

Question: According to Peter's testimony, what did the Holy Spirit specifically do, in order to lead Peter and the church to accept the Gentile Cornelius and his house into the Jewish community of believers?

Acts 11:1 The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. *2* So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him *3* and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

Acts 11:4 Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened: *5* "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. *6* I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. *7* Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

Acts 11:8 "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

Acts 11:9 "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' *10* This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

Acts 11:11 "Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. *12* The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house.

Acts 11:13 He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. *14* He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

Acts 11:15 "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. *16* Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

Acts 11:17 So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?" *18* When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."