

Peter At the House of Cornelius

040205-5

Hello! This is Dorothy -

We are reading **Acts chapter 10** and thinking about Cornelius. Cornelius marks the introduction of the Gospel to the Gentiles. I cannot praise God enough because I am a Gentile, by the great working of the Spirit of the Lord, by His amazing grace, I have been born into the family of God! This is a very vital section of the Scriptures. Peter is the one who is sent to Cornelius and we read he preaches the sermon and, by doing this, unlocks the message of grace. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit in the **Book of Acts** would not be clear if we did not understand this section. Therefore, we are going to go on reading.

Peter had seen a vision and he had to do something he had been trained not to do, that is, to eat of the unclean thing. God was saying, "What you think is unclean, but I am telling you to do this." In other words, even to entertain somebody who was a Gentile, or to go amongst the Gentiles, was totally against everything he had been trained to do. Yet, because he knew the risen Lord Jesus and God the Holy Spirit gave him clear direction, he had to obey. So this was so revolutionary to him that you can imagine his bewilderment. At that very moment as he has been told this, there were these men, who by

this time had looked around for him, and came to this house. This was the house where he had been staying: Simon the tanner's house, which was right by the seaside. Right there these people arrived and were knocking on the door. They told him that the angel had visited Cornelius and said that Simon Peter was to come and share something from God.

We read on in **Acts 10** -

24 And on the following day, they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for and expecting them, and he had invited together his relatives and his intimate friends. *There is a man of faith! There is a man anticipating that God is going to say and do. He didn't just keep it to himself; he brought everybody else in on this.*

25 As Peter arrived, Cornelius met him, and falling down at his feet he made obeisance and paid worshipful reverence to him.

26 But Peter raised him up, saying, Get up: I myself am also a man. *Notice this. There is no such thing as worshiping somebody or some person who is man; only God is to be worshiped.*

27 And as [Peter] spoke with him, he entered the house and found a large group of persons assembled;

28 And he said to them, You yourselves are aware how it is not lawful or permissible for a Jew . . . that is speaking of himself . . . to keep company with or to visit or [even] to come near or to speak first to anyone of another nationality, but God has shown and taught me by words that I should not call any human being

common or unhallowed or [ceremonially] unclean. *Notice, this is God the Holy Spirit he is quoting.*

29 Therefore when I was sent for, I came without hesitation or objection or misgivings. So now I ask for what reason you sent for me.

30 And Cornelius said, This is now the fourth day since about this time I was observing the ninth hour (three o'clock in the afternoon) of prayer in my lodging place; suddenly a man stood before me in dazzling apparel,

31 And he said, Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and harkened to, and your donations to the poor have been known and and preserved before God . . . - I love that — *your donations to the poor have been known and preserved before God.* Whatever we do for another, even a glass of water, it is noted by God if it is done in His Name. . . . [so that He heeds and is about to help you].

32 Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is surnamed Peter . . . -and there was Peter - . . . he is staying in the house of Simon the tanner by the seaside. So he related the situation.

33 So at once I sent to you, and you [being a Jew] have done a kind and courteous and handsome thing in coming. Now then, we are all present in the sight of God to listen to all that you have been instructed by the Lord to say.

34 And Peter opened his mouth and said: Most certainly and thoroughly I now perceive and understand that God shows so partiality and is no respecter of persons. I want to emphasize that:

no respecter of persons. The poor little, poor little, poor little person that you look upon and you think, “Ooh, my! **God . . . is no respecter of persons.** He sees them together and all very wonderful for He made them in the image of God. You respect people as God would have you respect them and you will find that God will deal with your life and speak to you.

At this point, it is important for you to analyze in your heart what God has been saying that you can say, “Although this is totally against what I would choose to do, I am going to obey; I am going to do this.” Do you understand that, as a believer, you have this awesome fact that within your very life is God the Holy Spirit? He wants to do that new thing in you that lifts you out of your little prejudice, your little idea of your works. And He is saying, ‘Let me do a new thing through you for My glory. For the glory of Jesus Christ, your Lord and Saviour.’ And as you do so, respond to Him in a special way. Let us know how God is speaking to you, and we will send you a book to help.

In the lovely Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.