

Year A #188
Keys of the Kingdom
040205-3

Hello! This is Dorothy -

In the **Book of Acts**, God the Holy Spirit is seen calling missionaries, overseeing the Church, and commanding the lives and the practice of the apostles and whole Church. In **Acts 20, verse 28**, we read - **Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.**

Now, such acts indicate that God the Holy Spirit is a person. After Pentecost, every believer has the indwelling Spirit. If you have received Jesus Christ, you have been born of the Spirit of God; you have received God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is revealed as a divine person. Our Lord Jesus Christ, at the close of His ministry, promised that He would Himself pray the Father, and that, in answer to His prayer, the Holy Spirit, called the Comforter, would come to abide. The Comforter is God the Holy Spirit.

In the upper room on the evening of His resurrection, the Lord Jesus came to His disciples. In **John 20:22**, we read - . . . **he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit.** However, He instructed them to wait before beginning their ministry. **Acts 1:8: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon**

you. . .

The **Book of Acts of the Holy Spirit** recounts Peter's use of the keys of the kingdom of the heavens in opening the Gospel opportunity for this age. First, *to the Jews*- **Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. To the Samaritans (Acts 8:1)- And Saul was consenting unto his death. . . - "that was Stephen's death - . . . And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.** Then, thirdly, *to the Gentiles*. In **Acts 10:1-18**, we read of Cornelius. We will look at him on another occasion, but he was a devout Roman proselyte, the first representative Gentile introduced to the gospel of grace. When we receive Jesus Christ, we receive Him because of the gospel of grace. So, you might ask, "Was Cornelius saved before Peter's visit?" Looking at it carefully shows he was not saved.

In **Acts 11:15**, we read -

15 And as I - Peter - began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, as on us at the beginning. *In other words, he is saying a similar situation arrived when this group came into Christ, the Holy Spirit came*

to them.

16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord how that he said, John - that is John the Baptist - indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Do you understand what God has done in your life as you come into Christ? You were baptized into Him by His Holy Spirit. Cornelius' devotion, alms, prayers and visions in **Acts 10:2** merely signify he was a Jewish proselyte .”Well,” you say, “what in the world is a proselyte?” A *proselyte* is newcomer. It is found in the Old Testament. The word is *stranger*. From the covenant between Yahweh and Abraham, Israel had been a peculiar people, whose mission it was to proclaim among the nations that Yahweh alone was God. Moses' law did not grant the right of citizenship, but it did extend, if you were a proselyte or a stranger, toleration and certain privileges. But with those privileges, it was required that you complied with certain religious enactments prescribed to Israel. For example, you were not to blaspheme the name of Yahweh (**Leviticus 24:16**); you were not to indulge in idolatrous worship (**Leviticus 22**); not to commit acts of indecency (**Leviticus 18:26**); not to work on the Sabbath day (**Exodus 20:10**); not to eat unleavened bread during Passover (**Exodus 12:19**); and not to eat blood of the flesh of animals that have died having been torn by wild beasts. In other words, they were not to touch blood, because it spoke forth of the sacred Blood of Jesus that would be shed for the

sins of the world. **(Leviticus 17:10-15.)**

I do not know if you can follow what I have tried to conserve by space in so much of this amazing working of the Holy Spirit, but when you come into Christ, God the Holy Spirit has come into your life. You have been born of His Spirit to make Jesus Christ real. Do you control your life as a Christian? Do you work for God? Or are you willing to say, *I want the Holy Spirit to take control of my life. I want Him to work out the plan that glorifies the Lord through me. In so doing, I worship and praise Him for all that He will do through me. I thank You at this time in Jesus' Name for that working which will glorify Him as I say, Yes, Lord, only You. Take all of me for Your glory.*

In Jesus' Name. Amen.