

Maturity Demands We Don't Panic

August 29, 2021

Text: Acts 10:1

I. The Temptation To Panic After a Spiritual Encounter (Acts 10:1-8)

- At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. 2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. 3 One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"
- **4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.** The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. 5 Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. 6 He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."
- 7 When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. 8 He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

II. The Temptation To Panic After Some Unusual Instructions Acts 10:9-13; 19-20 (NIV)

- **9** About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. 10 He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 11 He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. 12 It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds.
- 13 Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."
- 19 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you.
- 20 So get up and go downstairs. **Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.**"

Question: How well do you manage unusual seasons that you never expected?

III. Cornelius Temptation To Panic When He Met Peter (Acts 10:25-26)

25 As Peter entered the house, **Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence.** 26 But Peter made him get up. “Stand up,” he said, “I am only a man myself.”

IV. Peter Refused To Panic and Chose To Embrace a New Season Acts 10:44–48 (NIV)

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit came on all who heard** the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. 46 **For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.** Then Peter said,

47 “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Closing Question: Are you panicking?

Closing Suggestion: Remember what Jesus said about your life Matthew 6:25–27 (NIV)

- 25 “Therefore I tell you, **do not worry about your life**, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”
- 26 **Look at the birds** of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”
- 27 **Can any one of you** by worrying add a single hour to your life?”
- 34 **Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.**

Next Time: We will explore the importance of being confident and doing the work that is necessary to succeed.

Read Ahead: James 1:2-8