



**North Christian Church**  
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**Self-Guided Study**

**Topic**

The Book of Acts – Chapters 10-12

**Background**

- See previous Self-Guided Study outlines for additional details
- Centurion: a high-ranking, carefully selected Roman military officer, typically commanded 100 men (1/6 of a regiment)
- Agabus: a prophet that foretold of famine and also of Paul's imprisonment (cp. v21:10)
- Mary (v12:2): Barnabas' aunt (cp. Col 4:10)

**Critical Thinking Questions (pre-reading)**

- How much of the Jewish customs were still resident in the souls of the Apostles? Was that ever problematic?
- Does God abide by man's expectations? Or is He intent on revealing the hearts of men, regardless of race? (cp. 1Co 12:13)
- What kind of pressures did the Apostles (all Jewish) receive from other Jews when they evangelized Gentiles, ate with them, fellowshiped with them? What was the core issue? How did God foresee this and counter it?
- What is meant by "the persecution" after Stephen's death? What were the implications in the early Church?
- How significant is it that the Bible records antagonism towards the Gospel? How significant is it that persecution is recorded?
- Why were the political leaders during the early church so intent on persecuting Christians?

**Reading Outline**

- Read chapters 10-12 in the Book of Acts

- Read more deliberately, but never stalling, than you would if you were reading the whole book for big-picture
- Don't lose sight of the overall purpose of the book, the "big-picture" themes, and any sweeping concepts
- Have FUN while reading and do not get frustrated...EVER!
- ALWAYS keep the Gospel reality at the forefront of your mind (eg: remember God's ultimate purpose for authoring the Bible – to reveal His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ)

## Post-Reading Questions/Conclusions

- **v10:1** – how significant is it that Cornelius was a Roman centurion (vs. say, just a soldier)?
- **v10:2** – was Cornelius saved at this point? Why or why not? What evidence do you have in support of your answer?
- **v10:4** – what is the significance of Cornelius addressing the angel of God as "Lord"? If he was unsaved, how was it that his prayers and gifts were like "memorial offerings" to the Lord?
- **v10:10-13** – what is the significance of Peter's hunger and the Lord telling him to, "Kill and eat"? Is the Lord's timing something to consider? Why?
- **v10:14** - what were Peter's reservations?
- **v10:16** – why 3 times? Are "3's" common in the Bible? If so, how so?
- **v10:20** – why would Peter hesitate?
- **v10:23-24** – what's the deal with Peter's entourage of believers? Did Cornelius have his own entourage?
- **v10:26** – what do you see in Peter's response to Cornelius' reverence?
- **v10:28** – do you see how Peter makes mention of THEIR predisposition to Jewish customs, but yet there he stands? What is the significance of that dynamic?
- **v10:34-35** – WOW!!! How big of a revelation is this?
- **v10:37** – what's the difference between John the Baptist's baptism and the Church's?
- **v10:39-41** – why does Peter make an issue of "witnessing"?
- **v10:43** – is Peter speaking the "Jewish language" here?
- **v10:45** – Why?
- **v10:47-48** – how does this passage support or refute water baptism in the Church-Age?
- **v11:1** – what kind of ripple effect do you think this had amongst the Jews?
- **v11:4-17** – how does this compare to 1 Co 1:22?
- **v11:18** – what is the nature of this conclusion? What is it based on?
- **v11:19** – why did they scatter?
- **v11:23-24** – what kind of eulogy does Stephen get and why?

- **v11:27** – what is a “prophet”? Do they exist today or not? What evidence do you have to support your conclusion?
- **v11:29** – cp 2Co 8:3
- **v12:2** – how does this compare to Jesus’ warning in Mat 20:20-23?
- **v12:5** – what is the significance of this?
- **v12:7** – is it obvious that Peter wasn’t expecting this? If not, why not? How powerful is the angel of the Lord wrt the chains?
- **v12:15** – why would they be so adamant?
- **v12:22-23** – what is meant by this passage? Why was Herod stricken as a result of this cause, specifically?
- **v12:24** – what is the significance of this verse in scripture? How does it compare to the previous few verses?

### **Useful Resources (furnished upon request)**

- Maps: Paul’s, Philip’s, and Peter’s journeys; geographic reach of Acts
- Timelines: harmony of the Gospels, Acts, and remaining books of NT; Paul’s life
- Pictures: of places mentioned in Acts (eg: Rome); the Temple at Jerusalem