

# ***Acts Part 1 Study Guide***

---

## **Lesson 9: The First Gentile Convert – Acts 10**

**Introduction:** The groundwork for the expansion of the kingdom to the Gentiles has been laid by Paul's conversion and commission as an apostle. Before he can commence this great undertaking, however, another piece of the puzzle must be added. Peter is again given the "keys of the kingdom" and opens the door to all Gentiles via Cornelius.

### **1. Preparing for the Crucial Meeting – Acts 10:1-23**

A. The preparation of Cornelius – 10:1-8.

1. Describe the character and religious inclinations of Cornelius.
2. Did God "hear" Cornelius' prayer? Explain your answer in view of John 9:31 and 1 Peter 3:12.
3. What did the angel tell Cornelius would be revealed to him by Simon Peter?

B. The preparation of Peter – 10:9-16.

1. Describe the contents of the sheet which Peter saw descending from heaven.
2. What command did Peter hear regarding these animals?
3. How does he respond to the command?

C. The messengers arrive in Joppa – 10:17-23.

1. Peter needs more information in order to make sense of what he saw in the trance. It is not unusual for God to disseminate truth in small doses, allowing men to ponder and gradually draw conclusions as they are able.
2. As the messengers arrive from Cornelius, Peter is given a further nudge by the direct revelation of the Holy Spirit – 10:19-20.
3. What knowledge do the messengers share with Peter that would further convince him that something significant is unfolding?

### **2. The Arrival and Address – Acts 10:24-43**

A. The meeting – 10:24-29. Cornelius, in great anticipation of his guest's arrival, gathers his relatives and friends to hear his message.

1. So overwhelmed is he that he bows before Peter as he enters.
2. The dawn is beginning to break upon Peter's understanding, for he acknowledges that "*God has shown me that I should not call **any man** common or unclean.*"

B. Peter asks for Cornelius to clarify his motive in sending for him – 10:30-33.

C. Peter's address to this devout, Gentile audience – 10:34-43.

1. Peter now seems to grasp the full significance of what he had said in his very first sermon on Pentecost (10:34-35; cf. Acts 2:39).

2. He gives a very brief synopsis of Jesus' life – 10:36-40. List the major points:

- a.

- b.

- c.

- d.

- e.

3. The role and message of the apostles – 10:41-43. List the major points:

- a.

- b.

- c.

- d.

### **3. The Manifestation of the Holy Spirit – Acts 10:44-48**

A. The fuller significance of this event, as Peter later explains back in Jerusalem, will be explored in the next lesson. For now, note that it is the *fourth* direct act of intervention from heaven: 1) the angel speaks to Cornelius, 2) Peter's trance/vision, 3) the Spirit's directive to Peter, and 4) the pouring out of the Spirit.

B. When the Holy Spirit first was manifested in this way on the day of Pentecost, the unbelievers were amazed. Who is now "astonished" by such an event?

C. What is Peter's conclusion to the Spirit coming upon the Gentiles? What terminology is used relative to baptism as directed by Peter?

D. Is there any evidence for/against the conclusion in the text that Cornelius and his household were saved *before* being baptized? Who else had experienced divine intervention before being baptized?

**Questions:**

1a. By what method of reasoning does Peter arrive at the conclusion that God had shown him not to call a man common or unclean?

1b. Were there any men in the sheet?!

2. How does Peter respond to Cornelius' bowing to him?

3. Compare/contrast Cornelius' response to the events that transpire regarding his spiritual status and Paul's response in Acts 9.

4. How does Peter describe an acceptable response to God in Acts 10:35?

5a. To what great future event does Peter appeal in Acts 10:42?

5b. Find another place in Acts where an apostle warns Gentiles of this coming day.