

## Acts 10 .44 - 48 (NRSV)

44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 ‘Can anyone withhold the water for baptising these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ 48 So he ordered them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

## Psalm 98 (NRSV)

1 O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gained him victory.  
2 The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the  
sight of the nations.  
3 He has remembered his steadfast love  
and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.  
4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord,  
all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song  
and sing praises.  
5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King,  
the Lord.  
7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.  
8 Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy  
9 at the presence of the Lord, for he is  
coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with  
righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

## Acts 10 .44 - 48 (The Message)

44-46 No sooner were these words out of Peter’s mouth than the Holy Spirit came on the listeners. The believing Jews who had come with Peter couldn’t believe it, couldn’t believe that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on “outsider” non-Jews, but there it was—they heard them speaking in tongues, heard them praising God.

46-48 Then Peter said, “Do I hear any objections to baptizing these friends with water? They’ve received the Holy Spirit exactly as we did.” Hearing no objections, he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Then they asked Peter to stay on for a few days.

## Psalm 98 (The Message)

1 Sing to God a brand-new song.  
He’s made a world of wonders!  
He rolled up his sleeves,  
He set things right.  
2 God made history with salvation,  
He showed the world what he could do.  
3 He remembered to love us, a bonus  
To his dear family, Israel  
—indefatigable love.  
The whole earth comes to attention.  
Look—God’s work of salvation!  
4 Shout your praises to God, everybody!  
Let loose and sing! Strike up the band!  
5 Round up an orchestra to play for God,  
Add on a hundred-voice choir.  
6 Feature trumpets and big trombones,  
Fill the air with praises to King God.  
7 Let the sea and its fish give a round of  
applause,  
With everything living on earth joining in.  
8 Let ocean breakers call out, “Encore!”  
And mountains harmonise the finale—  
9 A tribute to God when he comes,  
When he comes to set the earth right.  
He’ll straighten out the whole world,  
He’ll put the world right,  
and everyone in it.

### **1 John 5 .1 - 6 (NRSV)**

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4 for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5 Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

### **1 John 5 .1 - 6 (The Message)**

1-3 Every person who believes that Jesus is, in fact, the Messiah, is God-born. If we love the One who conceives the child, we'll surely love the child who was conceived. The reality test on whether or not we love God's children is this: Do we love God? Do we keep his commands? The proof that we love God comes when we keep his commandments and they are not at all troublesome.

4-5 Every God-born person conquers the world's ways. The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith. The person who wins out over the world's ways is simply the one who believes Jesus is the Son of God.

6-8 Jesus—the Divine Christ! He experienced a life-giving birth and a death-killing death. Not only birth from the womb, but baptismal birth of his ministry and sacrificial death. And all the while the Spirit is confirming the truth, the reality of God's presence at Jesus' baptism and crucifixion, bringing those occasions alive for us. A triple testimony: the Spirit, the Baptism, the Crucifixion. And the three in perfect agreement.

### **John 15 .9 - 17 (NRSV)**

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

### **John 15 .9 - 17 (The Message)**

9-10 "I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done—kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love.

11-15 "I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father.

16 "You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you.

17 "But remember the root command: Love one another.