

Peter is called by God, through divine intervention, to go to the house of Cornelius, where he opens his mouth and shares the good news about Jesus. Peter's message highlights the work of God through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

1. Revelation: *I most certainly understand now (v.34)*
 - Left to ourselves we do not (and would never) understand God or life (Rom. 3:11)
 - God reveals His truth in perfect time and way
 - What did God open on Easter Sunday?

"And when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth." (John 16:13)

2. Righteousness: *for God was with Him (v.37-38)*
 - Jesus was anointed with the Spirit for power and doing good
 - In what way is Jesus utterly unique in comparison to every other human?
 - There is none righteous, no not one. (Rom. 3:10)

"Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 5:20)

3. Redemption: *put him to death by hanging Him on a cross (v.39)*
 - Why did Jesus die? What did His death accomplish?
 - All who believe in Him receive forgiveness of sins. (v.43)
 - "God the Just is satisfied to look at Him and pardon me."

"In order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." (Gal. 4:4)

4. Resurrection: God raised Him up on the third day . . . visible (v.40)
 - God raised Him up: declaring the justice and the satisfaction of the cross
 - Christ lives to intercede for us before God and to live in us for transformation.
 - Because He lives, we too shall live. (John 14:19)

*Power over death: 1 Cor. 15:55-58: the miracle of eternal life

*Power over sin: Rom. 8:10-11: the miracle of transformation

*Power over fear: John 16:33: the miracle of making all things new

"But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption." (1 Cor. 1:30)

“Each year at Easter I get to preach on the Resurrection. In my sermon I always say to my skeptical, secular friends that even if they can’t believe in the resurrection, they should want it to be true. Most of them care deeply about justice for the poor, alleviating hunger and disease, and caring for the environment. Yet many of them believe that the material world was caused by accident and that the world and everything in it will eventually simply burn up. They find it discouraging that so few people care about justice without realizing that their own worldview undermines any motivation to make the world a better place. Why sacrifice for the needs of others if in the end nothing we do will make any difference? However, if the resurrection of Jesus happened, that means there’s infinite hope and reason to pour ourselves out for the needs of the world. (Tim Keller)

*Have you trusted in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sin and for your personal salvation? Romans 10:8-10