**God Sees and Responds**

*At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort,****2****a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.****3****About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.”****4****And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.****5****And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.****6****He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.”****7****When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him,****8****and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.*

***9****The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.****10****And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance****11****and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth.****12****In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.****13****And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.”****14****But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.”****15****And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.”****16****This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven. (Acts 10:1-16, ESV)*

God sees our need and answers accordingly. Greetings in the Lord on this first Sunday of November as we talk about God’s *modus operandi[[1]](#footnote-1)* once again. God is omniscient, all-seeing, and His answers to our prayers are based on His own plans and not our short-sighted and limited whims. Today we’re going to talk about His vision and the answers He gives based on it. The Lord’s standards and logic are different and function on a higher level than ours. This is why we are called to use faith when we read Scripture and meditate on it. Again, I want to stress that God answers according to the need that He sees we have. Let’s dive into the passage for a few minutes…

God the Father knows better than us about what we need. God saw what was going on with Cornelius. He was a foreigner, not a part of Israel and yet devout or pious, but not to the point of being considered a full participant in the life of the synagogue. It seemed by his behavior that he understood the heart of the Law of Moses. His primary deeds of note were acts of mercy and prayer. His piety had affected his household, too. When God took note of the above, He sent him an angel to invite Him to the path of salvation (indirectly through Peter). We see that Cornelius obeyed the heavenly messenger immediately and sent three people to search for Peter and bring him to Cornelius’ house. He sent them despite knowing that Peter was a Jew and Jews did not step into Gentile homes.

In the meantime, we see that God’s love was not one-sided, but rather also working on the Apostle’s side too. Since the Lord saw Cornelius’ situation, He saw it fit that the centurion would become the means by which the Gentile world would begin to know God through Christ. Through God’s vision given to Peter, he learns that God has made all animals clean to eat and no longer considered them defiling. However, after those three messengers would arrive where Peter was staying, he would understand the meaning of the vision – that it was not just about food, but also about people. God knew Cornelius’ need – which was salvation. Cornelius needed emancipation, and not the slavery of the Law of Moses.

God knows your need better than you yourself do. We are called to ask God to give us what He sees as best for us. It may be that you are praying for success at work today, but God sees that this job is not a good fit for you. Or it may be that you are praying for your family member for God to open his or her eyes, but meanwhile, God want you to come out of your own blindness Maybe we want a victory, but the Lord sees that humility and a humbling experience is better for us. Perhaps we want a specific answer to prayer, but we do not receive it because we have not surrendered certain heart-deep convictions to Him.

Because of the above, when it comes to us, it is extremely important that we trust in God’s omniscience. It may be that you are not the problem, but your family member, your neighbor, or your distant relative is. May God lead us and enlighten us regarding all the above, so that we may obey God’s vision just as Peter did and also accept God’s intervention in our lives like Cornelius, if we are on the receiving end of ministry.

God sees and responds to each of us according to our needs, but it is up to us to trust Him, to obey Him when He gives us guidance. He knows better than we do as to what we need, and He answers us accordingly. The Lord bless you all. Amen.

1. His method of working [↑](#footnote-ref-1)