

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (May 26, 2024)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

How does a person meet God? How does a person become a Christian? The vast majority in our world claim they've met God. If we've had an encounter with God, how much credit do we get for that? The natural (unnatural) human desire is to take more credit than we should, even for our spiritual life. How much credit do we get for finding/meeting God? For some of us it is easier to give rather than receive. God approaches us, speaks to us, gives ... we receive.

### **The Holy Spirit Working Through Cornelius** (Acts 10:1-48) ESV

***Please read the entire passage in your own Bible*** (verses omitted below)

<sup>10:1</sup> At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, <sup>2</sup> a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. <sup>3</sup> About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, 'Cornelius.' <sup>4</sup> And he stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Lord?' And he said to him, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. <sup>5</sup> And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter' ... (verses 6-8 omitted)

<sup>9</sup> The next day ... Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. <sup>10</sup> And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance <sup>11</sup> and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. <sup>12</sup> In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>13</sup> And there came a voice to him: 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>14</sup> But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.' <sup>15</sup> And the voice came to him again a second time, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' <sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven ... (verses 17-18 omitted) ... <sup>19</sup> And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Behold, three men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup> Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.' ... (verses 21-23 omitted) <sup>24</sup> And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. <sup>25</sup> When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. <sup>26</sup> But Peter lifted him up, saying, 'Stand up; I too am a man.' <sup>27</sup> And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. <sup>28</sup> And he said to them, 'You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or

to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. <sup>29</sup> So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.'

<sup>30</sup> And Cornelius said, 'Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing <sup>31</sup> and said, "Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. <sup>32</sup> Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea." <sup>33</sup> So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.'

<sup>34</sup> So Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him' (verses 36-43 omitted) <sup>44</sup> While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles ..." (verses 46-48 omitted)

### **WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

1. What does this passage tell us about Cornelius? About Peter?
2. From this passage, how does God sometimes speak to us?

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

3. What does, "he fell into a trance" mean? v.10
4. What does, do "not call any person common" mean? v.28

### **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

5. What are some ways God reveals Himself today?
6. How has God spoken to you? Share how He speaks to you.
7. How do you know it is God, and not another, speaking to you?
8. Who did God send to you to help you meet and know Him?
9. How did you, if you are a Christian, become a Christian?
10. How much credit do you deserve for finding/meeting God?
11. Who is God sending you to, to help them meet/know Jesus?

As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Ask God to remind you, and be thankful for, those He sent to you so that you now know Him. Ask God who He is sending you to so they would know/meet Him. Ask God to help you receive His free and complete gift, to let go of any desire to take credit for yourself. He will, because He loves you.