



The Indispensability of Human Connection

“He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius” (Acts 10:3).

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“... now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter... he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do” (Acts 10:5-6).

“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, 2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. 3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. 4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. 5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: 6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do” (Acts 10:1-6).

God can do everything by Himself alone, but often chooses to involve human beings as co-labourers - “workers together with him” (2 Corinthians 6:1). This is clearly illustrated in our study text:

- 1) It is quite phenomenal for a man to see an angel. The prayers and alms giving of Cornelius had caught the attention of God, who wanted to bless him with Salvation. Interestingly, the only message the angel delivered to him was to send for Peter, a fellow human being!
- 2) This begs the question - why should a pious man who had just had an angelic visitation still need a human being to show him what to do? Couldn't the angel tell him what to do? This reveals an important principle of God, which some people often miss to their destruction - the indispensability of the human connection.
- 3) Cornelius had operated as a solo religious person whose prayers and deeds pleased God, but God was not satisfied to have him as a solo religious island or tree, therefore he decided to connect him to His spiritual family. “God setteth the solitary in families” (Psalm 68:6). It is important to remember that **a tree does not make a forest, and an island does not make a world**. It is for this reason that God established the body ministry in Ephesians 4:11-15 “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 **For the perfecting of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith,

and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ”.

- 4) Those who separate themselves into solo spiritual living are described in Jude 1:19 as “... **sensual, having not the Spirit**”. It is not a true godly spirituality to be a lone ranger.

God repeated this principle in other scriptures to emphasise the message of the significance of the human connection for our spiritual growth and destiny, as per these examples:

- 1) When God called young Samuel, He did not disclose Himself as God because He left Samuel's training to recognize God's voice to Eli (1 Samuel 3:9). You will always need a human being to know God to the right level that you should. Refusing the ministry of human beings is rejecting divine provision to knowing God.
- 2) Jesus taught in John 10:27 that “My sheep hear my voice....” A fold consists of both sheep and lambs. So, if the sheep hear His voice what of the lambs? The answer is that the lambs are to follow the biddings of the sheep till they grow up to know the voice of the shepherd by themselves. This is why God promised in Jeremiah 3:15 “... **I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding**”.
- 3) Saul had a spectacular encounter with Jesus on his road to Damascus (Acts 9). He got converted and submitted to Christ. Whilst praying in blindness, God sent Ananias to restore his sight and disciple him. So, after Saul had encountered Jesus, he still needed the ministry of a man - “Ananias” to fulfil his purpose and mission on earth! And so do you!