

Acts 10:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Analysis

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons—Peter's declaration marks epochal shift: salvation is offered to Gentiles without requiring Jewish conversion. The phrase 'no respecter of persons' (οὐκ ἔστιν προσωπολήπτης) means God shows no partiality based on ethnicity, status, or religious pedigree. The vision of clean/unclean animals (vv.9-16) and the Spirit's directive (vv.19-20) forced Peter beyond Jewish exclusivism. **I perceive** (καταλαμβάνομαι) indicates fresh realization—Peter grasps truth he should have known from Scripture but required supernatural intervention to accept.

Historical Context

Spoken in Cornelius' Caesarea home after Peter's rooftop vision (vv.9-16) broke down dietary laws and Jewish-Gentile separation. Peter, a strict Jew, initially resisted entering a Gentile house (v.28), but the Spirit's prompting overcame cultural taboos. This moment foreshadowed the Jerusalem Council's decision (Acts 15) to accept Gentile believers without circumcision. Cornelius was a Roman centurion, God-fearing but uncircumcised.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What cultural or traditional barriers prevent you from recognizing God's impartiality?
2. How does God challenge your assumptions about who is 'acceptable' for salvation?

Interlinear Text

Ἀνοίξας	δὲ	Πέτρος	τὸ	στόμα	εἶπεν	Ἐπ	ἀληθείας
opened	Then	Peter	G3588	his mouth	and said	Of	a truth
G455	G1161	G4074		G4750	G2036	G1909	G225
καταλαμβάνομαι	ὅτι	οὐκ	ἔστιν	προσωπολήπτης	ὁ	θεός	
I perceive	that	no	is	respector of persons	G3588	God	
G2638	G3754	G3756	G2076	G4381		G2316	

Additional Cross-References

Romans 2:11 (References God): For there is no respect of persons with God.

2 Chronicles 19:7 (References God): Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

Deuteronomy 10:17 (References God): For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

Colossians 3:25 (Parallel theme): But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Job 34:19 (Parallel theme): How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor? for they all are the work of his hands.

Ephesians 6:9 (Parallel theme): And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Luke 20:21 (References God): And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly:

1 Peter 1:17 (Parallel theme): And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

James 2:9 (Parallel theme): But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

Colossians 3:11 (Parallel theme): Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.