

WHO WAS I, THAT I COULD WITHSTAND GOD

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INTRODUCTION

TEXT: *"If then God gave unto them the like gift as he did also unto us, when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I, that I could withstand God?"* (Acts 11:17).

A. THE SETTING:

1. Peter's visit to Cornelius.
2. God's approval for the Gentiles.
3. To have refused to baptize Cornelius would have been to oppose God.

B. THE JEWS RECOGNITION OF THIS:

1. *"And when they heard these things, they held their peace and glorified God..."*v. 19.
2. From Isaiah, Jeremiah to Paul in Romans...we are taught that God is the potter...we are the clay.

C. DO WE RECOGNIZE THIS TODAY??

KILL AND EAT

A. Old Testament law given in Lev. 11 Clean and unclean animals.

1. What could and could not be eaten by Israel.
2. Perhaps the most familiar one to us was pork, but it was by no means the only "unclean" animal.

B. PETER'S ANSWER: *"not so, Lord"* he had never eaten anything common or unclean.

1. God used this to teach great lesson.
2. Don't argue with God.

C. They and we easily understand God's message...

JEW AND GENTILE

A. THE OBVIOUS LESSON.

1. God's acceptance of Gentiles.
2. The coming of the Holy Spirit as proof.

B. TO REFUSE THE GENTILES WAS TO OPPOSE GOD.

1. THIS Peter would not do.
2. Nor would the other Jews when they heard.

C. MAN DOES NOT "withstand God" in this today.

1. How foolish it would be to oppose God on something as understandable as this.
 2. Few, if any, would oppose the plain teachings of God.
 3. But let us look farther.
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CALLED CHRISTIANS

- A. *"And the nations shall see thy righteousness, and all the kings thy glory, and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of Jehovah shall name"* (Isaiah 62:2).
1. The new name given for God's people is Christian.
 2. Given here by Holy Spirit in Acts 11:26.
 3. **Certainly no one would oppose God in recognizing this name...
- B. "NOTHING IN A NAME"
1. This has been the cry of the denominational world for years.
 2. In fact, ever since they invented and gave their own self designating names.
- C. Movement in religious world today to drop "party" names, but they still shy away from the name "Christian". And for what they teach and practice, maybe it is just as well.
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"WORDS OF SALVATION"

- A. "Who shall speak unto thee words, whereby thou shalt be saved" (v. 14).
1. "So belief cometh of hearing and hearing by the word of Christ (Rom. 10:17).
 2. "...word, which is able to save your soul" (James 1:21).
 3. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently: having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth." (I Pet. 1:22,23).
- B. Certainly no one would "withstand God" in regards to the Word?????
1. Better felt than told
 2. "Spirit of the law...not the letter"
 3. Bible is old and old fashioned.
- C. RISE OF EMOTIONALISM IN RELIGION.
1. That which makes me feel better.
 2. Appeals to the feelings or emotion.
 3. That which tries to "withstand God"
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BAPTISM

A. *“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ”*
(10:48).

1. Thus far in the Book of Acts, each case of conversion has ended in the same way.
 - a. Acts 2:38
 - b. People of Samaria (8:12)
 - c. Simon (8:13).
 - d. Ethiopian Eunuch (8:35ff).
 - e. Saul of Tarsus (9:18; 22:16).
 - f. Cornelius (10:48).

2. The Teaching of God is Plain.

B. **“WHO WAS I, THAT I COULD WITHSTAND GOD”**

1. Would anyone dare to withstand God in this matter today.
 2. Look in the denominational world today....and see what they teach.
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CONCLUSION
