

Acts 10:1-48 **Cornelius calls for Peter – Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit**

Cornelius a Righteous Gentile

¹ There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, ² a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" ⁴ And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. ⁶ He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do." ⁷ And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. ⁸ So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Peter – Vision of the Sheet of Creatures

⁹ The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. ¹⁰ Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. ¹³ And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." ¹⁵ And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." ¹⁶ This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

Men from Cornelius – Approved by the Holy Spirit

¹⁷ Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. ¹⁸ And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. ¹⁹ While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. ²⁰ Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them." ²¹ Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, "Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?" ²² And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you." ²³ Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

At the house of Cornelius in Caesarea

²⁴ And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man." ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. ²⁸ Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. ²⁹ Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?" ³⁰ So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, ³¹ and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. ³² Send therefore to

Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.' ³³ "So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

Message to the Gentiles

³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. ³⁶ The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ--He is Lord of all-- ³⁷ that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰ Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

Baptism with the Holy Spirit

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Then they asked him to stay a few days. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Cornelius a Righteous Gentile

- ✚ Caesarea was a major Sea Port located on the Mediterranean coast about 32 miles (50 kilometers) north of Joppa (Tel Aviv).
- ✚ Cornelius was a Centurion of the Italian Regiment of the Roman army. [Acts 10:1-2]
 - ◇ Cornelius was a devout man who feared God, gave alms generously, and prayed to God always.
 - ◇ All his household were also devout and feared God.
- ✚ In a Vision, the ninth hour of the day, Cornelius clearly saw an Angel of God. [Acts 10:3-6]
 - ◇ The Angel informed him that his prayers were held as a memorial before God.
 - ◇ The Angel then instructed him to send to Joppa for Simon Peter who was staying in the house of Simon the Tanner by the sea.
 - ◇ Simon Peter would tell Cornelius what he must do.
- ✚ When the Angel had gone, Cornelius called **two of his household servants and a devout soldier** from among those who waited on him continually, he told them about the vision, and sent them to Joppa. [Acts 10:7-8]

Peter – Vision of the Sheet of Creatures

- ✚ The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the **sixth hour**. Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance and saw **heaven opened** and an **object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth**. In it were **all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air**. And a voice came to him, "**Rise, Peter; kill and eat.**" [Acts 10:9-13]
- ✚ But Peter said, "**Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.**" And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "**What God has cleansed you must not call common.**" This was done **three times**. And the object was taken up into heaven again. [Acts 10:14-16]
 - ✧ Peter was feeling unusually hungry by the touch of God to prepare him for the message he was about to receive.
 - ✧ Peter fell into a trance and saw Heaven opened and a sheet full of all kinds of creatures let down to the earth to him. The Voice from Heaven said, "**Rise, Peter; kill and eat.**" [Acts 10:13, 11:9]
 - ✧ We see by Peter's response that the animals in the sheet were all those forbidden in the dietary laws of Israel as unclean.
 - ✧ The Voice from Heaven said, "**What God has cleansed you must not call common (unclean).**" [Acts 10:15, 11:9]
 - ✧ It was done three times, indicating that the message is sure, certain and immediately to be applied. [Genesis 41:32]

Men from Cornelius – Approved by the Holy Spirit

- ✚ Now while **Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant**, behold, **the men who had been sent from Cornelius** had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. [Acts 10:17-18]
- ✚ While Peter thought about the vision, the **Spirit** said to him, "**Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.**" [Acts 10:19-20]
- ✚ Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, "Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?" And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you." Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him. [Acts 10:21-23]
 - ✧ The timing of God is always perfect. The arrival of the men at the gate corresponded with the time Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision he had just seen.
 - ✧ Peter obeyed the direct command of God concerning the men who were Gentiles, one was a Roman soldier, and God had said, "**Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.**" [Acts 10:20]
 - ✧ Peter invited them in and lodged them that night.
 - ✧ The next morning Peter and Six of the Jewish disciples from Joppa accompanied the men as they departed to return to Cornelius in Caesarea. [Acts 10:23, 45, 11:12]

At the house of Cornelius in Caesarea

- ✚ And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I

myself am also a man." And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. [Acts 10:24-27]

✧ Cornelius in great anticipation of the message God would reveal through what Peter would say, wanted it to be shared by his relatives and close friends.

✧ Even men introduced by angels should not receive worship. Worship belongs to God alone. [Acts 10:25-26, 14:8-18, Revelation 22:8-9]

✧ Then he (Peter) said to them, "**You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.** Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?" [Acts 10:28-29]

✧ Peter realized the vision of the sheet full of animals was intended to refer to men who were viewed by the Jews as unclean (Gentiles – anyone not a Jew), and that God has now opened the door for their Salvation as well as the Jews.

✧ So Cornelius said, "**Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,** and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.' "So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. **Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God.**" [Acts 10:30-33]

✧ Cornelius told Peter about the vision God had shown to him.

✧ The **angel of the Lord** appeared in the vision as a **man in bright clothing.**

✧ Everyone Cornelius had gathered were eager to hear the things God had given Peter to say.

Message to the Gentiles

✧ Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "**In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.**

The **word** which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through **Jesus Christ-- He is Lord of all--** that **word** you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.**

And **we are witnesses** of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, **whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day,** and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify **that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.** To Him all the prophets witness that, **through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.**" [Acts 10:34-43]

✧ God shows no partiality, everyone whether Jew or Gentile who **fears God and works righteousness** is accepted by God.

✧ Jesus Christ (messiah – anointed) is Lord of all.

✧ God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and Power.

✧ **We are witnesses** that:

✧ Jesus went about doing good and healing all because God was with Him.

✧ They killed Jesus by hanging Him on a tree.

- ✧ God raised Jesus from the dead the third day and showed him openly to chosen witnesses, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.
- ✧ Jesus commanded us to testify that:
 - ✧ **Jesus was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.**
 - ✧ **Through His Name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.**

Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- ✧ **While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.** And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because **the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.** For they heard them **speak with tongues and magnify God.** [\[Acts 10:44-46\]](#)
 - ✧ No one was doing anything to seek the gift of the Holy Spirit or any of His manifestations.
 - ✧ They only heard the briefest of key factors of the Gospel message.
 - ✧ The Holy Spirit came upon them by the will of the Lord alone while Peter was still speaking.
 - ✧ They spoke with tongues and they magnified God, their message was understood.
 - ✧ Peter and the Jewish Believers who had come with him were astonished to see that the Holy Spirit was poured out on Gentiles, just as He was poured out on Jews.
- ✧ Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And **he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.** [\[Acts 10:47-48\]](#)
 - ✧ With this evidence of the gift of the Holy Spirit, Peter concluded that they needed to obey Jesus in being **baptized in the name of the Lord.**
- ✧ Then they asked him to stay a few days. [\[Acts 10:48\]](#)