ACTS 10

# What God Has Cleansed

*a Roman centurion at prayer, a hungry apostle on a rooftop, a sheet from heaven, and the Spirit poured out on the Gentiles*

> *"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 10:34–35

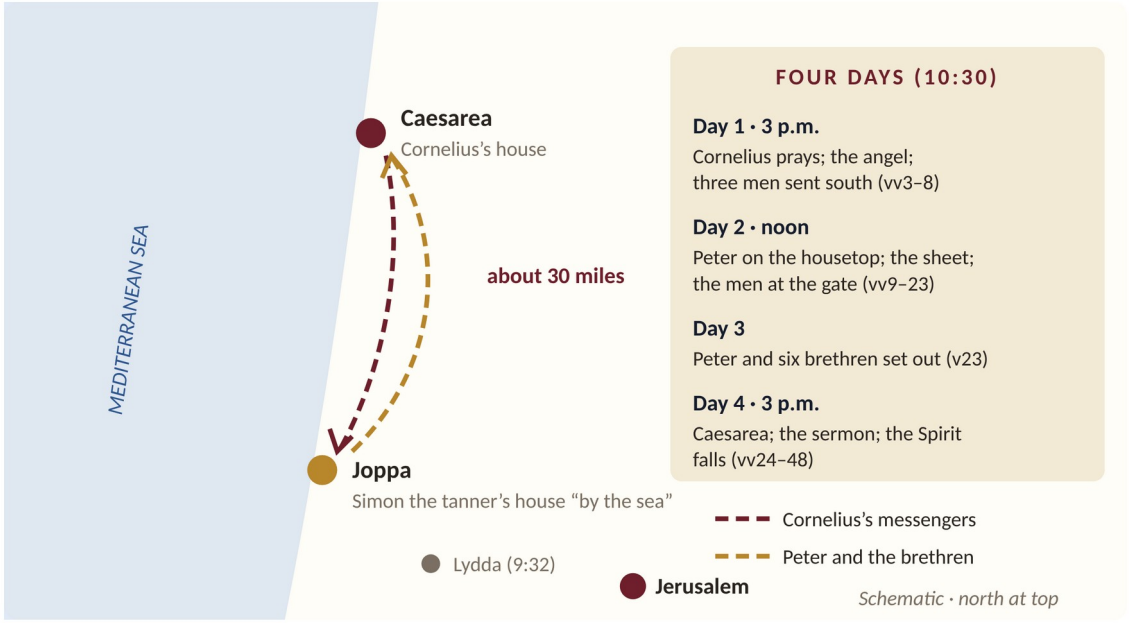
A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

# Where Luke has brought us

1. Jesus told the apostles they would be His witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (1:8).

2. Caesarea was Herod the Great’s showpiece port on the Mediterranean and the Roman capital of Judea, where the governor lived and soldiers were stationed.

3. The Law of Moses had set Israel apart, and the food laws were part of that wall: “I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples” (Leviticus 20:24).



# Your Prayers Have Ascended

*A Roman centurion who feared God, an angel at the ninth hour, and an order to send for Peter*

**ACTS 10:5**

*"Now dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter;*

**DAVID GUZIK**

A God-fearer with a real relationship with God; called by name.

**R.C. SPROUL**

Elite guard; "God recognizes you. God notices you."

**MATTHEW HENRY**

Charitable, much in prayer; a good man makes his house good.

**δίκαιος**
DIKAIOS · "RIGHTEOUS"

Cornelius's messengers call him "a righteous and God-fearing man" (v. 22).

# What God Has Cleansed

*Noon on a housetop, a sheet let down from the sky, and three men at the gate*

**ACTS 10:14**

*But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."*

**DAVID GUZIK**

Distraction in prayer; the Spirit said, "I have sent them."

**R.C. SPROUL**

God changed the rules — not about food but about people.

**MATTHEW HENRY**

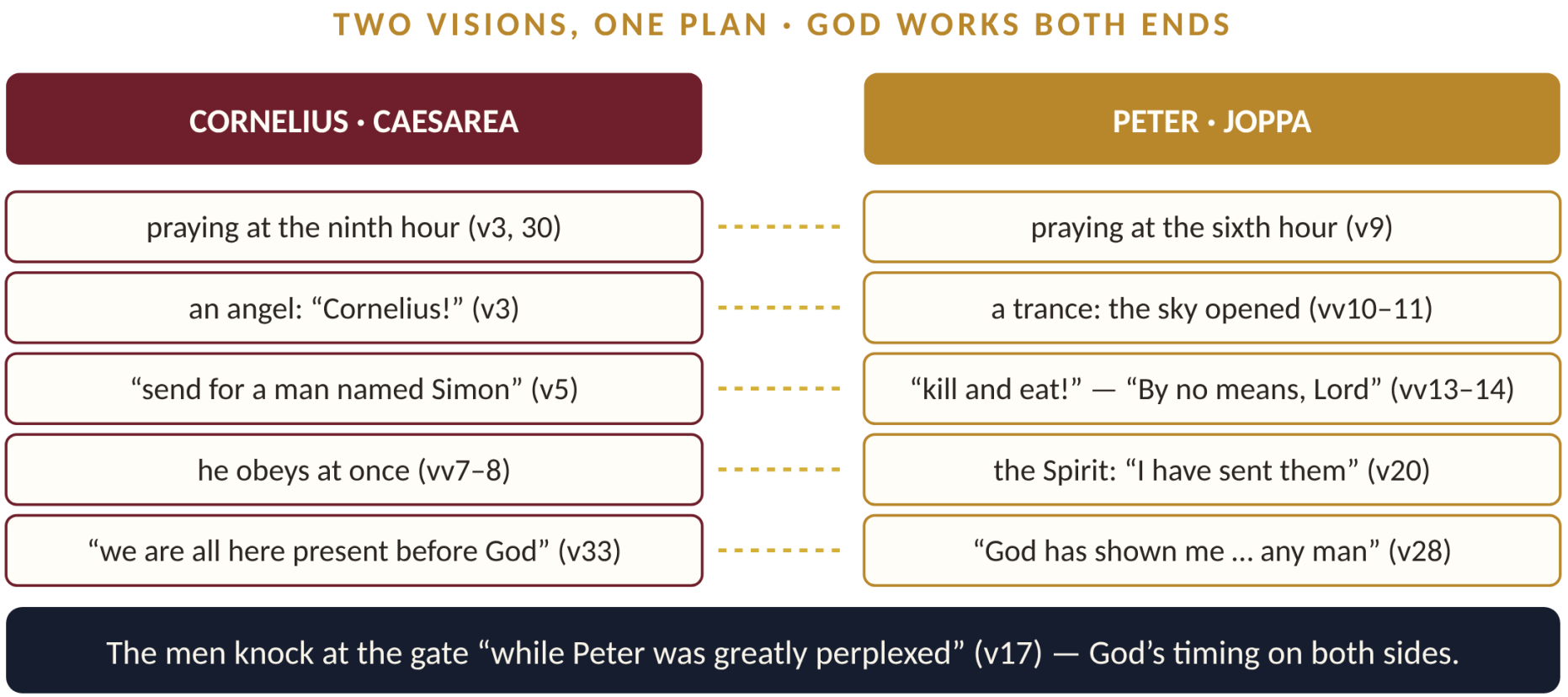
Temptations are not parleyed with; but this was done thrice.

**κοινός**

KOINOS · "COMMON, UNHOLY"

Koinos means "common, shared" — the root of koinōnia, fellowship — and in Jewish usage "ceremonially profane," not set apart to God.

# Two visions, one plan




*Read across each row: God prepared the Gentile and the apostle at the same time, so that each man’s vision explained the other’s.*

# I Too Am Just a Man

*A crowded house, a centurion at Peter's feet, and a door no Jew would walk through*

**ACTS 10:25**

*When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped him.*

**DAVID GUZIK**

Cornelius had faith; Peter entered a Gentile house.

**R.C. SPROUL**

God arranged both ends; Paul and angels refused worship too.

**MATTHEW HENRY**

"I myself also am a man"; the old custom was unlawful.

**προσκυνέω**

PROSKYNEŌ · "WORSHIP"

To bow down, to do homage — sixty New Testament uses, most of them of worship given to God or to Jesus.

# God Is Not One to Show Partiality

*Peace through Jesus Christ, Lord of all — anointed, crucified, raised, and appointed Judge*

**ACTS 10:38**

*"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

**DAVID GUZIK**

God sees the heart; whoever believes!

**R.C. SPROUL**

No cross, no gospel; Jesus your Judge right now.

**C.H. SPURGEON**

Judge and Savior in one; one of the "whoevers."

**MATTHEW HENRY**

Never refuses an honest Gentile; remission is the foundation.

**προσωπολήμπτης**

PROSŌPOLĒMPTĒS · "ONE WHO SHOWS PARTIALITY"

Literally a "face-receiver," from prosōpon, face (G4383), and lambanō, to receive — one who judges by appearance or rank.

# On the Gentiles Also

*The Spirit falls mid-sermon, the circumcised are amazed, and water follows*

**ACTS 10:44**

*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.*

**DAVID GUZIK**

The Spirit interrupted the sermon; baptism showed acceptance.

**R.C. SPROUL**

The gentile Pentecost; if you have Jesus, you have the Spirit.

**C.H. SPURGEON**

The Spirit falls on the preacher first; pray for Him.

**MATTHEW HENRY**

Can we deny the sign to those who have the thing signified?

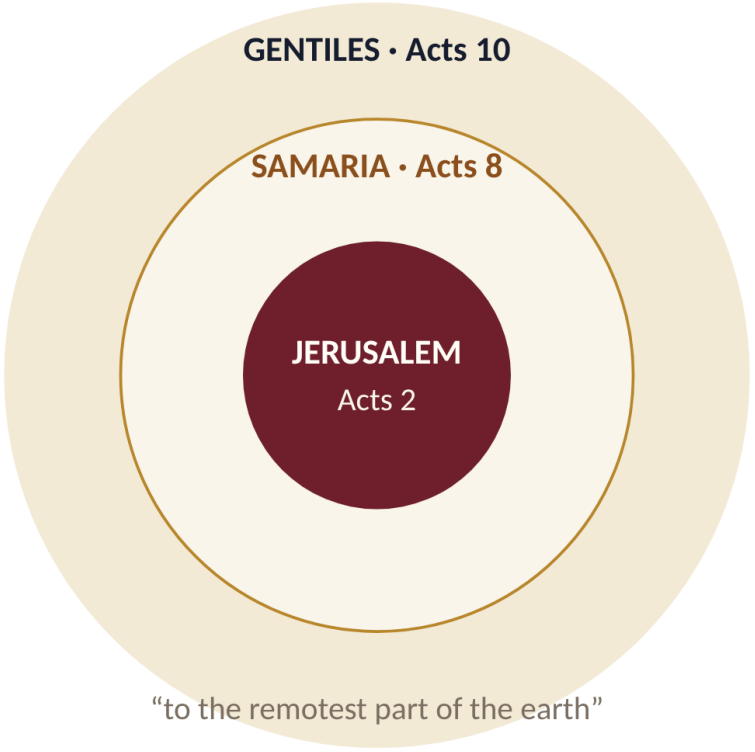
**πνεῦμα ἅγιον**

PNEUMA HAGION · "HOLY SPIRIT"

Pneuma — breath, wind, spirit; 383 New Testament uses — is the word for the Spirit who "fell upon" the listeners (v. 44), was "poured out" as a "gift" (v. 45), and was "received … just as we did" (v....

# The Spirit, ring by ring

THE SPIRIT POURED OUT, RING BY RING · ACTS 1:8




**Acts 2:4 · Jews in Jerusalem**
"filled with the Holy Spirit … other tongues"

**Acts 8:17 · Samaritans**
apostles lay on hands; they receive the Spirit

**Acts 10:44–46 · Gentiles at Caesarea**
Spirit falls during the sermon; tongues

**Acts 19:6 · John's disciples, Ephesus**
hands laid on; tongues and prophesying

*Peter: "just as we did" (10:47) — the same gift, one body.*

*The rings follow Acts 1:8; the panels list each time Acts describes the Spirit coming on a new group, with Caesarea as the first Gentile household.*

# What to carry from this chapter

1

### God notices the seeker.

Sproul: “God recognizes you. God notices you.”

2

### A good man still needs the gospel.

Devout, generous, praying — and the angel sends for Peter, who “will speak words to you by which you will be saved” (11:14).

3

### Hunger on the housetop.

Guzik: distractions come “as we try to direct ourselves to God.”

4

### “By no means, Lord” is a contradiction.

Sproul hears a flat no: “No, not me, I’m not going to do it.”

# More to carry

5

### Not about food — about people.

Koinos moves from animals (v14) to “any man” (v28).

6

### God works both ends.

Two visions, one plan: the men arrive “while Peter was greatly perplexed” (v17).

7

### “I too am just a man.”

Peter refused worship (v26).

8

### God is no face-receiver.

Prosōpolēmptēs appears only in 10:34.

# Talk it through

1. Cornelius was devout, generous and prayerful — and still needed to hear about Jesus. Who do I know who is “a good person” but has never heard the gospel clearly from me?

2. Peter said, “By no means, Lord.” Where am I telling God “no” while still calling Him Lord?

3. God told Peter not to call any man unholy or unclean. What kind of person do I secretly write off — and what would change if I believed God could cleanse him?

4. Cornelius said, “we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.” How do I come to church or to our table — ready to hear, or ready to judge?

5. Peter preached Jesus as both Judge and Savior. Which one do I tend to leave out — and why do I need both?

CLOSING

*Acts 10 begins with a Roman praying in Caesarea and a Jew praying in Joppa, and ends with them under one roof, eating together and baptized in one name. God did not lower His holiness; He cleansed hearts by faith. Whatever wall you have put up, the Lord of all has already sent someone to knock on your gate.*

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the Acts study page.