

Peter and Cornelius

Acts 10:1-48

Introduction: The book of Acts was written by Luke, the physician and writer of the Gospel of Luke, around 60-62 A.D. In Acts Chapter 10, Cornelius, a gentile, who was a centurion (commander of 100 soldiers) in the Roman Army, is a God fearing man, seeking to know God.

Context: In Acts Chapter 1 Jesus commissions the Apostles stay in Jerusalem to receive the Holy Spirit who came upon them on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13) and empowered them to be His witnesses. Up until the conversion of Cornelius, the gospel had been preached almost exclusively to Jewish people. Any Gentile who wanted to follow Christ would have first converted to Judaism. But the good news of Jesus was for everyone and not just for Jews. God used a vision of animals on a sheet and a miraculous pouring out of the Holy Spirit to reveal this important truth to Peter and those he was teaching. Following this, Peter baptized Cornelius, making him the first Gentile to become a Christian.

Acts 10:1-8

- I. Cornelius Sends a Delegation (verses 1-8).
- II. Peter's Vision (verses 9-16).
- III. Peter summoned to Caesarea (verses 17-23).
- IV. Peter meets Cornelius (verses 24-33).
- V. Peter preaches the gospel to Cornelius' Household (verses 34-43).
- VI. The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles (verses 44-48).

Three Factors necessary for the salvation of a sinner:

1. Someone to speak the Gospel (Romans 10:14).
2. The Conviction of The Holy Spirit (John 16:7-11).
3. Positive Volition (Romans 10:17).

Why didn't the Angel present the gospel to Cornelius?

Application:

God creates circumstances to allow us to speak truth into the lives of others. We must always be prepared to speak the truth in love.