

February 15, 2015

SETTING A NEW DIRECTION FOR LIFE

Moving Out Of Our Comfort Zones

Acts 10:1-23

We see in the continued story of the book of Acts how God used the followers of Jesus to accomplish His purpose. The truth of Jesus's words in **Acts 1:8** became a reality: ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses...”*** These words of Jesus are a reminder for us today of our responsibility to impact our world as a follower of Him to fulfill His purpose and plan.

1. We passionately seek God and pursue holiness!

“At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.” **Acts 10:1-2 (NIV)**

“Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually.”
Psalm 105:4 (NASB)

“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ...” **1 Timothy 6:11-14 (NIV)**

2. We pray and prepare our hearts to hear from the Lord.

“One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, ‘Cornelius!’” **Acts 10:3 (NIV)**

“About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray.”
Acts 10:9 (NIV)

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” **Matthew 26:41 (NIV)**

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength...” **Ephesians 1:17-19 (NIV)**

3. We lay aside our pride and prejudices for God's purpose.

“Cornelius stared at him in fear. ‘What is it, Lord?’ he asked. The angel answered, ‘Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter.’” **Acts 10:4-5 (NIV)**

“While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.’” **Acts 10:19-20 (NIV)**

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that

so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” **Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)**

“But the wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful, gentle, and friendly; it is full of compassion and produces a harvest of good deeds; it is free from prejudice and hypocrisy.”
James 3:17 (TEV)

4. We make the good news of Jesus the message of our lives.

“And they said, ‘Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you.’” **Acts 10:22 (NASB)**

“Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time has come,’ He said. ‘The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!’” **Mark 1:14-15 (NIV)**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” **2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NIV)**