

PETER DEFENDS GOD’S GRACE – WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE BAPTIZED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT? -- ACTS 11:1-18

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Acts Chapter 11:1-18

In this chapter we learn of **the relationship between believers in Jerusalem (a Jewish church) and the new Gentile disciples**. Keep in mind that the Jerusalem church’s problem is not prejudice but rather a misunderstanding of the purposes of God. The OT understanding of God’s program was that of an earthly kingdom which would bless the Gentiles through the reign of Israel’s Messiah. But the nation had rejected Christ and His kingdom; did this mean that the Gentiles could not be saved? Must they first become Jewish proselytes? Peter’s experience at Caesarea (Act 10:1-48) and Paul’s revelation of “*the mystery of the church*” (Eph 3:1-21) **helped to answer these questions. Both experiences proved that both Jew and Gentile stand condemned before God and can be saved only through faith in Jesus Christ.**

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE BAPTIZED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

INTRODUCTION: The Baptism by the Holy Spirit:

1. There is **no evidence** that the baptism of the Holy Spirit happened **before** the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. – There are no verses that say that the baptism occurred in the Old Testament. Problem of John 20:19-23 – cf. - Acts 1:5 – When? Before or on the Day of Pentecost?

Statements of Matthew 3:11-12; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16-17; John 1:33-34; Acts 1:4-5 indicate that it is **still future**.

2. Jesus Christ is the One Who baptizes you with the Holy Spirit – Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33

3. It happened to other Christians **on other occasions besides the Day of Pentecost** – Acts 10:44-48; cf. - Acts 11:15-17; Acts 8:14-17; 19:1-7

4. It is a **fulfillment of prophecy** - Ezekiel 36:27; 39:29; Isaiah 32:15; Joel 2:28-29; Zechariah 12:10
Eze 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Eze 39:29 And I will not hide My face from them anymore; **for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,** says the Lord GOD."

Isa 32:15 *Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, And the fruitful field is counted as a forest.*

“WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE BAPTIZED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT”? - Acts 11:1-18

This is a **subject that is frequently discussed!** There seems to be **much confusion** in the Christian community.

Mat. 3:11 *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

Believers are baptized by Jesus with the Holy Spirit. Unbelievers are baptized by Jesus into the fire of His judgment.

Acts 11:15-17 *And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. [16] Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' [17] If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"*

Joel 2:28-29 *"And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. [29] And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.*

Zec. 12:10 *"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

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Act 11:1 Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

Act 11:2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, Act 11:3 saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"

Act 11:4 But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying:
Act 11:5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me.
Act 11:6 When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air.
Act 11:7 And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.'
Act 11:8 But I said, 'Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.'

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE BAPTIZED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

v. 1 "that the Gentiles had also received the word of God." - It means you are Born Again - "saved" – cf. - Acts 10:47; 11:1, 14, 17-18; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 4:4-5

It means you are a Member of the body of Christ, the Church – 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

All true believers, whether carnal or spiritual, have experienced it!

v. 3 "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!" - While some spoke in tongues when it happened (Acts 11:2, 10, 19), not everyone did (1 Corinthians 12:30)

It means the Holy Spirit presence is in your physical body and is affected by all that you do or say - 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Ephesians 4:30-32; James 4:4-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

v. 4 "Peter explained it to them in order" - It means that you have power to witness" – Acts 1:4-8; 4:31-33 – cf. - Luke 24:47-49

vs. 4-10 - Here we see the first of four divine events that broke down the Jews only tradition that was held by Peter. – Divine vision!

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Act 11:9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, 'What God has cleansed you must not call common.'

Act 11:10 Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven.

Act 11:11 At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea.

Act 11:12 Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

Act 11:13 And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter,

Act 11:14 who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.'

v. 11-12 - Here we see the **second of four divine events that broke down the Jews only tradition** that was held by Peter. – Divine command!

v. 13-14 - Here we see the **third of four divine events that broke down the Jews only tradition** that was held by Peter. – Divine preparation!

Questions:

1. Do you think was anyone baptized with the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament? Were there any believers in the Old Testament?
2. When did the first baptism of the Holy Spirit occur? To primarily what race of people?
3. Do you believe that you can be baptized with the Holy Spirit by the Holy Spirit? If not then who is the baptizer? (*Mt. 3:11*)
4. At what point in the saving process does a new believer receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? How do we know?
5. Is there a difference between receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit and being filled to overflowing by the Holy Spirit?
6. Do all Christians speak in tongues? Can you see how that subject is very divisive?
7. Explain how Acts chapter 11 demonstrates Jesus's statement that *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*
8. Did being a devout, God fearing, upright, sincere and generous man, result in Cornelius' salvation? Explain

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Act 11:15 *And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.*

Act 11:16 *Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'*

Act 11:17 *If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"*

Act 11:18 *When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."*

Luk 24:25 *Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!*

Luk 24:26 *Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"*

Luk 24:27 *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

INTERPRETATION

v. 15-17 - Here we see the **third of four divine events that broke down the Jews only tradition** that was held by Peter. – **Divine action!**

We see here that although Cornelius was a devout, God fearing, upright, sincere and generous man, **he still needed to hear the gospel! He needed to repent! To believe in Jesus! Only then did God in His grace save him, give him forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Spirit and life and purify his heart by faith.** Moreover, only then was he baptized and thus visibly and publicly received into the **Christian community.**

The **essence of the story** is that from a negative standpoint, **God shows no partiality or favoritism** and makes **no distinction between races**, and from a positive standpoint, **He gave and gives the same Spirit to all alike, not irrespective of faith, but irrespective of circumcision.**

Sweet Hour of Prayer – Sandy Patti

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

That calls me from a world of care,/ And bids me at my Father's throne. Make all my wants and wishes known./In seasons of distress and grief./ My soul has often found relief./ And oft escaped the tempter's snare./ By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

I Need Thee Every Hour

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;

no tender voice like thine can peace afford.

Refrain: I need thee, O I need thee;/every hour I need thee;

O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

Just as I am, Without one Plea

Just as I am, without one plea,

Just as I am, without one plea,

but that thy blood was shed for me,

and that thou bidst me come to thee,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Turn Your Eyes on Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,

Look full in His wonderful face,

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,

In the light of His glory and grace. (3X)

APPLICATION

Day of Pentecost: - Act 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come,... Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Following Peter's first sermon: - Act 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, **have crucified, and put to death;** Act 2:24 **whom God raised up**, havin loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be g held by it. Act 2:38 Then Peter said to them, **"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** Act 2:39 **For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."** Act 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Following Peter's second sermon: - Act 3:15 and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. Act 3:19 **Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,** Act 4:4 However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

Philip to the Samaritans: - Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Peter and John to them...Act 8:15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. Act 8:16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Act 8:17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Eunuch's Conversion in Gaza: - Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Act 8:36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Act 8:37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Act 8:38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Saul's Conversion: - Act 9:17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Cornelius/Gentiles Conversion: - Act 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. Act 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, Act 10:47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" Act 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

These things in common: - The Gospel message; Repentance; Believing – Receiving Salvation; Receiving the Holy Spirit