

The Conversion Of Cornelius

Acts 10

Who Was Cornelius?

- ▶ Cornelius was a man of Caesarea.
- ▶ He was a "Centurion" verse 1.
- ▶ He was a "devout" man.
- ▶ Feared God with all of his household. verse 2
- ▶ Charitable ... He gave many alms to the Jewish people. verse 2.
- ▶ Prayed to God continually ... habitually. verse 2
- ▶ He was a just man, of good report verse 22.

Miracles Involved With The Conversion Of Cornelius:

- ▶ Cornelius saw a vision. (Verses 3–6) **Miracle # 1**
 - Something Cornelius must do.
- ▶ Peter saw a vision. (Verses 9–16) **Miracle # 2**
 - Something Peter must do.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit poured out. (Verse 44; 11:15) **Miracle # 3**

Why Was The Holy Spirit Given To Cornelius?

1. Not to save him. Acts 11:13–14; cf. James 1:21
2. Not to give faith. Acts 15:7; Ephesians 2:8–9
3. Not to purify heart. Acts 15:9
4. Not to give remission of sins. Acts 10:43; Acts 2:38
5. Not to purify soul. 1 Peter 1:22
6. Not to convert. Psalms 19:7
7. Not to sanctify. John 17:17
8. Not to beget them preparatory to the new birth. Men are not begotten directly by the Holy Spirit, but by the word of God. 1 Corinthians 4:15

Why Was The Holy Spirit Given To Cornelius?

1. To fulfill prophecy. Joel 2:28; cf. Acts 2:16ff
2. Not to change Cornelius, but for the instruction of Peter and the six Jews. Note: Peter's response (10:47) and His arguments used at Jerusalem (11:17; 15:8–9); cf. 1 Corinthians 14:22
 - a. The Jews therefore, "*Held their peace, and glorified God, saying Then to the Gentiles also hath God granted repentance unto life.*" Acts 11:18
3. Those six Jewish brethren who accompanied Peter, now had seen Gentiles speak with tongues and glorify God just as the Jews had some 8 – 10 years earlier. cf. Acts 11:12

How Was Cornelius Converted?

- A. **Eliminate miracle No. 1** ... The angel came to Cornelius to get him and the preacher in direct contact.
- B. **Eliminate miracle No. 2** ... The vision of Peter on the housetop, was to convince him to go unto a foreign nation.
- C. **Eliminate miracle No. 3** ... The baptism of the Holy Spirit, the purpose of which was to convince the Jews that the Gentiles were acceptable.

How Was Cornelius Converted?

1. He heard the gospel. Acts 10:33
2. Believed the gospel. Acts 15:7
3. Repented. Acts 11:18
4. Baptized. Acts 10:48; cf. Acts 11:1; 2:41

➤ The word was the instrument involved in the conversion of Cornelius. We too must hear and obey that same gospel.