



THE
ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Rev. Doreen Forde-FTCC Bible Study March 12, 2026

Acts 10:17-29

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 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 God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

Review 10:17-29

- Meanwhile there was a knock at the door, and three Gentile soldiers invited him to accompany them to the home of Cornelius, who was not only a Gentile, but a Roman centurion. For Peter, this would have felt wrong on so many levels. But one thing had become clear: The Spirit of God was the one guiding this interaction.
- It's hard for us to grasp the magnitude of what took place here. That Peter even considered entering the home of a Gentile is shocking. This was unheard of in the Jewish faith.
- But Peter, the visible leader of the church, represented the church's obedience to God's call in **1:8** to be His witnesses not only in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, but also to "the end of the earth." For someone who held the letter of the Law as tightly as he did, this wasn't just the end of the earth. This might have felt like the end of the world.
- ❖ Compare the emotions Peter might have felt as he made his way to Joppa with the emotions Cornelius felt when he welcomed Peter to his home?
- ❖ Why do you think Peter immediately refused Cornelius' worship, and what does this teach us about leadership and humility in God's kingdom?
- ❖ Peter had to cross a major cultural boundary to enter Cornelius' home in **10:28**. What "boundaries" might God be asking believers to cross today in order to share the gospel?

Acts 10:17-29

- Perhaps the only thing that could have horrified Peter more than the thought of eating unclean food was the thought of being worshipped by man. His heart had been captured by Jesus. He knew there was no God but Him.
- Notice the critical distinction Peter realized in **10:28**. His vision was not about food. Peter realized God had *actually* commanded him not to call any man common or unclean.
- Do you see the application God brought him to? It is the same for us as well. Anyone who is in Christ is no longer unclean but washed entirely by the blood of Jesus. He is the judge of our eternal souls. Not us. It is common to judge and hold prejudices like Peter did, or even to judge ourselves by our past sins or shortcomings.
- But if you are in Christ, you have been fully and forever cleansed. And what God has sanctified, let *no one* call unclean.

Acts 10:30-33

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.”

Review 10:30-33

- Cornelius doesn't approach Peter casually or out of mere curiosity.
 - He recounts the angelic vision, which gave him clear instructions.
 - He immediately obeyed, gathering his family and close friends to hear Peter's message.
 - His words show that he understood God had been listening to his prayers and almsgiving.

- This wasn't chance; Cornelius recognized it as a divine setup. He didn't let social norms, personal pride, or cultural prejudices prevent him from responding. As a Roman centurion, he could have relied on authority and position, but instead, he acknowledged God's hand in the situation.

- ❖ What does Cornelius' encounter teach us about God's use of human longing and spiritual curiosity to initiate divine encounters, rather than God working only through formal religious systems?

- ❖ In what ways might God be inviting us to recognize or participate in God's work outside traditional church settings, and how can we remain open to seeing God's guidance in unexpected people, places, or situations?

Acts 10:34-36

34 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Review 10:34-36

➤ **God Shows No Partiality**

- Peter acknowledges that God does not favor one group of people over another.
- This was revolutionary for Peter, especially as he spoke to Cornelius, a Gentile.

➤ **Faith and Righteous Living**

- Acceptance by God is not based on heritage but on fearing God and doing what is right.

➤ **Jesus Christ Preaches Peace**

- The good news Peter brings is that Jesus Christ is Lord of all and offers peace.

❖ What is the message that Peter says was sent to the people of Israel?

❖ Peter had to step outside his comfort zone to speak to Cornelius, a Gentile. What areas in your life might God be calling you to step beyond your usual “comfort zones” to show His love or truth?