



Reach Across to Our Neighbors

Reaching to Make a Difference

FEBRUARY 5 & 6, 2012

Part 2

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

As believers, we have a responsibility to reach across to our neighbors with the hope of the Gospel.

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"
Romans 10:14-15

Acts 10:1-48 (page 778 in pew Bible)

As Peter broke out of the limitations of his perspective and was willing to reach across to his neighbor, the church was positioned for explosive growth.

1. God's plan and directive is to reach across to our neighbor.
 - God initiates the opportunity. Acts 10:4-6, 9-15
 - God responds to those who are seeking. Acts 10:2-3
 - God desires for lost people to be saved. 2 Peter 3:9, Luke 19:10

2. Peter was invited to step into a God-opportunity. Acts 10:19
 - When God extends an opportunity to us:
 - ✠ We must choose to participate.
 - ✠ He provides the resources.
 - ✠ Kingdom potential is released.
 - Grace Covenant has been invited to bring a message of hope to East Lincoln County.
3. Peter's willingness to go to his neighbor brought the miracle of salvation, and through his actions, brought a defining day for the early Church.
 - Historically, Jews did not fellowship or interact with Gentiles. However racial division is not the will of God, and limits the effectiveness of the Church.
 - Salvation came to the Gentiles because Peter was willing:
 - ✠ To be an active participant in God's plan.
 - ✠ To do something out of the ordinary.
 - ✠ To step into uncharted territory.

Since God is calling us to reach across to our neighbor, we must:

- Be compassionate for the lost.
- Take the initiative to go.
- Be willing to take a risk.

There is no limit to what God can do when we are willing partners in His plan and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Answers: responsibility; explosive growth; reach across; initiates; responds; desires; opportunity; participate; resources; released; willingness; participant; ordinary; uncharted; compassionate; initiative; risk