

# Fellowship with Ex-Terrorists and Occupiers

A Behind the Scenes Look

8/10/14

## What's needed for Fellowship with Ex-Terrorists?

### Union with Christ (Christ is in us and we are in Christ)

**Acts 9:17** And Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>18</sup> And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he arose and was baptized;

<sup>19</sup> and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,

### Trust (through faithfulness)

<sup>20</sup> and immediately he *began* to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

<sup>21</sup> And all those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and *who* had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"

<sup>22</sup> But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.

<sup>23</sup> And when many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him,

<sup>24</sup> but their plot became known to Saul. And they were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death;

<sup>25</sup> but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through *an opening* in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

### A Reconciler (someone to step up as a friend/advocate)

<sup>26</sup> And when he had come to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.

<sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

<sup>28</sup> And he was with them moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

<sup>29</sup> And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic *Jews*; but they were attempting to put him to death.

<sup>30</sup> But when the brethren learned *of it*, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

<sup>31</sup> So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and, going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

## What's needed for Fellowship with Occupiers?

### A Reconciler (someone to step up as a friend/advocate)

**Acts 9:32-35** In Lydda, Aeneas, a lame man is healed through Peter.

**Acts 9:36-43** In Joppa Tabitha is raised from the dead through Peter.

**Acts 10:1** Now *there* was a certain man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort,

<sup>2</sup> a devout man, and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the *Jewish* people, and prayed to God continually.

<sup>3</sup> About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had *just* come in to him, and said to him, "Cornelius!"

<sup>4</sup> And fixing his gaze upon him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

<sup>5</sup> "And now dispatch *some* men to Joppa, and send for a man *named* Simon, who is also called Peter;

<sup>6</sup> he is staying with a certain tanner *named* Simon, whose house is by the sea."

<sup>7</sup> And when the angel who was speaking to him had departed, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were in constant attendance upon him,

<sup>8</sup> and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

<sup>9</sup> And on the next day, as they were on their way, and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.

<sup>10</sup> And he became hungry, and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance;

<sup>11</sup> and he beheld the sky opened up, and a certain object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground,

<sup>12</sup> and there were in it all *kinds of* four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air.

<sup>13</sup> And a voice came to him, "Arise, Peter, kill and eat!"

<sup>14</sup> But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."

<sup>15</sup> And again a voice *came* to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no *longer* consider unholy."

<sup>16</sup> And this happened three times; and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

<sup>17</sup> Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate;

<sup>18</sup> and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there.

<sup>19</sup> And while Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you.

<sup>20</sup> "But arise, go downstairs, and accompany them without misgivings; for I have sent them *Myself*."

<sup>21</sup> And Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?"

<sup>22</sup> And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was *divinely* directed by a holy angel to send for you *to come* to his house and hear a message from you."

<sup>23</sup> And so he invited them in and gave them lodging. And on the next day he arose and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

<sup>24</sup> And on the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.

<sup>25</sup> And when it came about that Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped *him*.

<sup>26</sup> But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am *just* a man."

<sup>27</sup> And as he talked with him, he entered, and found many people assembled.

<sup>28</sup> And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and *yet* God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.

<sup>29</sup> "That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. And so I ask for what reason you have sent for me."

<sup>30-32</sup> (The account is retold by Cornelius))

<sup>33</sup> "And so I sent to you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

<sup>34</sup> And opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.

<sup>36</sup> "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)--

<sup>37</sup> you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed.

<sup>38</sup> "*You know of* Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.

<sup>39</sup> "And we are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. And they also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.

<sup>40</sup> "God raised Him up on the third day, and granted that He should become visible,

<sup>41</sup> not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is*, to us, who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

<sup>42</sup> "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

<sup>43</sup> "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

### **Union with Christ (Christ is in us and we are in Christ)**

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

<sup>45</sup> And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also.

<sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,

<sup>47</sup> "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?"

<sup>48</sup> And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

(A few days to develop some **Trust** through faithfulness)

### **A Reconciler (someone to step up as a friend/advocate)**

**Acts 11:1** Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

<sup>2</sup> And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him,

<sup>3</sup> saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them."

<sup>4</sup> But Peter began *speaking* and *proceeded* to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying,

<sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, ...

<sup>6-11</sup> (The account is retold)

<sup>12</sup> "And the Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. And these six brethren also went with me, and we entered the man's house.

<sup>13</sup> "And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa, and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;

<sup>14</sup> and he shall speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

<sup>15</sup> "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as *He did* upon us at the beginning.

<sup>16</sup> "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

<sup>17</sup> "If God therefore gave to them the same gift as *He gave* to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

<sup>18</sup> And when they heard this, they quieted down, and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life."

All Scripture is from the NASV