the house of Cornelius - proved that Peter's heart and mind had been changed by God,

E)It showed that Peter now understood the lesson of the vision of that great sheet let down from Heaven.

1)Everyone is unclean apart from Jesus - but everyone Jew or Gentile could be made clean through Jesus

John Stott said this – "The principle subject of this chapter is not so much the conversion of Cornelius as the conversion of Peter."

One of the marks that leads to Revival is there will be a willingness to break with tradition.

A)Tradition says We have always done it this way!- That is a sure way to quench the HS!

B)Listen the message never changes but our Methods have to change

C)We have to stay open to the moving of the Holy Spirit - Not talking weirdness –

1)Has to be in line with Scripture.

D)But it is easy for us to get set in our ways.

E)But I have to say that I have seen an openness in you as a body that has blessed me.

I remember a time in our church years ago.

A)When God had brought these young guys into our church and we started letting them do worship

➤ **Jeremy Camp - Phil Wickham - Sean**

B)It was a stretch for some of you - style was different -I remember saying to you guys -

1)Hey might not like style - Love their hearts

C)So blessed by you guys- You received them - were blessed by them -

D)Think about 13 years ago when Jason came back - we started sharing the teaching - (**new idea in CC**)

1)You embraced that I hope you stay that way -

Even now in the last few years - I have been giving our younger Pastors Aaron Tyler - opportunity to teach.

A)There was time - I would get flak for that - like I was doing something wrong

B) Now I get compliments - raising up - and a few
So taking the day off today Huh ?

**Our new Wednesday night Rhythm - Seasons of
Focus - Summer through the Bible**

A) **Fall Focus BUILD men's/ women** - Build up and
focus on leadership

B) **Winter - Focus is on Connection** - Shorter
teaching Circle groups - body pouring into each
other

C) **Spring - Focus is Equipping** Classes

D) One guy who has been around a long time - said
to me recently -

1) I love how you are always shaking things up around
here - TOES

**E) I am just trying to follow the leading of the Holy
Spirit**

That is what Peter is doing here in Acts 10 -

A) In doing so God is about to break through 1500
years of racial tension and social barriers -

B) And pour out his spirit on the gentiles

C) Man looks at color and ethnicity.

1) Man looks at nationality and political affiliation.

D) Man looks at social and economic status.

**But remember what God said to the prophet
Samuel**

A) Go the house of Jesse - anoint one of his sons to
be the next King -

B) Sees Eliab - perfect choice God - nope - **man
looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord
looks on the heart.**"

C) God doesn't see color or ethnicity - He only sees
the heart.

1) God doesn't see nationality or political affiliation -
He only sees the heart.

D) God doesn't see social or economic status - He
only sees the heart.

**E) He sees the heart that stands in awe of Him -
that fears Him.**

**God sees the heart that acknowledges Him for who
He is**

A) **Mighty God the Creator, Sustainer - Redeemer!**

B) He sees the heart that comes empty and broken
before Him - that understands they have a need for
a Savior,

C) So there is a willingness to follow the leading of
the Holy Spirit even if it goes against tradition

D) Well at this point Peter begins to preach - V.34

1) In his sermon - he exalts the Centrality of Jesus

**#5 Mark that leads to Revival is the focus of our
Preaching is always on Jesus!**

A) Not reform - not politics - not issues - the focus is
JESUS

B) The Focal point of Peter's sermon is the
exaltation of Jesus!

³⁴ Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: "In truth I
perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every
nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is
accepted by Him. ³⁶ The word which *God* sent to the
children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus
Christ—He is Lord of all—³⁷ that word you know,
which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and
began from Galilee after the baptism which John
preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with
the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing
good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,
for God was with Him. - V.39

³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which He did
both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom
they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰ Him God raised up
on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all
the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God,
*even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose
from the dead.* ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to
the people, and to testify that it is He who was
ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the
dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through
His name, whoever believes in Him will receive
remission of sins."

Note six ways that Peter exalts Christ in this sermon!

1st Peter exalts Jesus as the Bringer of Peace! V.36

A) Peter lifts up Jesus as the one that God sent to make peace with his rebellious creation.

RESCUE MISSION

B) There is a lack of peace in the heart of man – who is in sin – sin separates us from God.

C) God the father sent his son Jesus to earth on a Rescue mission

1) Jesus came to be the peace maker –

D) Reconcile man to God!

1) THAT IS THE GOOD NEWS – You can be reconciled to God thru Jesus!

E) Peace with God results in Peace within

1) I am right with my God - my creator.

You know there have been times in my almost 37 yrs of marriage to my wife Denise - where I have done something - said something hurt her -

shocked right

A) Whenever that happens - there is tension - there is uneasiness - home and our relationship.

B) She has to ..No I have to repent - Change of mind - stubborn - hard headed - sorry

C) All that tension lifts - PEACE and harmony

Our sin and rebellion against God created a wedge in our relationship with him -

A) He still loves us - tension - things not right.
If Honest we felt that -

B) We have to repent - see our sin the way that God does

C) Change of mind - our position - can't save ourselves -

1) Embrace what Jesus did

D) Result is Peace with God and Peace within - AWESOME

E) So first Peter exalts Jesus as the bringer of peace

2nd Peter exalts Jesus as the Lord of All V.36

A) That's who Jesus is. He is Lord of all.

B) This is a huge statement to make to a Roman Centurion -

C) See in the Roman empire - it was expected of all people to declare

1) Caesar is Lord!

D) In that one little statement - Peter is going challenging the popular opinion of the day -

1) Jesus is Lord of All - True King and true Emperor

E) In the coming years 10's of thousands of Christians would be martyred for their unwillingness to say that Caesar Nero was Lord.

3rd Peter exalts Jesus as the Anointed by the Spirit with Power. V.38

A) Jesus was anointed by God and given power over Satan over demons - he was given power to heal.

B) Healing in V.38 to cure, to heal and to restore - note: the objects of his healing-

1) **All who were oppressed by the devil**

C) Oppressed = to be pressed down -to overpower and to burden with unreasonable impositions

That is what the devil seeks to do in a person's life

A) Doing to men and women in Jesus day - doing to men and women and teens and young kids in our day

B) Overwhelmed by life - bondage and pressed down by sin - trapped in fear of living - FOMO -

1) fear of dying

C) But Jesus came and possessed the Power to set people free - from that oppression - the weight of sin 1) the weight of guilt

D) John 10 Satan is a Thief and a Robber - **comes to kill rob and destroy but I have come Life and that more abundantly!**

Now it Interesting Peter says of Jesus he went about doing good - It was evident that God was with Him.

A) But the Jewish leaders Killed him - hanging on a tree - nailed him to the cross.

B)Why ? Jesus claimed to be God in Human flesh - the religious leaders didn't like that -

1)Plus they were Jealous of his popularity - took offense to how he challenged all their traditions and rituals

C)Peter says they killed - you wonder if there was a gasp in the audience of Cornelius and his friends

Peter doesn't let that last long 4th way he exalts Jesus is in V.40-41 God raised Jesus from the dead

A)Risen Alive - Beat death - death doesn't have to beat us

B)Peter would write in his epistle - Born again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead

C)When a person puts their faith in Jesus - the Bible declares - you are born again -

1)Spiritual birth - no longer dead in sin - brought to life - made right with God

D)Resulting in A LIVING HOPE!

1)Hope in the Present in Jesus Resurrection- set free from Sin - Shame - guilt

E)ALSO Hope for the Future in Jesus Resurrection - Heaven is waiting for us -

1)Destiny is to live with Jesus forever in his Kingdom

5th way that Peter exalts Jesus is by declaring V.42 Jesus is the King - the Final judge of all people

42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.

A)Appointed unto man once to die and then comes the Judgment

B)Judgment will not be BASED on how good you lived vs how bad -

C)Cornelius was a good guy - religious guy -HE gave money to help people - prayed -

1)But he didn't know Jesus - STILL LOST

D)THIS IS THE JUDGMENT -WHAT DID YOU DO WITH JESUS

1)Believe/embrace and receive HIM or Reject -Only two options

2)No neutral ground - either for me or against me

So Peter exalts Jesus is the Final judge of all people

A)But 6th - He is source of God's forgiveness -

43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

B)Before you meet Jesus as Judge, you may meet him this very morning as the forgiver of sins—the Peacemaker of God.

1)Forgiven Forgotten - IN Jesus NEW CREATION –

2)**Old things have passed away - behold all things become new -**

C)Open your heart to Jesus - embrace what he has done - Receive his peace and forgiveness today -

1)FRESH START - TODAY

D)Note: Peter doesn't even get to finish his sermon

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

Notice the results

➤ The Holy Spirit is poured out - Baptism of the HS

Peter will point out in Chapter 11 -

A)That happened to us is on the day of Pentecost is exactly what happened to them

B)This outpouring of the Holy Spirit that happened that day in Caesarea would sweep all over the Gentile world

C)The rest of the story of the book of Acts has it's roots here in Acts 10

Notice the results

➤ The Holy Spirit is poured out

➤ The believers were astonished

45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷“Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

A)True conversion occurs - and they get baptized with the Holy Spirit at the same time

B)The word astonished means to displace, to amaze and to throw into wonder

C)We might say today - they were tripping - wow - this is exactly what happened to us.

The next result - there is a hunger for more! - V.48

⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

A)Outpouring of the Spirit at Ashbury college - weeks - kept going - Hunger for more of God.

B)During the JPM - Pastor Chuck at CCCM teach on Sunday nights for 3 hrs - More -

C)Children's ministry people had to beg him to cut it down to 2 hrs

But there is one more result - see quickly here

A)There is opposition from the traditionalist Ch.11:1-18

Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. 2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, 3 saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"

4 But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying: 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me. 6 When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 7 And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' 8 But I said, 'Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.'

9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, 'What God has cleansed you must not call common.' 10 Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven. 11 At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. 12 Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing.

Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to

him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, 14 who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.'

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"

18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

These guys come around!!!! - But many don't today- they stay stuck in their traditionalism

A)The traditionalist - become the legalist -

B)who quench the work of the Holy spirit by trying to lay trips on these gentiles

C)I pray that will not be the case with us.

As a church - Let's be Men and women of prayer

A)People who in Humility - are constantly expressing our need for MORE OF GOD IN OUR LIVES

B)People who when we come together - Expectation - God is going to move in our midst - 1)manifest his presence and speak to us

C)PEOPLE WHO STAY - OPEN TO FRESH WAYS THE HS desires to move in our hearts - 1)our lives and our church.

D)IN doing so we will be setting our sails to catch the wind of God's spirit when he chooses to blow on us. - AMEN