

February 22, 2015

SETTING A NEW DIRECTION FOR LIFE

Living Our Life Message

Acts 10:23-48

The book of Acts is the continued story of God's transforming power at work in the lives of the disciples of Jesus. In the meeting of Peter and Cornelius, the message of God's reconciling love through Jesus has finally come to the Gentiles. But the story is a reminder of our responsibility to live out the message of Jesus. As the Apostle Paul said in **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**: "*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation...*"

1. We must realize people are waiting to hear the real message.

"And on the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends." **Acts 10:24 (NASB)**

"And the next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of God." **Acts 13:44 (NASB)**

"But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?" **Romans 10:14 (NLT)**

2. We must help clarify the confusion in people's lives.

"As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. But Peter made him get up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man myself.'" **Acts 10:25-26 (NIV)**

"The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. As a result, they don't see the light of the Good News

about Christ's glory. It is Christ who is God's image. Our message is not about ourselves. It is about Jesus Christ as the Lord."

2 Corinthians 4:4-5 (GW)

3. We must remove the barriers that keep us from people.

"He said to them: 'You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?'" **Acts 10:28-29 (NIV)**

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." **1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (NIV)**

4. We must know and live the good news of Jesus!

"Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.'" **Acts 10:34-36 (NIV)**

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." **1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)**

5. We must let the Holy Spirit to do His work!

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message." **Acts 10:44 (NIV)**

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” **John 14:26 (NIV)**

“When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” **John 16:8-11 (NIV)**

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” **Romans 15:13 (NIV)**

“And this is His commandment: We must believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. Those who obey God’s commandments live in fellowship with Him, and He with them. And we know He lives in us because the Holy Spirit lives in us.” **1 John 3:23-24 (NLT)**