

In a Gentile Home

Acts 10:24 – 11:18

by Don Falkos

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When Peter arrived at Caesarea on the Sea, Cornelius fell at his feet and worshipped him. But Peter said "Get up! I'm a human being just like you!" They went inside where many people were gathered. Peter said, "You know, it's against Jewish law for me to even be *in* this Gentile home. But God has recently shown me I should no longer consider anyone to be impure or unclean. Now, why am I here?"

Cornelius answered, "We are all here to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."

Peter spoke to them at length, explaining in detail the good news about Jesus. "I realize now God accepts everyone who believes no matter what their background. I am a witness to everything Jesus did. He was crucified, died, and was buried. But God raised him from the dead. Some of us saw him alive once again. He commanded us to tell people everywhere whoever believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

While Peter was still speaking, everyone there was filled with the Holy Spirit. The believers from Joppa were astonished the Holy Spirit had been given to Gentiles.

Peter ordered they all be baptized in the name of Jesus. He stayed with them for a few days, and then he went back to Jerusalem, where the believers criticized him for associating with Gentiles. He told them the whole story and said, "God gave them the same gift we received. Who was I to stand in God's way?"

The others stopped objecting and praised God, saying, "Even to Gentiles God has granted the privilege of repenting and receiving eternal life."