



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion:

Acts 10

Two Heavenly Visions, One Divine Purpose

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Gospel saves the Gentiles

- **1-7: Cornelius' Vision** – Who was Cornelius? Where was he? What was his spiritual status? Who appeared in the vision and what was the message? How did Cornelius respond?
- **9-16: Peter's vision** – Where was Peter? What did Peter see, and what the message? What was his response? Was Peter justified in his initial hesitation/disobedience? What should be our response to God's voice?
- **17-22: Peter, the host**– What prompted Peter to host Cornelius messengers? Who all were present that night?
- **23-48: Peter's visit with Cornelius** – How did Cornelius receive Peter? Who else was present at home? What was Peter's message? How did it impact the listeners? **Why was this visit a significant moment in church history?**
- **Conclusion:** Just as Promised and Prophesied ... The gospel is drawing people from all nations, tribes, people and tongues ... how exciting!

Verses 1-7: Cornelius Vision

Who was Cornelius? Where was he? What was his spiritual status?

Who appeared in the vision and what was the message?

How did Cornelius respond?

Cornelius ... who was he? (v.1-2,22)

- Roman military officer in Caesarea, attached to Italian band
 - Devout
 - Feared God with all his house
 - Gave alms
 - Prayed always
- ☛ Seemed to have all good qualities of a devoted person ... but, was he born-again?

Cornelius vision & response (3-6,30-32)

- Vision @ 3pm, while he was fasting & praying
- Angel's message
 - Thy prayers and thy alms have been recognized
 - Send men to Joppa to invite Peter
 - Peter will tell what he needs to do
- Cornelius Response
 - Obeys ... sends a devout soldier and two servants to meet Peter

Verses 9-16: Peter's vision

Where was Peter? What did Peter see, and what the message?

What was his response? Was Peter justified in his initial hesitation/disobedience?

What should be our response to God's voice?

Peter's vision

- Peter praying @ noon, and hungry when he fell into a trance
- Heavens opened and a vessel descends
 - Contained all manner of beasts, creeping things and fowls of the air
 - Voice: Rise, Peter: Kill and eat

👉 What was Peter's response and was it justified?

Peter's response

14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

Leviticus 20:25 (NIV) Thou must therefore make a distinction between clean and unclean animals and between unclean and clean birds. Do not defile yourselves by any animal or bird or anything that moves along the ground—those that I have set apart as unclean for you

15 And the voice *spake* unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common. [16](#) This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

👉 Did Peter Kill and Eat? What was the interpretation of the vision?

👉 What should be our response to the voice of Lord? (we should obey ... delayed/partial obedience is disobedience)

God speaks even today. How does He speak? ...

- His still small voice
- His Spirit
- His Word
- His Children
- Circumstances
- Visions and Dreams
 - It doesn't matter how God speaks, more important that He speaks personally to us.
 - [How can we be sure we heard God's voice?](#) if not sure, pray more or ask the Lord for additional confirmation.
 - God's voice will not contradict the principles of the scriptures. God's voice will bring clarity to situation; God's voice will increase peace in our hearts. God's voice will lead to blessing.

Verses 17-22: Peter the host

What prompted Peter to host messengers from Cornelius?

Who all were present that night?

Peter, the host

- Peter prompted by the spirit that 3 men seek him
- Surprisingly, Peter not only accepts their invitation but also hosts them for the night.
- Peter + Simon, the tanner + 3 gentile visitors ... quite a diverse group!
- Departs in the morning along with certain brethren from Joppa

👉 Trivia ... Which other famous person is associated with Joppa?

Verses 23-48: Peter's visit with Cornelius

How did Cornelius receive Peter? Who else was present at home?

What was Peter's message? How did it impact the listeners?

Why was this a significant moment in church history?

A great cottage meeting

- Cornelius eagerly awaiting Peter's visit (24)
- Invited his relatives and friends (24)
- Fell down to worship Peter

👉 **Cottage Meeting as outreach ministry:** Create opportunities for neighbors and friends to hear the word; The Word through the Holy Spirit will complete the work (Isaiah 55:11)

Peter's message

- Peter welcomed by eager audience ready to hear (v.33)
- Peter's Message (same as before)
 - God is no respecter of persons (34)
 - Jesus is Lord of All (both Jews and gentiles) (36)
 - History: Christ crucifixion (Jesus baptism, anointing with holy spirit, good works, healing), raised from the dead, ... for God was with him (38)
 - We are witnesses of all that he did, and resurrection (39-41)
 - Jesus as the judge of living and the dead (42) (John 5:22) (Savior and Judge)
 - **Gospel**- **whosoever believeth shall receive forgiveness of sins**

Impact of Peter's message

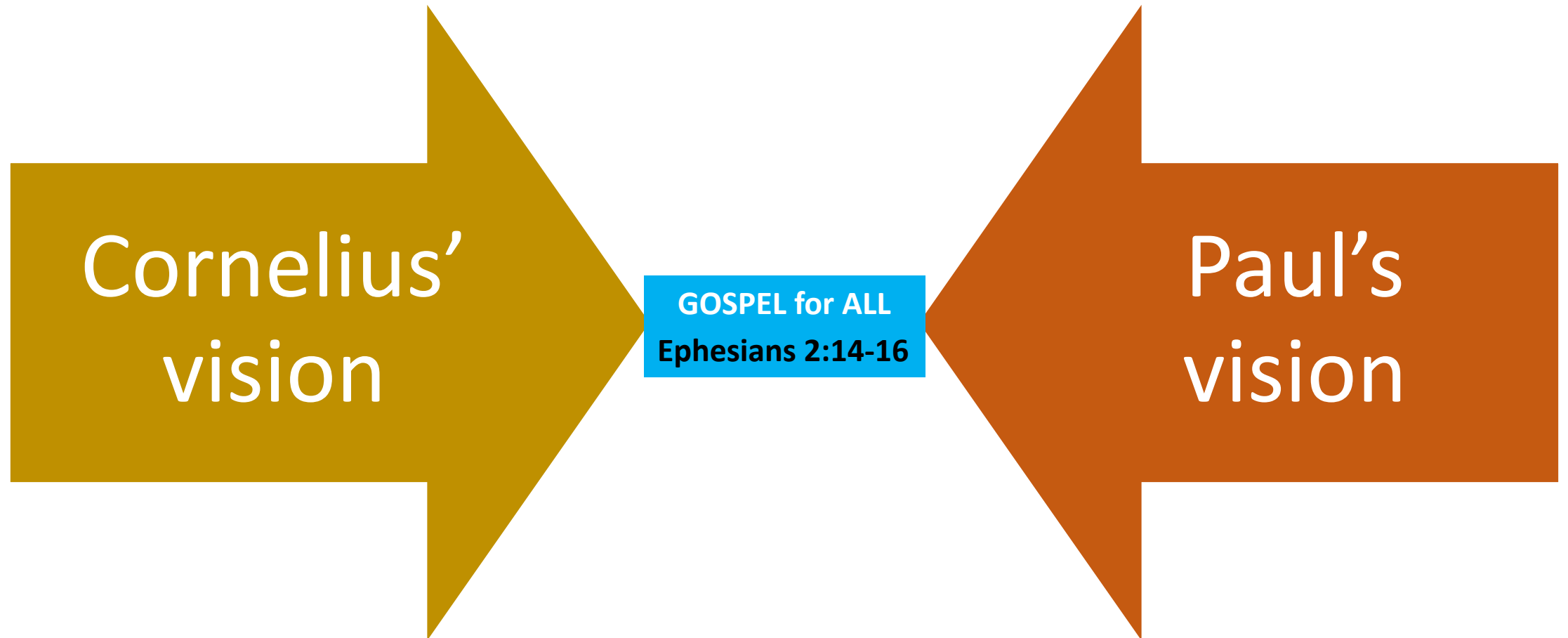
- Received the message in their hearts, born again
- Received the Holy Spirit
- Spoke in tongues
- Baptized
- Gentiles added to the body of Believers 🙏

Isaiah 60:3 and the gentiles shall come to thy light

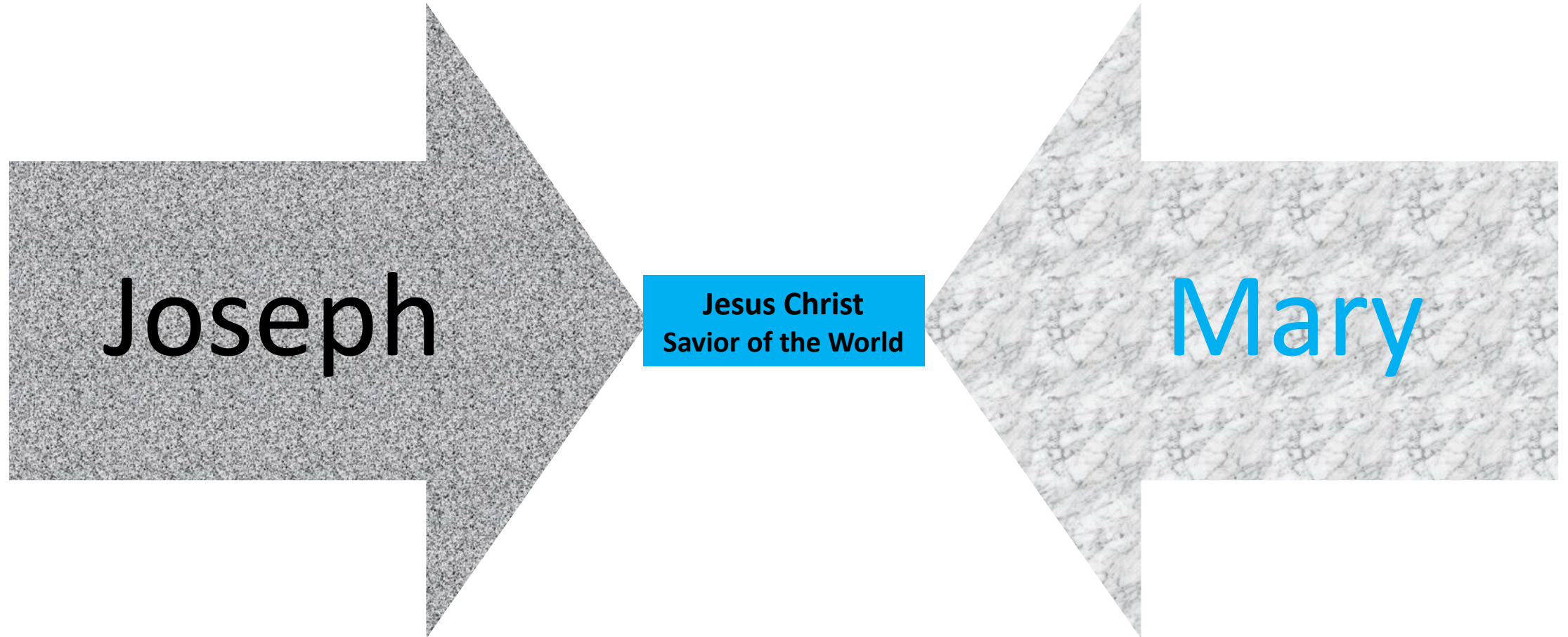
Promise of God fulfilled

Matthew 4:19 "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"

Two Heavenly Visions, One Divine Purpose



Two Angelic Visits, One Divine Purpose

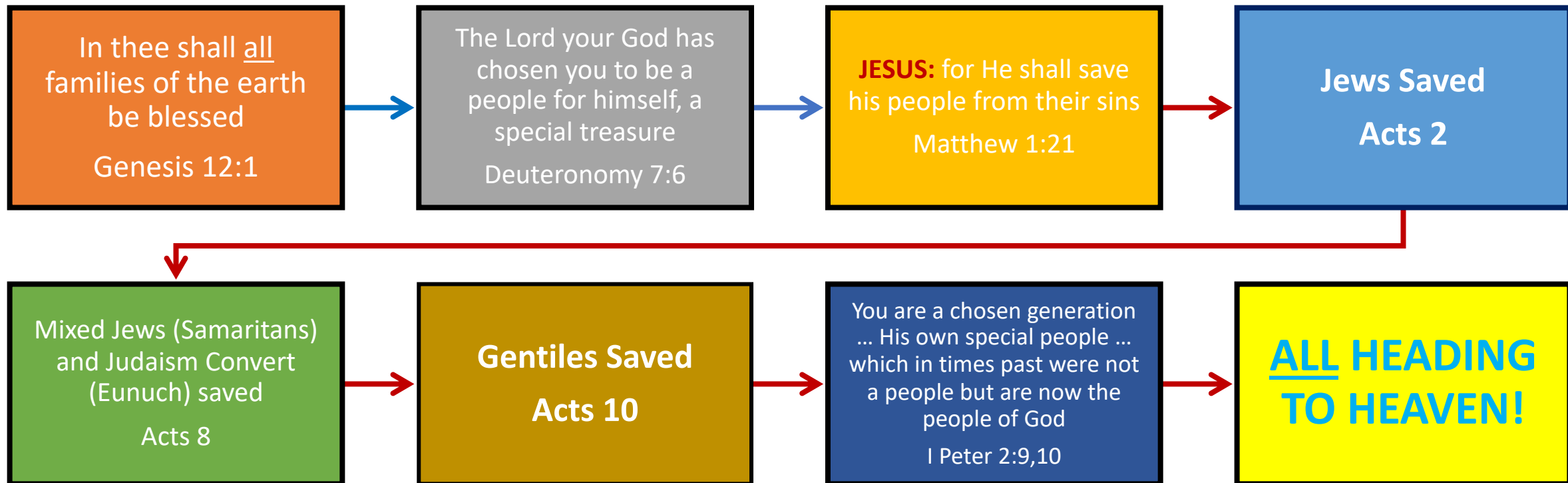


Conclusion

The gospel is drawing people from all nations,
tribes, people and tongues for an
everlasting worship & celebration in Heaven!
(Revelation 7:4, 9; 21:27; 21/22)

Exciting Future for Believers

Lord is at work ... **Cross** made the difference





ACTS REVIEW

Do we remember?

Acts Review:

Do we remember?

1

- Author of Acts, Kingdom of God, Lord's Ascension
- Waiting for Holy Spirit, The Mission, Replacement for Judas

2

- Arrival of Holy Spirit, Difference in spirit between OT and NT
- Speaking in Tongues (Source, Purpose, Appropriate use) Peter's Sermon (Message, Last days) when is Holy Spirit given, Birth of Church and Characteristics of church

3

- First Healing (how? Parallel to sinner's experience)
- Peter's Sermon model (Question, Introduces Jesus, Confronts Mistakes, offers path to Repentance & Restoration, refers to Prophecies, Result)

Do we Remember?

4

- First Persecution-reason and verdict, Sanhedrin, Peter & John's response, Church Response, God's response, Caring Church, 2nd pouring of the Holy Spirit

5

- Church Discipline: Purpose, Example, Outcome
- Second Persecution: Reason, Peter's message to council, Response to beatings, Impact on Ministry

6

- Addressing Problems in church using godly decision making process
- Delegating to effectively exercise priority in use of gifts and talents

Do we Remember?

7

Stephen: Great man of God, Falsely accused, Confronts the council, Stoned to death, Received by Christ

8

- Growing Persecution, but positive outcomes.
- Successful ministry of Philip in Samaria, Questionable salvation of Simon, significance of laying on of hands
- Philip's outreach to Eunuch leading to baptism. Baptism.
- How can we be effective evangelists?

9

- Paul's old mission
- Paul's encounter with Jesus, Meeting with Annanias, baptism
- Paul's first ministry in Damascus
- Evidence of Paul's true salvation and transformed life
- Physical healing of Aenas and Tabitha



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