

Gentiles Received the Spirit

Acts 10:37-48

Good morning,

Ever since Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on believers for the first time, many have asked the question, “*Now, after Pentecost, when does a person receive the Holy Spirit?*”

Paul told **all believers** in Corinth that they had the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. NKJV

Paul also said in ***Ephesians 1:13, In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,***

Ephesians 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. NKJV

If a Christian does not receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation, *how could the Holy Spirit seal a believer?*

Please open your Bibles to the ***Book of Acts 10...***

Last week, we learned about Peter meeting Cornelius face-to-face and explaining to him exactly who Jesus is.

We learned that only the LORD is worthy of worship, not angels or other people, but the LORD alone.

We also learned how we should show people respect and honor because their souls are valuable to the LORD. But today, we tend to value things and act indifferently towards people.

Peter arrived at Cornelius' house and gave testimony of the vision he received from the LORD. Jesus is the only way to heaven, and Jesus is also the key to the Kingdom!

Everyone alive will someday give an account to the Lord Jesus Christ for the question, "***But who do you say that I am?***"

Today, we will hear how Peter taught about the three types of New Testament baptisms, how the Gentiles were filled with the Spirit after they believed, and **then** they were Water Baptized.

I. God was with Jesus.

Read *Acts 10:37-39*

Peter started his sermon by telling his listeners how they themselves had heard the report about Jesus, which was known everywhere about His ministry, His miracles, and His baptism.

Jesus' ministry happened throughout Judea, beginning at Galilee. We can read about Jesus' first public miracle in ***John 2***, turning the water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine revealed the power of God to change the nature of things He Himself had created.

Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine also gave a solid lesson about how nothing the Lord does is haphazard.

Here, Peter was telling these Gentiles that they had previously heard the report about Jesus' ministry and His miracles.

Galilee was not that far from Caesarea, so Cornelius and his family had to of heard about these things.

Notice, “*After the baptism which John preached.*”

Jesus began His public ministry right after John preached the baptism of repentance.

John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, which was a representation of a change of mind and going in a new direction.

John's baptism demonstrated a recognition of sin, a desire for spiritual cleansing, and a commitment to follow God's law in **anticipation** of the Messiah's arrival.

As a side note, the ***Gospel of Mark*** was written by John Mark, who told Peter's account of things. Mark begins at John's baptism and ends with the resurrection appearances of Christ.

Here in ***Acts 10***, Peter was retelling these very things to Cornelius and his guests.

Peter said, “***How God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and power,***” pointing back to the baptism of Christ and how the Holy Spirit descended upon Him as He came out of the water.

This was when the Father presented the Son to the world.

As Jesus healed people, cast out demons, and went around doing good, it was evident that **God** was with Him.

In *John 5*, as Jesus spoke to the religious leaders, He told them about the **five-fold** testimony that Jesus is who He claimed to be.

John 5:36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish, the very works that I do — bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

John 5:37 And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

John 5:38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.
NKJV

The **five-fold** testimony of Jesus: He testified of Himself, John the Baptist testified of Him, Jesus' miracles testified of Him, the testimony of the Father, and the testimony of the Word of God.

Then notice Peter said in vs. 39, “And **we** are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.”

Jesus was baptized, and the Holy Spirit fell on Him like a dove.

Jesus healed and delivered oppressed and sick people.

Jesus performed these miracles in the presence of many eyewitnesses. **And then, Jesus was crucified.**

Peter presented the person and work of Jesus Christ, and by faith in Him, they could obtain eternal life, because everyone needs to be saved by coming to a living faith in the living Jesus Christ.

II. The Risen Christ.

Read *Acts 10:40-43*

Peter continued his sermon, emphasizing the resurrection of Jesus. Peter gave the same message to the Gentiles, he didn't have one sermon for the Jews and another one for the Gentiles.

Here, Peter wanted these Gentiles to know that Jesus was resurrected from the dead, in the presence of many witnesses.

Peter also wanted them to know that Jesus commanded His followers to preach the message of who He is and what He did.

The Resurrection of Christ is **proof** that Jesus is who He said He is. If Jesus had only died, He would be no different than other religious leaders who have died.

Jesus rose again, proving that He provided us with righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. NKJV

Jesus took our punishment on the Cross, yet remained a perfect Savior, even as our **sin** was poured out on Him.

Why did Jesus need to be raised from the dead?

Romans 4:25 (He) was delivered up because of our offenses and was raised because of (FOR) our justification. NKJV

John Walvoord, *"The resurrection is stated as proof of the efficiency of Christ's death. Having accomplished redemption by His death, Jesus Christ was raised because of our justification."*

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. NKJV

Next notice, ***"Even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead."***

I believe Peter mentioned eating for a couple of reasons:

Peter mentioned eating because during the vision he received, he was told not to call unclean what God had cleansed.

Peter mentioned eating because Jesus' resurrection was an authentic bodily resurrection from the dead, not just a spiritual resurrection as the Gnostics of his day taught.

1 Corinthians 15:5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:6 After that, He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:7 After that, He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. NKJV

Then notice Peter said, “***He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.***”

Peter declared that all people, alive or dead, will be judged.

Paul said in ***2 Corinthians 5:10, For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, NKJV***

When it comes to being judged by Jesus, there is a specific judgment for those who have received the free gift of salvation through Christ, and a separate judgment for those who refuse.

Our salvation was paid for by Christ's dying on the Cross for us.

Today we must completely trust in, *i.e.*, place our faith in, His sacrifice to be saved.

The judgment seat of Christ, or the Bema seat, is where God rewards us for the service we do here on earth for the Lord. We will be rewarded based on how faithfully we have served Christ.

For the child of God, the Bema Seat Judgment is where the works we did in the flesh are burned up, and the works we did empowered by the Holy Spirit will be tested with fire.

Christians are not judged for sins because their sins are forgiven and remembered no more.

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." NKJV

The Great White Throne Judgment is the final judgment prior to the lost being cast into the lake of fire. (***Revelation 20:11-15***)

The Great White Throne Judgment is for anyone who **refuses** Jesus' free gift of salvation and chooses to stand before God in their own righteousness, without the forgiveness of sin.

Why was Jesus ordained to judge the living and the dead?

Because Jesus not only gave the **conditions** to be saved, but He was also the One who paid the price for our salvation.

Acts 10:43, To Him all the prophets witness. NKJV

Jesus said in ***Luke 24:44, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." NKJV***

All of the prophets of the Old Testament spoke about Christ.

The entire Old Testament is a lesson leading up to the Cross, and the New Testament is the history of Christ preparing for the Cross and then the formation of the Church.

Notice Peter ends his short sermon with **vs. 43, "Whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."**

Whoever believes! Jew or Gentile; slave or free; rich or poor

The Gospel message in a nutshell is found in

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. NKJV

The fact that the Only, Almighty, Creator God of the universe would die for the sins of those He created goes beyond reason.

Not only did He die, but He died a criminal's death on a Cross. Whoever will **trust** in what Jesus did on the Cross and believe He is who He said He is, can inherit eternal life.

III. Gentiles filled with the Holy Spirit and baptized.

Read *Acts 10:44-48*

As Peter was finishing his sermon, the Holy Spirit fell on these believers.

As these Gentiles individually responded to the Gospel message, they believed in their hearts and had faith in Christ, so they were instantly born again as they heard the Word and believed.

An **invisible** transaction between these Gentiles and the LORD took place in their hearts, as they placed their faith in Jesus Christ, becoming born again.

Isn't it amazing that these believers didn't need someone to teach them how to receive the Holy Spirit?

They simply believed in Christ, and the Holy Spirit fell on them.

At the moment a person surrenders to the LORD and trusts in the work of Christ on the Cross, they are saved.

As the Holy Spirit interrupted Peter, Peter was sensitive enough to stop preaching, and he called for them to be water baptized.

Here in this account, their filling with the Holy Spirit was accompanied by the demonstration of spiritual gifts.

Some people say that the evidence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer comes with the demonstration of spiritual gifts every time, but that is not what happens every time in scripture.

Paul told all believers in Corinth that they had the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. NKJV

Later, Paul asked a rhetorical question...

1 Corinthians 12:30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? NKJV

In ***Acts 10***, this was a filling with the Holy Spirit showing He indwells and abides in every believer, and it was a special empowering with gifts and graces from the Holy Spirit.

Speaking in Tongues at the moment of salvation is not something commonly found throughout the ***Book of Acts*** or in other Christian experiences found within scripture.

This was a unique experience for these Gentile believers that the LORD used to bring Himself glory and to demonstrate to these Jewish believers that without a doubt, these Gentiles were saved.

But notice, “*Those of the circumcision who believed were astonished*”

The Jewish Christians who were watching this happen were amazed, as these Gentiles were **filled** with the Holy Spirit, demonstrating the fact that they were obviously saved.

Peter, proclaiming that these Gentiles were saved, said they had *received the Holy Spirit just as we have*.

“*He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.*”

Peter was declaring that these Gentile Christians were part of the Church since they received Christ as their Lord and Savior, so they should be water baptized as a public profession of faith.

gotquestions.org said, “*The Christian life is defined by the believer’s identification with Jesus Christ.*”

It is not enough to know that Jesus died for us; we must also understand that we died with Him. Because we died and were raised with Him, the power of sin over us is broken.”

If you have received Christ as your Lord and Savior, you should obey the Lord’s command and publicly profess your faith through a Believer’s or a Water Baptism.

Christ followers **identify** themselves with Christ.

After receiving the free gift of salvation, the first step of obedience for a Christian is to be baptized with a Believer's Baptism, showing a **commitment** to Jesus.

These Gentiles' obedience showed their full acceptance into the community of those who followed Jesus. i.e., their baptism showed they were accepted as Gentile followers of Jesus.

From the very beginning, the LORD promised Abraham that the blessing that came through him would extend to all nations.

Genesis 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

Genesis 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." NKJV

All people must come to Jesus as their Lord and Savior, put their trust in who Jesus is and what He did for them to be saved.

IV. Practical Application.

In the passage we studied today, we learned about the three types of baptism found within the New Testament.

Before the public ministry of Jesus began, John preached the baptism of repentance to the Jews and communicated that Jesus was going to come and baptize His followers with the Spirit.

Peter presented the person and work of Jesus Christ, and by faith in Him, these Gentiles received eternal life, because **everyone** needs to be saved by accepting the free gift from Jesus Christ.

Ever since Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on believers, many have asked the question, “*Now, after Pentecost, when does a person receive the Holy Spirit?*”

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Spirit Baptism serves as the basis for keeping the unity of the church and the basis for our power to spread the Gospel.

The Holy Spirit baptizes to make us part of the body of Christ, and He is our power source to share the Good News of Jesus.

After a believer is baptized with the Holy Spirit, they are to identify with Christ through water baptism.

Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

At the moment someone receives new life in Christ through faith, they receive the Holy Spirit.

Once the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of a Christian, He provides supernatural power to live for the Lord!

With the Holy Spirit in control, we display the *fruit of the Spirit*

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Galatians 5:23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. NKJV

The Baptism of the Spirit is not an esoteric unknowable thing, nor is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit something we earn or work hard to achieve a different level of.

We receive the Holy Spirit as a gift at the moment of salvation.

After the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are to **surrender** to the guiding of the Spirit moment by moment as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. NKJV

Someone once said, “*The seal is therefore the Holy Spirit Himself, and His presence in the believer denotes ownership and security.*”

The sealing with the Spirit is not an emotional feeling or some mysterious inward experience.”

The Holy Spirit is the only down payment we will receive for the glory we will fully have in heaven with Christ someday.

Jesus seals us with His Holy Spirit as a down payment and a promise that He who began the good work in you will **complete** it until the day of Christ.

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; NKJV

All this is done by Him and for Him ***to the praise of His glory.***

Jesus paid the price for our sins on the Cross, so we belong to Him!!!