

A Devout Man Acts 10:1-8

We have all heard lessons about the conversion of Cornelius in **Acts 10**. He was the first recorded Gentile convert. Peter opened the doors of the kingdom of Christ to the Gentiles at the home of Cornelius, just as he had opened the doors to the Jews at Pentecost in Jerusalem.

One thing often overlooked in such lessons is the character of Cornelius. We often present him as one that is alienated from God, lost and in need of salvation.

Is that how Luke presents Cornelius in his history of the beginning of the church? Consider the first two verses of **Acts 10**...

Does that sound like a man that is separated from God? Luke's introduction of Cornelius in these verses describes a man that is devoted to God. Not just any God, but the God of Heaven.

There are lessons we can learn from the devotion ascribed to Cornelius.

Cornelius was so devoted to God that he didn't hide it.

His Family Knew He Was Devoted To God Because He Taught Them To Fear God

Ecclesiastes 12:13; Ephesians 6:4; 2Timothy 1:5

His Friends Knew He Was Devoted To God Because He Invited Them To Come And Hear Peter's Message

Acts 10:24; Mark 5:18-20

His Community Knew He Was Devoted To God Because He Was Generous With The Giving Of Alms

2Thessalonians 3:13; 1Timothy 6:17-19; James 2:15-16; 1:27

His God Knew That He Was Devoted To Him Because He Prayed Continually

Luke 11:1-13; 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

...And Obeyed!

Of course, even with such devotion to God, Cornelius needed Christ.

Acts 10:7-8; 11:13-18

The devotion he had shown was sufficient until God put in place the final pieces of His eternal plan.

Acts 17:30-31

What did Cornelius do? Being the devout man he was, he listened to Peter, and was obedient to the message Peter delivered from God.

Are You Devoted To God?

Could someone say that you are a devoted man or a devoted woman?

Your life is the evidence that either proves your devotion or condemns you for not being devoted.

Are you instructing your family to fear God?

Are you reaching out to your friends to share the gospel with them?

Are you sacrificially giving to others?

Are you continually praying to God?

If you didn't answer "yes" to all of these questions, then friend you need to seriously consider your devotion to God.

Clay Gentry