

## **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (2)**

### **Acts 11:1-18**

#### **Introduction:**

- 1. Joel prophesied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-32).**
  - a. It would happen in “the last days.”**
  - b. It would come upon “all flesh.”**
  - c. Whoever “called upon the name of the Lord would be saved.”**
- 2. John promised One coming after him (Christ) would baptize in the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:7, 8).**
- 3. Jesus promised His apostles He would send a Helper to guide them into all truth (John 14, 15, 16).**
- 4. Jesus commanded the apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8).**
- 5. On Pentecost, the apostles were baptized in the Spirit (Acts 2:1-13).**
  - a. Peter said this was a fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy (Acts 2:14-21).**
  - b. He preached the Gospel for the first time (Acts 2:22-36).**
  - c. Three thousand were baptized and added to the church (Acts 2:37-47).**
- 6. The Spirit was to be poured out on “all flesh” (Acts 2:17).**
  - a. “All flesh” signified Jews and Gentiles.**
  - b. The Spirit was poured out on the apostles (Jews) on Pentecost.**
  - c. It had yet been poured out on the Gentiles.**
- 7. The household of Cornelius received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**
  - a. This fulfilled Joel’s prophecy of the Spirit coming on “all flesh.”**
  - b. They were the very first Gentiles to become Christians.**

#### **Discussion:**

- I. CORNELIUS WAS AN OUTSTANDING MAN.**
  - A. He was an officer in the Roman army (Acts 10:1).**
    - 1. A centurion had one hundred soldiers under his command.**
    - 2. Every centurion mentioned in the New Testament was a good man (Matt. 8:5-13; 27:54; Acts 27:1-3; 42,43).**
  - B. Cornelius was a religious man who believed in God (Acts 10:2).**
    - 1. He was a “devout” man.**
    - 2. He feared God with all his family.**

3. He was generous in helping the poor.
4. He was a man of prayer.

**C. Many today would think Cornelius was saved.**

1. It is not enough to be “good,” or even religious.
2. Only the blood of Christ can take away sins (Eph. 1:7).
3. Cornelius needed to hear the Gospel (Acts 10:6; 11:13,14).
4. He may have been serving God according to the Patriarchal Law.

**D. God sent an angel to Cornelius (Acts 10:3-8).**

1. The angel did not tell him what to do to be saved, nor did he tell Cornelius he was already saved.
2. He told Cornelius to send for Peter who would tell him what to do.
3. Cornelius sent three trusted servants to Joppa for Peter.

**II. PETER WAS STAYING IN JOPPA THIRTY MILES AWAY.**

**A. He went up on the flat roof of the house to pray (Acts 10:9-16).**

1. He became very hungry.
2. He saw a great sheet let down with all kinds of animals, both clean and unclean (cf. Lev. 11).
3. A voice said: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.”
4. Peter replied, “Not so, Lord, for I have never eaten anything common or unclean.”
5. The voice answered, “What God has cleansed, you must not call common.”
6. This was repeated three times.

**B. While Peter pondered this, the men from Cornelius arrived (Acts 10:17-23).**

1. They explained why Cornelius had sent them.
2. Peter lodged them and went with them the next day.
3. He took six Jewish brethren with him (Acts 11:12).

**III. PETER ARRIVED AT CORNELIUS’ HOUSE.**

**A. Cornelius had called his friends and relatives (Acts 10:24-43).**

1. Peter explained how he had learned he was to call no man common or unclean.
2. Cornelius explained to Peter about the appearance of the angel.
3. Peter then preached the Gospel to those assembled.

**B. The Spirit fell upon those who heard the Word (Acts 10:44-48).**

1. The brethren who came with Peter were astonished that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles also.

2. Those who were baptized in the Spirit spoke in tongues as did the apostles on Pentecost.
- C. Peter asked: “Can anyone forbid water that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”
1. He commanded them to be baptized.
  2. They were not saved by being baptized in the Holy Spirit.
  3. Sinners are saved when they are baptized in water for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5).

#### IV. WAS THE HOUSEHOLD OF CORNELIUS BAPTIZED IN THE SPIRIT?

- A. Joel said the Spirit would be poured out on “all flesh” (Joel 2:28).
1. This included both Jews and Gentiles.
  2. The Spirit was poured out on Jews ( the apostles) on Pentecost day.
  3. If the household of Cornelius did not receive the outpouring of the Spirit, when did the Gentiles receive it?
- B. Peter and those with him understood it was the same outpouring that the apostles had received on Pentecost.
1. Peter said: “The Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning” (Acts 11:15).
    - a. “Us” refers to the apostles.
    - b. “The beginning” refers to the day of Pentecost.
  2. Peter remembered John’s promise that the Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:4,5).
  3. Peter said: “God gave them the same gift He gave us” (Acts 11:17).
    - a. The old King James Version has “like” which conveys the idea of “similar” in today’s English.
    - b. The Greek word is “isos,” which means “equal, in quantity or quality; the same gift, Acts 11:17” (Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament).
- C. Some believe that if the house of Cornelius received the same outpouring of the Spirit the apostles did, they would be able to do everything the apostles did.
1. The purpose was different.
  2. The apostles were baptized in the Spirit to enable them to carry out their special mission.
  3. The household of Cornelius received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in order to convince the Jews that the Gentiles were also to receive the Gospel (Acts 11:17, 18; 15:7-9).

## **Conclusion:**

- 1. There are two recorded cases of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**
  - a. The apostles on Pentecost (Acts 2).**
  - b. The household of Cornelius (Acts 10, 11).**
- 2. There is one implied case of baptism in the Holy Spirit, but it is not recorded.**
  - a. Saul, who became the apostle Paul, must have been baptized in the Holy Spirit in order to qualify him to be an apostle.**
  - b. He had everything the other apostles had (2 Cor. 11:5).**
- 3. There are a number of differences between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the baptism commanded in the Great Commission.**
  - a. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a promise; the baptism of the Great Commission is a command.**
  - b. Christ was the administrator of Holy Spirit baptism; men administer the baptism of the Great Commission.**
  - c. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was limited in time; the baptism of the Great Commission is until the end of the world.**
  - d. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was only for a select few; all believers are subject to the baptism of the Great Commission.**
  - e. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was to empower the apostles and to convince the Jews that the Gentiles were also to receive the Gospel; the baptism of the Great Commission is for the remission of sins.**
  - f. The element of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit; the element of the baptism of the Great Commission is water.**
- 4. Thirty years after Pentecost, Paul wrote: "There is one baptism" (Eph. 4:6).**
  - a. Holy Spirit baptism had served its purpose.**
  - b. Baptism in water for the remission of sins will last until the end of the world (Matt. 28:19, 20).**
- 5. No one can be baptized in the Holy Spirit today.**
- 6. Everyone must be baptized in water for the remission of sins in order to go to Heaven (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5; Gal. 3:27).**
- 7. Have you been baptized?**