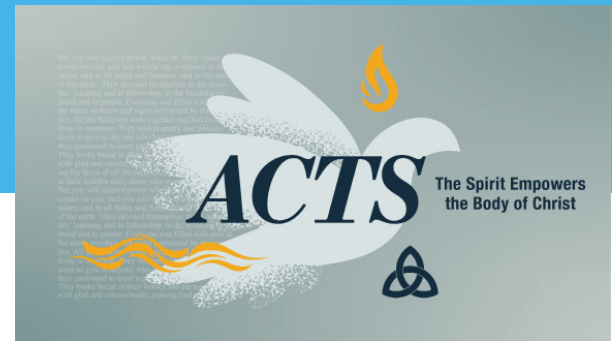


# Discussion Questions

September 29, 2024

## Acts 10 Peter's Conversion



1. If time, read Acts 10, if not, summarize what happens in Acts 10.
2. Read 10:9-16. Why was Peter apprehensive to follow the voice in the dream that told him to eat the food on the sheet? Reference Leviticus 11 if your group is interested in seeing the list of clean and unclean foods
3. Read Acts 10:44-46. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit falling on the Gentiles?
4. Acts 10 is a pivotal story in the NT. It's the official moment of Jesus bringing Jews and Gentiles together as one new family. Take a minute and read Ephesians 2:11-22. What strikes you about this passage?
5. How does this Acts 10 passage highlight the nature & importance of Gospel hospitality? And how is it relevant to us today?
6. Discuss what are some examples today for Christians of what would be on our "sheets" if God were to give a vision to us of those we are unwilling to pursue or those we steer clear of?
7. God kept pursuing Peter's heart for years beyond his initial conversion in areas where his sin was robbing him of the abundant life God created him for and hurting himself and others. Share, if appropriate, an area where God has been pursuing you, where you can see growth, but recognize, like Peter, there is still much more work to be done.

**Acts 10:9-31 (NLT)**

9 The next day as Cornelius's messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, 10 and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 11 He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. 12 In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. 13 Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat them." 14 "No, Lord," Peter declared. "I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean." 15 But the voice spoke again: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean." 16 The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven. 17 Peter was very perplexed. What could the vision mean? Just then the men sent by Cornelius found Simon's house. Standing outside the gate, 18 they asked if a man named Simon Peter was staying there. 19 Meanwhile, as Peter was puzzling over the vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, "Three men have come looking for you. 20 Get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitation. Don't worry, for I have sent them." 21 So Peter went down and said, "I'm the man you are looking for. Why have you come?" 22 They said, "We were sent by Cornelius, a Roman officer. He is a devout and God-fearing man, well respected by all the Jews. A holy angel instructed him to summon you to his house so that he can hear your message." 23 So Peter invited the men to stay for the night. The next day he went with them, accompanied by some of the brothers from Joppa. 24 They arrived in Caesarea the following day. Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 As Peter entered his home, Cornelius fell at his feet and worshiped him. 26 But Peter pulled him up and said, "Stand up! I'm a human being just like you!" 27 So they talked together and went inside, where many others were assembled. 28 Peter told them, "You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean. 29 So I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. Now tell me why you sent for me." 30 Cornelius replied, "Four days ago I was praying in my house about this same time, three o'clock in the afternoon. Suddenly, a man in dazzling clothes was standing in front of me. 31 He told me, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your gifts to the poor have been noticed by God!'"

**Acts 9:43 (NLT)**

43 And Peter stayed a long time in Joppa, living with Simon, a tanner of hides.

**Acts 10:1-2 (NLT)**

In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment. 2 He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God.



**Acts 10:3-7 (NLT)**

3 One afternoon about three o'clock, he had a vision in which he saw an angel of God coming toward him. "Cornelius!" the angel said. 4 Cornelius stared at him in terror. "What is it, sir?" he asked the angel. And the angel replied, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have been received by God as an offering! 5 Now send some men to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. 6 He is staying with Simon, a tanner who lives near the seashore." 7 As soon as the angel was gone, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier, one of his personal attendants. 8 He told them what had happened and sent them off to Joppa.

**Quote - J.A. Alexander (1800's)**

"Even divine authority was not sufficient to break the force of prejudice and habit."

**Quote - Ajith Fernando - NIV Application Commentary on Acts**

"I have come to realize that prejudice is often one of the last things that is touched by the process of sanctification."

**Acts 10:34-35 (NLT)**

34 Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. 35 In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right.

**Acts 10:34-35 (NLT)**

43 [Jesus] is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name."

**Acts 10:44-48 (NLT)**

44 Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. 45 The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. 46 For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God. Then Peter asked, 47 "Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?" 48 So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.

**Quote - Alexander Whyte 1953**

"If you would take a four-cornered napkin when you go home, and write the names of nations, and the churches, and the denominations, and the congregations, and the ministers, and the public men, and the private citizens, and the neighbors, and the fellow-worshippers—all the people you dislike, and despise, and do not, and cannot, and will not, love. Heap up their names into your unclean napkin, and then look up and say, 'Not so, Lord, I neither can speak well, nor think well, nor hope well, of these people. I cannot do it, and I will not try.' If you acted out and spoke out all the evil things that are in your heart in some such way as that, you would thus get such a sight of yourselves that you would never forget it. And, for your reward—and there is no better reward—like Peter, you would one day come to be able to say [as he did in acts 10:34] "Now I truly understand that God doesn't show favoritism, 35 but in every nation the person who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."

**Psalms 139: 23-24 (NLT)**

Search me o God, and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts, see if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.