

HOW GOD CHANGES PEOPLE

Acts 10:1-23

A Gentile is a person who is not _____ from a Latin word that means “the nations” who were not Israel

I. CORNELIUS 10:1-8

A. His Occupation

- 1) A centurion was like a _____ in our US Armed Forces: commanded 100 men, a company
- 2) A centurion was like a _____ because he was an NCO who knew how to stand in battle
- 3) He was of the _____ Regiment: representing Rome, he would have been hated by the Jews

B. His Religion

- 1) He was a _____ who worshipped the Jewish God but had not converted by circumcision
- 2) Cornelius' religion affected his habits: he _____ regularly and he gave regularly to the poor

C. His Vision

- 1) An angel told him that God remembered his prayers/alms, like they were the _____ of a priest
- 2) God gave to Cornelius clear, detailed directions & he immediately _____ and found blessing

D. His Conversion

God changes people—even nations & states—primarily through _____ one person at a time

II. PETER 10:9-33

A. God Spoke to Peter while He Was _____

- 1) Peter went up on to the roof to seek _____; some Jews prayed 3 times a day, including noon
- 2) We carry our _____ with us into our prayer closets & we should be prepared to meet them
- 3) Often we see the _____ of Scripture that we have read when we are quiet in God's presence
- 4) “Prayer changes things,” but the primary thing that prayer changes is _____; so it is indispensable

B. God _____ Peter's Mind about a New Truth

3 times the NT speaks of the necessity for our minds to be renewed, but it does not explain _____

This story about Peter provides us a _____ of the process by which God renews our minds—7 steps:

Step 1: God confronts us with a _____ we never understood before—thru the Word, prayer, a sermon

Step 2: Often we react strongly against this truth (like Peter) & say, “_____ so, Lord!” & refuse to hear

Step 3: God _____ His communication of the truth as often as needed, thru different channels

Step 4: We wonder what this truth means and how it applies to us; the Bible calls this _____

Step 5: We may connect this new truth with other truths that God has taught us in the past: 2 + 2 =

Step 6: God often immediately puts us in a circumstance in which we must _____ the truth we learned

Step 7: Not only do we change and practice the new truth, we _____ the new truth to others.

CONC: “Lord, with your help, I am willing to change.”