

Chosen and Used by God (Acts 10:1-23)

Two significant events in New Testament: Holy Spirit came on one hundred twenty believers who gathered to pray in the Mark's Attic on Pentecost - Anointed by Holy Spirit means sealed as people of God; The other is Holy Spirit coming to a Gentile Cornelius - which is today's verses. It was an incredible incident that Cornelius was anointed by Holy Spirit and became a person of God because salvation was regarded/viewed for Israelites only. God prepared Apostle Paul for Gentile and Cornelius to open the door for the Gospel to the World. Anyone could have been used but God chooses specific ones to use in His work.

1. Devoutness and God-fearing one. "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly (Acts 10:2) It means "A dedication to God that appears in a life that will please God" However, inner side is more important than external side: biblical devout means Holy life, worship with fullness and healthy spirituality - appearance of Holy Spirit and God's Work in our life. It could not be done by itself but lead a habitual life. "but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come (1 Timothy 4:7-8) "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (James 1:27) Standing on before God itself is devoutness. God is watching and knows us. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, (Colossians 3:23). How turning back to trustworthy from hypocrisy? Meet the reality of God. It must be followed by change in life. This is the power of devoutness that live-in fellowship with God and we should Show consciousness of presence of God in our life so that we will be in peace because we believe that God leads us. Moving by Words is devoutness- giving thanks instead of living with hypocrisy.

2. Prayer and Relief (helping those who in needs) Communicate with God (prayer) is devoutness in mind(heart). Power of Prayer is related with devoutness - results in answers. Devoutness has close relationship with prayer (Act 3:12) "having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people (2 Timothy 3:5) Real power of Prayer comes from power of devoutness and it is fearing God (being stands in front of God) "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:10) Cornelius was devout and all his family too. "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. (Acts 10:7) "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)

God pays attention

- one who prays and help poor. God knows everything and remember all our prayers even though we are not aware of it. "twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. (Revelation 5:8) It make lends to God when help people in needs. "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done. (Proverbs 19:17) Helping people in needs means one who has an open heart.

- God's revelation is specific and clear. "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)

- Reveal to both side. God showed revelation to Cornelius but also Peter too (Acts 10:9) God's work is not vague and prepared in advance so we should not worry.

- God uses the one who pray God uses not the one who is able to do but the one who fear God even though appears not able to do. 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!" (Acts 10:3). He could listen God's voice during regular prayer. Both Peter and Cornelius set specific time for prayer. Answer of prayer is also specific and clear so we should keep praying till it turns into clear, obeying till understand God's plan.

If you want to be used by God? Put an effort to pray, be devout and give relief (help generously to those in need)