

Acts 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

Analysis

Cornelius was 'devout' and 'feared God with all his house' - a God-fearer, attracted to Judaism without full conversion. His 'alms to the people' and continual prayer showed genuine piety. Yet this moral excellence couldn't save him apart from Christ (Acts 11:14).

Historical Context

God-fearers were Gentiles who attended synagogues, kept basic Jewish ethics, but didn't undergo circumcision. They formed a receptive audience for the gospel throughout Paul's missionary journeys.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why couldn't Cornelius's evident piety save him without the gospel?
2. What does this teach about the relationship between morality and salvation?

Interlinear Text

εὐσεβὴς καὶ φοβούμενος τὸν θεοῦ σὺν παντὶ τῷ οἴκῳ
A devout **and** **one that feared** G2152 G2532 G5399 G3588 **God** **with** **all** G2316 G4862 G3956 G3588 **house** G3624

αὐτοῦ ποιῶν τε ἐλεημοσύνας πολλὰς τῷ λαῷ
G846 **gave** **which** **alms** **much** G4160 G5037 G1654 G4183 G3588 **to the people** G2992

καὶ δεόμενος τοῦ θεοῦ διαπαντός
and **prayed** G2532 G1189 G3588 **God** **always** G2316 G1275

Additional Cross-References

Acts 10:4 (Prayer): And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

Acts 10:22 (References God): And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Acts 10:35 (Parallel theme): But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Acts 13:16 (References God): Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

Acts 10:7 (Parallel theme): And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

Acts 8:2 (Parallel theme): And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

Revelation 15:4 (Parallel theme): Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Acts 13:26 (References God): Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

Acts 18:8 (Parallel theme): And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

Daniel 6:16 (References God): Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.