

“GETTING OUT OF GOD'S WAY”

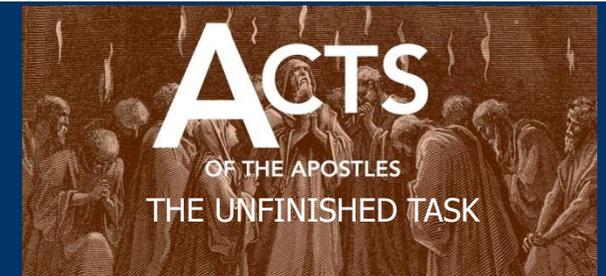
(Acts 11: 1 – 18)

Expository Sermon of Acts - Sermon 23

Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: July 21, 2019

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



INTRODUCTION:



“We have never done it any other way except this way.”



“So, why change?”

INTRODUCTION:

He whispers a word and creates the world
from nothing.



INTRODUCTION:

He whispers in the dark and a star fills the emptiness.



INTRODUCTION:

He made all kind of living creatures from dust that roam the earth before man existed.



INTRODUCTION:

Daniel 2

“Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream”

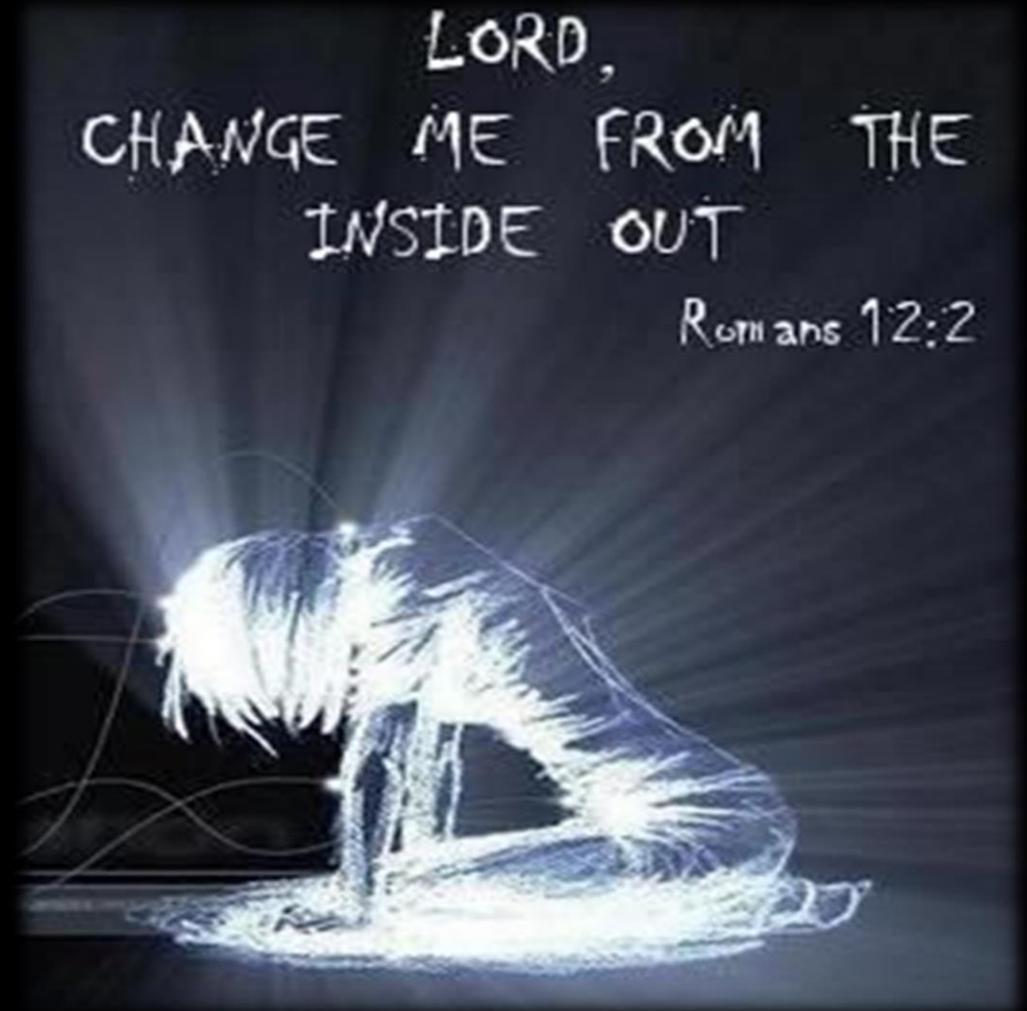


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|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Golden Head | Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon | Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon | 605 to 562BCE |
| Silver Body | After Nebuchadnezzar's "Invasion" | Nabonidus' Babylon | 556 to 539BCE |
| Bronze Waist | Rules The World | Persian Empire | 539 to 330BCE |
| Iron Legs | Crushes all Others | Alexander the Great | 330 to 323BCE |
| Iron and Clay Feet | Breaks to Pieces | Alexander's Kingdom Divided | 323BCE |

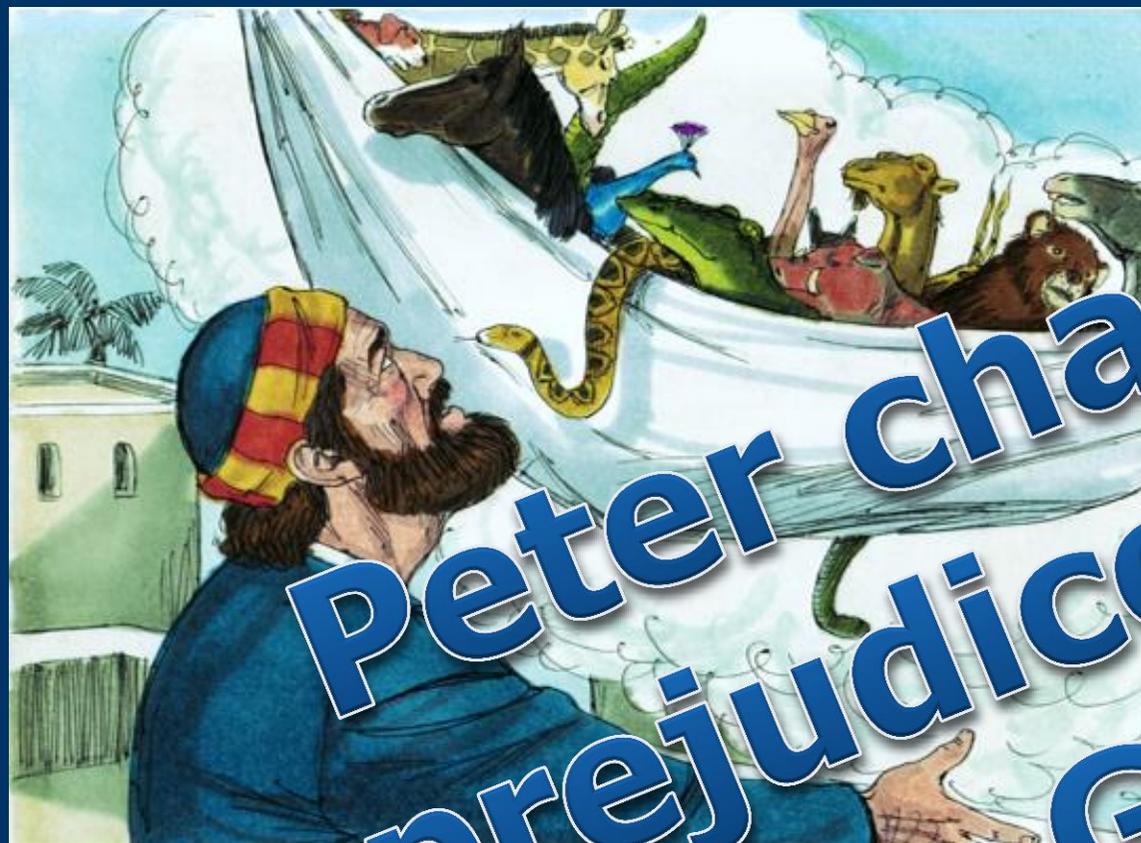
Kingdoms RISE & Kingdoms FALL

INTRODUCTION:

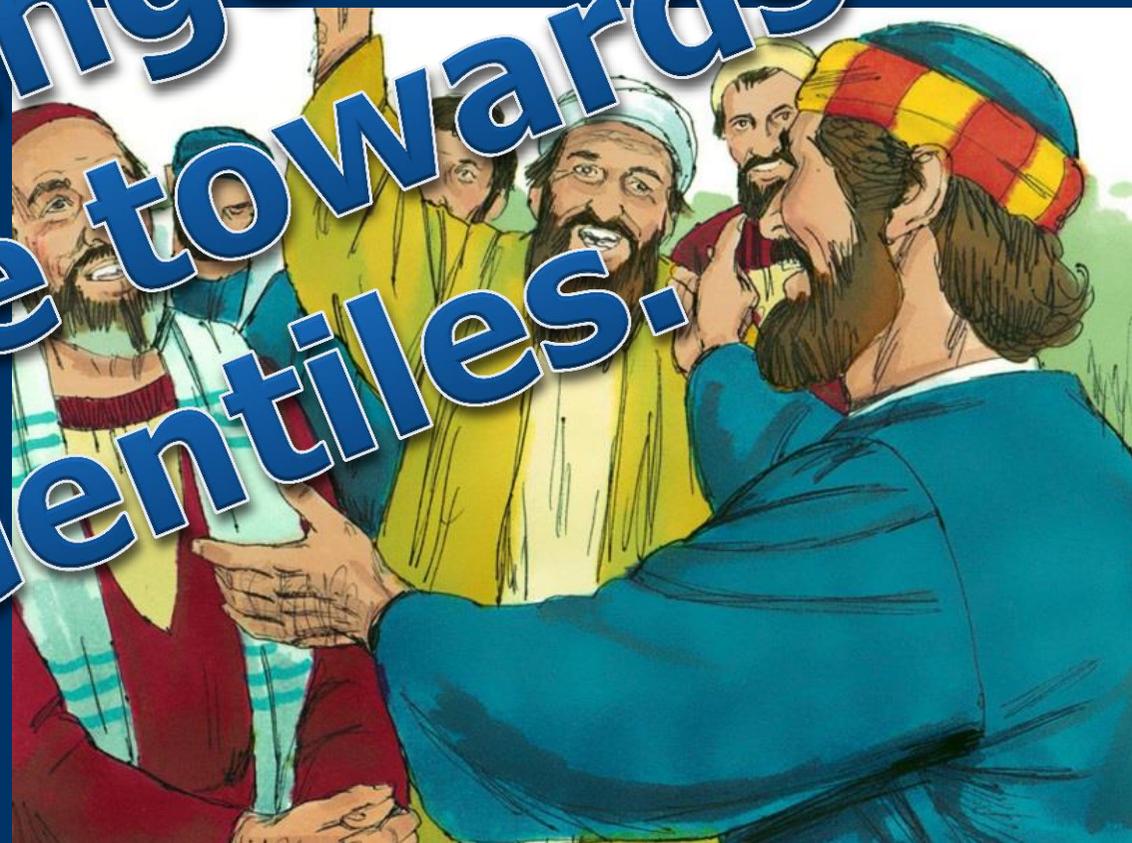
His favourite work of **change** today, occur in the hidden places, where the human soul and spirit mingle.



INTRODUCTION:

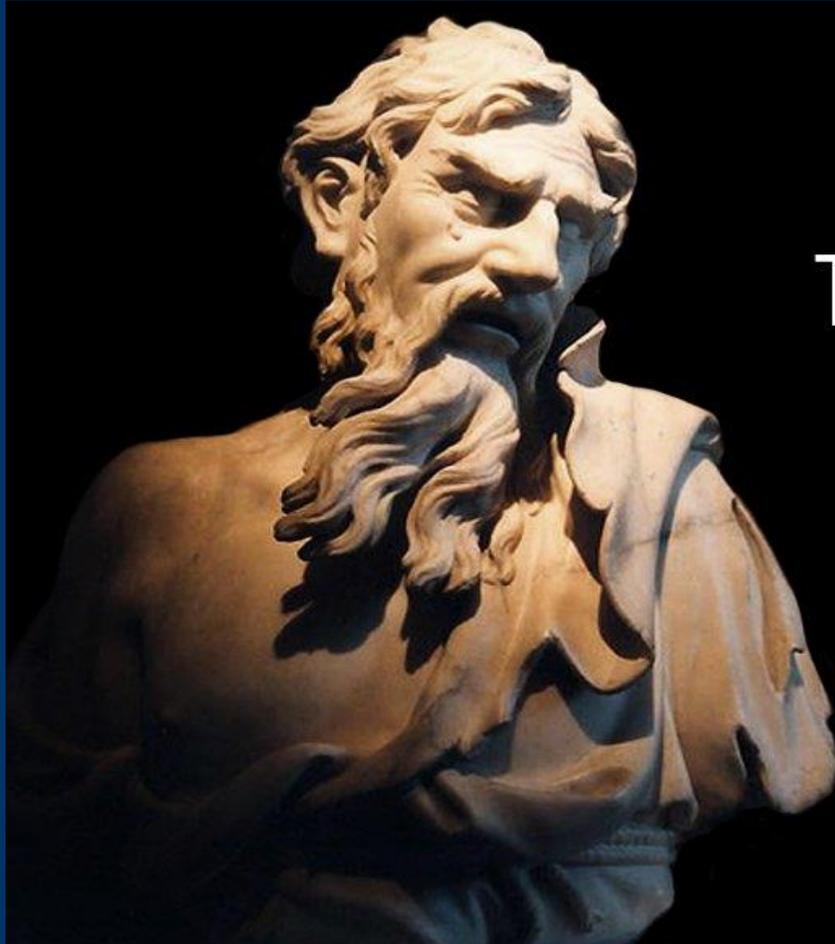


Peter changes his
prejudice towards
the Gentiles.



I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES REGARDING CHANGE

A) Some changes are inevitable



There is nothing **permanent**
except **change**.

– *Heraclitus*

I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES REGARDING CHANGE

B) Any change requires adjustment

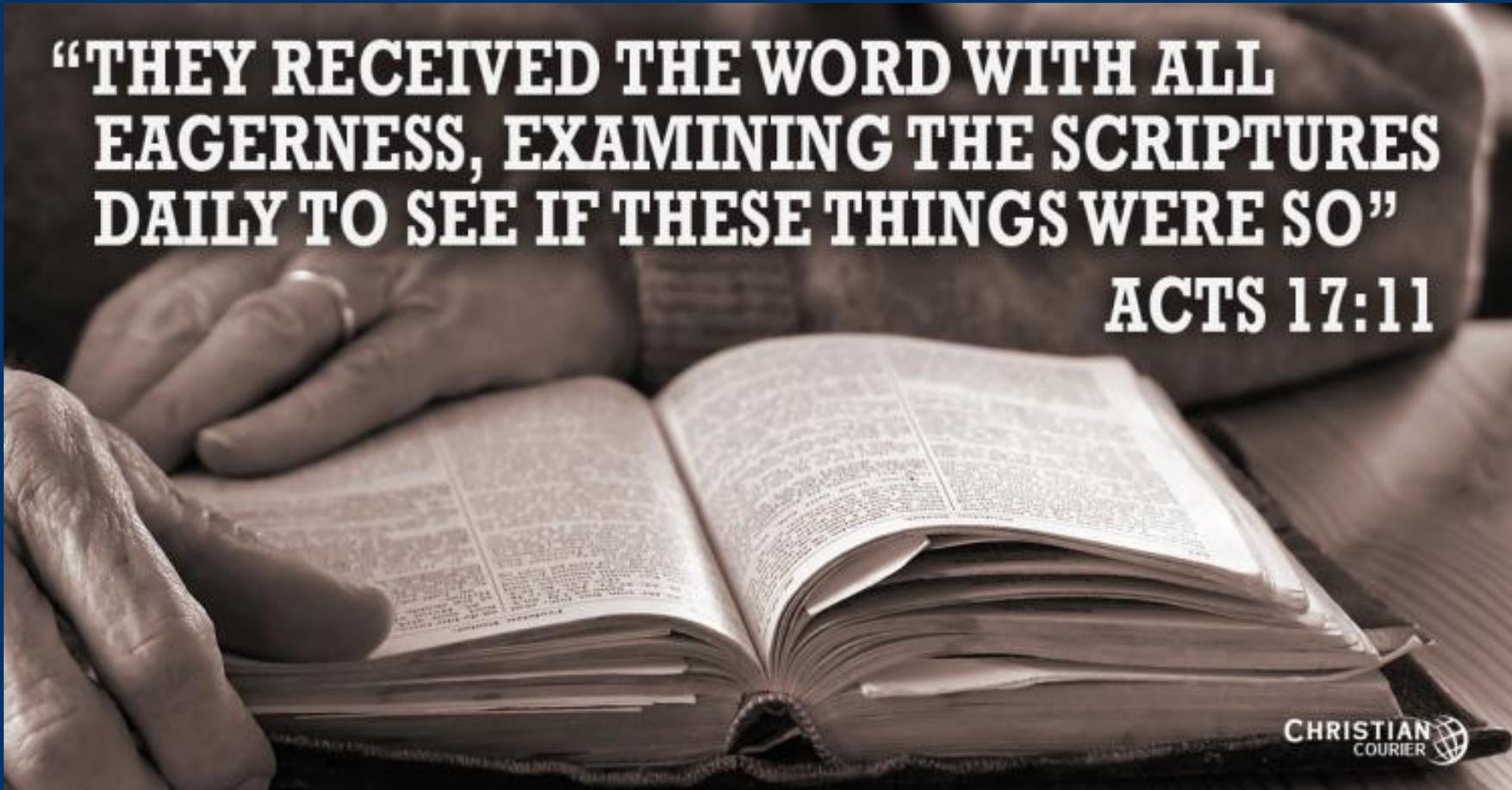


I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES REGARDING CHANGE

C) Each change must be examined

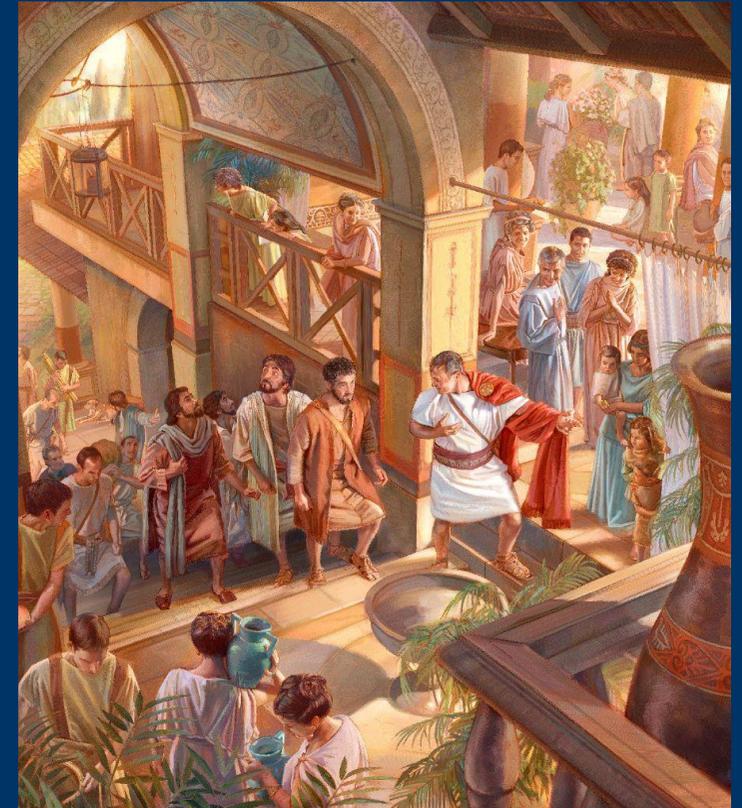
**“THEY RECEIVED THE WORD WITH ALL
EAGERNESS, EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES
DAILY TO SEE IF THESE THINGS WERE SO”**

ACTS 17:11



II. FACING CHANGE IN THE FIRST CENTURY

The past few days, staying, eating, talking and fellowshiping had changed the Apostle forever.



II. FACING CHANGE IN THE FIRST CENTURY

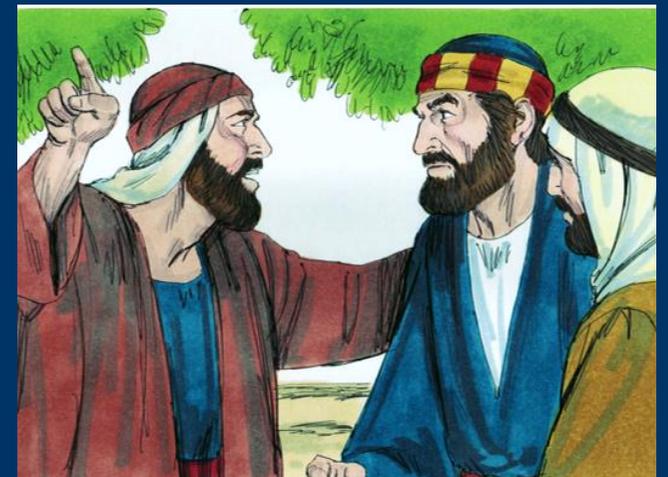
A) Rigidity in Institutionalism

Acts 11:1 The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³ and said, "**You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.**"

"Shame on you, Peter!"

"How could you, Peter?"

"You've gone liberal, Peter!"



II. FACING CHANGE IN THE FIRST CENTURY

B) Account of Transformation

Acts 11:4 Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story:
5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. **6** I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. **7** Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'



II. FACING CHANGE IN THE FIRST CENTURY

B) Account of Transformation

Acts 11:8 "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

9 "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.'^{*10*} This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

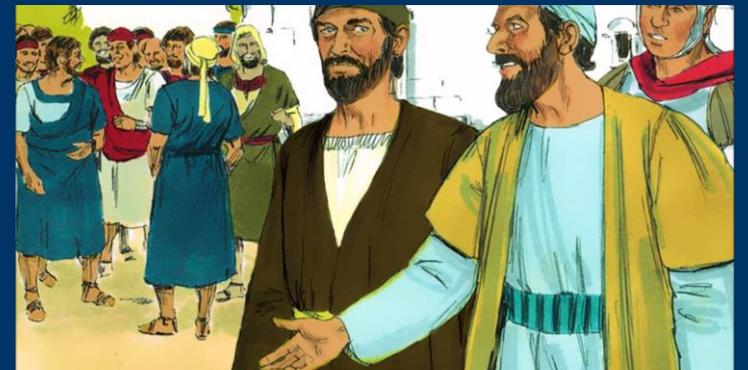
- 1. He simply stated the facts.*
- 2. He showed them God's fingerprints.*
- 3. He showed them six witnesss.*



II. FACING CHANGE IN THE FIRST CENTURY

B) Account of Transformation

Acts 11:11 *"Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. **12** The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. **13** He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter.*

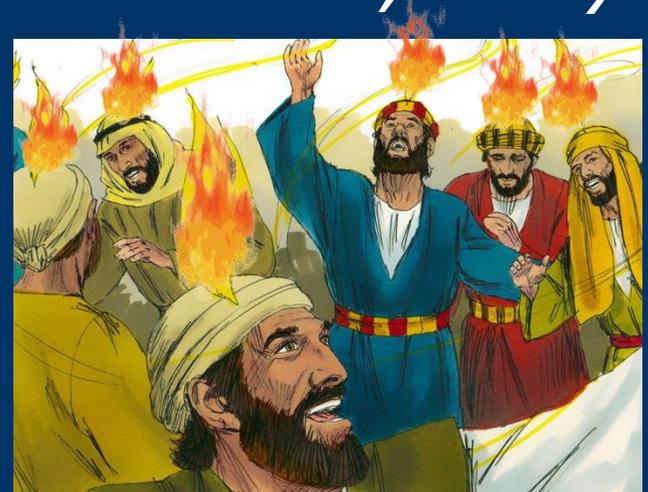


II. FACING CHANGE IN THE FIRST CENTURY

B) Account of Transformation

Acts 11:14 He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

15 "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. *16* Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

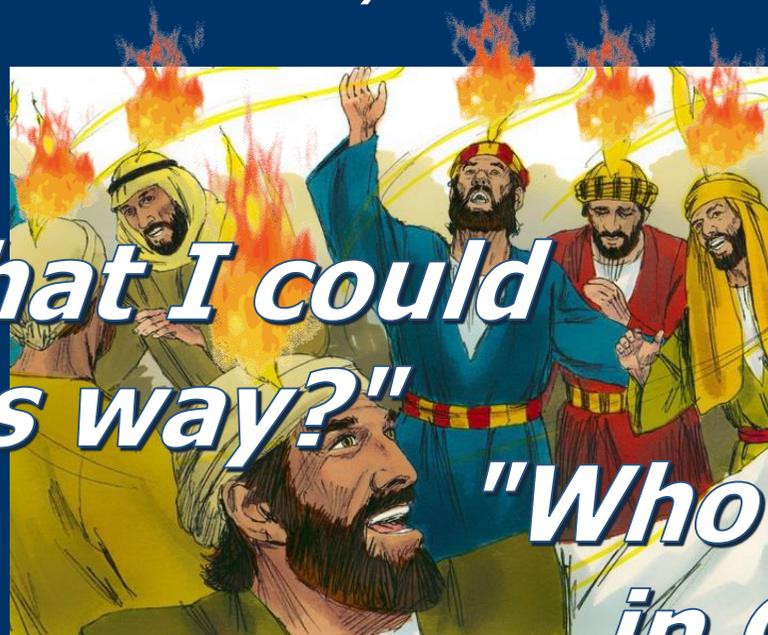


II. FACING CHANGE IN THE FIRST CENTURY

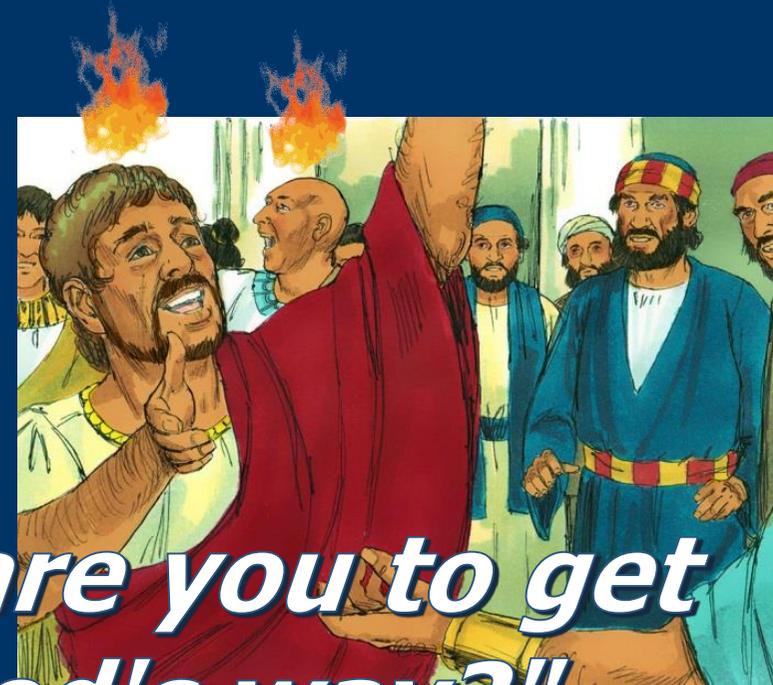
C) *Issue of Fixation*

Acts 11:17 *So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?*

"Who was I that I could get in God's way?"



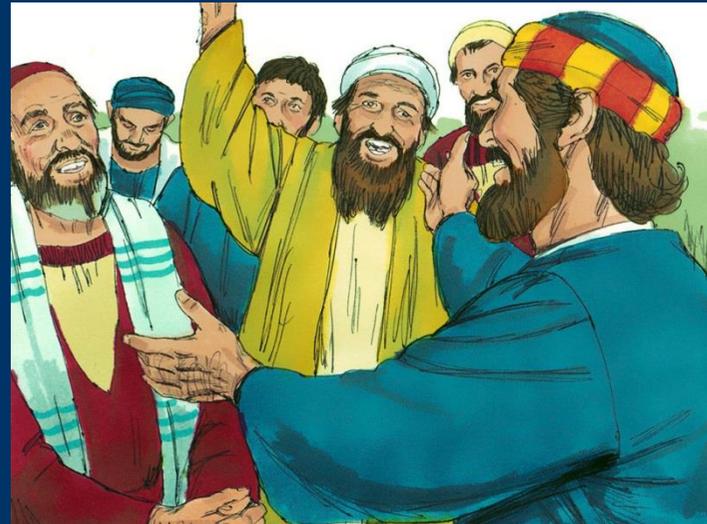
"Who are you to get in God's way?"



II. FACING CHANGE IN THE FIRST CENTURY

D) Acceptance of Alteration

Acts 11:18 *When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life."*



CONCLUSION:



As we face change in our lives, let's draw inspiration from the early church's example.

A) Recognizing the inevitability of change, let's be diligent, to examine it in light of God's revelation and to accept its adjustments.



CONCLUSION:



As we face change in our lives, let's draw inspiration from the early church's example.

B) Recognizing the inevitability of change, we need to identify those things in Christianity that are absolute and some are flexible.



CONCLUSION:



As we face change in our lives, let's draw inspiration from the early church's example.

C) Although our message is always the same, our method of communication must flex to meet the needs of our everchanging world.





CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Why are people so afraid of change? What are some factors that cause them to be afraid?*
- 2. Since changes can be positive or negative, what are some guidelines to steer us safely to the course of changes?*
- 3. What are some challenges that people face when it comes to changes among the first century Christians?*
- 4. What are some challenges that confront churches today that stop us from moving forward with God?*



Scripture References:

Acts 11:1 – 18