



God Does Not Show Favoritism

Series: "Real Christianity: How It Flourished", Part 10 of 11

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Text: Acts 10:1-48

Big Idea: God blesses us to make us a blessing.

Three Essential Elements:

1. There is a Christian willing to be guided by God.
2. There is a person desperately in need of God.
3. There is the Sovereign Lord of the harvest bringing them together.

I. A Person Desperately In Need Of God.

Acts 10:1-2, "At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. 2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly."

Acts 10:3-8, 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!" 4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. 5 Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. 6 He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea." 7 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. 8 He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

Titus 3:5a, "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy." {NASV}

II. There Was A Christian Willing To Be Guided By God.

Acts 10:9-23, About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. 10 He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 11 He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. 12 It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. 13 Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." 14 "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." 15 The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." 16 This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven. 17 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. 18 They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. 19 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. 20 So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them." 21 Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?" 22 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 have you come to his house so that he could hear what you have to

say.” 23 Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along.

Acts 10:28a, “He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him.”

Galatians 3:16, The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.

1 Peter 2:9, “But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” {NASV}

III. The Sovereign Lord Of The Harvest Bringing Them Together.

Acts 10:33b, “Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

If you want to be eternally relevant, deal with eternal realities.

Acts 10:34b-35, “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.”

Acts 10:44, While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 47 “Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” 48a So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 10:43, “All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”