

**Contention As Peter Reaches Gentiles**

**050603-1**

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

*Simon*, with the divine knowledge of Jesus, was given the name *Peter*. The new name implied a claim of authority. Remember that in the Old Testament, names were changed by God; such as Abram to *Abraham* and Sarai to *Sarah*. The idea is something similar to changing of a maiden name at marriage to take on the name of one's husband. A new name meant a new position; a new responsibility. The Lord's commission to Peter was a personal recognition of his personal confession. It was promise and prophecy of special, personal work in days to come. Peter's authority was personal and he was not over the other apostles. Only Jesus is Head of the Church, and not Peter.

In **Acts 2**, Peter was used of God to speak on the theme of Jesus as Lord and Christ, and God's fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. Peter continues saying that God would pour out His Spirit and **whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.**

That message applies to you today as you listen.

In **Acts 10** Peter spoke to Gentiles in the house of Cornelius.

**34 . . . God is no respecter of persons.**

**35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh**

**righteousness, is accepted with him.**

**36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: {he is Lord of all;}**

**37 That word . . . which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John (the Baptist) preached;**

**38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. *That is speaking of Jesus.***

**39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:**

**40 Him - *Jesus* - God raised up the third day, and showed him openly;**

**41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.**

**42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the judge of the quick - *living* - and the dead.**

**43 To him gave all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him - *Jesus*- shall receive remission of sins.**

However, trouble resulted among the apostles and the brethren who

were throughout Judea, because Peter, a Jew, spoke to the Gentiles. Amazing, isn't it? God worked and then, there seems to always be trouble. Trouble about somebody having a different idea from what God is doing.

In **Acts 11**, we read —

**1 Now the apostles and the brethren . . . heard [with astonishment] that the Gentiles (heathen) also had received and accepted and welcomed the Word of God [the doctrine concerning the attainment through Christ of salvation in the kingdom of God], they contended with Peter. They were fighting against Peter in this.**

**2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, [certain Jewish Christians] found fault with him [separating themselves from him in a hostile spirit, opposing and disputing and contending with him],**

**3 Saying, Why did you go to uncircumcised men and [even] eat with them?** *Look how Peter answered them.* Look how, when there seems a blast comes - why is this happening in your life, and resentments and jealousies and bigotry comes out - notice how Peter handles it.

**4 But Peter began [at the beginning] and narrated -that's told the story - and explained to them step by step [the whole list of events].**

**16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptised**

**with the Holy Spirit.**

**18 When they heard . . . they held their peace, and glorified God saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.**

Can you imagine, there were those who saw in Jesus Christ that He was the Messiah, and those who came to know Him were the Jews. They had been looking for the consolation of Israel. All down through those ancient manuscripts of the Old Testament, there were so very many prophecies, page after page, showing that God was going to send His Son. And Jesus came and some rejected Him, but some came to Him. Therefore, we are talking about people who were Jews. And with the Jews, they had their tradition of not to eat and to associate with the unsaved, with the heathen; not to contaminate their position with Christ. But, suddenly a miracle happened through Peter. And you and I, a Gentile perhaps, have a chance to know Him. Receive Him today.

*In Jesus' Name, I pray. Hallelujah! Amen.*

