

SAVED LIKE THE CENTURION

Acts 10:1-48

The salvation of the gentiles merits serious attention.

I. THE CENTURION WAS SAVED BECAUSE SALVATION IS FOR ALL

A. Acts 11:1-18

Cornelius was the first gentile, that is the first non-Jew, to receive Christ's salvation. Peter was summoned to his fellow apostles to defend his decision to go to a gentile's home and preach and they reached the conclusion that God had extended salvation beyond the house of Israel.

B. Acts 10:28, 34-36

Peter was saying the same thing when he was in Caesarea – that God was revealing to him the universal application of the gospel.

C. Romans 1:16; 10:12

It is a core tenet of the doctrine of Christ that any soul, regardless of ethnic background, can be saved.

D. Matthew 28:16-20

It was Christ's plan that "*all the nations*" become His disciples.

II. THE CENTURION GATHERED HIS LOVED ONES TO BE SAVED

A. Acts 10:24, 27; 11:14

When Cornelius knew salvation was coming, he brought together the people he loved

B. Acts 16:14-15, 33-34; 18:8; John 1:35-36, 40-41

It was not unusual for whole families to be converted together during the first century. It shouldn't be now, either. Peter Himself was brought to Jesus by his brother Andrew.

C. John 4:28, 39-42; 1:43-45

The woman at the well brought her Samaritan neighbors to the Messiah. Philip told Nathanael about Jesus.

III. THE CENTURION LEARNED NOT TO WORSHIP ANY MAN

A. **Acts 10:25-26**

Peter refused to let Cornelius worship him, period.

B. **Acts 14:8-18**

On another occasion, Paul and Barnabas were thought by certain idolaters to be gods and they did everything they could to restrain them from offering sacrifice.

C. **Acts 12:20-23**

When Herod let people laud him as divine, he was struck dead immediately.

IV. THE CENTURION WAS SAVED AFTER HEARING A MAN PREACH

A. **Acts 10:5-6, 33; 11:14**

Notwithstanding the dispatch of an angel to Cornelius, a vision beheld by Peter in a trance, and the Holy Spirit directly telling Peter to go, Cornelius needed to hear a man speak words in order to be saved!

B. **Acts 22:6-10, 16**

Similarly, Saul of Tarsus, AKA the apostle Paul, was surrounded by a blinding light from heaven and heard the voice of Jesus of Nazareth speaking to him, yet he needed to go into the city of Damascus to be told what to do – namely, to be baptized.

C. **Romans 10:14-17**

God uses human agency to proclaim the gospel and thereby save sinners. He is not saving souls through direct intervention.

V. THE CENTURION WAS SAVED THROUGH WATER BAPTISM

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

Although Cornelius and his family and friends experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Peter still commanded them to be baptized in water.

B. Acts 11:15-18

Cornelius and his household received the baptism of the Holy Spirit for the explicit purpose of demonstrating that gentiles could be saved. This baptism was not at all a common occurrence; indeed Peter could only compare it to what happened to him and his fellow apostles “*at the beginning,*” meaning the day of Pentecost. Evidently, it had not happened in the interim.

C. Hebrews 6:1-2; Ephesians 4:4-6

There were several baptisms referred to in Scripture, but only one is essential.

D. 1st Peter 3:18-21

Baptism is salvation through water.