

## Acts 10 Cornelius' Vision

Now there was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, 2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and made many charitable contributions to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!" 4 And he looked at him intently and became terrified, and said, "What is it, lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and charitable gifts have ascended as a memorial offering before God.

5 Now dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter; 6 he is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea." 7 When the angel who spoke to him left, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier from his personal attendants, 8 and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

9 On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. 10 But he became hungry and wanted to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; 11 and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, 12 and on it were all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the sky.

13 A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" 14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." 15 Again a voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy." 16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

17 Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might mean, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius had asked directions to Simon's house, and they appeared at the gate;

18 and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. 19 While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. 20 But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself." 21 Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?" 22 They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you." 23 So he invited them in and gave them lodging.

## Peter in Caesarea

Now on the next day he got ready and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. 24 On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him,

and fell at his feet and worshiped him. 26 But Peter helped him up, saying, "Stand up; I, too, am just a man." 27 As he talked with him, he entered and \*found many people assembled.

28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is forbidden for a Jewish man to associate with or visit a foreigner; and yet God has shown me that I am not to call any person unholy or unclean. 29 That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask, for what reason did you send for me?"

30 Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the [t]ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining clothing, 31 and he \*said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your charitable gifts have been remembered before God. 32 Therefore send some men to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon the tanner, by the sea.' 33 So I sent men to you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear everything that you have been commanded by the Lord."

#### Gentiles Hear Good News

34 Opening his mouth, Peter said:

"I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him. 36 The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ He is Lord of all 37 you yourselves know the thing that happened throughout Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. 38 You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

39 We are witnesses of all the things that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. 40 God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He be revealed, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who had been chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He ordered us to preach to the people, and to testify solemnly that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

43 All the prophets testify of Him, that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. 45 All the Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had also been poured out on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter responded, 47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" 48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

## Paul's insights and Questions

1. Cornelius had made his own connection with the God of the Jews. He receives his own personal holy, visitation vision of instruction.
2. In the vision an angel instructs him to send for Peter to come and bring the grace revelation of the gospel and the encounter regarding baptism and the Holy Spirit.
3. Cornelius's confidence to ask God the question 'what is it Lord?' is something we all need to work towards.
4. Cornelius's obedience to the vision – do we do what God tells us?
5. While these men are on their way to Peter, God brings Peter into a trance and gives him a vision also!
6. It was Peter's hunger that craved for food, but in his trance he is given an invitation to eat unclean food. What will he do?
7. Even in the trance Peter can exercise his personal will not to do something!
8. When you dream do you permit yourself the license to do what you know is wrong?
9. A voice in the trance said 'what God has cleansed no longer consider unholy'.
10. We need to remember that eating unclean food for the Jews was against their religious law.
11. What will Peter do with his conundrum?
12. Why did it happen three times?
13. Peter, having had this experience, is confronted by the men sent by Cornelius.
14. 'While awake the Spirit said to Peter' - unlike when he was having his vision. Peter is learning to walk by the Spirit's leading.
15. Peter requests as to why these men require him to come with them to Cornelius's house.
16. Their explanation must have created an incredible amount of excitement as they saw the hand of God at work.
17. At the house Cornelius is overwhelmed and mistakenly worships Peter, who is having none of it, and tells him to stand to his feet.
18. A great crowd had gathered in anticipation of what Peter would bring.
19. Faith expectation was high, Peter explains how a Jew wouldn't come to a Gentile's home but the Spirit had led him there.
20. Cornelius' response was to reveal to Peter what the angel had told him to do.
21. Peter is invited to speak, Cornelius says to him 'give us what you have got'!
22. Up till now Peter had only been told to go, no time for a sermon, but he reveals his trance/dream about the Gentiles entering into the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

23. All the nations are welcome to come to Jesus, all who repent and put their trust in the message of the Gospel.
24. Peter explains Jesus life, while on earth, and his mission to release captives from the power of the devil.
25. What do these words mean 'God was with Him', referring to Jesus?
26. Jesus death on the cross was very necessary for the salvation of the lost.
27. God raised Jesus after three days, He would not let His body decay in the ground, death could not hold Him.
28. Jesus rose from the dead and became visible, but not to everyone. Why?
29. Jesus final instruction was to preach the gospel to the nations, baptising them and making them disciples.
30. Jesus is the judge of the living and the dead.
31. Peter reiterates the prophets proclamation of the Messiah Saviour, and the need to believe in His name would lead to forgiveness of sins.
32. As Peter spoke the Holy Spirit fell on the people who listened to the message, it means they heard it in their spirit and responded.
33. The Jewish believers were amazed that the Holy Spirit would fall on the Gentiles.
34. That the gift of the Holy Spirit was for everyone.
35. That the Jewish believers heard them speaking with tongues and that these tongues were exalting God.
36. Peter, seeing all this, was convinced that God wanted the Gentile believers, who were now full of His Holy Spirit to be baptised.