

**“Expansion of Vision”**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**Pastor Rich Sherwood**  
**July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Cornelius Calls for Peter****Acts 10: 10-48**

**10** At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. **2** He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. **3** One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!”

**4** Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked.

The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. **5** Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. **6** He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.”

**7** When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. **8** He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

**Peter’s Vision**

**9** About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. **10** He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. **11** He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. **12** It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. **13** Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”

**14** “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”

**15** The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

**16** This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

**17** While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon’s house was and stopped at the gate. **18** They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

**19** While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three [a](#) men are looking for you. **20** So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.”

**21** Peter went down and said to the men, “I’m the one you’re looking for. Why have you come?”

**22** The men replied, “We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say.” **23** Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

**Peter at Cornelius’s House**

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. **24** The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. **25** As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. **26** But Peter made him get up. “Stand up,” he said, “I am only a man myself.”

**27** While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. **28** He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But

**30** Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me **31** and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. **32** Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.' **33** So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."

**39** “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, **40** but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. **41** He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Then Peter said, **47** “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” **48** So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Notes:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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Who was Cornelius, and how is he described in **Acts 1:1–2**?

What message did the angel give to Cornelius (**10:3–6**)?

What was Peter’s vision in **Acts 10:9–16**, and what was its meaning?

How did Peter respond when he was told to eat “unclean” animals (**10:14**)?

How did Peter’s vision challenge his understanding of God’s will and God’s people?

Why do you think Peter needed a vision to prepare him to meet Cornelius?

What did the Holy Spirit tell Peter when Cornelius’s men arrived (**10:19–20**)?

Why was it significant that Peter entered the house of a Gentile (**10:28–29**)?

How can we recognize when God is calling us to step outside of our comfort zones for the sake of the Gospel?

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What did Peter say he had learned about God in Acts **10:34–35**?

What barriers—cultural, social, racial, or religious—might keep people today from hearing or sharing the Gospel?

What was the core message Peter preached to Cornelius and his household (**10:36–43**)?

What happened while Peter was still speaking (**10:44–46**)?

What was Peter’s response to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (**10:47–48**)?

How might Peter have felt when he was criticized by other believers in Jerusalem (**11:2–3**)?

How did the Jewish believers respond when Peter explained everything (**11:17–18**)?

What does this passage teach us about the unity of believers from different backgrounds?