

# sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | No Other Name

June 15, 2025 | “Breaking Down Ethnic Barriers” | **Acts 10:1–16**

## EXPOSITION:

- 1) God \_\_\_\_\_ Cornelius toward the salvation of his \_\_\_\_\_  
(10:1–8)
- 2) God \_\_\_\_\_ Peter toward the salvation of \_\_\_\_\_  
(10:9–16)

## APPLICATION:

- 1) The ground is \_\_\_\_\_ at the foot of the \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Christianity and \_\_\_\_\_ are mutually \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) God makes the \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions for further application of God’s Word:

### GO DEEPER

Read Acts 10:1–8. What was Cornelius like? What does it mean to be a God-fearer (10:2)? Is God-fearing the same as Christ-believing? Do you know someone who can be described as a God-fearer but is not a believer in Christ? Is that person saved or unsaved? What Scriptures support your conclusion?

Read Acts 10:9–16. What was God communicating to Peter through the sheet full of animals? Was he communicating something about dietary laws? Or was he preparing Peter to receive Gentiles (i.e., the unclean)? Should Christians observe the dietary laws of the OT? Why or why not?

### GET PERSONAL

God leads people to salvation in different ways. Cornelius and the Ethiopian eunuch were gradually drawn in, while Saul was abruptly confronted. How did your journey to faith begin? Were you already seeking God? Or did God radically intervene in your life? Would you have described yourself as a “God-fearer” beforehand?

Define the word “partiality.” What does the Bible say about partiality (see Acts 10:34–35; Rom 2:11; Jas 2:1; Gal 3:28, etc.)? Have you ever struggled with partiality in your life? In what ways has God helped you overcome that? Why is partiality incompatible with Christianity and the gospel? Reflect on how Jesus breaks down all social, ethnic, and cultural barriers.

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Have you ever shared the gospel with someone from a different background—racially, socially, or generationally? Ask yourself this question: “Am I too comfortable in my cultural bubble?” Challenge yourself this week by doing one of the following: 1) try a new food, 2) visit a different neighborhood, or 3) start a conversation with someone outside your usual circles.

### ADVANCED QUESTION

Was Cornelius seeking God or was God seeking Cornelius? How should we understand the intersection of man’s responsibility and God’s sovereignty? Interact with the following statement by John MacArthur: “Divine election and human responsibility are both the clear teaching of Scripture. Salvation is both accomplished by God and commanded of sinners. Although our limited comprehension does not allow us to harmonize them, there is no conflict in the mind of God.” How do you hold both truths together?