

## **SCCC – ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY WORK**

### **S – Scriptures**

“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.” Acts 11: 18

### **C – Consideration**

The context of the verse is about some Jewish believers who criticized Peter for entering the house of Cornelius, the Roman centurion. Peter, with humility, patiently explained the complete story to them, probably because he had the same fears and concerns as they had. He shared that “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 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?” Of course, they fell into the same mistake as the Sadducees, “Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.” God had promised Abraham that all the nations of the world would be blessed through him. Jesus had told the disciples to go and preach the gospel to every creature. Therefore, from Genesis to the gospels the message was not just for Jews, but for every tribe, tongue, and nation to hear about God’s salvation. The next thing that is registered is about some disciples who were scattered by the persecution in connection with the death of Stephen, went to Antioch and preached the gospel to the Greeks, and a great number of non-Jews became followers. A large missionary church was established not in Jerusalem, Judea, or Samaria, but in Antioch. Ironically, there the disciples were first called Christians. The former pagan gentiles were recognized as little Jesus’.

### **C – Commitment**

There are many things to learn from this event. The first one is how easily we can forget God’s words, no matter how many times we have heard or read them. Just after the Spirit came upon the gentiles, Peter “remembered” the words of Jesus. The second one is God’s patience, even though we are so slow to learn, He doesn’t give up on us. The third lesson is about humility. I see Peter, after he learned his lesson, had patience with the others and calmly explained the events. Fourth is that that the major church of the first century was not started by any of the twelve apostles or other prominent disciples, but from ordinary followers, probably without theological training, telling Gentiles the good news about the Lord Jesus (the church in Jerusalem had to send Barnabas, who took Paul along and taught them for one year).

### **C – Call**

Lord, thank You for Your word, which taught me so much this morning. Thank You for Your patience as I am a slow learner. My God, we are living in times where knowledge has

increased, and there is a concern about how we can share the message. I pray for heavenly wisdom, for us to remember Your Word, and to have it in our hearts. Lord, I pray also that we would understand the simplicity of the gospel, and in humility and power tell anyone without fear the good news about the Lord Jesus. In His name, I pray. Amen.