

How Is One Saved?

Acts 10:1-4

Now there was a certain man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, a devout man, and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people, and prayed to God continually. About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in to him, and said to him, "Cornelius!" And fixing his gaze upon him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

Acts 10:33-35

"And so I sent to you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

And opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Acts 11:13-14

'Send to Joppa, and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; and he shall speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

Acts 10 records the conversion of Cornelius, a Roman centurion. Many wonderful things took place in this chapter.

How Was The Roman Soldier Saved?

- **It was not because he was a good man.** Cornelius was good. But no one is "good enough" to be saved. Everyone has sinned (Rom. 3:23).
- **It was not because he did some religious things.** Cornelius is described as a man who was "devout," who "feared God," who "gave many alms," and who "prayed to God continually." These are wonderfully things that God wants and expects of all of us. But these alone will not save a person from their sins. A person may think that all he has to do is go to church and God will accept him into heaven. This is not true.
- **It was not because he had faith in God.** Cornelius believed in God before Peter met him. Cornelius prayed to God. If his faith saved him, then he would not have sent for Peter. Faith by itself, does not save.
- **It was not because an angel appeared to him.** A vision does not save a person from his sins. The angel told Cornelius to send for Peter.
- **It was not because he heard a sermon.** The sermon told Cornelius what he needed to do, but the sermon alone did not save him. Cornelius had to act upon what he heard.



- **Cornelius was saved when he obeyed the Gospel of Jesus.** Peter commanded (or ordered) Cornelius to be baptized into Jesus Christ. Jesus told the apostles to "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*" (Mt 28:19-20).

Rom 6:17-18 "*But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*"

Heb 5:9 "*And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation.*"

A person is saved when their faith leads them to do what God commands. Jesus wants you to be baptized for the remission of your sins. Baptism removes sins (Acts 22:16). It is in baptism that a person contacts the blood of Jesus.

- Rev. 1:5 "To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood"
- Rev 7:14 "they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."
- 1 Pet 3:21 "And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

- The people on Pentecost were baptized (Acts 2:37,38,41)
- Saul of Tarsus was baptized (Acts 9:18)
- Lydia was baptized (Acts 16:15)
- The Samaritan were baptized (Acts 8:12)
- The jailer of Philippi was baptized (Acts 16:30-33)
- The eunuch of Ethiopia was baptized (Acts 8:36-39)

Cornelius left a good example for all of us to follow. Have you obeyed the gospel of Jesus? Jesus loves you and wants you to go to Heaven. He has done all that He can for you...you must obey Him. You must believe, repent and be baptized into Jesus Christ.

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