



**Good News for Gentiles**  
**Acts 9:32-11:18**

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# Peter vs. threats

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(Acts 9:32-11:18)

- ❖ Disease
- ❖ Death
- ❖ Social alienation
- ❖ Political tyranny

# Genuine conversion:

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- ❖ Everyone needs it.
- ❖ It starts with rational thinking.
- ❖ It continues with spiritual discernment.
- ❖ It is part of a process.

# Christian conversion:

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- ❖ It is initiated by God.
- ❖ It challenges religion.
- ❖ It features transformation by the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ It comes through the words of the Gospel.

A photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer over an open book. The text 'Who are you?' is overlaid on the image, underlined.

# Who are you?

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- ❖ **Converted**
- ❖ **Unconverted**
- ❖ **Unsure**

## Application:

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- ❖ Could the difficulty you face be goading from a loving shepherd?
- ❖ Suffering is purposeful for believers. When life falls apart, you have a choice.
- ❖ Conversion is receiving both sides of the gospel – your need for it and Jesus' provision.

# NT Reading:

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(Acts 9:32-43)

- ❖ In Lydda, Aeneas is healed from paralysis.
- ❖ In Joppa, Tabitha (Dorcas) is raised from death.
- ❖ In Joppa, Peter is the guest of Simon the Tanner.

## Acts 10:1-2

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At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.



## Acts 10:3-4

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One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.

## Acts 10:4-6

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The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.”

## Acts 10:7-8

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When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

## Acts 10:9-10

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About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

## Acts 10:11-13

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He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

## Acts 10:14-15

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**“Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”**  
**The voice spoke to him a second time,**  
**“Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”**

## Mark 7:17-18

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After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them?”

## Mark 7:19

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**“For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)**



## Mark 7:20-23

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He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come — sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the book and the person's arms. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Acts 10:16

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**This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.**

# Peter — x 3

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- ❖ Denial of Jesus
- ❖ Restoration by Jesus
- ❖ Commission to Gentiles

## Acts 10:17-18

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While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

## Acts 10:19-21

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While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them." Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?"

## Acts 10:22-23

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The men replied, “We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say.” Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

## Acts 10:23-24

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The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

## Acts 10:25-26

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As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."



## Acts 10:27-28

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While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile.

## Acts 10:28-29

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**“But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?”**

## Acts 10:30-31

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Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor.'

## Acts 10:32-33

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“Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.’ So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”



## Double vision:

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- ❖ Acts 9: Ananías and Saul
- ❖ Acts 10: Cornelius and Peter

## Acts 10:34-36

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Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

## Acts 10:37-38

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You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached — how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

## Acts 10:39-40

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**“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.**



## Acts 10:41

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**“He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen — by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.**

## Acts 10:42-43

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**“He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”**

## Peter's sermon:

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- ❖ They (or you) killed Jesus.
- ❖ God raised him from the dead.
- ❖ We apostles are all witnesses.

## Acts 10:44-46

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

## Acts 10:46-48

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Then Peter said, “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

## Acts 11:1-3

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The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

## Acts 11:15-16

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“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”

## Acts 11:17-18

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So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life."



# Christian conversion:

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- ❖ It is initiated by God.
- ❖ It challenges religion.
- ❖ It features transformation by the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ It comes through the words of the Gospel.

# Initiated by God

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- ❖ Peter: “Why did you send for me?”
- ❖ Cornelius: Because God sent for me.



C.S. Lewis:

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“Amiable agnostics will talk cheerfully about ‘man’s search for God.’ To me, as I then was, they might as well have talked about the mouse’s search for the cat.”

## Challenge to religion:

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- ❖ [Angel to Cornelius]: God noticed your generosity to the poor ...
- ❖ [Jesus to Nicodemus]: “You must be born again ...”

# Putting ourselves in God's place:

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- ❖ By breaking all the rules
- ❖ By keeping all the rules

# Holy Spirit transformation

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- ❖ Speaking in tongues – sociological
- ❖ Praising God – psychological

A photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background is blurred, focusing on the hands and the text.

# What do you want?

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- ❖ Power
- ❖ Approval
- ❖ Comfort
- ❖ Control

## Acts 10:42-43

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



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## Implications:

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- ❖ Do you feel inadequate? Don't "call anyone impure or unclean" (including yourself).
- ❖ As we make disciples, we should be prepared to give and receive.
- ❖ Ask the right questions: Not "Will it work for me?" but "Is it true?"



# Are you being called?

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- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper