



WNTCG
WHERE LOVE GROWS

Pentecostal Experience Continues

Learning Zone 31st May 2020

Golden Text - (Acts 11:16) "Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost."





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LESSON PLAN

1. Introduction – Theme
2. Converts Receive the Spirit
3. Gentiles Receives the Spirit
4. Disciples Receives the Spirit
5. Questions



INTRODUCTION

God's will is that every believer in Christ be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Readings from

- Acts 8:5-17; 10:44-48; 11:1-18; 19:1-7

We acknowledge that God still gives the Holy Spirit, and invites the Spirit into our lives.



Outpourings of the Holy Spirit are detailed in several passages in the Book of Acts. Today scripture text displays the non-discriminatory character, as well as the universality, of the outpouring of the Spirit. The scripture shows the outpouring of the Spirit transcends status, ethnicity, and nationality. In chapter 8, the preaching of the Gospel in Samaria marked a transition from the Jewish to the Gentile mission.

Chapter 10 records Peter's vision at Joppa and the conversion of Cornelius at Caesarea. By pouring out his Spirit on the group that was assembled in the House of Cornelius, God declared that the Gentiles, as well as the Jews, were to be recipients of the promised Paraclete.

Chapter 11 gives Peter's vindication of his entering a Gentile home and associating with those considered to be "heathens". Whatever his critics might say, the Spirit's outpouring upon the Gentiles was enough proof that Pentecost is for all who respond in faith to the Gospel.

CONVERTS RECEIVE THE SPIRIT



Acts 8:5-6, 12, 14-17

Philip proclaims the Gospel in Samaria(vs 5-6)

- What did the Samaritans do “with one accord” (v 6)

Samaritans Receive the Holy Spirit (vs 12, 14-17)

- What did the people do “when they believed” ?(12)
- Why did Peter and John go to Samaria and what was the result? (vs 14-17)



CONVERTS RECEIVE THE SPIRIT - Acts 8: 5-6

Philip Proclaims the Gospel (8: 5-6)

Philip’s preaching of the Gospel in Samaria marked a transition from the Jewish to the Gentile mission. The Samaritans were a hybrid race—a mixture of Jews and Gentiles. It was therefore logical to go to Samaria as there were deep ties between the Jews and the Samaritans. In Old Testament times, Samaria was often referred to the capital of the Northern Jewish Kingdom. It was deemed to be the district Judea in the south and Galilee in the north. Philip, as one of the seven deacons, (Chapter 6:1-7) arrived in Samaria to preach Jesus as the Messiah. Luke the writer didn’t provide a name for the specific city in Samaria – where Philip preached. God emboldened the message of the Good news (Gospel) to the Disciples and also to others (such as Philip and Paul), and they conveyed it with divine authority and courageous confidence. The Samaritans listened, and paid close attention to the message, for a long period of time. The attention was also drawn to the miracles that was performed by God’s power, through Philip. This must have boosted the eagerness of the Samaritans to listen what Philip had to say. However, Luke – the writer, did not say that the Samaritans believed just because they saw the miracles but only that they listened. The miracles and healings did bring “great joy” in Samaria.

Samaritans received the Holy Spirit (vs 12, 14-17)

The apostles in Jerusalem, heard about the conversion of people in Samaria and “sent” Peter and John there. The Phrase “received the word of God” confirms that at least in the report that reached Jerusalem – the reports were genuine. Although the Samaritans believed and had accepted that Jesus was the promised messiah, they had not yet received the Gift of the Holy Spirit. It was when Peter and John arrived that the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit – when Peter and John prayed for them to receive it and laid hands on them. It was safe to assume that speaking in other tongues were demonstrated and Simon the Sorcerer saw this outward demonstration and though he could make money out of this Gift of God!!!

GENTILES RECEIVE THE SPIRIT

(ACTS 10: 44-48; 11:15-18)



The Gentiles Pentecost(Acts 10:44-48)

- When did the Holy Spirit come upon people (vs 44), Why is this significant?
- What “astonished” the Jewish believers? (vs 45-46)

Gentile Pentecostals Revisited (11: 15-18)

- Explain the significance of the phrases “as upon us” and “the same gift” – vs 15, 17)
- Describe the response to Peter’s report (v 18).



Gentiles Receive the Spirit- Acts 10: 44-48; 11:15-18

The Gentile Pentecost (10: 44-48)

In Acts 15, Peter compared the “Gentile Pentecost” with the original outpouring in Jerusalem. Peter said the following “And God, who can’t be fooled by any pretense on our part but always knows a person’s thoughts, gave them the Holy Spirit exactly as he gave him to us. He treated the outsiders exactly as he treated us, beginning at the very centre of who they were and working from that centre outward, cleaning up their lives as they trusted and believed him.” God acted upon the Samaritans in the same manner that he did upon the 120 in the Upper Room!! There were no distinctions. Peter preached in the home of Cornelius (a Roman Centurion). Peter began his message in chapter 10:34 saying “It’s God’s own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he’s doing it everywhere, among everyone.” The fact that Cornelius and his household received the Holy Spirit as a gift from God was undisputable. Peter then goes on to say that the Samaritan believers should be baptised in water, following the example that Jesus left his Disciples. Therefore Gentiles should be considered people of God if they believe and accept God in their lives. The Jewish believers could not believe what they saw, and they did not object to the Samaritan converts being baptised. Peter stayed a few extra days to help solidify the faith of the new believers.

Gentile Pentecostals Revisited (Acts 11: 15-18)

On Peter’s return to Jerusalem, he was criticized, not for preaching the Gospel to the Samaritans, but for associated with the Gentiles without regard to the purity laws of the Old Testament (Mosaic Laws). He was charged with going to “uncircumcised men and ate with them”. Peter responded by telling them precisely what happened in the order it happened.. He recounted how the Gentiles received the message and that the Holy Spirit “fell” on Cornelius and his Household just as it happened in the upper room. Peter recounted what Jesus had told him and the rest of the Disciples – about the coming of the Holy Spirit. Since God had granted the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles as well, who were they to refuse them water baptism also. It demonstrated that God had no favourites and all men would be treated the same. The Jewish believer accepted his report and “praised God” for this, initially controversial but authentic, new development in God’s plan of Salvation.

DISCIPLES RECEIVES THE SPIRIT



Acts 19:1-7

A New Doctrine (vs 1-2)

- What was lacking in the Ephesian Christians discipleship?

A New Understanding (vs 3-4)

- What did the baptism of John anticipate?

A New Baptism (vs 5-7)

- What did the Ephesians response in verse 5 say about them?
- What happened when the Holy Spirit “came on them”? (vs 6)



DISCIPLES RECEIVE THE SPIRIT (Acts 19:1-7)

A New Doctrine (vs 1-2)

On his third missionary journey, Paul went to Ephesus. Ephesus was a pagan city – but crucial to spread the Gospel, since it was located on a major trade route. The temple of Diana was there (one of the seven ancient wonders of the World). Soon after his arrival, Paul encountered “certain disciples” – who may have been disciples of John the Baptist, who had never been converted to Christianity. Paul began to enquire of their spiritual understanding, asked about their salvation and also asked if they had received the Holy Spirit? They answered that they did not know anything about the Holy Spirit and then Paul asked them had they been baptized. They then confessed that it was the Baptism of John that they went through. This clarified that why they had not heard of the Holy Spirit and they may not have been aware of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the outpouring in the upper room. In reality they were not Christians. In Acts 2:38 the order of the Christian is expressed as – repent, be baptized and then receive the Holy Spirit. It was clear that Paul was dealing with religious people, but they had not been exposed to the Gospel.

A New Understanding (vs 3-4)

The answers given by the “disciples” prompted Paul to ask further questions to gain an understanding of what they knew spiritually. He was a scholar of rabbinical scriptures and was skillful to use the scriptures in any given context. Upon hearing that they were baptized in John’s baptism of repentance, Paul explained that John preaching focused on faith in Christ. This would help these “disciples” to understand that John’s baptism was not sufficient. Sometimes we feel that we are spiritually fine until an incident or an event occurs and then we start to question and examine our standing with God.

A New Baptism (vs 5-7)

After hearing Paul preach, they were moved to be baptized again, but this time in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They wanted to be certain that their spiritual foundation was on solid ground. They were immersed in water and after they came out of the water, Paul laid his hand on them and they received the gift of the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in tongues and prophesied. This was not a one off (prophesied) or temporary manifestation, The filling of the Holy Spirit is the beginning of the Christian journey of holiness, service and worship through a continuous walk with God. The disciples were about 12 distinguished men. However this does not preclude that the Holy Spirit was not manifested through women – and there are many scriptures that identify that women were also active in prophecy in the early Church.

LEARNING POINTS



1. Converts Receive the Spirit
2. Gentiles Receives the Spirit
3. Disciples Receives the Spirit

Golden Text - (Acts 11:16) “Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.”



Conclusions

The power of Pentecost is still relevant for today. God still wants to change hearts and transform peoples lives. In all three settings in today's lesson, the groups received the Holy Spirit on their own land, not in a Church. We must be willing to go to places we do not normally go and minister with people whom we may not normally be comfortable talking to. In this way we are being obedient to Jesus' commands to “go into all the world and preach the Gospel”. At the end of the day it is about God getting the glory and God's kingdom being extended. We will receive our blessings by being obedient to God.

It also established that the baptism of repentance (following Christ's example) had to be done after acknowledging that Christ is Lord and accepting that we need him. Once those steps had been taken then we should seek the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to enable us to have the spirit of God in us.

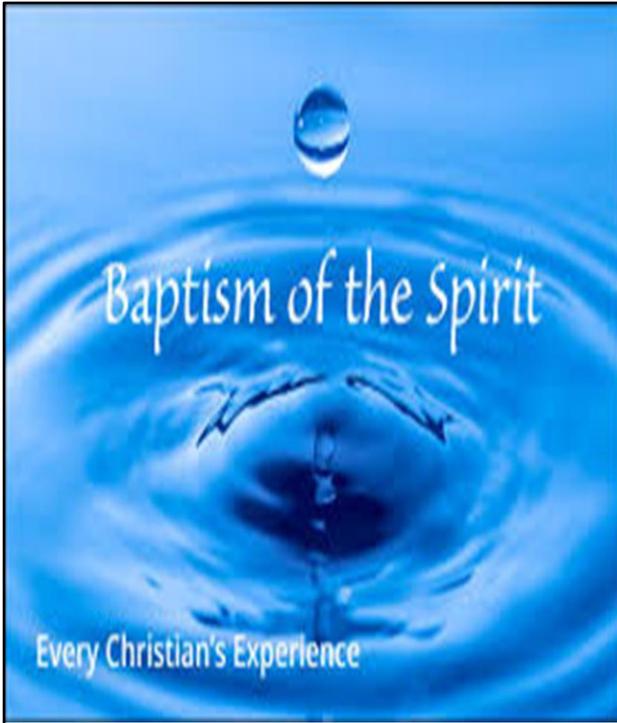
Today, it is still God's will for us to be saved from our sins, to follow Christ's example by being baptized in water and to receive the gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

QUESTIONS



- What did the Samaritans do “with one accord” (v 6)
- What did the people do “when they believed”?(12)
- Why did Peter and John go to Samaria and what was the result? (vs 14-17)
- When did the Holy Spirit come upon people (vs 44), Why is this significant?
- What “astonished” the Jewish believers? (vs 45-46)
- Explain the significance of the phrases “as upon us” and “the same gift” – vs 15, 17)
- Describe the response to Peter’s report (v 18).
- What was lacking in the Ephesian Christians discipleship?
- What did the baptism of John anticipate?
- What did the Ephesians’ response in verse 5 say about them?
- What happened when the Holy Spirit “came on them”? (vs 6)





**THOUGHT FOR THE
DAY**

God's impartiality applies
to more than just salvation;
it applies to all His gifts

French Arrington

