

Conversions in Acts



Lesson 4 – The Conversion of Cornelius Reading Assignment: Acts 10; 11:1-18

I. Cornelius – Acts 10:1-8

- Where does Cornelius live?
- What do you know about Cornelius?
- What is Cornelius instructed to do?
- Who did Cornelius choose to go and find Peter?
- How far was Joppa?
- Are the men who are sent Jews or Gentiles?

II. Peter – Acts 10:9-23

- Where is Peter when this story begins?
- Describe the vision Peter sees in his trance?
- How many times does this vision happen?
- What is Peter instructed to do?
- Why does Peter object to eating the animals?
- What does the voice say about “what God has clea
- Is this a general principle or is it something just fo
- What instructions does the Spirit give Peter?
- How far had these men traveled?
- Why is inviting these men to stay risky?

¹Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, ²a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. ³About 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!” ⁴And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵Now dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter; ⁶he is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea.” ⁷When the angel who was speaking to him had left, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were his personal attendants, ⁸and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. ⁹O 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. ¹⁰But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; ¹¹and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, ¹²and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. ¹³A voice came to him, “Get up, Peter, kill and eat!” ¹⁴But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.” ¹⁵Again a voice came to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.” ¹⁶This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky. ¹⁷Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon’s house, appeared at the gate; ¹⁸and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself.” ²¹Peter 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?” ²²They 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.” ²³So he invited them in and gave them lodging.

III. The Visit – Acts 10:23-34

- Who makes up this entourage?
- Who is waiting at Cornelius' house?
- How did Cornelius greet Peter and what was Peter's reaction?
- How did Peter begin the conversation?
- What was Cornelius' reply?

IV. The Message – Acts 10:35-48

- Identify the main points of Peter's talk.
- Who interrupted Peter's talk?
- What did the Holy Spirit do here?
- What do you make of Peter's words, "...who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*..." (see Acts 11:15)
- What was the reaction of the Jews that had come with Peter to this display of the Holy Spirit?
- What was the source of the Jew's amazement?
- What does this scene remind you of?
- What was Peter's conclusion? (vs. 47)
- What is the significance of being baptized "in the name of Jesus Christ"? (see Acts 19:1-5)
- What is the big deal about "staying on for a few days"?
- To whom did Peter have to give an account of this event? (See Acts 11:1-3)

And on the next day he got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for 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 raised 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 how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man 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 you have sent for me."

³⁰ Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments, ³¹ and he said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³² Therefore send 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 for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

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 man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome 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 which took place throughout all 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 He did both in the land 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 become visible, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses who were 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 solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ Of Him all the prophets bear witness 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 circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, 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.