

**Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?  
(Baptism of the Lord, Year ABC)**

**Acts 10:34-38—Peter Preaches about the Baptism of Jesus**

<sup>34</sup> And Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I perceive that *God shows no partiality,*  
<sup>35</sup> *but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.*  
<sup>36</sup> You know the word which he sent to the sons of Israel, preaching good news of peace  
by Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup> the word which was proclaimed throughout all  
Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: <sup>38</sup> how God  
anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about  
doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. (Acts  
10:34-38)

1. Cornelius: the centurion, a “devout man who feared God” (Acts 10:2)
2. Peter’s Vision: the unclean “animals”: “Rise, Peter, kill and eat” (Acts 10:13)
3. Holy Spirit: poured out upon the Gentiles, even *before* they are baptized! (Acts 10:44-48)

**The Living Tradition**

Catechism: *The Lord himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation. He also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and to baptize them. Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament. The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude; this is why she takes care not to neglect the mission she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are “reborn of water and the Spirit.” God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments. (CCC 1257)*

**Questions for Discussion and Reflection (Baptism of the Lord, Year A)**

1. What is the wider context in Acts 10 of Peter’s statement that “God shows no partiality, but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him” (Acts 10:34)?

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2. Is Baptism necessary for salvation? What does the Catechism say?

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**For Further Study**

1. Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*. New York: Doubleday, 2007. Pp. 9-24.