

Can It Be Me?

Acts 10:1-28, 44-48

Rev. Min J. Chung

(Friday Night Large Group, June 17, 2016)

Acts 10:1-28, 44-48

Peter and Cornelius

¹ At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, ² a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." ⁴ And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵ And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." ⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, ⁸ and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Peter's Vision

⁹ The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ¹⁰ And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³ And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." ¹⁵ And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." ¹⁶ This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

¹⁷ Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate ¹⁸ and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. ¹⁹ And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, ^[c] for I have sent them." ²¹ And Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?" ²² And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say." ²³ So he invited them in to be his guests.

The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man." ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. ²⁸ And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean."

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Introduction

I go to many places and meet great leaders of great organizations. It is wonderful to be a part of that and to observe what they are doing, but these leaders often would agree that anything they are doing could not happen without the local churches producing workers, reaching out one person at a time to know Christ. This passage is about God using His people to bring people to Jesus, and this is important in God's redemptive history because it is the first time a Gentile comes to know Christ.

This is an outline of the chapter:

Outline of Acts 10

The introduction of Cornelius [1-8]	This section introduces Cornelius, a Gentile believer. He is not a circumcised Jew but he is very close.
The preparation of Peter [9-16]	God prepares Peter, through visions, because he is not ready to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. He is not yet sure what God is doing in redemptive history. We know because we can read the whole book of Acts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.
Peter's meeting with the messengers [17-23]	Peter meets with the messengers that Cornelius sends.
Peter's journey to and arrival in Caesarea [24-33]	Peter goes to meet Cornelius.
Peter's sermon [34-43]	Peter preaches the Gospel to Cornelius and the other Gentile believers.
The results of this encounter [44-48]	The result of this encounter is that the Gentiles are filled with the Holy Spirit.

This passage involves two kinds of parties, a giver and a receiver of the Gospel. Some of you might not yet have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, but you are in the process of seeking, and you can ask, "Can it be me that God is speaking to today?" Can today be the day God speaks into your heart and He enters your heart? God may have sovereignly orchestrated for you to be here today. If you're a believer, you can still ask, "Can it be me that God wants to use?" Can God use you to change another person's life like Peter did with Cornelius?

I. The preparation of a seeker - Cornelius [1-8]

First we will look at how God prepares Cornelius, a seeker. In verses 1-2, Cornelius is introduced as "a devout man who feared God". He was a centurion, a man who was in charge of about 100 soldiers. He was a Roman soldier, a very powerful man. The Bible says he was a God-fearer, which means that he was not a Jew yet, but perhaps he participated in synagogue services. As an uncircumcised Gentile, he could not fully participate in the services, and Jews were not allowed to associate with him, but probably he would be sitting in the back of the synagogue, listening. We don't quite know if he was a believer, but we know he was at least a seeker, one who wanted to find God.

We see in verse 3-4, that at "About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God", and the angel said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God." God was listening to the prayers of a seeker. When you speak to someone who doesn't know God or doubts God's presence or existence, just tell them to pray and speak to God as if He is alive. Perhaps somewhere along the way, an interaction can take place. God still listens to the prayer of a seeker.

In verse 5, it says "now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter." And we know that Peter is going to come, and God is going to use Peter, His servant, for Cornelius' sake.

A. God prepares a person through relationships

One lesson we can learn from this is that God prepares a person through relationships. God doesn't just work in a person's heart such that they become believers spontaneously, but most often God uses a person in their lives. Verse 5 tells us that God will use Peter. But even in verses 1-2, before Peter entered into his life, Cornelius was already a devout man who feared God with his household. So how did he become a God-fearing seeker? Somebody spoke to him, told him about God, and invited him. We don't know if it was a Jewish servant, or a neighbor. But it happened through relationships. He was put in a position where he could listen to God's Word. And there was a revelation, and then there was a moment where Peter preached the Gospel to him. God works and prepares a person through relationships.

I started to go to church in the first grade in Korea. Somebody invited me to go when I was eight, and I asked my mom who was a believer (who married a non-Christian and fell away). My mom encouraged me to go, and she also started to go to church around that time. And the first time I went, I saw around 300 children singing praises to God. I think it was “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”; I may be wrong. But when they were singing, I realized in my heart that there was something or someone greater who present in that place. Until the sixth grade, I’d walk twenty minutes by myself alone, and I went to church every Sunday. I don’t know if I was a believer or a seeker back then, but probably not until I came to the States and someone explained the Gospel to me. Even then, I don’t know when I became a believer. I went to many revival meetings, and when they asked who wanted to be a believer, I raised my hand about 40 different times. I don’t know if it was the 38th time or 2nd time that I became Christian, but now I know He is inside of me. I’m even more sure that He is in this place even more than I can see you. Somewhere in those years I became a Christian, but it all started with that friend who invited me to church when I was 8 years old.

God prepares a person through relationships, and for me it all started when somebody invited me to church. I don’t even remember who it is right now, but when I go to heaven I’m going to thank that guy.

B. God prepares a person in phases

Cornelius already had relationships with people that led to him attending the synagogue. And now in verse 5, God shows him a vision, telling him to invite Peter who will preach the Gospel to him. It wasn’t Cornelius’s first encounter with God. Most of the time there are phases in the conversion of a person, and God uses a lot of different people in different moments in one’s life. Don’t think to yourself, “I had the gospel explained so why am I not a Christian?” or “I explained the Gospel already, so why are they not yet Christian?” It’s not a 100-meter dash – you’re not the only one God uses – but a 400-meter relay. I thought about 4 things, or phases, for a 400-meter relay.

1. **Relational Phase** – Someone relates with a person, invites them to Bible study or church, or just has a conversation with them about Jesus. Or in general, there could just be a reversing of bad relationships with Christians. So many people have had bad relationships in the past with Christians, or have a perception of Christians as hypocrites, so maybe the relational phase will break these perceptions and reverse those relationships, and the person can move on to the informational stage.
2. **Informational Phase** – When someone has gone through the relational phase, you might be able to answer intellectual questions that person might have, and possibly going from that to giving the Gospel. Or maybe you can be the person helping them in the relational phase, and someone else gets to the informational phase.
3. **Conversion Phase** – Someone has to preach the Gospel to the person, whether in church, one to one Bible Study, or perhaps just explaining the Gospel somehow.
4. **Helping Phase** – Now the person becomes the one helping someone else to find Jesus Christ.

Maybe some of you are in the relational phase with somebody. If they don't want to talk about God, you might be the first 100-meter person, who gives them a positive perception of Christians. They might have hated Christians before, but now they may want a relationship with Christians because of you. Then someone has to explain the Gospel, and there could be that moment, maybe when they raise hands. But regardless of whether it is a clear moment, there will be a moment when they are born again with the Spirit’s nature, a resurrection of the heart, a conversion, and their lives start to change. And our hope is that all of us will get to the helping phase, to help others know Christ.

There may be so many people that God has used in your life – it might have been your mom, praying for you when you really did not want to go to church; it might have been a grandma next door; or it might have been someone you don’t even know – and you might be used by God in a phase of someone else. So, don't be disappointed when someone does not convert, and do not be too proud when they pray with you and it seems like they have accepted Christ. Just build relationships with other people, and once in a while, expect pleasant surprises when you can see how people's lives can be changed.

I can think about so many different people that I’ve met, who were in different phases. I remember an atheist professor walking into CFC, who eventually became a Christian. I remember a Muslim lady who was giving me a haircut, who asked me for the Gospel, and for a brief moment we were in the informational phase. I remember an unbelieving friend from high school whom I spoke with at a golf course. We weren’t playing golf – we went there at night because we had no money to go anywhere else, and I remember praying for him that night. I remember a guy

who was selling gyros, a Syrian Muslim. He told me about Islam, and I told him about Christianity, and we were exchanging each other's gospels for about five minutes. For a brief period in high school, I went with every friend I had to Denny's, drinking many pots of coffee, talking about the Gospel. Many came to know Christ. During the Gulf War, a soldier was coming home, he sat beside me on a plane. I started to talk to him about the Gospel, and I don't know whether he accepted Christ or not, but as we were leaving he was almost in tears. He said, "Thank you so much, sir, for telling me about it."

Many Muslim believers that I meet in different countries, when I ask them how they came to know Christ, they say they had a dream, with Jesus telling them to go to a Christian. Almost always, Jesus comes, and tells them to go to a Christian to ask them about the Gospel. Jesus could have given the Gospel, but He asks them to go to a believer.

One person said, "There are no strangers here, only friends you haven't met." I pray that you will meet many friends, and participate in the changing of their lives in different phases and have them participate in different phases of your life. Remember, anyone you meet, God is at work in them. So participate in God's work.

II. The preparation of a believer - Peter [9-35]

God had to prepare Peter to do His work because he was not yet ready.

A. Mouth training

After a vision of all sorts of animals that are considered unclean in the Old Testament, in verse 13 it says, "And there came a voice to him: 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.'" Peter has been trained as a Jew all his life not to eat these, so in verse 14, Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." But in verse 15 it says, "And the voice came to him again a second time, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.'" Peter was told to eat something he was trained not to eat. In the context of a relationship, eating means cultural adaptation, being able to go to another's place and be a part of them. So God is breaking Peter's pre-conceptions to do something he did not want to do, and often God does that in our lives to break us and train us.

There is no random pain or suffering in Christian life, even though sometimes it seems like it when God tells us to do something we do not want to do: He is telling you to do something because He is training you for the greater purpose of God. Sometimes we are called to "eat unclean animals" in our life. That is never random. He is telling us these things so that we become more like Jesus. As sinners, we are even more disgusting to God than a Gentile was to Peter, yet Jesus became one of us. So we have to be like that, to become one of those we do not want to associate with. This is powerful, selfless love.

B. Eye training

God is training Peter to not only see these people or to be with them, but to see *through* them. Peter was seeing Gentiles, but God was seeing souls. We have to learn to see through people, through their skin color, their appearance, and even their personalities, because all this is just a covering. We need to learn to see a soul that is in need of Christ, with potential to image God, to glorify God, to honor God.

C. Mind training

God is training Peter to not only see through people to their soul, but also to accept them without condemning them. "I have never eaten anything that is uncommon or unclean." "What God has called clean, do not call common." As Peter had to put the animals in his stomach, God wants to put people in our hearts. Don't judge people as "unclean"; don't have that kind of perspective. What God sees and what we see have to match. Through the lens of the Gospel they can become clean through Jesus Christ, just as we are clean because of Christ. So a perspective change has to take place, as we see others and even ourselves. It is like confessing. The New Testament word for "confession" means "agreeing". Confession is seeing sin as God sees. You agree, so you confess. What Peter had to see was not seeing sin as God sees, but sinners as God sees.

D. Heart training

We are called to love people with the heart of God. Verse 34 says that God shows no partiality, no favoritism of love. Just as Peter loved himself, he needed to love them, to show the love of Christ. God prepares his people, but sometimes we as believers are harder to prepare than a seeker. Cornelius sees one vision, and he is ready. Peter had to see it three times. Sometimes it is a lot harder to break a believer than to prepare the heart of a seeker. We have to pray for God to break us and mould us – our perceptions, our hearts.

A question that one could ask is: Why didn't God just use angels in a vision? The angels are not the ones preaching the Gospel. The angels tell Cornelius to go to Peter, because we the believers in Jesus Christ are God's ordained means to preach the Gospel to the world. I don't know why, but we are, and what a privilege it is that we can be used by God like that, that God wants to use us.

God was changing Peter to see as God, to feel as God, and to think as God, so that he does (works) as God. This is what growth means: that our minds, thoughts, actions, and choices become like Jesus. God wants us to continually grow, so that we can do something we would never have imagined in our lives.

How do you have the heart of the Lord? Someone once said, if you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood, and don't assign them to tasking work; rather, teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea. This person is saying to make them want to do it by giving them vision, and seeing why. We need to read the Word of God, to read God's thoughts, to see the vision of the immensity of God and His Kingdom, the immensity of what He's doing in redemptive history, so that we would want to participate in it for His glory.

David Platt wrote in his book *Radical*,

“If we were left to ourselves with the task of taking the gospel to the world, we would immediately begin planning innovative strategies and plotting elaborate schemes. We would organize conventions, develop programs, and create foundations... But Jesus is so different from us. With the task of taking the gospel to the world, he wandered through the streets and byways... All He wanted was a few men who would think as He did, love as He did, see as He did, teach as He did and serve as He did. All He needed was to revolutionize the hearts of a few, and they would impact the world.”

God's choice and His method are His people, men and women whose hearts are revolutionized by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

III. The presentation of the message - The Gospel [36-43]

Now Peter goes to Cornelius and his household and preaches the Gospel. Someone once said, in God's eyes, a man who teaches one truth and nothing else is more righteous than a man who teaches a million truths and one lie. Often Satan works like that in the world, through half-truths and lies. If there is one truth that will never change, it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can always say confidently at any moment in history that the Good News of Jesus Christ is the Truth.

A. The Good News of Peace

We need the Good News of Peace because we were at war with God. We were at war with God because we hated God through our sins and were therefore hated by God, about to be destroyed.

B. The crucifixion

But there was a crucifixion. Verse 39 says in reference to Jesus Christ, "... we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree". We know that Jesus Christ, who is God, became a man who died on our behalf on the Cross. He became a God-man, a man to die for us in place of human beings, but also God to die for all of humanity, so that anybody and everybody who puts their faith in Jesus Christ can be saved because the value of God is infinite. So this is the Good News, that when we were God's enemies at war with Him, Jesus died as the enemy, becoming a sinner like us to die in our place, so that we can receive His righteousness.

C. The resurrection

And thirdly, there was a resurrection. Verse 40 says, “God raised him from the dead on the third day.” On the Cross, when God poured out all of His wrath for our sins, Jesus said, “It is finished.” And the resurrection proves that all of our sins are forgiveness. And by the resurrection Jesus we are raised. Although we have sin nature remaining in us, by His resurrection power we are alive, and continuously grow and live for His glory.

D. The judgment of Christ

All this because we know that judgment is coming. Verse 42 says, “And he commanded them to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.” We know that God’s judgment is coming. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Left to ourselves, we will all be judged eternally in hell. But for those who put their faith in Jesus Christ, He takes all of our sins, and we can be made alive eternally in Jesus Christ.

E. The invitation

So there is an invitation in verse 43: “... everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” There is an exclusivity and inclusivity of the Gospel. Exclusivity, because there is only one Gospel that can save. But there is an incredible inclusivity, that anyone who believes receives forgiveness of sin through Jesus’s name. It is only through Jesus Christ, but anyone can come; there is no partiality.

If you are a legalist sinner, who have always gone to church but have never repented of your sins and have never received Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, you need Jesus Christ. Patrick Hamilton said, “The Law says, where is thy righteousness, goodness, and satisfaction? The Gospel says, Christ is thy righteousness, goodness, and satisfaction.” You need Jesus Christ.

For those sinners who are libertine, irreligious, who have been living according to your desires to all your heart’s content, you need Jesus Christ. Michael Bassey Johnson says, “You can believe in whoever you like, but the truth remains the truth, no matter how sweet the lie may taste.” Lies taste good in this world, but the only truth that can save you – because judgment is coming – and the truth that remains for eternity is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As Kevin DeYoung said, “The world needs to see Christians burning, not with self-righteous fury at the sliding morals in our country, but with passion for God, and passion for the Gospel.”

IV. The power of change - The Spirit [44-48]

A. The Word

Verse 44 says, “While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the Word.” Peter went and preached God’s Word to the Gentiles – Cornelius and his household, and God used it.

B. The Spirit

As Peter preached the Word and as the people listened to the words and they understood the content of the message in their minds, the Holy Spirit used it to move their hearts. When you preach the Word of God, the Holy Spirit uses it. You can read incredible touching messages and love stories of the world, and they will not do anything. They may move your emotions, but only the Gospel – the very Word of God about Jesus Christ – can the Holy Spirit use to change the hearts of people.

C. Prayer and praise

When the Word goes into the hearts of the people, prayer and praise come out. Verse 46 says that after the Holy Spirit fell on the people, “they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.” There is controversy – was it a human tongue or an angelic tongue? According to Acts and 1 Corinthians 12-14, no matter what the tongue was, they were praying (we don’t have time to talk about the controversy here). They were “extolling” – praising and lifting up God. So when the Word goes in, prayer and praise come out, no matter what kind of language it is in.

D. The Church

Verse 47 says, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people...?” They were being baptized instead of circumcised to become a part of God’s covenant. We know baptism is not simply water, but it is a symbol of being a part of God’s community, with the Holy Spirit coming upon them, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleansing them, and the Holy Spirit covering over them. This means that they are part of the universal church, as well as the local church. So what this means is that Gentiles can become part of the spiritual Israelites, the Church of Jesus Christ. Anyone can come to know Christ and be part of His Church.

E. The World

And then they can go out into the world and preach the gospel. Acts 1:8 says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” We are called to be witnesses of the grand plan of God wherever we are, in surrounding towns and places and different ethnic groups, and to the ends of the world, every tongue and every nation, being used for His glory.

There’s something I’ve been thinking about. Can the Holy Spirit use us such that there is more empowerment in our lives? Can we do something so that there is more empowerment of the Holy Spirit and God uses our words, utterances and lives more powerfully? I believe so. There are degrees of the filling of the Holy Spirit in the Bible, and degrees of empowerment.

In John 16:14, we can see the mission of the Holy Spirit. In this verse, Jesus is talking about the Holy Spirit, saying that when He ascends to heaven, He will send us the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. This is the mission of the Holy Spirit: “He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” He will make the Word of God known to us, but His mission is to glorify Jesus. Someone once said the Holy Spirit is the “shy” Person of the Trinity. Usually when you look into the Scripture carefully, we pray to God and exalt Christ, but rarely do we address the Holy Spirit. Some praise songs speak to the Holy Spirit, and it’s not wrong to do that, but we usually talk about and exalt Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit uses it. I think that’s more theologically correct, since John 16:14 says that the Holy Spirit’s intent and mission in empowering us is that He wants to glorify Jesus. Therefore, the more we talk about Jesus and explain the Bible which relates to Jesus, and as we exalt Jesus through our minds and our lips, the Spirit is going to see that it is a chance to glorify Jesus, and He will use our words more.

The only problem is that we want to exalt ourselves. John 3:30 has to be our prayer. As John the Baptist talks about Jesus, he says, “He (Jesus) must increase, and I (John the Baptist) must decrease.” Sometimes we say, “I must increase.” Or even, “I must decrease, I must decrease.” But both perspectives are focusing on yourself, and there must be a balance. You must say, “Lord, humble me, exalt Yourself, may Jesus be lifted.” This has to be our prayer. It is inevitable with our sinful nature, but more of our hearts must be filled with Jesus. It’s a battle every moment to exalt Christ. And if you become a person of this verse, “He must increase, I must decrease”, the Holy Spirit will look into our hearts, fill us, and use us to empower us to influence and affect other people. J.I. Packer wrote a wonderful book called *Keeping Step with the Spirit*. His main point in the book is this, “The essence of the Holy Spirit’s ministry, at this or any time in the Christian era, is to mediate the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

In my experience, almost 40 years as a Christian, and 30 years of ministry, one of the most frequent prayers I offer up to God has been, “Lord, humble me.” And I always pray, “Lord, do not use me above my character, because I will be proud and I will not be able to handle it. So as much as I grow in my humility and character to be like Christ, use me that much.” This is still my prayer, to be in a condition of humility and serving people. Even as I lead and I preach, I think I’m just God’s servant. I don’t think I’m better than you because I’m teaching you; I’m serving you. Just like I would serve soup, I’m serving sermons. I just want to be a humble servant that God uses for His glory.

Conclusion

About 10 years ago when I was in my early forties, I was at this world missions meeting called WEA, the World Evangelical Alliance, which is probably one of the top three missions alliances or movements in the world. I don’t know how I got invited, but I was there in Cape Town, South Africa, and met many leaders of the world. There, I asked this one guy what he did for

the Lord, and when he told me the organization he started, my eyes popped. It was one of the biggest organizations in the world. Everyone knew him and I didn't and I felt so ignorant.

Another one of the leaders that I met was between seventy and eighty, and her name was Marjory Foyle. She was so cute and small and I kind of befriended her. She was so attentive and taking notes, and I thought maybe she was the mother of some world leader. But many people came up to her to talk and ask for autographs. I found out later she had worked for thirty years as a medical missionary in India and Nepal, initially as a general physician, in medicine and surgery, and for the last ten years as director of a leading Christian psychiatric seminar in India, because she saw so many missionaries getting depressed. She studied this phenomenon, analyzed it, got a degree and wrote a book on it titled *Honorably Wounded*. It became a standard book for missionaries going through stress to read. At that time she was a head itinerant missionary in more than forty countries, and again everyone knew who she was except for me.

I thanked her when I left, but on the airplane back to Champaign she was on the same flight. I went up to her and we started to talk. She told me that she was working on a second book. I still remember now, talking about how the occasion during which she started to write her autobiography, which was basically her testimony. She really didn't want to do it, and she usually said no to public speaking, especially engagements when she had to give her testimony. But on this occasion, she said she could not say no, because God gave her the verse, "But when I am weak, He is strong", and so she had to do it. And on this occasion she was giving her testimony, and she was telling me how the archbishop of Canterbury was there, but Prince Charles couldn't make it, and I realized she was giving her testimony to a huge crowd of royalty in England. She said the title of her testimony was, "Can It Be Me?" Can a little girl in a small town in England become a doctor and a missionary and a missionary counselor and give her testimony in that kind of setting? Can it be me? That was a question she had.

I forgot many of the details she talked about, but I cannot forget that phrase: Can it be me? Recently I thought about it, and I researched whether she finished her book, and she did. It's not the most popular book in the world, but I realized she kept her promise and wrote the book, titled *Can it be Me?*

If you're a person who has never accepted Christ, you can ask the same question: Can it be me? Can He be speaking to me today? Can it be true that He has been thinking of me all throughout eternity? Can it be me that He wants to love today? Maybe today is the day that you can accept Jesus Christ. You are the one that He has been thinking about for eternity, and He wants to come into your life.

If you're a believer you can ask the same question: Can it be me? Can God be wanting to use me? Will God send somebody to me, either through a vision, movement of their hearts, or accidentally? Can God bring somebody into my life this summer, whose life He wants to change through me? Can it be me?

I pray that you would wonder, because I did that when I was a teenager, and at this juncture of my life I cannot believe how God used me in different parts of the world, in different things I do. I am just so thankful when God can use me in a small way. I pray that you would ask that question and pray to the Lord, "God, use me for Your glory."