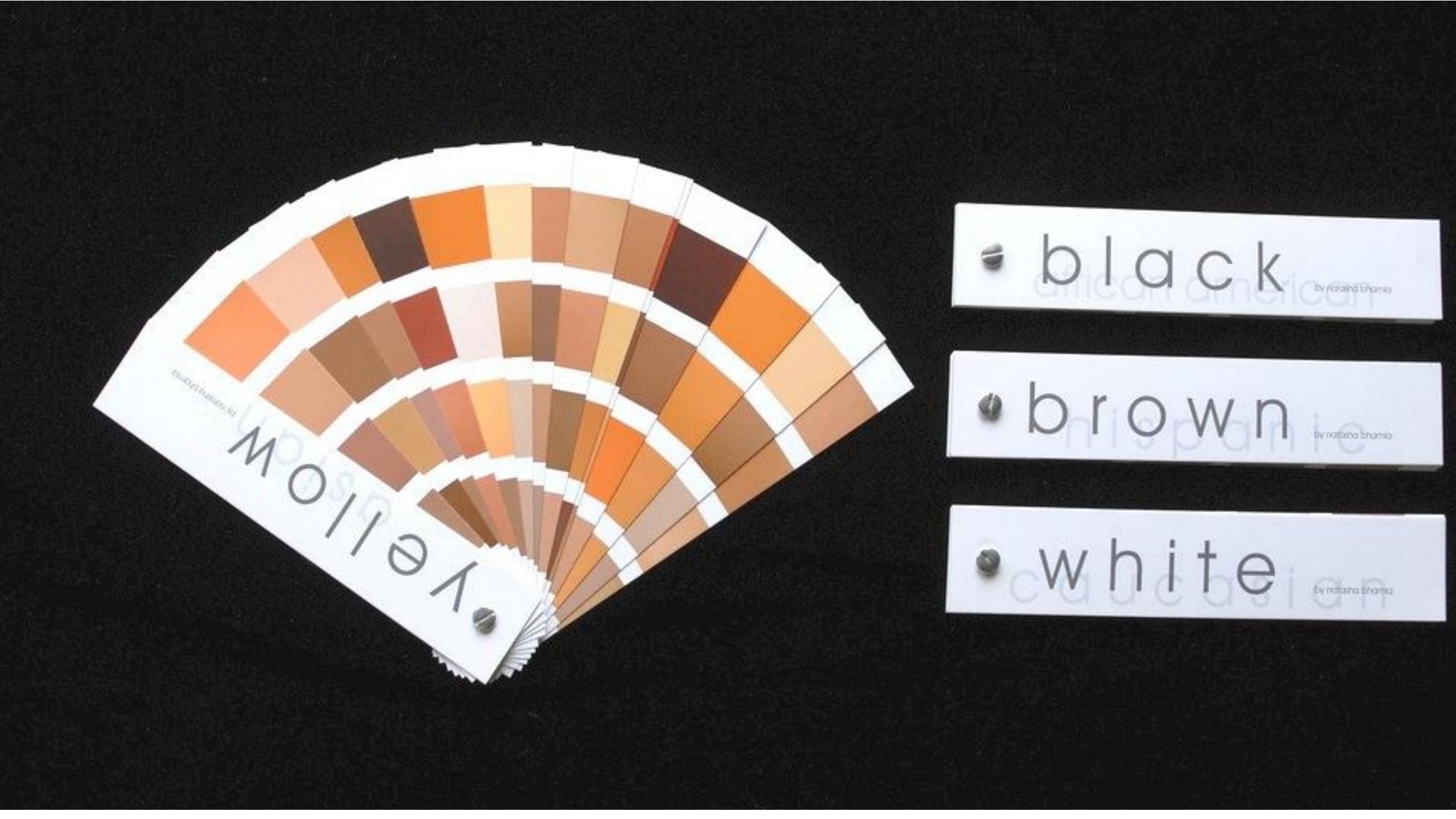


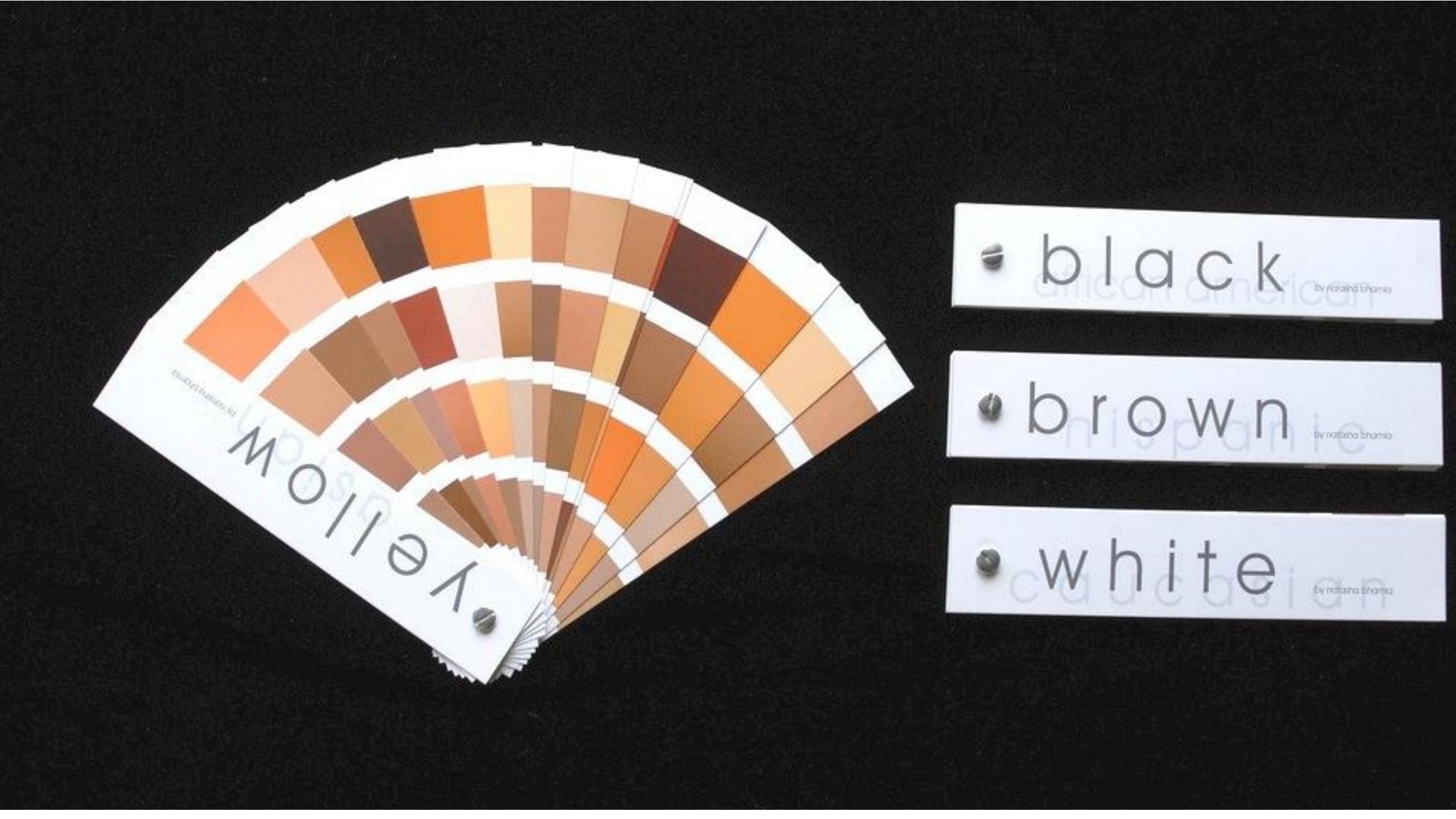
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unavoidable

indispensable

a gift from God



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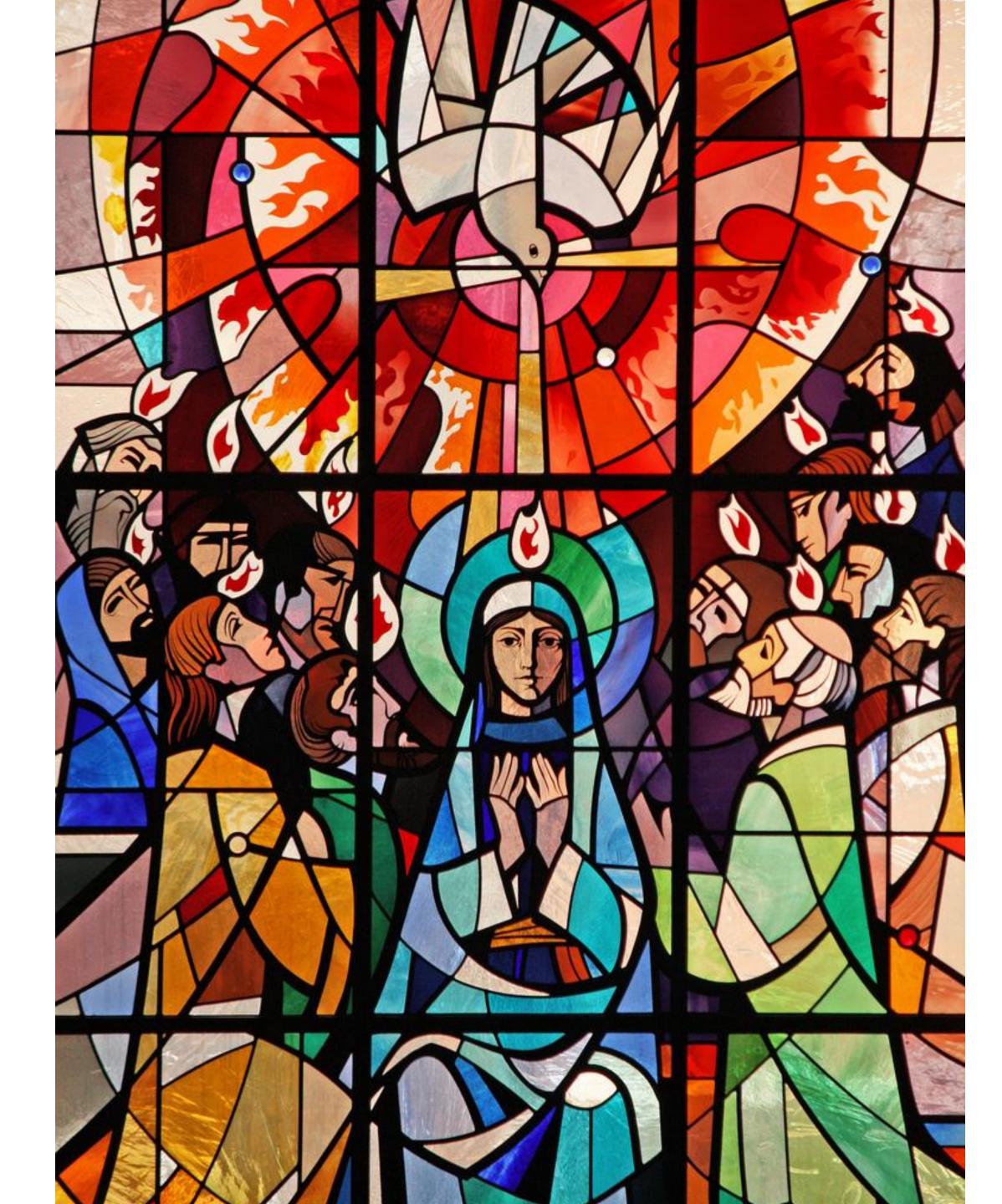




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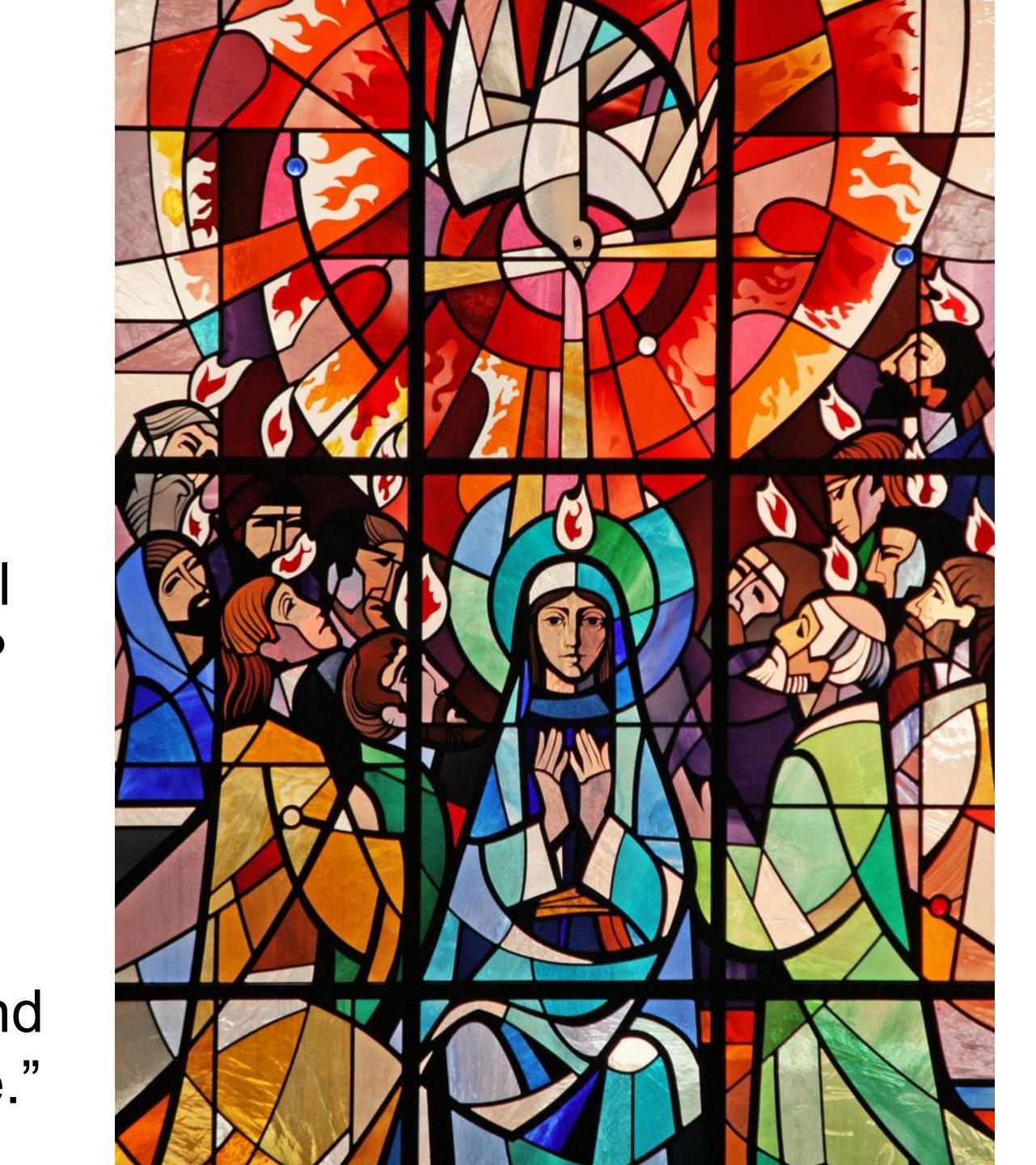
When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.







Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ... All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."





Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."







The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the LORD said, "Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech."









So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.







Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. [They] had come to Jerusalem to worship and [were] returning home; seated in [their] chariot, [they were] reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."















So Philip ran up to it and heard [them] reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" [They] replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And [they] invited Philip to get in and sit beside [them].

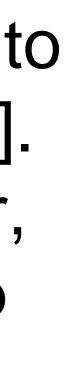








As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" [They] commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized [them]. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on [their] way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.









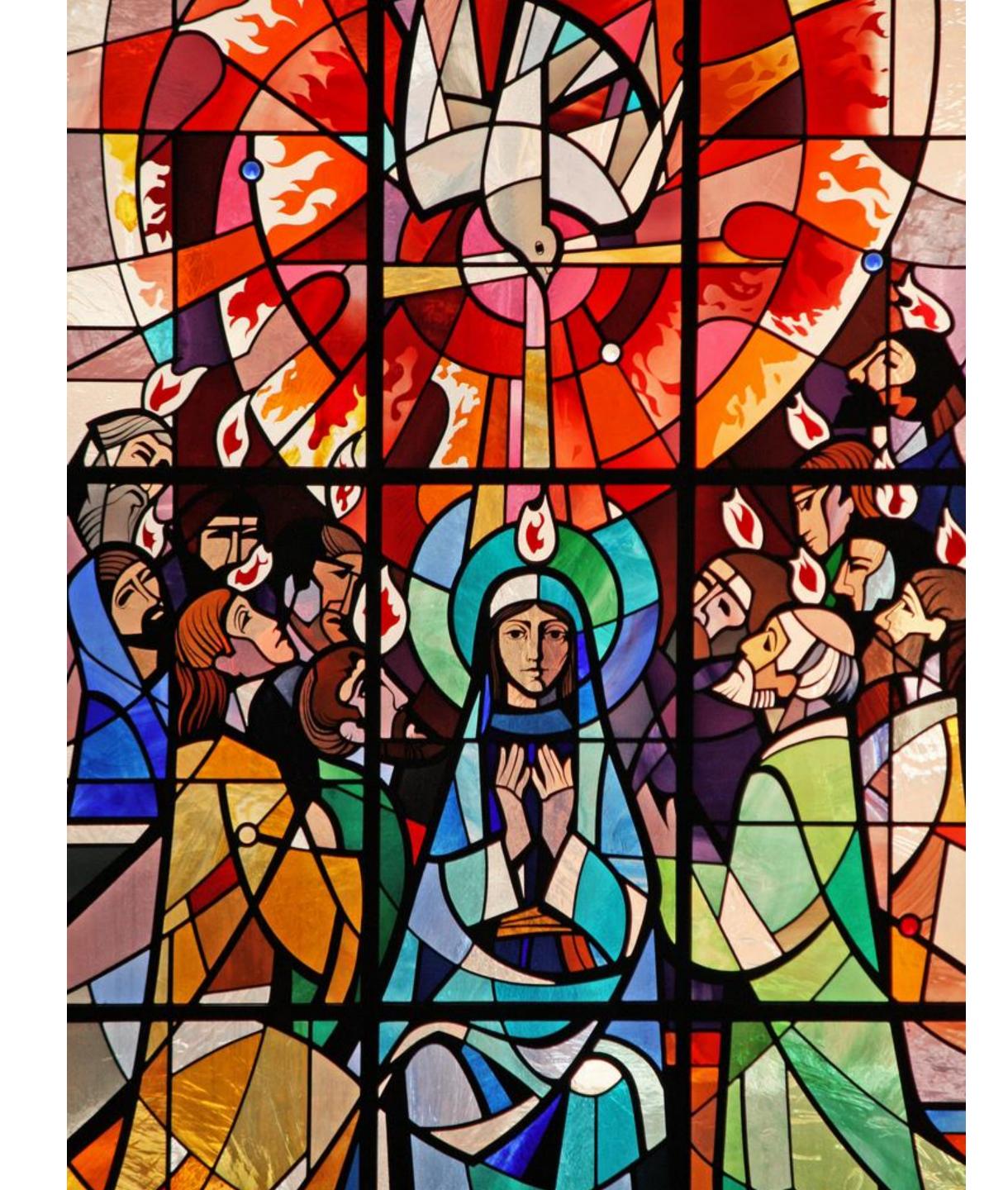
Other ancient authorities add all or most of verse 37,

And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."

And [they] replied, "I believe of God."

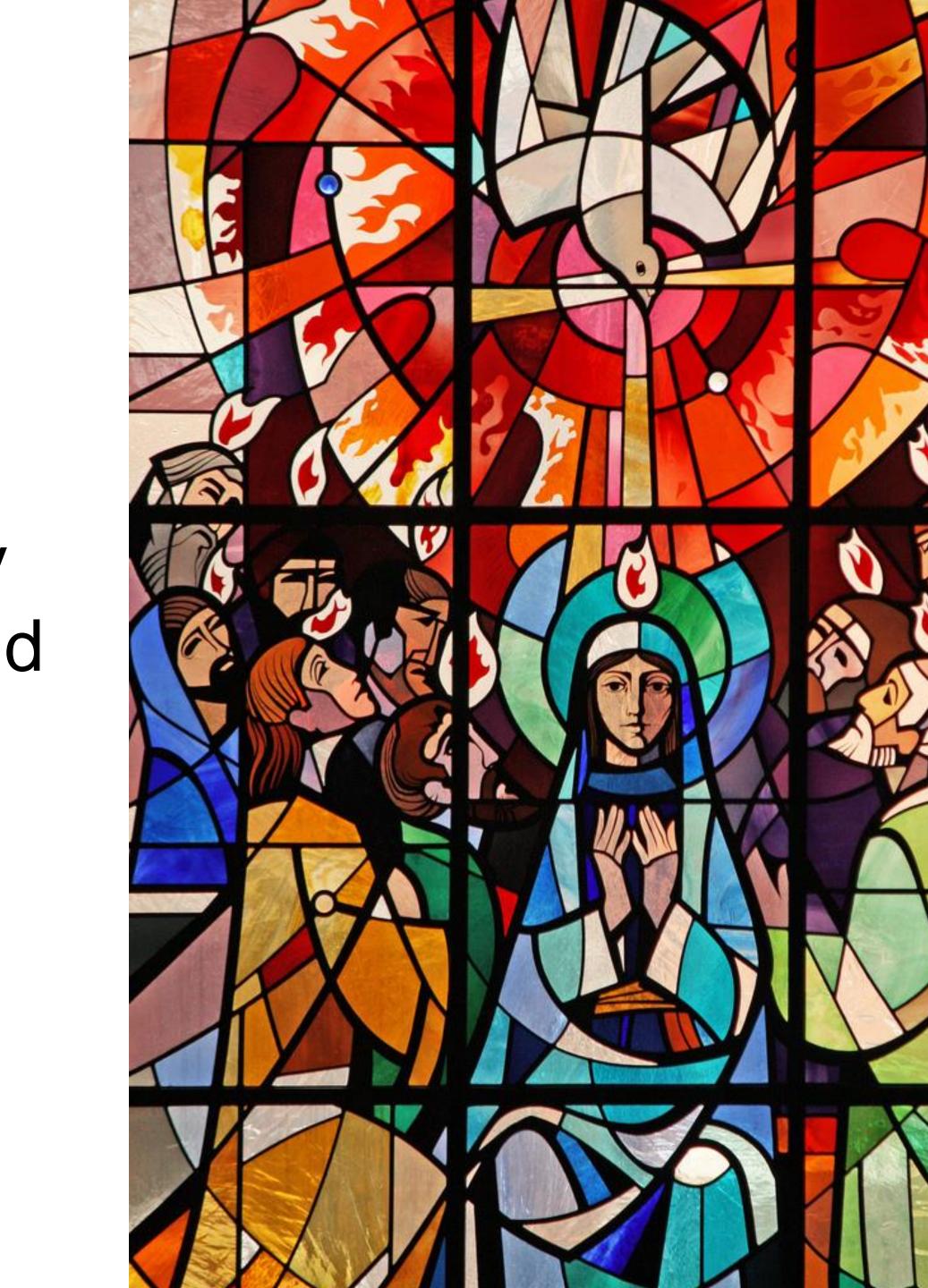
And [they] replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God.





"I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.







While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

