

TAKE. YOUR. NEXT. STEP.

AD: the Risen Jesus and his First Followers

June 20th/21st | Pastor Matt McGill

Cornelius & Peter

TAKE: decide to MOVE.

CORNELIUS: 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 10:1-2)

PETER: About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. (Acts 10:9)

Prayer positions us to follow God

This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-10)

YOUR: listen to GOD.

CORNELIUS: 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." (Acts 10:4-5)

PETER: 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." "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." (Acts 10:11-15)

Three ways to hear God speak

- God's presence: PRAYER (Acts 10:2, 9)
- God's word: SCRIPTURE (Acts 10:43, 11:1)
- God's people: LISTENING (Acts 10:33, 44, 11:14)

NEXT: surrender your ASSUMPTIONS.

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.

(Acts 10:34-35)

Fear is a friend to spiritual ruts

When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. (Galatians 2:11-13)

STEP: translate faith into OBEDIENCE.

CORNELIUS: 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 10:7-8)

PETER: The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. (Acts 10:23)

Obedience has kingdom consequences

PETER, to the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem: "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.' 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." (Acts 11:15-18)

TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP TODAY,

YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO!

Questions about the message?

Is God calling you to serve our kids or students? We need more leaders! No experience needed, just servant-hearted people who love Jesus. We will train you!
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