

# PLOT TWIST

**When God Surprises His People**

## Part 3: Relational Revelation

One of the most surprising features of Acts is the diversity of people God calls to be included among God's people.

~ Robert W. Wall  
*The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

The conversion of Cornelius was a landmark in the history of the gospel's advance from its strictly Jewish beginnings to its penetration of the Roman Empire.

~ Richard N. Longenecker  
*The Expositor's Bible Commentary*

The law of Moses can be seen to have been fulfilled and replaced by Christ's saving work. The reality that it anticipated has come, and so the laws which formerly functioned as a way of identifying the people of God can no longer be allowed to separate Jew and Gentile.

~ David G. Peterson  
*The Pillar New Testament Commentary*

The believers are shocked, because they did not expect God to give His Spirit to Gentiles. Now the "unclean" are part of the Spirit-baptized community! Jew and Gentile no longer exist in the church. The church is one new humanity!

~ Frank Viola  
*The Untold Story of the New Testament Church*

Something happened in the home of Cornelius that no one was expecting. It was the Pentecost of the Gentile world.

~ Frederic Chase  
*The Credibility of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles*

A revolutionary thing had happened in the life of the church. Just as the promise of the Spirit had been fulfilled among Jews at Pentecost, now it was being fulfilled among Gentiles. This was indeed a Gentile Pentecost!

~ Ajith Fernando  
*The NIV Application Commentary*

In this story we see an example of the early church learning to re-read Scripture in light of their present experience. For all our proper attention to careful Bible study, God's prodding is sometimes felt within us or first observed in the bustle of life around us. Often our opinion is reversed for the Lord's sake by our existing encounters with the Holy Spirit in the mess and muck of ordinary living.

~ Robert W. Wall  
*The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

This narrative challenged Christians to be wary of allowing any cultural, social, or inherited religious barriers to hinder the acceptance of new converts into the church. Sadly, history shows that some of the greatest opposition to gospel initiatives has come from church officials.

~ David G. Peterson  
*The Pillar New Testament Commentary*

In his great gospel sermon to the house of Cornelius, notice that Peter doesn't preach Jesus as saviour. He preaches Jesus as Lord. Only when Jesus becomes Lord does he become our Saviour.

~ Ray C. Stedman, *God's Unfinished Book*

Jesus is the inescapable One. He stands in the path of every human being.

~ Ray C. Stedman, *God's Unfinished Book*

**"He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name." <sup>44</sup> Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. <sup>45</sup> The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too.**

~ Acts 10:43-45 (NLT)