

# EXAMPLES OF CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

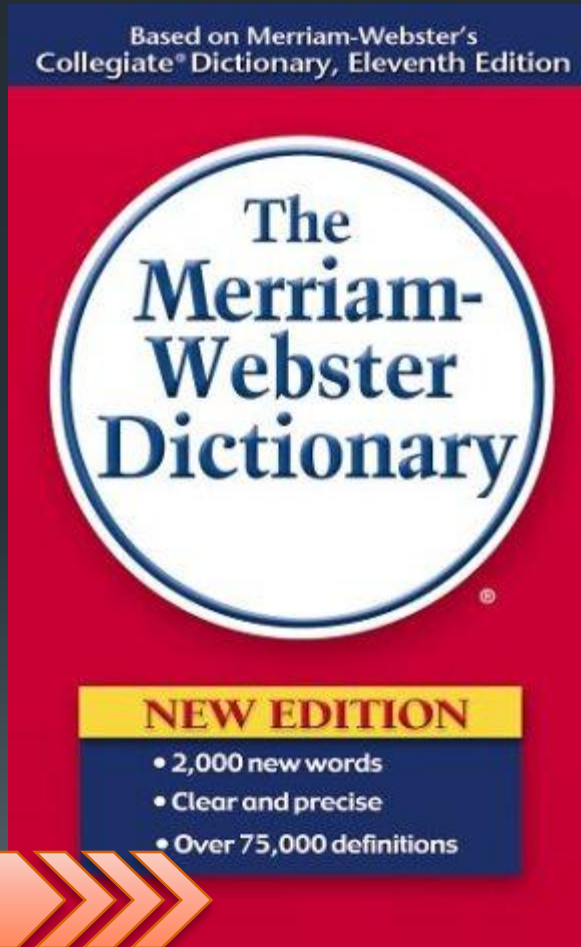
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## *Conversion of Cornelius & His Household*

**Acts 10:1-11:18; 15:6-11**

## Convert; Converted



transitive verb

- 1 - a : **to bring over from one belief, view, or party to another** b : to bring about a religious conversion in
- 2 - a : to alter the physical or chemical nature or properties of especially in manufacturing b (1) : **to change from one form or function to another** (2) : to alter for more effective utilization



# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUSUS



## Convert; Converted



**Matthew 18:3-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are **converted** and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore **whoever humbles himself** as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.



# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUSUS



## Convert; Converted



**Acts 3:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore and **be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,





## Convert; Converted




Luke 15:11-24

- ✦ Not merely a change in actions –
- ✦ A change in knowledge –
- ✦ A change in conviction -
- ✦ A change in allegiance –
- ✦ A change in thinking & will –
- ✦ A change in commitment – resulting in a change in relationship & identity -
- ✦ A change in who we are – how we talk – where we go – what we do -

## Psalm 19:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD *is* perfect,  
converting the soul; The testimony  
of the LORD *is* sure, making wise  
the simple;





# BRIEF ANALYSIS

- ◆ **Cornelius before his conversion** – A honorable, godly, religious, charitable man – vss 1-4,22
- ◆ **The “HOW” of his conversion** – Miracles involved & why, the necessity of preaching and compliance – vss 3-48
- ◆ **Cornelius after his conversion** – Wanted Peter and company to stay a few days - Most likely wanting to learn more about his new faith – vs. 48



# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)

## Cornelius Before His Conversion



- ✦ ‘**A centurion**’ – over 100 men of the Italian regiment – (v. 1)
- ✦ ‘**A devout man**’ – very religious, godly, devoted to God - (v. 2).
- ✦ ‘**Feared God**’ - He and his house - (v. 2; 22; cf Pr 1:7)
- ✦ ‘**Gave alms generously**’ - a caring, kind man - (v.2)
- ✦ ‘**Prayed to God always**’ – (v. 2)
- ✦ ‘**A just man**’ – fair and honest - (v. 22)
- ✦ ‘**respected by all the Jewish people**’ - even though a foreigner – (vs 22)

# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)

## Cornelius Before His Conversion



Regardless of his godly character, moral purity, sincerity, devotion in worship, generosity, conduct & reputation - **Cornelius still NEEDED to be saved!** –  
10:6,22, 32,33; 11:14; cf.  
Rom. 3:23; 6:23



# Mediterranean Sea



Cornelius' vision of an  
angel – (3-8)

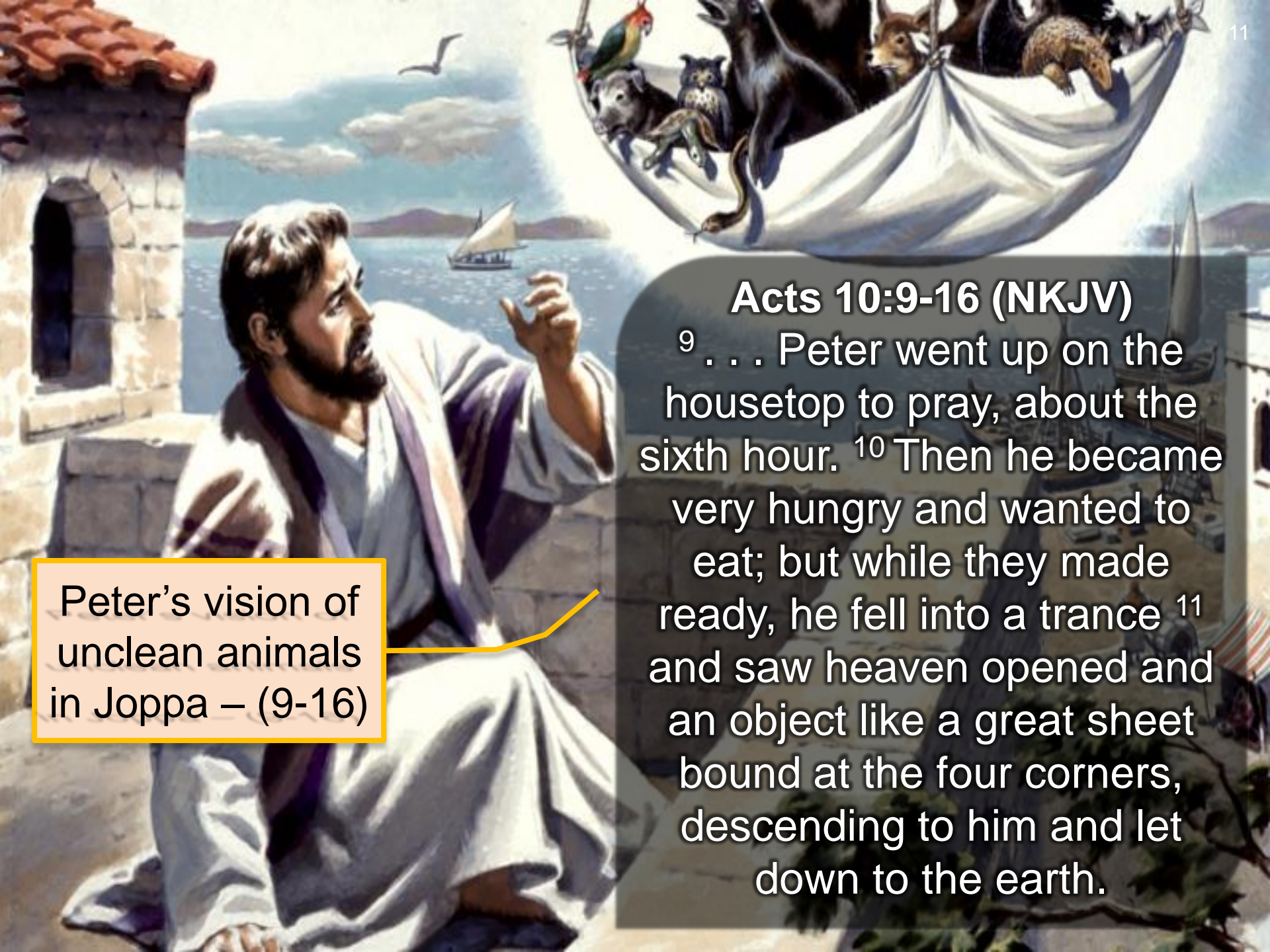
“Send men to Joppa”  
which Cornelius did – (4-8)

Peter's vision of  
unclean animals  
in Joppa – (9-16)

*32 miles*





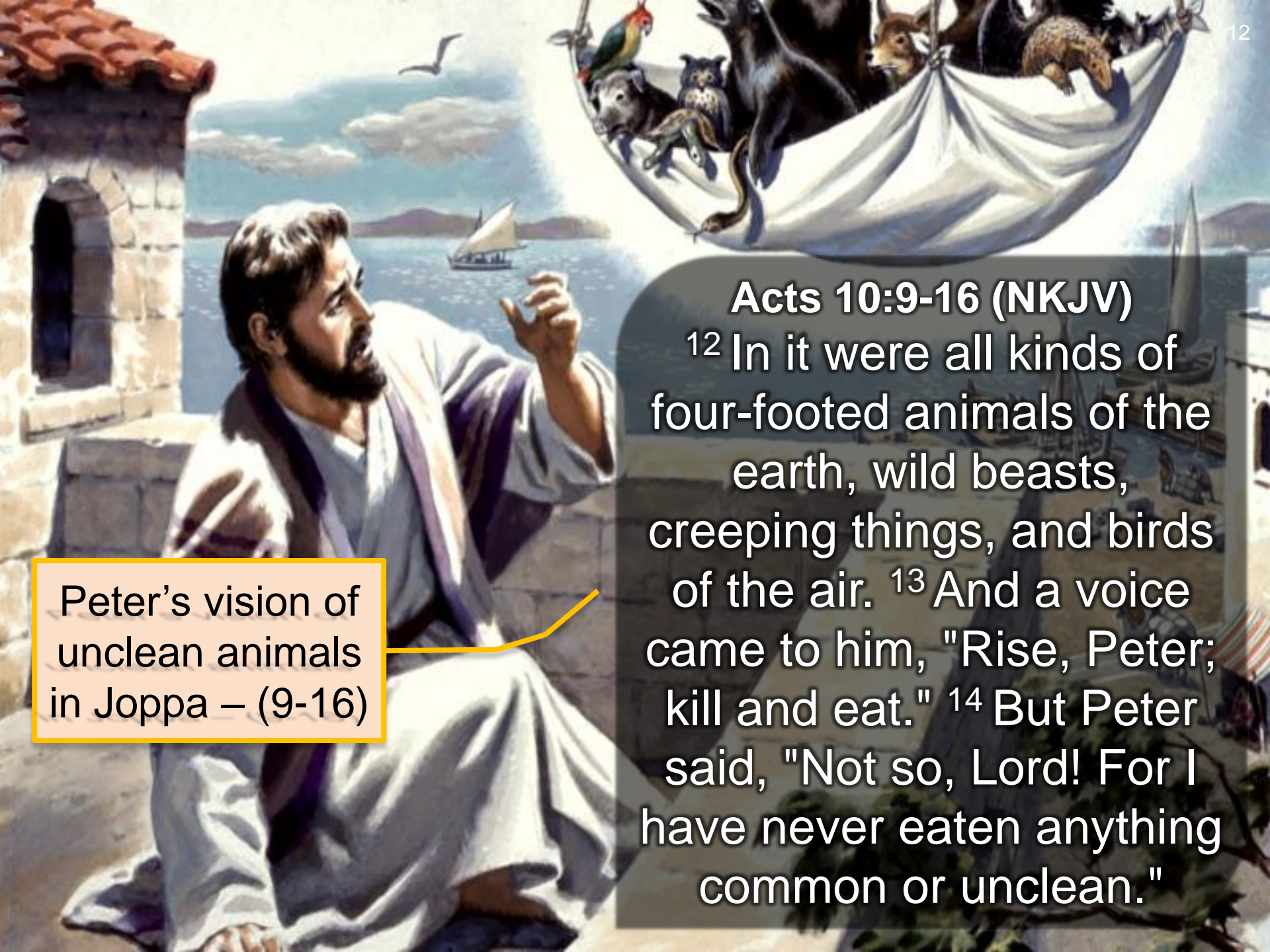
A religious painting depicting Peter on a rooftop in Joppa. Peter, a man with a beard and long hair, is shown in a white robe with a purple sash, looking up in awe with his hands raised. Above him, a large white sheet is suspended in the air, filled with various unclean animals including pigs, dogs, cats, and birds. The background shows a coastal town with a red-tiled building on the left, a sailboat on the water, and distant hills under a blue sky with clouds. A yellow line points from the text box to the sheet of animals.

Peter's vision of  
unclean animals  
in Joppa – (9-16)

### **Acts 10:9-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> . . . Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. <sup>10</sup> Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance <sup>11</sup> and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth.



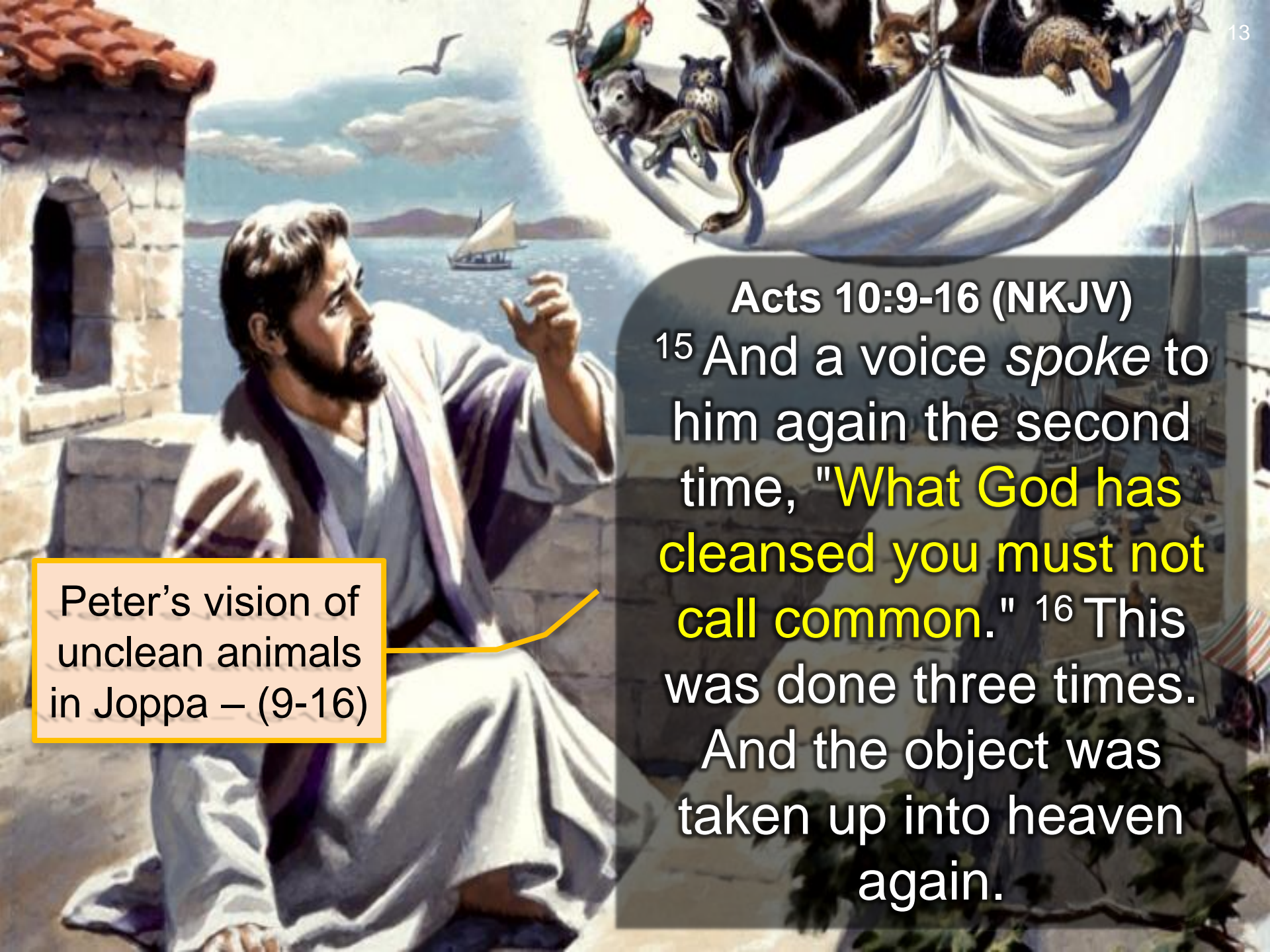
A religious painting depicting Peter's vision. Peter, a man with a beard and brown hair, is shown from the waist up, wearing a white robe with a purple sash. He is looking upwards with an open mouth and hands raised in surprise or awe. Above him, a large white sheet or cloth is suspended in the air, filled with various animals including a parrot, a dog, a cat, a snake, a bear, a deer, and a pig. The background shows a coastal scene with a stone building on the left, a sailboat on the water, and distant hills under a blue sky with clouds. A yellow line points from the text box to the sheet of animals.

Peter's vision of  
unclean animals  
in Joppa – (9-16)

**Acts 10:9-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. <sup>13</sup> And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." <sup>14</sup> But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."



A religious painting depicting the biblical story of Peter's vision. Peter, a man with a beard and long hair, is shown from the waist up, wearing a white robe with a purple sash. He is looking upwards with an open mouth and hands raised in surprise or awe. Above him, a large white sheet is suspended in the air, filled with various animals including a parrot, a dog, a cat, a snake, and a bear. The background shows a coastal town with a red-tiled building on the left, a sailboat on the water, and distant hills under a blue sky with clouds.

Peter's vision of  
unclean animals  
in Joppa – (9-16)

Acts 10:9-16 (NKJV)  
<sup>15</sup> And a voice *spoke* to him again the second time, "**What God has cleansed you must not call common.**" <sup>16</sup> This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.



# Mediterranean Sea



Cornelius' vision of an  
angel – (3-8)

“Send men to Joppa”  
which Cornelius did – (4-8)

Peter's vision of  
unclean animals  
in Joppa – (9-16)

Peter receives the men  
from Cornelius and goes  
with them – (17-23)

Dora  
Caesarea

*32 miles*

Joppa

Azotus  
(Ashdod)

SAMARIA

Samaria  
(Sebaste)

Mt. Ebal ^ • Sychar  
Mt. Gerizim ^ • Shechem

• Antipatris

• Arimathea

• Lydda

• Ephraim

Jericho •

Emmaus • Jerusalem • ^ Mt. of Olives  
Bethany

• Bethlehem

JUDEA

• Hebron

Wilderness of Judea

Dead Sea

GALILEE

Chorazin  
Capernaum  
Gennesaret  
Dalmanutha  
Horns of Hattin ^  
Tiberias

Nazareth

Plain of  
Esdraelon • Nain

Scythopolis •

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# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)

## The Miracles (*Divine Interaction*) Involved



- ✦ **Cornelius' vision of an angel** - 10:3-6  
— did not preach the gospel!
- ✦ **Peter's vision of unclean animals** -  
10:9-17,28-35 – prepared the  
preacher for the task of preaching to  
the Gentiles
- ✦ **The Holy Spirit falling on the  
Gentiles and them speaking in  
tongues** - 10:44-46; 11:1-18; 15:7-11  
— Not to save them – not for the  
Gentiles – but for the Jews!

# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)

16

## **The Miracles** (*Divine Interaction*) **Involved**

✦ The Holy Spirit “fell ON them” (10:44)

**As on the apostles at the beginning (11:15)**

✦ The Holy Spirit was “poured out on them” (10:45)

**Reminding Peter of Jesus’ promise - (11:16)**

✦ They spoke with tongues (10:46)

**The gift was the ability to speak in tongues (11:17)**



# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)

## **The Miracles** (*Divine Interaction*) **Involved**

### **WHY???**

- ✦ Astonished the Jewish Christians who were with Peter (10:45,46)
- ✦ To demonstrate the abolishment of the barrier between Jew & Gentile (10:46; Ep 2:11-13)
- ✦ To remove ALL doubt that the Gentiles **MUST** be baptized (saved) (10:47)

**Silenced critics against Peter's going in to Gentiles (11:1-3)**

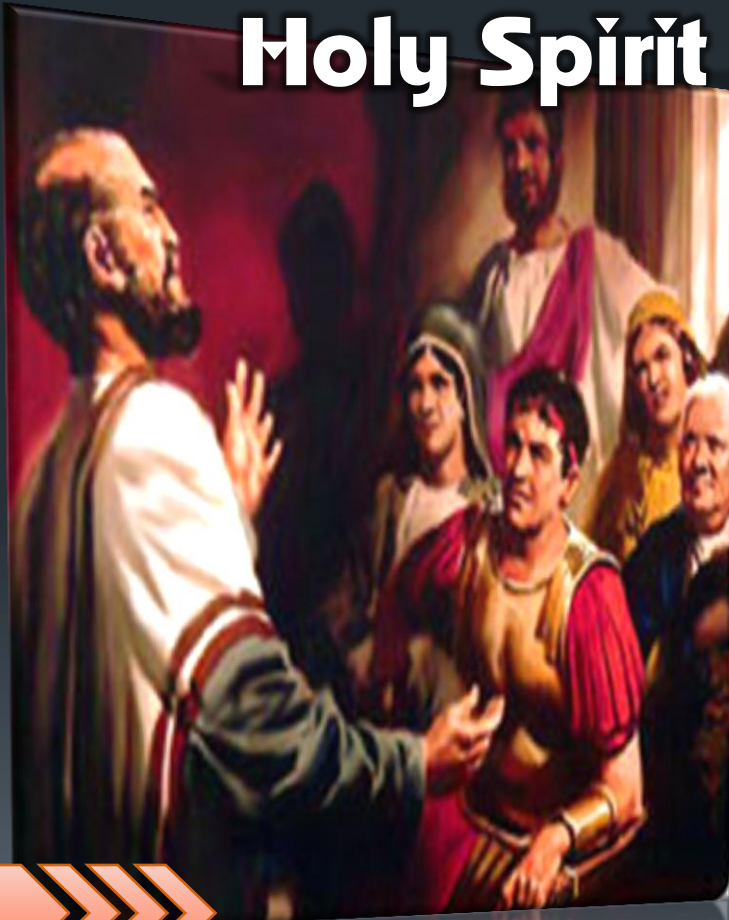
**Convinced Jews that Gentiles were to be accepted (11:18)**

**Peter couldn't withstand God – neither could anyone!! (11:17)**

# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)

18

## The Miracles (*Divine Interaction*) Involved Holy Spirit Falling On The Gentiles:



- ✦ Was **NOT** to SAVE them – and did not save them – (cf Num. 22:28; 23:5,12,26; 1 Sam 19:21-23; John 11:51)
- ✦ Peter was sent to them to tell them what **they MUST do** in order to be saved – 11:14
- ✦ To provide **undeniable evidence** that the Jewish Christians were to accept Gentiles when they complied with the gospel message.



# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)

## The Necessity of Hearing The Gospel

- ✦ 10:6 – “He will tell you what you **must** do.”
- ✦ 10:22 - “to summon you to his house, and to **hear words** from you.”
- ✦ 10:32,33 “When he comes, **he will speak to you . . .** to hear all the **things commanded you by God.**”
- ✦ 11:14 who will tell you **words** by which you and all your household will **be saved.**’





# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)

## What did Cornelius know?? (10:37)

- ✦ Feared and worshipped God! (10:2)
- ✦ The word that God sent to the children of Israel! (10:36,37,42)
- ✦ That peace through Jesus Christ was preached! (10:36,37,43; [Phillip, Acts 8:40])
- ✦ That Jesus was preached as being Lord of ALL! (10:36,37,43)
- ✦ The works of Jesus! (10:38,39,40)



# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)

## What Did Cornelius **NOT** know?

- ✦ God had “granted repentance to life” to the Gentiles as well as the Jews – (11:18)
- ✦ The words God had commanded Peter to speak to them, i.e. that which they **MUST** do! – (10:33, [6,22,32,42; 11:14])
- ✦ That they too must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ! (10:47,48; 11:17; cf. 2:38)





# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)

## When Was Cornelius And His House Saved?

- ✦ After they heard the gospel – their hearts were purified by faith when they obeyed those things commanded them by God - (10:5,22,32,33; 11:14; 15:7-9; 1 Peter 1:22,23; Gal. 3:26,27)
- ✦ After they repented! – (11:18)
- ✦ When they were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ! (10:47,48; 11:17; cf. 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet 3:21)



# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)

## When Was Cornelius And His House Saved?

Acts 10:42-43 (NKJV)

... [43] To Him all the  
prophets witness that,  
through His name, whoever  
believes in Him will receive  
remission of sins."

Acts 10:47-48 (NKJV)

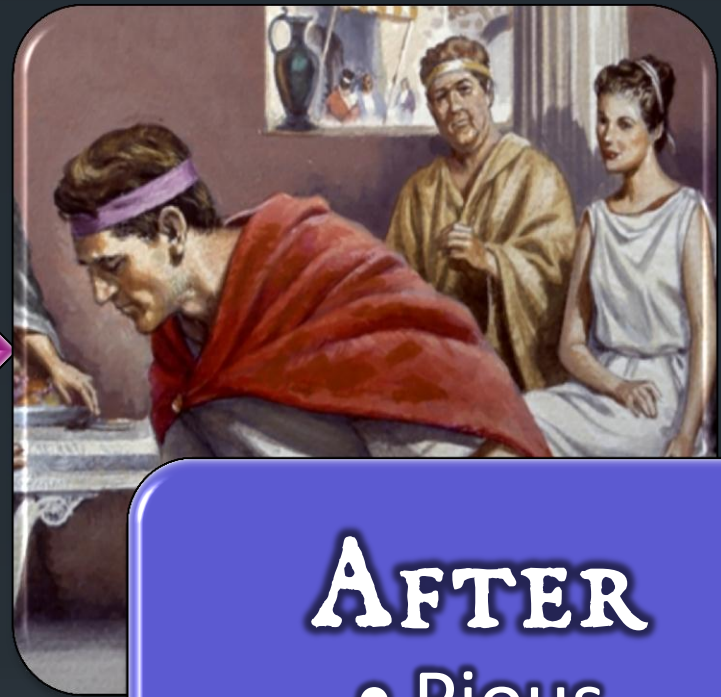
"Can anyone forbid  
water, ... [48] And he  
commanded them to be  
baptized in the name of  
the Lord....

**ACTS 2:38**  
**JOHN 1:12**

# CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS, (*GENTILES*)



Baptized



## BEFORE

- Pious
- Worshipper
- Benevolent
- Lost

## AFTER

- Pious
- Worshipper
- Benevolent
- Saved



# CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

Examples	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptized
Pentecost – 2:14-41	Implied	✓ 37,38	Implied	✓ 38,41
Samaria – 8:5-13	✓ 12	Implied	Implied	✓ 12,13
Eunuch – 8:35-39	✓ 36,37	Implied	✓ 37	✓ 38
Saul – 9,22,26	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 9:18
Cornelius - 10:34-48	✓ 43	Implied	Implied	✓ 48
Lydia – 16:13-15	✓ 14	Implied	Implied	✓ 15
Jailor – 16:30-34	✓ 31	Implied	Implied	✓ 33
Corinthians - 18:8	✓ 8	Implied	Implied	✓ 8
Ephesians - 19:3-5	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 5

## LESSONS & APPLICATIONS

- ✦ Not saved just because religious and sincere.
- ✦ Not saved by good deeds.
- ✦ Not saved without hearing the gospel.
- ✦ Holy Spirit baptism not for us today – (Eph. 4:5).
- ✦ God is no respecter of persons – (Acts 10:34,35).
- ✦ All saved the same way.



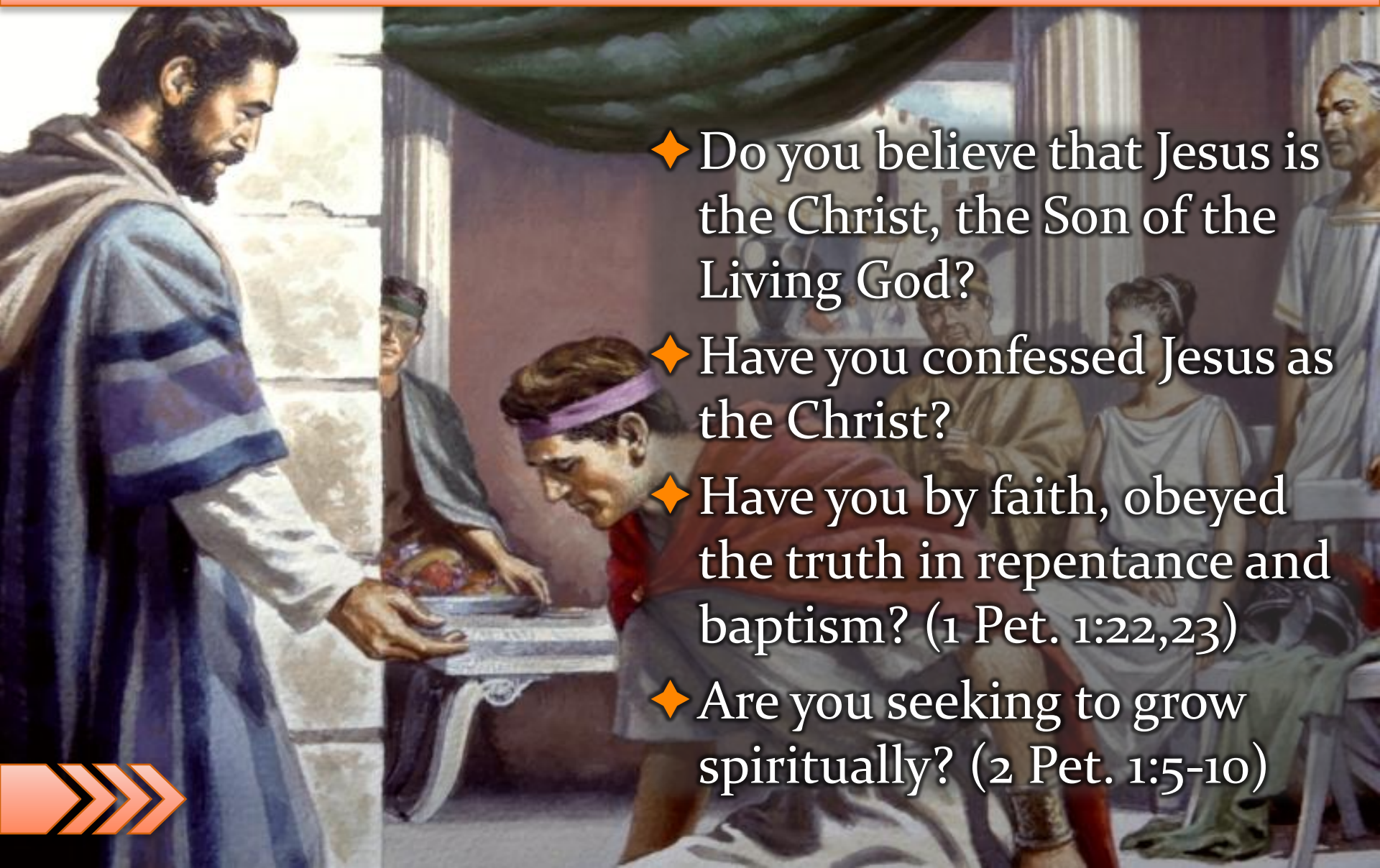


## LESSONS & APPLICATIONS

- ◆ Not saved by faith only!
- ◆ Baptism (*immersion in water*) is a command that must be obeyed.
- ◆ Baptism in the name of Jesus is NOT Holy Spirit baptism – Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5,6
- ◆ Desire to learn more -



# HAVE YOU BEEN CONVERTED?



- ◆ Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God?
- ◆ Have you confessed Jesus as the Christ?
- ◆ Have you by faith, obeyed the truth in repentance and baptism? (1 Pet. 1:22,23)
- ◆ Are you seeking to grow spiritually? (2 Pet. 1:5-10)





# HAVE YOU BEEN CONVERTED?



You have been  
“granted  
repentance unto  
life!”

Have your soul  
purified by faith  
today! – Acts 15:9;  
1 Pet. 1:22,23;  
2 Cor. 6:2







# THE CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS ACTS 10:1-11:18; 15:7-11

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## ***Acts 15:6-11 (NKJV)***

<sup>6</sup> Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. <sup>7</sup> And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as *He did* to us,



## ***Acts 15:6-11 (NKJV)***

<sup>9</sup> and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? <sup>11</sup> But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."