

Weekly Devotion

Brave New World / Week 5

“First Steps”

Acts 11:1–18 / Week of May 4, 2026

(A small note before we begin: today is May the 4th. And if you know, you know. So — may the Force be with you. And also with you. Amen and amen.)

Now. On to something even more ancient and powerful than the Jedi Order.

Peter had already done the hard thing.

He had crossed the threshold. Walked into Cornelius’s house. Watched the Spirit fall on people he never expected to call his own. He had taken the first step — the terrifying, boundary-crossing, category-shattering first step — and it had changed everything.

And then he had to go home and explain himself.

This is the part of Acts 11 we don’t talk about as much. The part where Peter stands before the circumcised believers in Jerusalem, the people who had heard what he did and were not impressed. *You went in*, they said. *You ate with them*. The accusation was not subtle. You crossed a line, Peter. You went somewhere you were not supposed to go.

And Peter told the whole story. The vision, the voice, the knock at the door, the Spirit falling, the words he couldn’t argue with: *who am I to stand in God’s way?*

When they heard it — when they heard the whole story, beginning to end — they quieted down. And then they praised God. *Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.*

I have been thinking about that moment all week.

Because sometimes the bravest thing is not the first step itself. Sometimes the bravest thing is telling the story of the first step afterward. Standing in a room full of skeptical people and saying: *I know this looks strange. I know it doesn’t fit the rules as we have understood them. But here is what happened. Here is what God did. And I could not stand in the way of it.*

We live in a world that is suspicious of change. Suspicious of the new thing, the unexpected door, the story that doesn't fit neatly into the categories we have inherited. And sometimes the people who are most suspicious are the ones closest to us — our own communities, our own traditions, our own circumcised believers who want to know why we went where we went.

Peter didn't argue. He didn't defend himself or get small or apologize for what God had done. He just told the truth. *This is what happened. The Spirit fell. I could not stand in God's way.*

That is its own kind of courage. The courage of the second step — the one where you return from the brave new world and try to bring a little of it back with you.

Here is what I want you to sit with this week:

Is there a story you have been afraid to tell? A door you crossed that you haven't been able to explain yet — to your family, your community, yourself? A place where God moved in a way that surprised you, and you haven't found the words for it?

You don't have to have it all figured out. Peter didn't either. He just started at the beginning and told it straight through.

And sometimes that is enough for a whole room to go quiet — and then break into praise.

A prayer for the road:

God of visions and open doors —

meet me in the middle of this week.

I am still learning the language of the brave new world.

Still finding words for the things I have seen,

the thresholds I have crossed,

the moments when the Spirit moved

and I could not explain it but I knew.

Give me the courage of Peter —

not just to take the first step,

but to tell the story of it afterward.

To stand in the room and say:

this is what happened. God did this. I could not stand in the way.

And when the room goes quiet —

let it fill with praise.

Amen.