

## I. HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

- A. A little boy asked his dad, "Dad, what's a man?"The father thought for a moment and said, "A man is someone who is responsible, works hard, takes care of his family, and puts others before himself."The boy nodded and said, "Someday I hope I can be a man just like Mom!"

## II. GODLY FATHER'S ARE LIKE OAK TREES

- A. Imagine a large oak tree standing strong through decades of storms. Everyone admires the visible strength of the tree, but few ever see the root system beneath the ground. The roots quietly draw nourishment, provide stability, and sustain life. In many homes, a praying and God fearing father is like those hidden roots.
- B. Godly fathers are among God's greatest instruments of spiritual influence. Through their hidden lives of prayer, faithful obedience, and devotion to Christ, they shape their wives, children, and the spiritual atmosphere of their homes. Their influence extends beyond their families into their communities, leaving a legacy of faith that can impact generations and, in God's purposes, even help shape nations for His Kingdom.

## III. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND OF ACTS 10

- A. Acts 10 is one of the most important chapters in the entire book of Acts because it marks the official opening of the gospel to the Gentile world. Up to this point, the church was primarily Jewish in makeup, and many Jewish believers still struggled to understand the full scope of God's plan to save people from every nation.
- B. The setting of the book of Acts records the fulfillment of Jesus' charge and commission to His church to go into all the world with the life transforming message of the gospel of the Kingdom. He promises that He would provide the power and anointing to do it successfully.
  - 1. ***<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. -Matt 28:19-20***

**2. "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." — Acts 1:8**

- C. Before Acts 10, the gospel spread first in Jerusalem, where 3,000 people were saved on the Day of Pentecost. It then moved into Samaria, where God used Philip to preach Christ and bring great joy to the entire city. Now, in Acts 10, the gospel breaks through to the Gentile world, marking the beginning of its expansion to the ends of the earth in fulfillment of Jesus' commission in Acts 1:8.
- D. Acts 10 stands as one of the great pivot points of Scripture. It marks the moment when the gospel breaks through cultural and ethnic barriers and begins its expansion to the Gentile nations.
- E. Remarkably, at the center of this historic moment is a praying father named Cornelius. God used one God-fearing man and his household as the doorway through which the gospel would move powerfully into the nations, advancing Christ's commission to make disciples of all peoples.

**IV. ACTS 10:1-4 & 44-48**

- 1. ***There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, <sup>2</sup> a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. <sup>3</sup> About <sup>1</sup>the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"<sup>4</sup> And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.***
- 2. ***<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And <sup>1</sup>those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup> "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>***

***And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.  
Then they asked him to stay a few days.***

## **V. WHO WAS CORNELIOUS?**

- A. Cornelius was a Roman centurion (a captain) in Caesarea and a devout, God-fearing man known for his prayer, generosity, and spiritual leadership in his home. His sincere pursuit of God led to a divine encounter through which he and his household heard the gospel, believed in Christ, received the Holy Spirit, and were baptized.
- B. Cornelius' life before God and his conversion marked a pivotal moment in Acts and even known history as God opened the door of salvation to the Gentile nations and demonstrated that He shows no partiality.

## **VI. GODLY CHARACTERISTICS OF A FATHER IN CORNELIOUS**

- A. Before coming to faith in Christ, Cornelius stands out as one of the most remarkable and God-fearing individuals in the book of Acts. Acts 10 highlights the character, devotion, and spiritual hunger that prepared him for a divine encounter with God and ultimately led him to hear and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. What makes Cornelius unique is that he was not a prophet, priest, apostle, or pastor. He was a military officer, husband, hard working father, and head of a household who simply feared God, prayed faithfully, gave generously, and led his family toward the Lord. God used that ordinary faithfulness to change the course of redemptive history.

## **VII. 10 CHARACTERISTICS OF A GODLY EFFECTIVE FATHER**

### **1. HE WAS DEVOUT**

- a) ***"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius... a devout man" -Acts 10:1-2***

(1) The word "devout" speaks of a sincere commitment to God. Cornelius was serious about his spiritual life and sought to honor God in how he lived.

### **2. HE FEARED GOD**

- a) ***"one who feared God with all his household"-Acts 10:2***

(1) Cornelius had a deep reverence and respect for God. His faith was not merely intellectual; it affected how he led his family and ordered his life.

(2) Cornelius influenced his family and servants toward the fear of God. His faith extended beyond himself and impacted those under his care.

### 3. HE WAS A WISE BUILDER OF HIS HOME

#### a) ***"with all his household"-Acts 10:2***

(1) Cornelius was living out the very principles Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount.

(a) <sup>24</sup> ***"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock-Mt 7:24***

(2) Cornelius is an example that the wisest fathers are the ones who prioritize seeking the face of God

(a) ***"Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches."- Proverbs 24:3-4***

### 4. HE WAS GENEROUS

#### a) ***"who gave alms generously to the people"- Acts 10:2***

(1) Cornelius demonstrated compassion through practical generosity. His faith expressed itself in tangible acts of kindness and mercy.

### 5. HE WAS A MAN OF PRAYER

#### a) ***"and prayed to God always."-Acts 10:2***

(1) Prayer was not an occasional activity, but a consistent lifestyle. Cornelius knew that the

key to leading his family was connecting with God.

6. HE WAS FAITHFUL AND CONSISTENT

a) ***The angel told him: "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God."-Acts 10:4***

(1) His prayers and generosity were not isolated acts but a pattern of faithfulness that God took notice of.

b) *The word "memorial" carries old testament meaning regarding priestly sacrifices that came before God as a remembrance and a pleasing aroma.*

7. HE WAS HUMBLE AND TEACHABLE

a) When God instructed him to send for Peter, Cornelius obeyed immediately. He did not argue, delay, or resist God's direction.

8. HE VALUED GOD'S WORD IN HIS LIFE

a) ***"Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."- Acts 10:33***

9. HE WAS OBEDIENT

a) Throughout the chapter, Cornelius responds promptly to God's instructions. Obedience was a hallmark of his life.

10. HE WAS RESPECTED

a) ***"Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews"-Acts 10:22***

(1) As a Roman centurion, Cornelius held significant authority, yet he used his influence to bring others into the presence of God and the hearing of the gospel.

## **VIII. HISTORICAL EXAMPLE OF LEGACY**

- A. One of the most well-known examples of a godly father's influence is Jonathan Edwards, the great preacher of the First Great Awakening. Edwards was devoted to Christ, led his family in worship, and faithfully shepherded his home. Generations later, researchers found that his descendants included pastors, missionaries, educators, judges, and other influential leaders. By contrast, the descendants of Max Jukes, a man who rejected God and lived recklessly, reflected a very different legacy and only had a family line of destruction and brokenness.
1. The greatest inheritance a father can leave his children is not wealth, possessions, or success, but a legacy of faith and prayer.
  2. Father's of King's House what legacy are you leaving?