

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I am reading today from **Acts chapter 10**. I will be telling you this from the Amplified, because it shows it is a little bit clearer in some of the sections. This amazing chapter is a vital key of how the gospel of the Holy Spirit came, so that a person can understand the difference that now we could enter into this wonderful gospel of grace. That is what receiving Jesus Christ is, not the works of the Law — receiving by grace.

Acts 10 -

1 Now [living] at Caesarea there was a man whose name was Cornelius, a centurion (captain) of what was known as the Italian Regiment.

2 A devout man who venerated God and treated Him with reverential obedience, as did all his household; and he gave much alms to the people and prayed continually to God.

3 About the ninth hour (about 3:00 p.m.) of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God entering and saying to him, Cornelius!

4 And he, gazing intently at him, became frightened and said, What is it, Lord? And the angel said to him, Your prayers and your [generous] gifts to the poor have come up [as a sacrifice] to God

and have been remembered by Him.

5 And now send men to Joppa and have them call for and invite here a certain Simon whose surname is Peter:

6 He is lodging with Simon a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.

7 When the angel who spoke to him had left, Cornelius called two of his servants and a God-fearing soldier from among his own personal attendants.

8 And having rehearsed everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

9 The next day as they were still on their way and were approaching the town, Peter went up to the roof of the house to pray, about the sixth hour (noon).

10 But he became very hungry, and wanted something to eat; and while the meal as being prepared a trance came over him. -
Somebody might say he could possibly be hyperglycemic; he needed food fast.

11 And he saw the sky opened and something like a great sheet lowered by the four corners, descending to the earth.

12 It contained all kinds of quadrupeds. . . - that is, animals with four legs - . . . and wild beasts and creeping things of the earth and birds of the air.

13 And there came a voice to him saying, Rise up, Peter, kill and eat.

14 But Peter said, No, by no means, Lord: for I have never eaten

anything that is common and unhallowed or [ceremonially] unclean.

15 And the voice came to him again a second time. What God has cleansed and pronounced clean, do not you defile and profane by regarding and calling common and unhallowed or unclean.

This makes me think of precious people that we ministered to in India. Because of their status of life where they were born, they were treated as if they were less than anybody else. But God sees all men equal.

16 This occurred three times; than immediately the sheet was taken up to heaven.

17 Now Peter was still inwardly perplexed and doubted as to what the vision which he had seen could mean, when [just then] behold the messengers that were sent by Cornelius, who had made inquiry for Simon's house, stopped and stood before the gate. Isn't that Godlike? Haven't you found that over and over in your life? Just at the moment you think this is happening in your life, God is bringing an answer a different way. The timings of God absolutely stagger us as Christians!

18 And they called out to inquire whether Simon who was surnamed Peter was staying there.

19 And while Peter was earnestly revolving the vision in his mind and meditating on it, the [Holy] Spirit. . . -that is God the Holy Spirit - . . . said to him, Behold, three men are looking for you!

20 Get up and go below and accompany them without any doubt [about its legality] or any discrimination or hesitation, for I have

sent them.

21 Then Peter went down to the men and said, I am the man you seek; what is the purpose of your coming?

22 And they said, Cornelius, a centurion (captain) who is just and upright and in right standing with God, being God-fearing and obedient and well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, has been instructed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house; and he has received in an answer [to prayer] a warning to listen to and act upon what you have to say.

23 So Peter invited them to be his guests [for the night].

I want to leave the reading at this point, and show this is a very, very important chapter in the whole of Scripture. The Jew had been raised to not entertain people who were the strangers, the Gentiles. They realized that they were a separated people unto God. They were to influence the world. They didn't do that very well, but they had been called to do that. Now, suddenly, they are dealing with a situation beyond what they had a background for, but God said, "Obey Me."

I want you to say that little prayer right now in your heart, *Jesus, I obey You in what You say Your way for Your glory.*

Amen

