



**THE CHURCH IS**

*Born*


**ACTS: 1-12**

# Main Point

**The Gospel invites us as we are, welcomes us into a family, and leads us to a transformed life.**

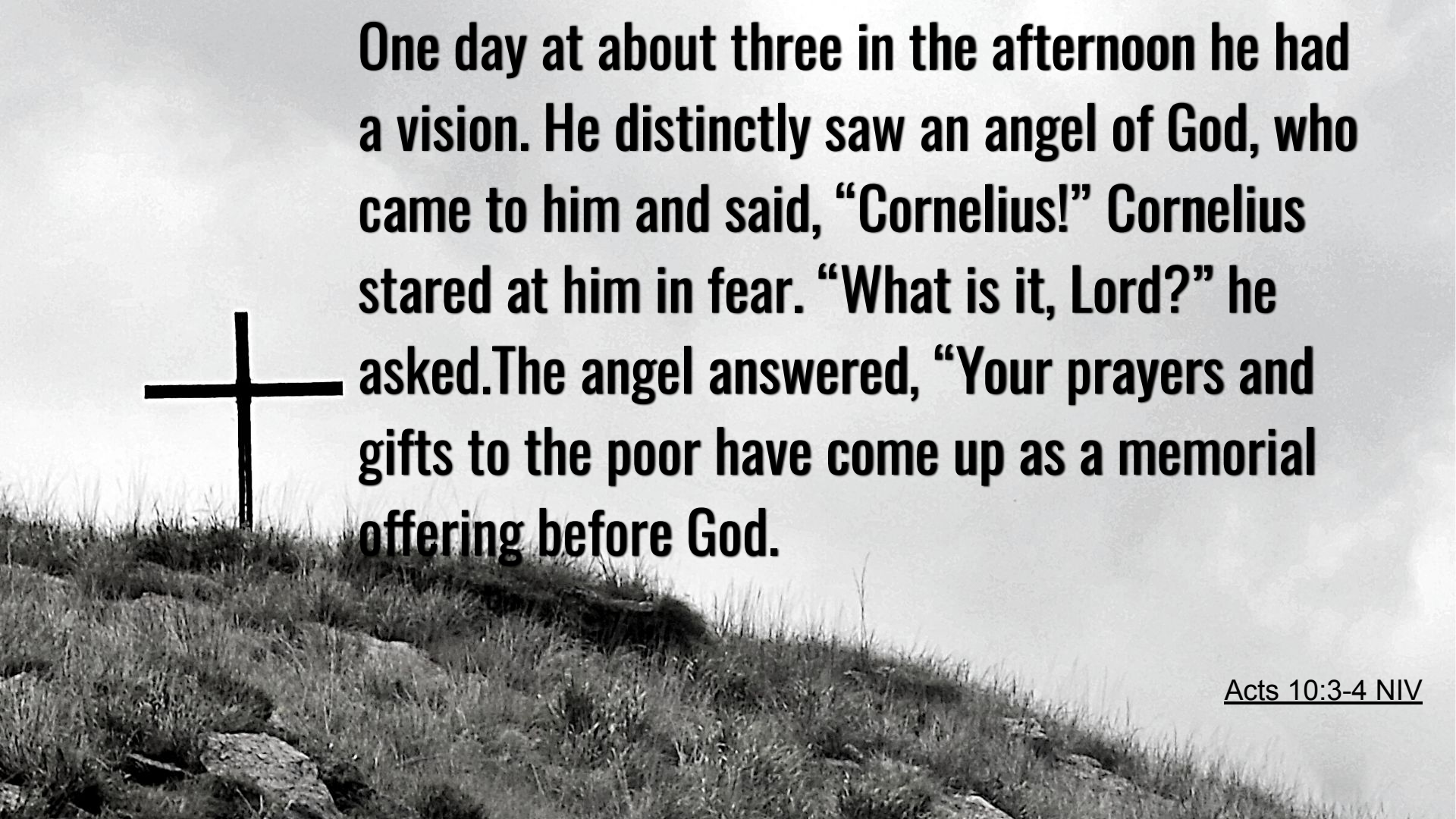






**At Caesarea there was a man named  
Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as  
the Italian Regiment. He and all his family  
were devout and God-fearing; he gave  
generously to those in need and prayed to  
God regularly.**

Acts 10:1-2 NIV



**One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!” Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.**

Acts 10:3-4 NIV



**Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.**



Acts 10:5-6 NIV

**When the angel who spoke to him had gone,  
Cornelius called two of his servants and a  
devout soldier who was one of his attendants.  
He told them everything that had happened  
and sent them to Joppa.**



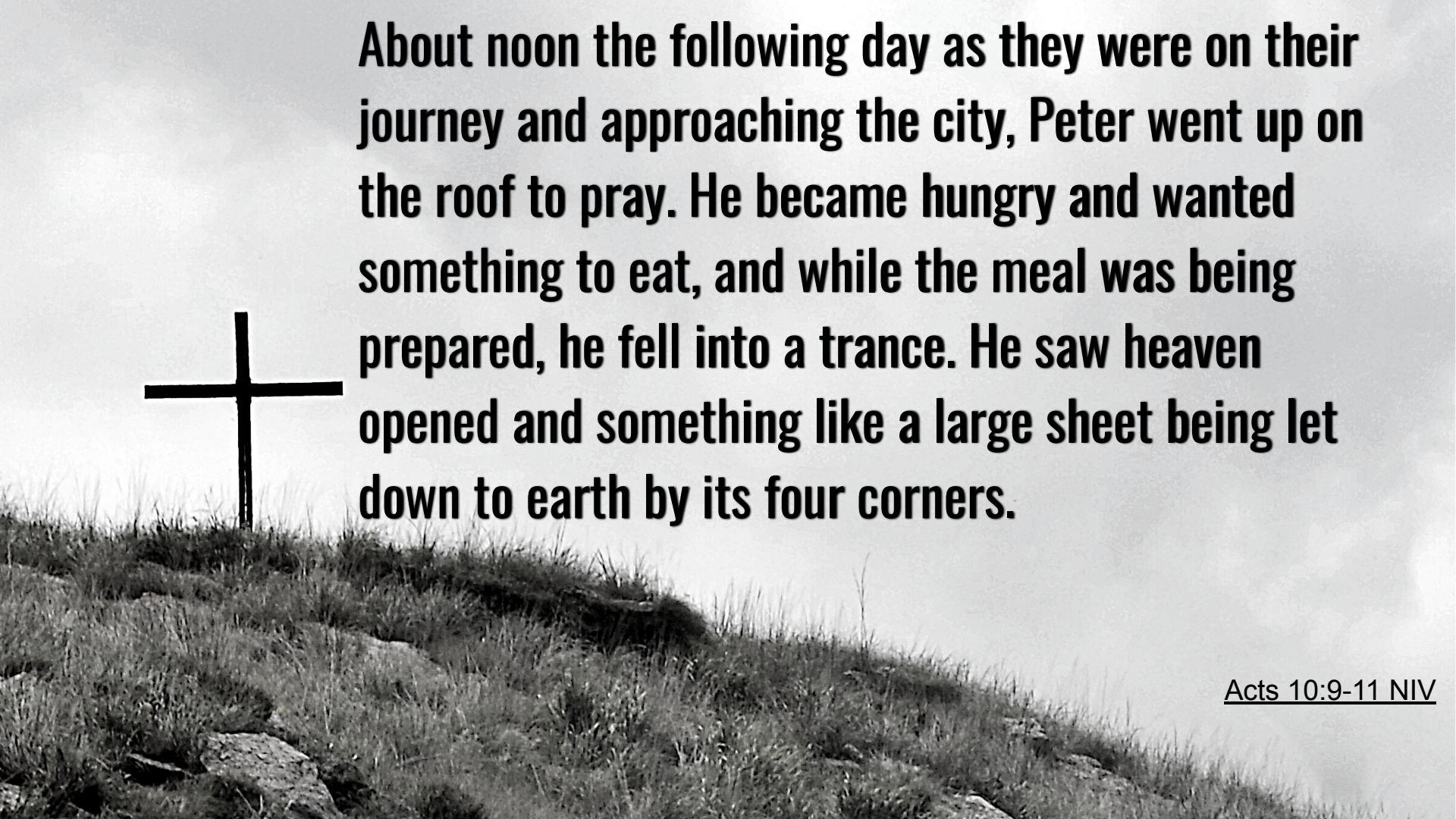
Acts 10:7-8 NIV



# Cornelius

- Privileged member of Roman society
- Devout and God fearing man
- Angel tells him to send for Simon Peter




A black cross stands on a grassy hill. The background is a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners.**


Acts 10:9-11 NIV





**It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.**


Acts 10:12-15 NIV



**This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven. While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate.**


Acts 10:16-17 NIV





**They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.”**

Acts 10:18-20 NIV



**Peter went down and said to the men, “I’m the one you’re looking for. Why have you come?” The men replied, “We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say.” Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.**

Acts 10:21-23 NIV



# Peter's Vision

- Receives a vision about food
- Resists what the vision says
- Will agree to go see Cornelius



# Geoff Wood

Chapter President

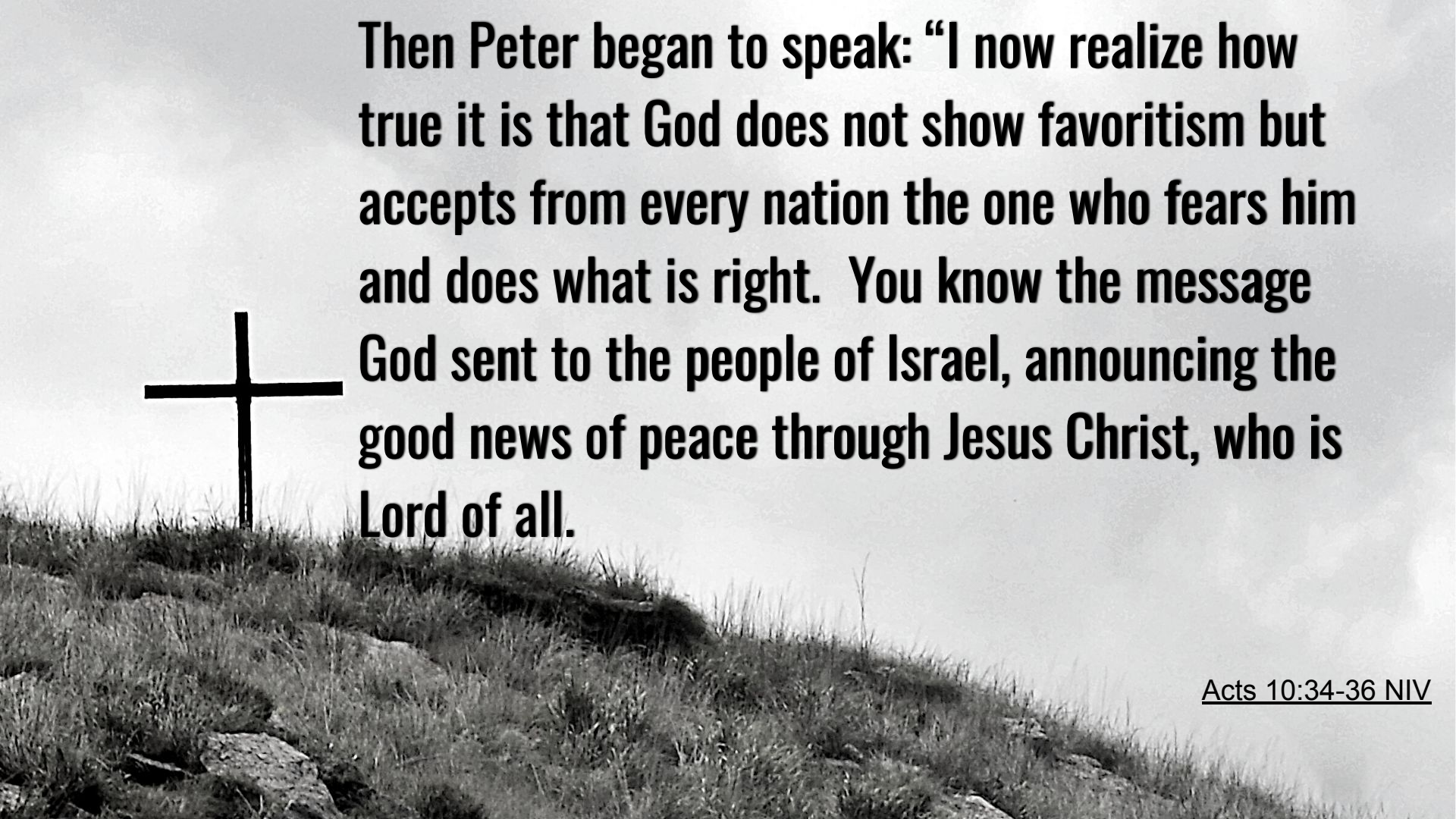
Favorite Song: Who can pick just one?

Member Since: The first album

Expiration: Never







**Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.**


Acts 10:34-36 NIV

# The Invitation

- God doesn't play favorites
- Come as you are
- Just want to know God

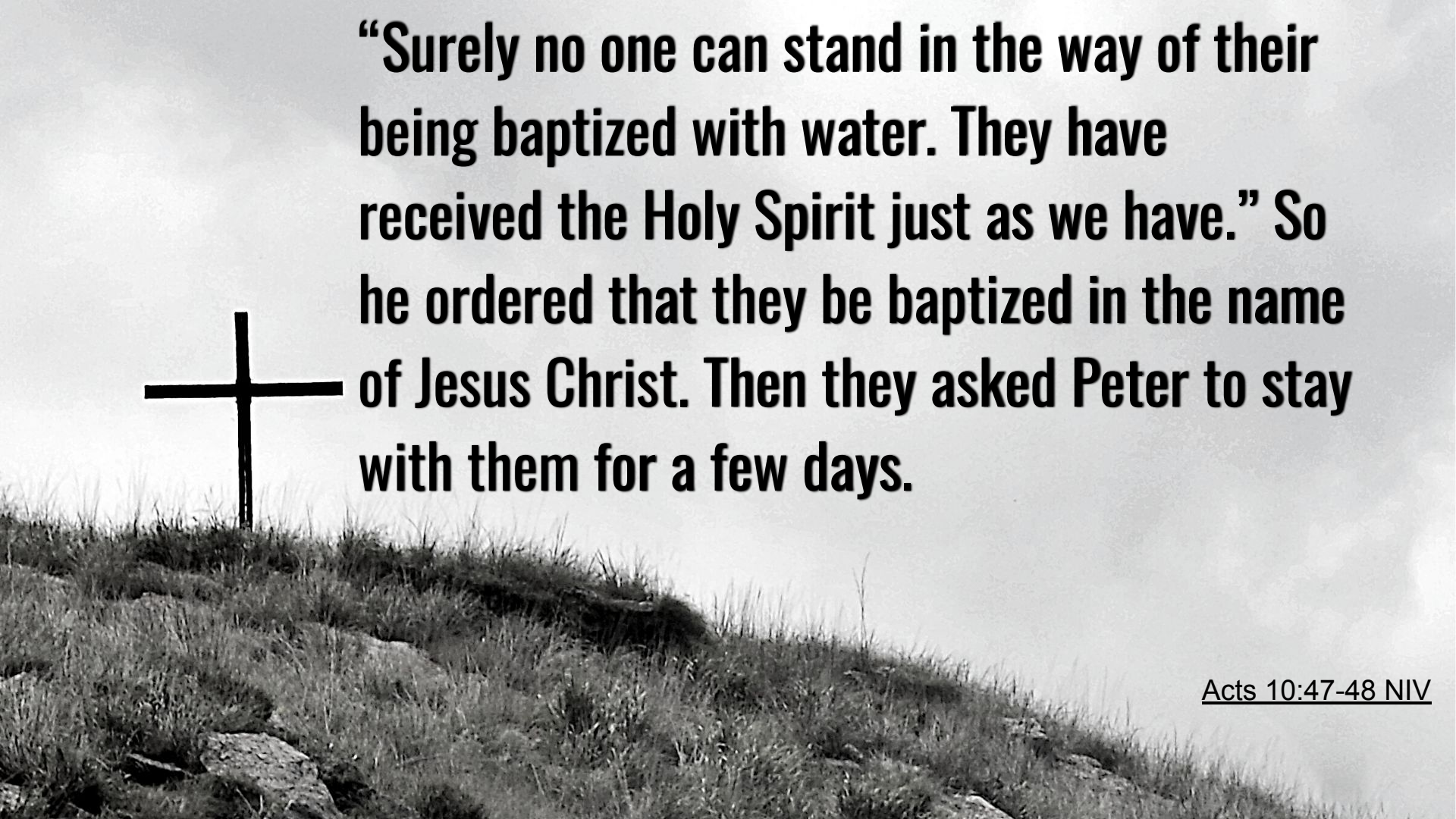






**While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said,**

Acts 10:44-46 NIV

A black cross stands on a grassy hill. The background is a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**“Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.**

Acts 10:47-48 NIV



# The Welcome

- Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
- Receive the same things the Jews do
- The club isn't exclusive anymore



# The Transformation

- Baptism as the outward expression of faith
- God won't leave them as they are





# Our Invitation

- If we want to come to God we can
- You are still invited
- Never at a place where you can't come to God



# Our Welcoming

- You belong no matter what
- You have connection with God and others





# Our Transformation

- God doesn't leave us as we are
- It's not always easy but God leads us through our transformation
- We are never stuck



# Closing

- Remember the Gospel is still for you
- Come as you are
- You are always welcome in the family
- God will transform you

