

Perfect Vision
Acts 10:1 – 11:18
By Tom Taylor

Cornelius was an officer in the army of Rome
A good, God-fearing man...Caesarea, his home
An angel dropped by...said, "Good News for you"
The Lord's heard your prayers, here's what you do

Send men to Joppa, to the home of Simon the tanner
Simon the tanner, who lives there by the sea
There, they will find a man called Peter
Who will tell you what to do, and what is to be

The angel departed, Cornelius got started
And sent men to Joppa straight-away
They arrived the next day, right about noon
When Peter'd gone up to the open roof to pray

Extremely hungry, waiting for lunch,
Simon Peter fell into a trance
Simply because he was tired and hungry?
No – oh, no . . . Not a chance....

He saw the heavens open –
And a large sheet come down
Full of all sorts of animals Jews couldn't eat
A voice said, "Peter, kill one of the animals"
Enjoy yourself...give yourself a treat

Peter said, Lord, *You know* **this** Jew has never
Eaten anything common, or anything unclean!
The Voice said, when God makes something clean
You don't call it otherwise –
You understand what I mean!?

This exchange took place three times...
Then the sheet rolled up and went away
Peter “came-to” confused about . . .
The vision’s meaning and . . . What it’d had to say

The men from Cornelius were at the gate
The Holy Spirit said Don’t make them wait –
“I have sent to you these righteous men
Don’t hesitate to go with them.”

Peter went down, greeted the men
Learned of Cornelius...invited them in
Next morning, the men, Peter –
 and some of his Believer friends
Continued their role in demonstrating
How God’s love is Universal . . . and never ends

They arrived the next day
Cornelius ran up to Peter and then bowed down
“Stand up – I’m just a man ..” said Peter
With, perhaps, a trace of a frown....

For Peter – virtually all Believers then – was a Jew
And Cornelius, Family and Friends ... were not
Peter had never even been in a Gentile’s home
He was a tad uncomfortable,
 . . . if not to say downright ‘hot’

But he looked around the home, saw others there
To hear his message from Almighty God
And he was going to share what God shared with him
Though some would surely think it “odd” -

He didn’t care what others thought...
He cared only how his Lord would feel
He wanted every one in that room to know
That The Gospel Truth is REAL!

He tho't of *the sheet* and just what it meant
And God's message began to come clear:
And Peter embraced the reality –
That, yes – even Gentiles
 . . . were precious . . . and dear

He told them God had revealed to him that
He'd opened the door, called other nations to Him
The Message given to Israel: Christ is the Lord of all
Is the message Peter shared with them!

He told them of Jesus...the miracles
Jewish leaders who killed Him
How God raised Him from the dead, and then –
He said, "Everyone who puts his faith in Jesus
Will receive forgiveness of sin."

INSTANTLY, **every** person in the room
Was filled with the Holy Spirit
Jews were shocked the Gentiles're included
But the clamor and the rejoicing –
Can't you just hear it!?

Pete said, "Any reason th' folks can't be baptized?"
Ain't nobody there 'at said "No, for shame!"
And ev-er-y Gentile in that most blessed room
Was baptized in the Lord Jesus' name!