

# The Conversion of Cornelius – Part I

Acts 10:1-33  
October 6, 2024

## I. Introduction

- A. The Conversion of the Ethiopian (8:25-40) and Cornelius (10:1-48) demonstrates that:
  - 1. Good works do not save you
  - 2. God is no respecter of persons
  - 3. God grants seekers more light
  - 4. God draws seekers to Himself (John 6:44, 45, 65)
- B. This story is recounted in Chapters 11 and 15
- C. This story takes place about 10 years after Pentecost (Chapter 2)
- D. Outline for Chapter 10
  - 1. The drawing of Cornelius – vs. 1-33
  - 2. The message to Cornelius via Peter – vs. 34-48

## II. The Drawing of Cornelius vs. 1-33

- A. His Identity – vs. 1, 2
  - 1. He lived in “Caesarea” – 65 miles northwest of Jerusalem (MAP)
  - 2. A “centurion”: A Roman officer responsible for 100 men
  - 3. “The Italian Cohort” – 300-600 officers
  - 4. “devout” (pious); “feared God” – gave and prayed
  - 5. Note: verse 2 is the Holy Spirit’s description; v. 22 is man’s description
  - 6. Ryrie calls him a “proselyte of the gate”; Gentile (though not circumcised) who followed the moral teachings of Moses.
- B. His Vision – vs. 3-8
  - 1. It came at the 9<sup>th</sup> hour – 3 p.m.
  - 2. An angelic appearance was rare for a Gentile
  - 3. He was told to send for Peter who was in Joppa, 30 miles south of Caesarea (MAP)

- 4. He sent two servants and one soldier
- C. Peter’s Vision – vs. 9-16
  - 1. Peter “up on the roof” praying at 12:00
  - 2. The vision of unclean animals (Leviticus 11)
  - 3. The command to kill and eat
  - 4. Peter objects: “*By no means, Lord.*” (“No” and Lord do not go together. “Yes” and Lord do.)
  - 5. God’s admonition: “*What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.*” (Mark 7)
- D. Peter’s response to the vision – vs. 17-23
  - 1. He was “*greatly perplexed*”
  - 2. The arrival of Cornelius’ men
  - 3. They spend the night with Peter; then Peter goes back with them
- E. Peter meets Cornelius – vs. 24-33
  - 1. Cornelius is waiting with relatives and friends! – v. 24
  - 2. The humbleness of Peter – vs. 25, 26
  - 3. Peter affirms he is there willingly and at God’s command – vs. 27-29a
  - 4. Peter asks why he was sent for – v. 29b
  - 5. Cornelius’ answer – vs. 30-33