

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

November 1, 2020

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading:

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *Apostolic Hospitality* (Acts 10:23-33)

Announcements:

Our new sign is here! Many thanks to Brad Badow of *Brushfire Signs* in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, who made and installed it with help from Bill Stalter and Ron Glen.

Literature for Josh and Marcia: They give away tons of gospel and Pauline literature at their town fair. If you have old literature you'd like to give them, bring it and Pastor Aaron Harris at *Berean Bible Society* will ship it to them.

Grace Singles Conference: *Berean Bible Society* will host a Valentine's Day singles conference on Saturday, February 13.

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone

Acts 10:17-22 *Doubting Peter*

God gave Peter a vision telling him to eat the kind of unclean animals that his Bible said *not* to eat, so Peter "doubted" about it (v.17). The word "doubt" is the opposite of the verb "believe" (Mark 11:23) and the noun "faith" (Mt.21:21). That means Peter *understood* the vision. He just didn't want to *believe* that God was telling him to do the opposite of what his Bible said to do.

That's a good attitude to have if someone tells *you* to do something contrary to what the Bible says, even if they say they saw a vision like Peter did. Deuteronomy 13:1-3 says to *ignore* men who say they saw dreams or visions (cf.Num.12:6) that contradict the Bible.

If Peter's doubts sound familiar, it is because they are the same doubts you see when you try to do what God was trying to do here with Peter. He was trying to introduce him to a dispensational change! He gave him a vision to tell him about the dispensational change He made in Acts 9 when He saved Saul and introduced a new dispensation in which you could eat unclean animals. I'm sure you see those same doubts when *you* try to introduce believers to dispensational truth, just as I do on a weekly basis.

As we saw in an earlier study, Peter was praying about reaching the Gentiles when he got this vision (10:9,10), and the Lord answered him immediately by *sending him* three Gentiles. That kind of instant answer to prayer is associated with the kingdom of heaven on earth (Isa.65:24,25). Peter wasn't in the kingdom, of course, but God was giving him a *taste* of the kingdom to assure him that while Israel might have *rejected* the kingdom, *it was still coming!*

And Peter was *also* getting a taste of what the kingdom will be like when Isaiah 2:2,3 comes true and the Gentiles will come knocking on the door of Jews to learn how to be saved in the kingdom.

The Holy Spirit told Peter that those men were at his gate (10:19), but He doesn't speak out loud *today* in the dispensation of grace as He did then. Someday He will (Isa.30:21), but not until the sun is much brighter (v.26).

So don't be listening for "a still small voice" in your head to tell you what to do, as some Christians mistakenly claim God will use to direct you. In that verse in I Kings 17:13, God was telling Elijah that He wasn't in the wind or the fire or the earthquake He sent, He was in *Elijah's* still small voice.

It has nothing to do with hearing a voice in your head.

When Peter found that three Gentiles were there to see him (v.18) right after he saw a vision in which God told him three times that unclean animals were no longer unclean, he would have made the connection and realized that God was telling him that *the Gentiles* were no longer unclean (Lev.20:24,25 cf. Acts 10:28).

The Spirit told Peter to go with those men "doubting nothing" (Acts 10:20) because he knew Peter would be dubious about going with Gentiles. But Peter went! (v.21).

The "words" (Acts 10:22) that God told Cornelius to acquire from Peter were words that would tell him *how to get saved* (cf. Acts 11:13). Under the old kingdom program, he wouldn't have *qualified* to get saved until after all Israel was saved, but God had changed the program in Acts 9.

We see his disqualification under the law symbolized when a Gentile widow told Elijah that she and her son were starving and were about to eat their last meal, and he told her to feed him *first* (IKings 17:13). If you didn't know anything about the Bible, you'd say that Elijah wasn't just a Jewish racist who hated Gentiles, you'd say he was a *selfish monster*, for only a selfish monster would say that to *any* widow, Jew or Gentile. But if you know your Bible you know that as a Gentile she didn't qualify for any kind of blessing from God until the Jewish prophet Elijah was *filled* with God's blessing.

And that's the kind of thing that Cornelius did! The reason he had a good report of the Jews (Acts 10:22) was that he gave alms to them (v.2). So he *did* qualify to hear the gospel!

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

November 1, 2020

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Dave Stewart

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

Myrtle Harrison

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger

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