

“FOR WHAT REASON HAVE YOU SENT FOR ME?”^[HAC1]

Acts 10:1-11:18

This passage relates the conversion of a gentile named Cornelius with his friends and relatives. Upon his arrival at Cornelius' house, Peter asked why he was sent (29), which is what we will discuss at this time. Why was Peter summoned to Cornelius' house?

I. PETER WAS SENT FOR BECAUSE BEING RELIGIOUS ISN'T ENOUGH TO BE SAVED

A. Acts 10:2, 22

Cornelius was devout, feared God, gave generously, prayed constantly, was just, and had a good reputation.

B. Acts 10:6; 11:13-14

Nevertheless, he still needed to be told what to do. He had to hear words by which he could be saved.

C. Acts 2:5, 22-23

Those present on the day of Pentecost, whom Peter charged with the death of Christ, were devout men.

II. PETER WAS SENT FOR BECAUSE SALVATION DOESN'T COME THROUGH PRAYER

A. Acts 10:2, 4, 30-31

Again, Cornelius was a prayerful man. In fact, he was praying when the angel visited him.

B. Acts 11:13-14

Yet, for all his praying, Cornelius still needed to hear words by which he would be saved.

C. Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:38

Salvation requires faith, confession, repentance, and baptism. Prayer is not a part of that process.

III. PETER WAS SENT FOR BECAUSE ANGELS DON'T BRING SALVATION

A. **Acts 10:3; 11:13-14**

If God wanted to save men through angelic visitations, the angel who came to Cornelius would have been sufficient. Instead, that angel told him to call a preacher.

B. **Acts 8:26-35**

Likewise, if God wanted to save men through angelic visitations, the angel who appeared to Philip wouldn't have sent him to preach to the eunuch, but would have gone to him himself.

C. **Galatians 1:8**

Many people have claimed to have received instructions from angels which supposedly supersede the plain words of scripture, but that is simply fraudulent.

D. **Romans 10:14, 17**

God wants preachers to preach so that men will be saved.

IV. PETER WAS SENT FOR BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT DOESN'T SAVE BY DIRECT ACTION

A. **Acts 10:19**

The Holy Spirit instructed Peter to go to Cornelius. If God wanted the Holy Spirit to save man by direct action, apart from human agency, this would not have been the case.

B. **Acts 10:44-48**

Even those who had been baptized with the Holy Spirit were still commanded to be baptized with water in the name of the Lord.

V. PETER WAS SENT FOR BECAUSE SALVATION IS AVAILABLE TO ALL

A. **Acts 10:28-29, 34-35**

On this occasion, Peter learned that the gentiles deserved to hear the gospel just the same as the Jews.

B. Acts 11:18

This was the same conclusion reached by the apostles and brethren in Jerusalem.

C. Acts 15:6-9

On a later occasion, when the issue of circumcision was discussed, Peter referred to this example to point out that no distinction ought to be made between Jew and Gentile.

D. Romans 1:16

The gospel is for all.

CONCLUSION

- A.** Peter was sent for because being religious isn't enough to be saved. Don't be satisfied by being religious. Seek the truth.
- B.** Peter was sent for because salvation doesn't come through prayer. Don't be deceived into thinking you were saved through prayer. It takes faith, confession, repentance, and baptism, followed by a life faithful until death.
- C.** Peter was sent for because angels don't bring salvation. Even when angels participated visibly in perpetuating the gospel, they sent preachers to preach. No angel will correctly teach you other than what the scriptures show.
- D.** Peter was sent for because the Holy Spirit doesn't save by direct action. Even when the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and his associates, water baptism in the name of the Lord was required.
- E.** Peter was sent for because salvation is available to all. No one is excluded from God's desire to save.