

ALMS GIVING AND REGULAR PRAYER OBSERVANCE NOT ENOUGH

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Ever-Flowing Grace Assembly

ask questions: One, why was the angel of God sent to Cornelius while doing what he knows best? (see verse 2 and 30); Two, why was Cornelius sending for Simon Peter to come to him from Joppa? Indeed, what was the purpose of all that transpired? Note the remarks on Cornelius prayer and alms: Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God (verse 4); not that they have secured him salvation. If they had secured him salvation, there would have been no need to hear what he must do from Simon Peter's mouth (verse 6). Quite alright, Cornelius and his household were good in alms giving, regular prayer observance with fasting; still in God's purpose and pursuit he should hear or been told what he must do. Events of Jesus' life must be heard. For instance, what Jesus did in his earthly ministry that impacted on people's life was highlighted (verse 36-38). He was told the message of the Cross Jesus hung on the tree, died and rose from the dead (verse 39-42). The witness of all the prophets that in His name sins are remitted to the one who believes (verse 43). In fact the readiness of Cornelius and all gathered in his house to accept what they were about to hear was remarkable (verse 33). Consequently upon this God baptized them with the Holy Spirit and later baptized in water (verse 44-47). These experiences are normal for those who believe in Jesus and His work of redemption. Friend, have you believed in Jesus or not? Listen, your eternal glory demands that Jesus the Christ should be in you by faith (Colossians 1:27). Make haste while the sun shines. Revelation 3:20 is Jesus knocking on the door of your heart; invite Him right in now.

My Advice: From this time onward own a copy of the Bible if you don't have before. Make a good study of it as you pray that God would open your eyes to see wondrous things out of the Bible (Psalm 119:18). Join a Christian worship centre in your locality for regular worship (Hebrews 10:24-25). Let the Pastor of the worship centre know you so that both water and Holy Spirit baptism could be arranged for you (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 10:44-48). Remain blessed.

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Fellowship with us at: No 9, Ebunoluwa Scott Close, Araromi Layout, Beside Olivet Baptist High School Small Gate, Tobacco Area, Oyo. You'll be glad you did. We meet on: Sundays 9.00am Wednesdays 5.30pm

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everyone who believes in alms giving, regular prayer observance with fasting should read this tract message. The Bible in Acts 10:1-48 has an example of a certain man and his household who believes and practice good deeds. In spite of all his good deeds he needed to hear of the way of salvation from a human messenger. Point blank, he needed to hear about Jesus who is Lord of all and thereafter, he needed to experience both Holy Spirit and water baptism. These, in order of importance should come before alms giving, regular

prayer observance with fasting for every seeker of God's kingdom. Please note that, no one is condemning alms giving, regular prayer with fasting, but these are NOT ENOUGH for God's kingdom. Carefully read Acts 10:1-48 and apply your curious mind to wisdom. The summary of Acts 10:1-48 is that you should know Jesus such that He becomes the Lord and personal Saviour of your life; and you experience both Holy Spirit and water baptism alongside alms giving, regular prayer observance with fasting.

Acts 10:1-48 (NKJV): 1There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment. 2a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people and prayed to God always. 3About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, Cornelius! 4And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, lord? So he said to him, Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. 5 Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. 6 He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do. 7And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. 8So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa. 9The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. 10Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance 11and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. 12In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 13And a voice came to him, Rise, Peter; kill and eat 14But Peter said, Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean. 15And a voice spoke to him again the second time, What God has cleansed you must not call common. 16This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again. 17Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. 18And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. 19While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, Behold, three men are seeking you. 20 Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them. 21Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come? 22And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you. 23Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him. 24And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshipped him. 26But Peter lifted him up, saying, Stand up, I myself am also a man. 27And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. 28Then he said to them, You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. 29 Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me? 30So Cornelius

said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing. 31 and said, Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. 32 Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter, He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner by the sea. When he comes he will speak to you. 33 So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God. 34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him, 36 The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ He is Lord of all 37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem whom they killed by hanging on a tree. 40 Him God raised up on the third day and showed Him openly, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. 43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, WHOEVER BELIEVES in Him will receive remission of sins. 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Friend, read through Acts 10:1-48 again in order to grab the import of all that transpired. Then you would