***Acts 10: 44-48 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47“Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.***

God has been good to us again today. We’ve had the opportunity to baptize our brother Tim into fellowship, another great example of God’s Love and Mercy being given to us, drawing us. Heaven is celebrating, as we are celebrating, this morning.

In Acts 10, we find the first example of a Gentile receiving the Holy Spirit and being Baptized. Cornelius, in the first two verses of Acts 10, is described as a devout man who feared God. This tells us that he knew and worshipped the One true God. He feared Him. Peter, having received a vision telling him to call no man common or unclean (verse 28), arrives at the house of Cornelius and preaches Jesus as Lord of All (verse 36), delivering the Gospel to Cornelius and his household. We pick up in verse 44 - *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word*. Peter had not finished verse 43 before the Holy Spirit falls upon the Gentiles present. Peter didn’t say any extra words, lay on hands, or physically touch them in any way. He preached the Gospel and the Holy Spirit fell, meaning embraced in love, those hearing. This is a little different than what Peter said at Pentecost in Acts 2:38 -  *Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* What does this reveal? God sends the Holy Spirit. It’s not dependent on our timing, actions, or words. God is in control. The Holy Spirit can arrive in the believer, then baptism or baptism and the Holy Spirit arrives. God determines the order. We obey the Master.

Verses 45 – 46 *And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.* . People are astonished! When God shows up, people are astounded and amazed! They heard them speaking in tongues and praising and magnifying God. Those hearing are Jews, of the circumcision. The Holy Spirit has been poured out before their eyes on the first Gentiles. Why should that make us jump for joy? Because we’re Gentiles.

Verses 47*“Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”*Peter, not missing a beat, not upset at all that his expectation wasn’t met, the process didn’t follow his rules, but overjoyed that people have found Jesus, now says – you’ve received the Holy Spirit, now be Baptized. We must be overjoyed when people find Jesus. Baptism is the public profession of Faith in Jesus. It’s unlikely they went into the back to be baptized in a bathtub, but rather would have gone out in the public to be baptized – meaning “made fully wet, immersed.” They publicly declare that they are following Jesus.

Verse 48 *- And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.* Peter commands that they be Baptized in the name of the Lord. Cornelius believed in God, verse 2, received the Holy Spirit, verse 44. Now, he is Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, known as Lord of All in verse 36. The full Trinity – Father, Son, Holy Spirit is in view here. God Almighty, Christ High Priest, Holy Spirit dwelling with us, as Jesus prayed in John 14.

Today, we have witnessed Tim fully immersed in Baptism. The Holy Spirit is at work in his life. A Gentile is now destined for his eternal home above. Tim, you are commanded by Jesus to Go, Teach, and Witness. Acts 1:8 Jesus says - *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.* We that call ourselves followers of Jesus are commanded to be witnesses of the Gospel wherever we go, even to the ends of the earth.

If you are here today and have never received Jesus as your personal Savior, today is the day. Come as we sing.