

Acts Part 13 A Move of God For Everyone

Pastor John Carmichael

[Act 11:17 NASB95] 17 "Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as [He gave] to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

- We all need a move of God in some area. It is just part of what it means to be human. We are having to deal with things that we are not created to deal with: sin, the effects of the curse, and the devil.
- Yet, at the same time some people question whether God wants to help. If He does, they question whether He only helps some people but not others.
- In Acts 10 & 11, there is a story of Cornelius and Peter. In this story we find some help on this subject. In short, God wants to move (help) in everyone's life.

What do we need to know about God's desire to move in our lives from these chapters?

From these chapters, there are four principles we need to know about God's desire to move in our lives.

I. God wants to move in everyone's life; no one is excluded.

- a. [Act 10:1-2, 9-16, 20, 22, 28, 34-35, 43-44 NASB95] 1 Now [there was] a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, 2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the [Jewish] people and prayed to God continually. ... 9 On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. 10 But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; 11 and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, 12 and there were in it all [kinds of] four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. 13 A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" 14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." 15 Again a voice [came] to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no [longer] consider unholy." 16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky. ... 20 "But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself." ... 22 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." ... 28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and [yet] God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean. ... **34 Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand [now] that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.** ... 43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name **everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.**" 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.
- b. [Act 11:3-14, 17-18 NASB95] 3 saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." 4 But Peter began [speaking] and [proceeded] to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying, 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me, 6 and when I had fixed my gaze on it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air. 7 "I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' 8

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"But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' 9 "But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.' 10 "This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky. 11 "And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were [staying,] having been sent to me from Caesarea. 12 "The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man's house. 13 "And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; 14 and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' ... **17 "Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as [He gave] to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"** 18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance [that leads] to life."

- c. Everyone who desires God will reach/find God.
- d. In God's Sovereignty, He has already said what He wants. In His Sovereignty, He chooses you! He has already made the choice!
- e. Let's not stand in the way of God... He wants to bless you!

II. God responds to prayer and giving.

- a. [Act 10:2, 4, 9, 31 NASB95] 2 a devout man and one who **feared God with all his household, and gave** many alms to the [Jewish] people and prayed to God continually. ... 4 And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "**Your prayers and alms** have ascended as a memorial before God. ... 9 On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ... 31 and he said, 'Cornelius, **your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered** before God.
- b. We need to quit wanting answers to prayers we have not prayed. We have to get to quit trying to reap where we have not sown.
- c. Pray prayers. Sow seeds. God hears and remembers.
- d. We must seek Him. [Jas 4:8 NASB95] 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

III. God empowers us through Spirit baptism.

- a. [Act 10:38, 44-48 NASB95] 38 "[You know of] Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed **Him with the Holy Spirit and with power**, and [how] He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ... 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit fell** upon all those who were listening to the message. 45 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the **gift of the Holy Spirit** had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they were hearing **them speaking with tongues and exalting God**. Then Peter answered, 47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received **the Holy Spirit just** as we [did,] can he?" 48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.
- b. [Act 11:15-17 NASB95] 15 "And as I began to speak, **the Holy Spirit fell** upon them just as [He did] upon us at the beginning. 16 "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 "Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as [He gave] to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"
- c. God baptized them with the Holy Spirit the same as He baptized Jesus and the first Apostles.

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- d. The moves of God that flow from your life will come through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- e. Let God flow through you. Trust in His power in your life. Nothing is impossible to those who trust in the power of God in their life.

IV. God moves on account of the preaching of the Word/Gospel.

- a. [Act 10:34-44 NASB95] 34 **Opening his mouth, Peter said:** "I most certainly understand [now] that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him. 36 "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all) 37 you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. 38 "[You know of] Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and [how] He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. 39 "We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. 40 "God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, [that is,] to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 "**And He ordered us to preach to the people,** and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. 43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins." 44 **While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell** upon all those who were listening to the message.
 - b. [Act 11:15 NASB95] 15 "And as I began to **speak, the Holy Spirit fell** upon them just as [He did] upon us at the beginning.
 - c. The Word you welcome is the word that is effective. It becomes the catalyst for what works in your life. [1Th 2:13 NASB95] 13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted [it] not [as] the word of men, but [for] what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.
 - d. Everything works through the seed. [Mar 4:13-14 NASB95] 13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? 14 "The sower sows the word.
 - e. If you want breakthrough... welcome the Word of God... sow (speak, believe, act on) the Word of God.
- **God wants to move in everyone's life, as He responds to prayer and giving by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit through the receiving of the preaching of the Word of God.**