

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

**Acts 10:1-2 (NIV)** “At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup>He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.”

**Acts 10:3 (NIV)** “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!’”

**Acts 10:4b-5 (NIV)** “... Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. <sup>5</sup>Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter.”

**Acts 10:9-13 (NIV)** “About noon . . . Peter went up on the roof to pray. <sup>10</sup>. . . he fell into a trance. <sup>11</sup>He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. <sup>12</sup>It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. <sup>13</sup>Then a voice told him, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’”

**Acts 10:14 (NIV)** “‘Surely not, Lord!’ Peter replied. ‘I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.’”

**Acts 10:15-16 (NIV)** “The voice spoke to him a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ <sup>16</sup>This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.”

**Acts 10:19-20 (NIV)** “While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Simon, three (Gentile) men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup>So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.’”

**Acts 10:23 (NIV)** “Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along.”

**Acts 10:24 (NIV)** “The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.”

**Acts 10:28, 34 (NIV)** “[Peter] said to them: ‘You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean. <sup>34</sup>... I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism . . .’”

**Acts 10:43 (NIV)** “All the prophets testify about [Jesus] that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**Acts 10:44 (NIV)** “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.”

**Acts 10:45-46 (NIV)** “The circumcised (Jewish) believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup>For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.”

## Peter gets criticized.

**Acts 11:2-3 (NIV)** “So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him <sup>3</sup>and said, ‘You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.’”

**Acts 11:4 (NIV)** “Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened.”

**Acts 11:15, 17 (NIV)** “. . . the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. <sup>17</sup>So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?”

**Acts 11:18 (NIV)** “When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, ‘So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.’”

## THERE'S LOTS OF GOOD NEWS IN THE STORY ABOUT CORNELIOUS:

### 1. You no longer have to live under the OT law.

**Galatians 3:24-25 (TLB)** “The Jewish laws were our teacher and guide until Christ came to give us right standing with God

through our faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that Christ has come, we don't need those laws any longer to guard us and lead us to him.”

**Matthew 5:17 (NIV)** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

## 2. God responds to the prayers of people who seek Him.

**Acts 10:3<sub>b</sub>-4 (NIV)** “[Cornelius] distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, ‘Cornelius!’ ... <sup>4</sup>“Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.”

**Acts 10:19<sub>b</sub>-20(NIV)** “... the Spirit said to him, ‘Simon, three men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup>So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.’”

## 3. Jesus died so that good people can go to Heaven.

**Acts 10:43 (NIV)** “All the prophets testify about [Jesus] that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**Ephesians 2:14, 16 (NLT)** “Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. <sup>16</sup>Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.”

**1 Corinthians 10:17 (NIV)** “Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.”