



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Holy Spirit Blaze Series, Lesson 3

Lesson Title: The Holy Spirit Brings Us to Faith

Take Home Point: The Holy Spirit brings us to faith.

Warm-Up:

One of the saddest stories I remember hearing was of a man who collected his paychecks and never did anything with them. He was poorly educated and worked menial jobs over his lifetime, often with the same company for years. As you would expect, every pay period he received a paycheck for his work. He did not cash it; instead he dutifully stored it with all the others. No one told him that piece of paper could be converted to money! Each payday he would add to his store of paper, confident that it meant something. He just didn't know what, because it was never revealed to him. He died with a lifetime of collected checks that were absolutely worthless to him because they were never redeemed for the real thing. He didn't know.

Read: Acts 10:19-48; 1 Corinthians 12:3b

Observation (What happened?):

With what great truth did Peter begin his talk at the house of Cornelius?

Who opens our eyes to recognize and declare Jesus as Lord?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think it was such a change in the believers' thinking that redemption through Jesus Christ was also for the Gentiles?

Why did the Holy Spirit come on the Gentiles as he did in this account?

Insight:

God's plans and his ways are so much higher than we can possibly imagine. Whenever human beings have attempted to define him and describe him in some limiting way, he demonstrates in no uncertain terms that he is God, the great I AM. For any number of reasons, by the time Jesus lived on earth, the Jewish people were convinced the revealed God was the God of the Jews only. The Gentiles were on the outside. Jesus regularly taught his disciples that this was not true, but they simply did not understand it. For example, in John 12:32 Jesus said, *"When I have been lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people toward me."* He did not limit it to a particular group. Most telling, just before he ascended into heaven after his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples, *"Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8) Apparently, they thought he meant Jews around the world. Then the Spirit spoke to Peter and Cornelius and everything changed. Continue reading in Acts 11 to see how the news was received.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Recall how you came to faith in Jesus Christ. Looking back, how did the Holy Spirit work in you and around you?

Pray for the children in your small group to be open to the Spirit's work in them.

Kingdom Quest Year 1 - Lesson 3