



ACTS: Cornelius

Acts 10:1-8 | Ryan Pfeiffer | May 23, 2026

INTRO. Have you ever seen someone come to faith? It's amazing!

The Church must always be a place people where can receive salvation!

Today is the third in a series of incredible conversions.

The unlikely conversion of an Ethiopian Eunuch!

The impossible conversion of Saul, a rabid persecutor

Today the unnecessary conversion of Cornelius the Centurion.

Why unnecessary? We'll get to that in a minute... But why these stories?

Acts moves from a 30K view to really personal stories

Stories to show us how God saves people and transforms us from inside out.

FOCUS. Today's account gives us 2 powerful principles of conversion.

1) Even good people need to be saved 2) The Family Foothold Principle.

WHY GOOD PEOPLE NEED TO BE SAVED. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. 5 Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. 6 He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."

Why unnecessary? How would you describe Cornelius based on Acts 10:1-3

He's devout, God-fearing, prayerful, generous to the poor, respected, leader in home.

Why doesn't the angel say... Cornelius you're better than most... well done?!

Why isn't being good- good enough?

Mark 10:17-18 "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? Why do you call me good?... No one is good except God alone."

- Jesus knows this guy is hoping to hear that his life is good enough.
- Jesus' clarifies a crucial point... ONLY God's goodness can save us.

What the Bible makes really clear is that every one of us has sinned...

1. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.

Sin is the attempt to achieve a good life apart from God...

But God honors those who humbly seek him...

So God sends him to Peter... to explain how everyone must be saved...



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V42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he (Jesus) is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead... everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

It's thru Jesus alone we are saved... AND filled w/ the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

- **Salvation is a gift. (This is humbling)**
- **Salvation is God making us into his masterpiece...**
- **From this salvation come good works that only God can do through you.**

SECOND PRINCIPLE. THE FAMILY Foothold PRINCIPLE. 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Notice its not just Cornelius who is saved... "ALL who heard the message"

- **v24 Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.**
- **v27 While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people.**

When God reaches one person its a sign he's reaching their family/ friends

This is not an isolated example...

1. **Acts 16:15 Lydia's entire household comes to faith and is baptized**
2. **Acts 16:31 Paul says to his jailor "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."**
3. **Acts 18:8 Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed...**

Here's the principle. When one person comes to faith... it's God's foothold in their family/ friends.

ILLUS. It was this passage that gave me Faith that God could reach my family.

It gave me a faith picture...

- **I began to picture my mom, dad, siblings filled with the Spirit...**
- **Filled with the love of Jesus... worshipping Him... the joy in their faces...**

There is no one God cannot reach... no matter how unlikely, impossible or how together they look...

This means 2 things:

1. **Do you have a friend or family member sharing their faith with you? God is pursuing you.**



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2. Do you have family or friends that are not yet believers? or have wandered from their faith... be encouraged... God is moving in their life.

Of course there is no guarantee others will come to faith.

But it should lift our hope to know the fact that you are in their life is evidence that God is pursuing them... and working in their life.

Remember... You cannot convert anyone... any more than Cornelius did...

But we can choose... to share our journey with them... invite them along...