

CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS

Acts 10

INTRODUCTION

The conversion of Cornelius marks the growing expansion of the gospel beyond Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and into Gentile territory. Luke's description of this event for Theophilus highlights the Holy Spirit's posture towards people not under the Mosaic Covenant, but who still feared God and was open to his will. God guides Peter with a vision and the Cornelius with an angelic visit to bring facilitate the union of both groups of people under Christ in fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12:3).

THIS WEEK:

This week discover how God graciously responds to people who fear him by walking in the light of his moral standards.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Acts 10 and then answering the following questions:

1. Summarize the person of Cornelius, the message the angel gave him, and what he did in response to the vision he saw (vv. 1-8):
2. List the details of what Peter saw and heard on the roof while in prayer, and describe how he responded (vv. 9-17):
3. Describe Peter's reception at the home of Cornelius and what he himself concluded about the character of God (vv. 24-34):
4. Explain the main points of Peter's message to those gathered together and how the Holy Spirit confirmed their inclusion into the Body of Christ (vv. 34-46):

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

5. John 6 records the Jews grumbling amongst themselves because Jesus was claiming to be the bread of life who came from heaven (John 6:41-42). What does Jesus assure them about anyone who does come to him for eternal life (John 6:44, 65)?
 - a. What does Jesus say God does to draw people to his Son (John 6:45)? What are the means of this drawing (Psa 19:1-4; Rom 2:14-15; 3:19-20)?
 - b. How does this relate to what Galatians 3:23-26 teaches about the intended role of God's law on the human heart?
6. Jesus is God's solution to a person's alienation from God. Read Acts 13:26—what two categories of people does Paul say are most spiritually poised to hear and believe the message about Jesus? Why? How does this explain why the apostles went to synagogues first?
7. Cornelius is called a God-fearer in v. 2. This term is used for Gentiles who show a reverence for God in proportion to what they know about God. Who else in Scripture qualifies as a God-fearer (Jos 2:8-11; Ruth 1:16-17; 2 Kgs 5:15-17; 1 Kgs 10:1-9; 2 Sam 11:6-17; Acts 16:14)? What makes people like this prime candidates for the message about Jesus . (Consider your answers to question 1 above)

8. In the Old Testament (Lev 2:1-2, 16) grain offerings (or memorial sacrifices) were intended to honor God by acknowledging— with gratitude and devotion, his provision for one's life. What was God implying in v. 4 about Cornelius' character and motive when he accepted his acts of charity?
 - a. How does Cornelius' attitude and actions contrast with those described by Paul in Romans 1:21?
 - b. Peter does NOT imply in Acts 10:35 that because Cornelius was accepted, or welcomed by God that he had eternal life. How does can repentance be a pr-cursor to faith (Mark 4:24-25; Acts 11:28;)?

APPLICATION *How does it relate to me?*

Now that you have discerned what the passage means, how does it apply to your life?

9. What are some things people need to embrace about God and themselves in order see the value of Jesus? What are some things you embraced that had a "drawing" effect on you towards Jesus?
10. Could it be said that unbelievers who pray and show generosity could represent genuine expressions of gratitude towards God? Why or why not?
11. Do you think that living by your conscience and/or God's moral standards could lead one to be to more open to the message of the gospel, or less? Explain your answer:
12. Describe a time in your life when you experienced a sense of awe, reverence, or fear of God

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?
14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?
15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?