

A Seat at the Table

PASTOR MIKE YODER • ACTS 10–11



The central theme of Acts is that the advance of the Gospel is the unstoppable work of God.

Conversion to Obedience (10:1–33)



*Cornelius follows
God's directive.*









Peter receives God's rebuke.



It is difficult for us to grasp the impassable gulf which yawned in those days between the Jews on the one hand and the Gentiles (including even the 'God-fearers') on the other.

John Stott

The tragedy was that Israel twisted the doctrine of election into one of favoritism.

John Stott

*Peter welcomes
God's messengers.*



Peter embraces God's plan.



We find Peter in Joppa, where he will disregard his prejudices, obey God by traveling to Caesarea, and open the door for Gentiles to respond to the Gospel — the very thing that Jonah resisted in the same city.

Ajith Fernando

Conversion of Perspective (10:34,35)



There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

Prejudice is often one of the last things that is touched by the process of sanctification. We must help people understand the nature of Christian identity, which does not depend on human distinctions.

Ajith Fernando

God accepts whoever fears Him and does right, not irrespective of their faith in Jesus, but irrespective of their race and rank.

John Stott

Keys to Effective Witness:

- ***Clarity*** on the Gospel
- ***Contact*** with Unbelievers
- ***Compassion*** for Human Needs
- ***Courage*** to Speak Good News

***Clarity* on the Gospel:** a confidence in understandably summarizing the good news from God

Keys to Effective Witness

***Contact* with unbelievers:** genuine relational connections with people who aren't yet saved

***Compassion* for human needs: eyes to see and a heart to respond to the places people hurt**

Keys to Effective Witness

Courage to speak good news: a resolve to seek out opportunities to speak the Gospel message

Conversion to Salvation

(10:36–48)



God's heart is for all peoples.



God's message centers on Jesus.



Conversion to Acceptance (11:1–18)



Peter's message is an important model for us in presenting the Gospel to devout people who, like Cornelius, may know something about God but are ignorant of the saving Gospel of Christ.

Ajith Fernando

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—

Ephesians 2:11

*remember that at that time you were separate from Christ,
excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants
of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.*

Ephesians 2:12

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:13

For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

Ephesians 2:14

by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,

Ephesians 2:15

and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.

Ephesians 2:16

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

Ephesians 2:17

For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of
His household,*

Ephesians 2:19

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:20

In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

Ephesians 2:21

And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22

*When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face,
because he stood condemned.*

Galatians 2:11

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.

Galatians 2:12

The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

Galatians 2:13

When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the Gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?”

Galatians 2:14

In race Saul was a Jew, Cornelius a Gentile; in culture Saul was a scholar, Cornelius a soldier; in religion Saul was a bigot, Cornelius a seeker.

John Stott

Yet both were converted by the gracious initiative of God; both received forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Spirit; and both were baptized and welcomed into the Christian family on equal terms.

John Stott

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died.

2 Corinthians 5:14

And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:15

*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.
Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.*

2 Corinthians 5:16

**If Jesus is Lord of all, then
the Gospel can go to all.**

