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***“In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment.  He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God.” ~Acts 10:1-2***

This passage tells us that Cornelius prayed regularly. He was devoted to God, and it showed. He was generous to those in need. His spiritual life was such a powerful example that all those in his household were also devoted, God-fearing individuals. God was so pleased with this man’s quiet life of prayer, that he sent an angel with a message to speak to him. He also sent Peter to be a witness of the gospel to him. Cornelius was so excited to hear the message that God was sending to him through Peter, that he called together all his family and friends so that they could hear it too.

How often do you pray? Is your prayer life sporadic? If someone were observing your life, would they describe you as devout and God-fearing? When was the last time that you got so excited to hear the word of God preached that you not only went to hear it, you invited your family and friends to come along as well?

As I write this, I feel convicted. Although I pray, my prayers aren’t always the most selfless or regular. I doubt if others would describe me as devout and God-fearing either, especially if they could see me lose my temper. Often as I roll out of bed on a Sunday morning, I’m thinking more about my Sunday afternoon nap than I am about the message that I’m going to hear that day. I’ve grown complacent.

We should take a lesson from Cornelius. He was in a secular world and vocation, yet he made God the center of his life. This man was a Roman and a Gentile; he wasn’t brought up in the church, and yet he believed. He believed with all his heart. God was important to him. His commands were important to him. Many of us have grown up in a Christian home. We’ve heard the gospel since we were small. Unfortunately, it has become background noise. It’s there, and we might miss it if it were gone, but we rarely listen to it anymore, and we certainly don’t get excited enough to encourage our friends and loved ones to listen.

We need to renew our devotion. Get our prayer life back on track. We need to let the good news excite us so much that we can’t help but tell everyone!