

The Spirit that is Experienced
The Holy Spirit through the Eyes of Luke
"The Spirit Experienced Through the Church"

Introduction: Conclusion of this series—experienced work of the Holy Spirit

- Focus: Second Work—Spirit baptism/infilling
- Paul's focus is initiatory: Luke's is service, vocation, experiential
- Luke draws from Old Testament themes of transfer, sign, vocation, as patterns of Spirit activity
- Old Testament promise of Spirit activity after 400 years of silence
- First—an anointed and unique Spirit-bearer/Messiah

NOTE: Saw that in Jesus' birth, baptism, ministry

- Promise of eschatological age of Spirit

"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. Joel 2:28-29 NKJV

- Jesus was that Messiah/Pentecost inaugurated the age
- Jesus promised His disciples

And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." Luke 24:48-49 NKJV

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. 4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me. Acts 1:1-4 NKJV

- Pentecost fulfilled that promise—but not a once for all fulfillment—throughout Acts—Spirit poured out
- Peter associates it with the promise of his sermon
- Gift of the Spirit seen as gift for vocational service—**TO BE EXPERIENCED**

Today—A review of Spirit's many outpourings in Acts and will learn what they say to the 21st Century Church.

I. The Gift of the Spirit at Samaria

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." Acts 8:14-19 NKJV

- A. Samaritan issue from 722 BC
- B. Philip (deacon) had revival in Samaria

- 1. Great fruit

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. Acts 8:12 NKJV

But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, 10 to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God." 11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. Acts 8:9-11 NKJV

Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. Acts 8:13 NKJV

- C. Peter and John came to pray for the Holy Spirit reception
- D. When they laid hands on them they received the Spirit
- E. Chronological separation between belief and the reception of the Spirit

- 1. James Dunn—their faith was defective because no Spirit reception
- 2. "Because the Spirit had not been given, the conditions of salvation had not been met."—Dunn

- F. Fails to see the difference between Paul and Luke

- 1. Paul—the Spirit is initiating

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. Romans 8:9 NKJV

2. Luke—the Spirit is experienced/vocational

G. Spirit in Samaria is conferred on BELIEVERS

1. Not conversion or initiation into the Church
2. Not just an act of faith it is attested to presently by laying on of hands
3. Despised people (Samaritan) received the vocational gift of the Spirit
4. Even Simon wanted to buy—clearly experienced

II. The Gift of the Spirit to Saul

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." 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. Acts 9:17-18 NKJV

A. Damascus road experience

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." 6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. 8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Acts 9:1-9 NKJV

B. Preparation of Ananias

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. Acts 9:15 NKJV

1. Reluctantly he went
2. Explained purpose

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." Acts 9:17 NKJV

3. Experience of Saul

Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. Acts 9:18 NKJV

C. Saul's encounter with the Risen Christ

1. Emphasis was CALL not conversion (did call Him Lord)
2. Must bear His name among Gentiles
3. To do that would mean he needed the correlating gift of Spirit's infilling

D. Luke does not say when he was filled OR mention an accompanying sign .

1. Those who believe in Spirit baptism being initiatory say this baptism was water
2. Others say it was Spirit baptism ("I thank God I speak with tongues more..." (1 Corinthian 14:18)
3. We can't be sure

E. We DO know that Luke's primary purpose is calling and equipping—thus gift of Spirit was necessary—vocational ability.

F. We DO know that this gift was the same in that manner as Pentecost and Samaritan (vocational).

III. The Gift of the Spirit in the Household of Cornelius

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days. Acts 10:44-48 NKJV

A. Two visions

1. Cornelius (a Gentile)—man named Simon Peter was to be brought to his house
2. Peter—go eat non-kosher meat
3. Go to his house and preach

B. Peter preaches—Spirit pours out, tongues occur—Peter concludes they have received the Spirit

C. Similarities to Pentecost

1. Tongues, and exaltation of Christ
2. Peter to apostles/later council

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

So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us. Acts 15:8 NKJV

3. Same gift, vocational and experienced

D. TRUTH: God's impartiality extends beyond salvation to the Gift of the Spirit too!

IV. The Gift of the Spirit to the Disciples at Ephesus

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. 7 Now the men were about twelve in all. Acts 19:1-7 NKJV

A. Paul finds and questions Ephesian converts about the Spirit

1. Not heard of Spirit
2. Lays hands on them
3. Receives Spirit (tongues/prophesy)

B. Similar to Samaritans

1. Believed but not received Spirit
2. This is Paul asking who knew Spirit was required for salvation

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. Romans 8:9 NKJV

3. NOT enquiring about salvation
4. Asking had they received the prophetic/vocational Gift of Spirit

Conclusion:

1. So what is Luke's purpose in these narratives?

- a. **Historical**—fulfillment of commission Jesus gives to disciples before the ascension to extend the Gospel through the empire.
- b. **Theological**—illustrate the universality of the Gift of Spirit as well as its vocational and experiential nature. Wherever and to whomever the Gospel spreads the gift of the Spirit is available.

2. What are the means of conferring the Spirit?

- a. In Acts, never through water baptism. NOTE: Spirit conferred in Luke without water baptism too.
- b. On those occasions, gift confirmed through laying on of hands (Samaritan, Saul, Ephesus)

NOTE: Old Testament precedent

Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. Deuteronomy 34:9 NKJV

- c. Spirit confirmed through prayer as well

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. Luke 3:21 NKJV

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. Acts 1:14 NKJV

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4 NKJV

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31 NKJV

Who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:15-16 NKJV

d. Luke emphasizes the freedom of the Spirit—not confined to a style method

3. Luke's two key phrases

a. **Filled with Holy Spirit**—when he used this term it is always in the passive voice which signifies that the subject or the verb is being “acted upon”.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4 NKJV

And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:41 NKJV

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel. Acts 4:8 NKJV

b. **Received the Holy Spirit**—active voice the subject of the verb produces the action.

Who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:15 NKJV

He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" Acts 19:2 NKJV

IMPORTANT: This is human response to God's initiative. Can't take from God what He has not given but there is a necessary complement to the Spirit's gift.

4. It is clear that the vocational gift of the Holy Spirit is potentially universal.
5. The context for interpretation of Luke-Acts
 - a. Breakdown of Israel's Spirit-led leadership

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- b. Hope for a Messiah: Spirit-bearer
 - c. Belief in a coming of the Spirit-initiated prophecy
6. Day of Pentecost—transmitted from Jesus to Disciples
7. Spirit always accompanied by a sign

Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. Acts 2:3 NKJV

And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money. Acts 8:18 NKJV

And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. Acts 10:45 NKJV

And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Acts 19:6 NKJV

- 8. Always experiential
- 9. Finally
 - a. We know Spirit's work in conversion

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 NKJV

- b. We know Spirit's work in sanctification

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 NKJV

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

c. We must pursue Spirit's work for vocation—the experiential gift of the Spirit

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:9-13 NKJV

But...what will happen? Will I speak in tongues?

- Kyle's experience
- My experience (7, 16)
- David Cox (Greg Paris)
- It's not about judging, counting, identifying
- We want to number everything
- Seeking tongues leads to disappointment
- What you experience may be now (you have to surrender)
- But it may be later—emboldened speech
- World needs emboldened witnesses