

## **Five Keys To Making A Difference** **Acts 10:44-48**

A different look at the story of Cornelius  
Example in making a difference in the world  
Peter & Cornelius can teach us how

### **Walk Closely With God**

*Acts 10:1-4,9*

Cornelius was a very spiritual man

    Cornelius had regular habit of prayer; Cornelius trusted God to help

    Same said of Peter

God used them here because they walked closely with Him

God cannot use those who refuse to walk with Him

Our first responsibility for usefulness is to Walk With God

### **Obey God**

*Acts 9:32; 10:8,23-25,28-29*

Cornelius & Peter exhibit habit of obedience

    Willing to listen to God's instruction and take action on it.

    Changes in this chapter are direct result of desire to Obey God

Obedience is necessary if we are to be used by God

    Cannot accomplish His goal if we take no action

    Disobedience leaves us useless to God in making a difference

### **Reach Out To People Outside Your Comfort Zone**

*Acts 9:32-43; 10:5-6,20,25,48*

Peter's movements in this part of Acts show a steady move into the Gentile world.

    It seems God was easing him into position for this great work

    Lydda, then Joppa, then to leatherworker's home, he drew further from Jerusalem and the Jews in location and action

    Cornelius was a large step out of his comfort zone

    His Jewish upbringing would have resisted at each action

    Yet Peter, who was consumed by the work given him by Christ, took those steps

    Commitment to God overruled Jewish training pushed to act

Must be willing to step out of what is comfortable and easy

    Often those need God's message outside our comfort zone

Am I committed to God such that I will reach to those outside my safety net?

### **Look For Those God Is Reaching Or Softening**

*Acts 9:32-43; 10:19-23*

Acts shows us there are many who are searching for something better than this life.

    God's work among men is certainly evident in this message

    We speak of evidence for God in the creation, but do we keep our eyes and ears open for those who have seen the evidence and now want to know who God is and what He wants for them?

We need to be looking for opportunities.

Cornelius asked, God answered by telling Peter he was needed

Are we missing opportunities because not paying attention?

### **Disregard The Criticism**

*Acts 10:13-14,20,28; 11:1-3,18*

Peter and Cornelius surrounded by resistance and heard much criticism, Peter certainly did when he returned to Jerusalem  
Yet they answered the call of God anyway  
By disregarding criticism of others, they were instrumental in fulfilling God's plan for all mankind to be saved  
We can be certain that we will meet resistance  
Most want to remain in an area of comfort, not rock the boat  
Yet often going against the grain, yet still true to God, is exactly what is needed for growth  
Never had a muscle get excited about a workout. :-)

### **We Can Make A Difference**

God is moving, spreading his message by softening and wooing hearts, by awakening souls.  
Are we close enough to Him to hear?  
Are we ready to answer with action?  
Let us be among those who step out and search for those who need the Gospel