

Acts 10:1–11:18

Peter and Cornelius

10 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, ²a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. ³ About the ninth hour of the day ⁴he saw clearly in a vision ⁵an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.” ⁶ And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms ⁷have ascended ⁸as a memorial before God. ⁹ And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁰ He is lodging ¹¹with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.” ¹² When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, ¹³and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Peter’s Vision

¹⁴ The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, ¹⁵Peter went up ¹⁶on the housetop about ¹⁷the sixth hour ¹⁸to pray. ¹⁹ And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into ²⁰a trance ²¹and saw ²²the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. ²³ In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. ²⁴ And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” ²⁵ But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; ²⁶for I have never eaten anything that is ²⁷common or ²⁸unclean.” ²⁹ And the voice came to him again a second time, ³⁰“What God has made clean, do not call common.” ³¹ This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

³² Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what ³³the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, ³⁴the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon’s house, stood at the gate ³⁵and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. ³⁶ And while Peter was pondering ³⁷the vision, ³⁸the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. ³⁹ Rise and go down and ⁴⁰accompany them without hesitation, ⁴¹for I have sent them.” ⁴² And Peter went down to the men and said, “I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?” ⁴³ And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and ⁴⁴God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by ⁴⁵a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and ⁴⁶to hear what you have to say.” ⁴⁷ So he invited them in to be his guests.

The next day he rose and went away with them, and ⁴⁸some of ⁴⁹the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. ⁵⁰ And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ⁵¹ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and ⁵²fell down at his feet and ⁵³worshiped him. ⁵⁴ But Peter lifted him up, saying, ⁵⁵“Stand up; I too am a man.” ⁵⁶ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. ⁵⁷ And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew ⁵⁸to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but ⁵⁹God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. ⁶⁰ So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.”

³⁰ And Cornelius said, ³¹“Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at ³²the ninth hour, ³³and behold, ³⁴a man stood before me in bright clothing ³⁵and said, ‘Cornelius, ³⁶your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³⁷Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ ³⁸So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

Gentiles Hear the Good News

³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that ³⁵God ³⁶shows no partiality, ³⁷but ³⁸in every nation anyone who fears him and ³⁹does what is right is acceptable to him. ⁴⁰As for ⁴¹the word that he sent to Israel, ⁴²preaching good news of ⁴³peace through Jesus Christ (⁴⁴he is Lord of all), ⁴⁵you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, ⁴⁶beginning ⁴⁷from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ⁴⁸how ⁴⁹God anointed Jesus of Nazareth ⁵⁰with the Holy Spirit and with ⁵¹power. He went about doing good and healing all ⁵²who were oppressed by the devil, ⁵³for God was with him. ⁵⁴And ⁵⁵we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. ⁵⁶They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁵⁷but ⁵⁸God raised him on ⁵⁹the third day and made him to ⁶⁰appear, ⁶¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as ⁶²witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁶³And ⁶⁴he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify ⁶⁵that he is the one appointed by God to be judge ⁶⁶of the living and the dead. ⁶⁷To him ⁶⁸all the prophets bear witness that ⁶⁹everyone who believes in him receives ⁷⁰forgiveness of sins ⁷¹through his name.”

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, ⁴⁵the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁶And the believers from among ⁴⁷the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because ⁴⁸the gift of the Holy Spirit ⁴⁹was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁵⁰For they were hearing them ⁵¹speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁵²“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit ⁵³just as we have?” ⁵⁴And he ⁵⁵commanded them ⁵⁶to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Peter Reports to the Church

11 Now the apostles and ²the brothers ³who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ⁴So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, ⁵the circumcision party ⁶criticized him, saying, ⁷“You went to uncircumcised men and ⁸ate with them.” ⁹But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ¹⁰“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ¹¹Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹²And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ ¹³But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ¹⁴But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ ¹⁵This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹⁶And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹⁷And the

Spirit told me to go with them, ^umaking no distinction. ^zThese six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴ ^uhe will declare to you a message by which ^zyou will be saved, you and all your household.' ¹⁵ As I began to speak, ^zthe Holy Spirit fell on them ^ujust as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ^z'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then ^zGod gave ^zthe same gift to them as he gave to us ^zwhen we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, ^zwho was I ^uthat I could stand in God's way?" ¹⁸ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they ^zglorified God, saying, ^z"Then to the Gentiles also God has ^zgranted ^zrepentance that leads to life."