



ACTS - Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 9:32-43, Acts 10

Lesson 8

The last verses of Acts 9 reveal Peter as God used him to perform miracles on behalf of certain Jews. Acts 10 opens with the description of a Roman centurion who was a devout man and feared God. He had a good reputation and gave generously. Yet, he did not know God's Son. However, our loving God sees the seeker and called Peter to see this Gentile as any other man and preach the gospel to him. What a glorious day that was when the Jewish believers understood that God shows no partiality and that He saves and gifts all who come to Him through Jesus. May we also reflect a heart without partiality and share God's love with all He brings our way.

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 9:32-43 and Acts 10

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, the angel, Peter* or *Cornelius*.

Acts 9:32-43 Key Words: *Peter, Jesus, and believed*

Acts 10 Key Words: *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, angel, Peter, Cornelius* (and those who were with him), *witness(es), baptized, and believe(s)(d)*
3. The contrasting word *but* was used two times in Acts 9:32-43 and six eight times in Acts 10. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times (in each chapter) and record what is being contrasted.

4. The term of conclusion, therefore, was used four times in Acts 10. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

AENEAS HEALED AND DORCAS RESTORED TO LIFE: Read Acts 9:32-43

1. Acts 9:32-35 records the healing of a paralytic named Aeneas. What did Peter say to him?
 - a. In addition to Aeneas being healed, what did *all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon who saw him* do?
2. Acts 9:36-43 records the restoration to life of Dorcas. In addition to Dorcas being restored to life, what did *many* do as *it became known throughout all Joppa*?
 - a. Consider the words used to describe Dorcas' life. What would you like people to say about you, not only after your death, but while you live?

CORNELIUS SENDS A DELEGATION: Read Acts 10:1-8

1. Who is Cornelius? verses 1,2
 - a. Was he a Jew or a Gentile?
2. From your understanding, was Cornelius saved or seeking?
 - a. What does Proverbs 8:17b teach us about *seekers*?
3. What happened to Cornelius *about the ninth hour*?
4. What two things did the *angel* note had *come up for a memorial before God*?
 - a. What do these verses from Hebrews teach us about how God views our good actions towards others?
Hebrews 6:10

Hebrews 13:16

1.) What do you learn from this?

5. What did the *angel* tell Cornelius to do?

PETER'S VISION: Read Acts 10:9-16

1. What did Peter do the day after Cornelius sent his men to go to Peter?

2. Peter *fell into a trance*. What did he see? verses 11,12

3. Using Acts 10:13-15, record the conversation between Peter and God.

God (verse 13)

Peter (verse 14)

God (verse 15)

4. What does Leviticus 20:25 teach about *unclean* and *clean* animals?

5. This is not the first time Peter objected to God's plan. What happened in:

Matthew 16:21,22

John 13:8

a. Compare Cornelius' response in the beginning of Acts 10 to Peter's response in Acts 10:14. What are your thoughts?

6. God was preparing Peter for Cornelius' request. The Gentiles were considered by the Jews to be *unclean*. What was God's intended message of this *vision*?

a. How can prejudices effect our desire to share the gospel with others?

7. How do you think Peter felt seeing a *vision* from God which contradicted Peter's understanding of God's will?
 - a. How does the Bible help us understand what to do, when we feel like information we have been given is in conflict with what we think?

8. Peter had no idea what he was about to be asked to do. What do you do to keep yourself "in tune" to what God has for you in whatever happens?

PETER SUMMONED TO CAESAREA: Read Acts 10:17-23

1. What does Acts 10:17 say that Peter was doing when *the men who had been sent from Cornelius stood before Simon's gate*?
 - a. Peter did not immediately understand the significance of his *vision*. *While Peter thought about the vision*, what did the *Spirit* say to him? verses 19,20
 - 1.) What reassuring words did the *Spirit* use?
 - a.) How would these words have been reassuring to you?

2. The men identified Cornelius as a *centurion*. That would have told Peter he was a Gentile, even worse, a Roman soldier. Yet, what did Peter do in Acts 10:23a?
 - a. Jewish tradition forbade Jews to entertain Gentiles. How do traditions and the Word of God sometimes get intermingled?
 - 1.) What is an example of a tradition (or saying) you thought was a command of God?

3. According to the last sentence of Acts 10:23, what did Peter do *the next day*?

a. Notice, Peter did not object to their request. Why?

1.) What do you think Peter had learned about obeying the Lord?

PETER MEETS CORNELIUS: Read Acts 10:24-33

1. Notice the phrase in verse 24, *and Cornelius was waiting for them*. What did he do?

a. Put yourself in Cornelius' place. What might have been some of your thoughts?

2. How did Cornelius respond to seeing Peter?

a. Read Revelation 19:10. The apostle John bowed to worship an angel. Who did the angel say that we are to *alone* worship?

b. Why is it so easy to get our eyes off of God and worship a person?

1.) People do not tend to bow down to *worship* people today. What are some typical ways that people *worship* others?

3. Peter told Cornelius (Acts 10:28) that it was *unlawful for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation*. *Unlawful* is not the same as *unbiblical*. Why do you think people tend to confuse the two?

a. It's certainly possible that Peter was still struggling with the conflict between Jewish law and his vision. What convictions have you had that God has challenged you about?

- b. What word did Peter add in the last part of verse 28 that reveals his understanding of the vision?
4. Reflect upon the heart of Cornelius as you read Acts 10:33. What are your thoughts?

PREACHING TO CORNELIUS' HOUSEHOLD: Read Acts 10:34-43

1. Before Peter began to preach, what did he acknowledge in verses 34 and 35.
 - a. How do you think Cornelius' statement in Acts 10:33 helped Peter to *perceive that God shows no partiality*?
2. Using verses 36-43, list the facts Peter stated about Jesus.

THE HOLY SPIRIT FALLS ON THE GENTILES: Read Acts 10:44-48

1. What happened *while Peter was still speaking*? verses 44,46
 - a. What did Peter conclude, seeing that *the gift of the Holy spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles*?
2. Read the concluding verse of Acts 10. How do you think the relationship of the Jews and the Gentiles in that house changed in a period of just a few moments?

- a. How have you discovered the sweetness with other believers with whom you have very little in common outside of Jesus?

REVIEW: Read Acts 9:32-43 and Acts 10

1. Consider the people who came to believe in Jesus because of the work of Peter. Notice that many of the salvations were due to the sharing of what happened. How does this speak to you about your responsibility to share the gospel?
2. Cornelius was a *God-fearing* man and yet was not saved. What does a person like this need to know?
3. Peter's convictions were challenged by his vision. What did you learn from Peter's obedience?
4. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson?

*that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body,
and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,
- Ephesians 3:6*

Observation Worksheet

Acts 9:32-43

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. ³³ There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. ³⁴ And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. ³⁵ So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. ³⁶ At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. ³⁷ But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. ³⁸ And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. ³⁹ Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. ⁴³ So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.

Acts 10:1-48

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, ² a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" ⁴ And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. ⁶ He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do." ⁷ And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. ⁸ So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa. ⁹ The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. ¹⁰ Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. ¹³ And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." ¹⁵ And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." ¹⁶ This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again. ¹⁷ Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. ¹⁸ And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. ¹⁹ While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. ²⁰ Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them." ²¹ Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, "Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?" ²² And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you." ²³ Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man." ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. ²⁸ Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. ²⁹ Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?" ³⁰ So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, ³¹ and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. ³² Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he

comes, he will speak to you.' ³³ So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. ³⁶ The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ--He is Lord of all-- ³⁷ that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰ Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." ⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.