

Title: **Focus on the Fundamentals**  
Text: **Acts 10:1-48**  
Date: **October 27, 2024**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](https://mercyhillchurch.org).



## Big Idea

If you want to be used by God in this world, you don't have to do anything too flashy. Just focus on the fundamentals. Commit yourself to things like prayer, humility, the gospel, and obedience. God can work with that!

### Fundamental #1: Prayer

If we want to be used by God, we have to be spending time with him. And one of the ways we do that is by committing to regular times of prayer. If you noticed, it's prayer that moves the whole plot line forward in this narrative. And yet still we often neglect it. Why?

#### *Reason #1: God Is Too Quiet*

#### *Reason #2: Life Is Too Loud*

So I'd encourage you: When you get up in the morning, before you hit the pavement, hit your knees. Get in the habit of just showing up for the conversation, regardless of how profound it does or doesn't feel. And schedule a prayer appointment in the midday, even just for a few minutes, where you're going to pause and lean into your humanity and push back on the production-line mentality. And then come to him on your bed in the evening, or maybe walk around the block or something, and reflect and pray on the day. As you do this, you'll be putting yourself in position to hear from God and be used by him!

### Fundamental #2: Humility

Humility readies us to take part in a move of God because we acknowledge our place in the story. We're not the hero. We're not the star. We're not trying to take charge or write our own script. We're

looking for him to lead us. The master can't use the wild horse for much until he's broken him. Only then can he put in bit and bridle and run off with him like the wind. You've got to be humble or you'll miss out.

### Fundamental #3: Gospel

The good news of Jesus Christ, the gospel—it will forever be at the center of all that God is doing in the world. So if you want to be a part of that, you've got to be centered in on the gospel as well. But what exactly is it? If I were to sum up what Peter tells Cornelius and his household there in vv. 34-43 I would put it like this: The gospel is *peace thru propitiation*. Jesus is forsaken so you and I can be forgiven. He takes our curse so you and I can have his peace—not just with God, but also with one another. For Peter to say that "God shows no partiality" (v. 34) strikes in two directions. On the one hand, it means I'm not so much better than you that I'm beyond need of Jesus and the gospel. On the other hand, it means you're not so much worse than me that you're beyond reach of Jesus and the gospel. The ground is level at the foot of the cross. There is no fundamental difference between Jew and Gentile. We are all saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone!

### Fundamental #4: Obedience

A key principle for the Christian life is this: Be ready to obey what he's already shown you and he'll entrust you with more. Yes, good, purchase another Christian book, join another Bible study, go to another conference, and all of this. But don't let your search for more understanding and insight replace or distract you from obeying what you already know. If we're not prepared to obey what he's already revealed, he's not going to reveal anything further to us.



## Reflection Questions

- Which of the four fundamentals seemed most significant to you personally this morning and why?
- Which do you feel strongest in? Which do you feel weakest in?
- What can you do to grow more in your commitment to them this week?

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## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*

**FAITH:** The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

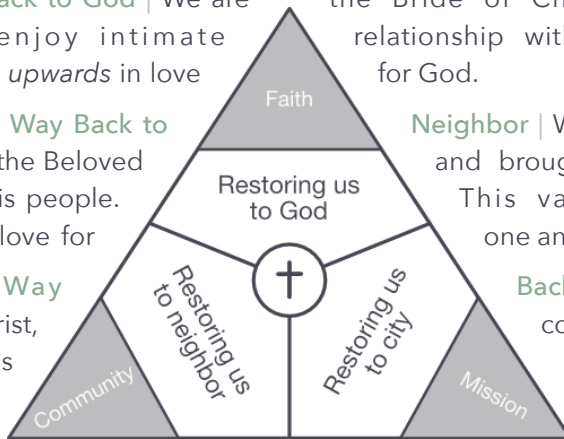
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

**Neighbor** | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

**Back to City** | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### Covenant Membership Class - Open Registration!

At the request of some in the congregation, registration for the Covenant Membership Class is now open! If you are interested in becoming a member or simply want to re-familiarize yourself with what we're all about, please register online (find link below). We will leave registration open for the next few weeks, then we'll pick a Sunday to hold the class.

To find more info and a link to register, please scan the QR code below!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org).

### All Church Hangout - Next Sunday!

### CityTeam's Grace Village Apartment Renovation

Scan the QR code below for more info!

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at [mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub](https://mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub).