

**I. Text:** Acts 11:1-18 Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, 3 saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." 4 But Peter began speaking and proceeded to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying, 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me, 6 and when I had fixed my gaze on it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air. 7 "I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' 8 "But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholly or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' 9 "But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholly.' 10 "This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky. 11 "And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. 12 "The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man's house. 13 "And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; 14 and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' 15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning. 16 "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 "Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" 18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."

What do you notice or what stands out in Peter's retelling of his gospel to Cornelius in order to defend himself against Jews who were accusing him of eating with the unclean? Are there any new facts in Acts 11 that we didn't know from Acts 10?

## II. Introduction: Breaking down Cultural Barriers/ the Critical Importance of Biblical Repentance

### Some facts and implications that Acts 11 gives us that Acts 10 didn't:

- (11:1) Cornelius and his friends did in fact RECEIVE and BELIEVE the gospel *before* and *in order* to be saved (the Holy Spirit did not fall on them without them listening and receiving/believing first) as 11:1 clearly says they RECEIVED the word of God and also 11:17 says the Holy was given *after* they believed! So repentance and faith are clearly conditions for and prior to salvation (one must repent and believe by faith in Jesus as Lord order to be saved/regenerated/born again NOT saved in order to repent and believe). Some have said since the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius and company before Peter's message was finished or before a verbal response was noted/recorded that the more Calvinistic understanding of regeneration before repentance and faith is valid but Ch. 11 shows this is false...not to mention the clear *ordis salutis* (order of salvation) in [Eph. 1:13-14](#), [Gal. 3:2](#), [Acts 10:43](#), [1 Thess. 1:9](#), [2:13](#), [2 Thess. 2:10](#) and many other passages show and teach. This is why there all the subjunctive clauses (if, and, maybe, might) like [Romans 10:9](#) IF you confess with your mouth...IF you believe God raised Him from the dead you will be saved. Consider also that repentance and faith are in the active voice (must do the action actively themselves) vs passive voice (they receive the action passively) when the gospel is given (Ex. Jesus said "Repent and Believe the good news in [Mark 1:15](#)). Lastly, think about how you cannot be saved, regenerated, or renewed spiritually without the Holy Spirit ([Titus 3:5-6](#)) and [Eph. 1:13-14](#) clearly states that ones belief (aorist) is completed before being sealed/indwelt/baptized with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Why is the order of salvation (*ordis salutis*) important? (Not only for your faithfulness to Scripture and understanding, but also assurance of salvation, and also accurate presentation of the gospel to the lost). Would you put the following stages of salvation in any different order or perhaps add any major components of salvation Chad missed (see previous notes/chart with arrows on the order of salvation)? A. The Planning of Salvation (Predestination/Election – [Eph. 1:3-6](#)), B. The Providing Salvation (Jesus – [Eph. 1:7-12](#)), C. The Drawing before salvation (Holy Spirit convicting/convincing – [Jn. 16:8](#), Christians bringing the gospel – [Rom. 10:9-13](#)), D. The acceptance of salvation - repentance and faith of the sinner to receive the gift of salvation – [Mt. 4:17](#), [Mark 1:15](#), [Luke 24:47](#), [Jn 3:16](#), [Acts 20:21](#), [Romans 10:9-13](#), [Heb. 6:1](#)), E. The miracle/gift of salvation – imputed righteousness, total forgiveness, eternal life, indwelling Holy Spirit – [Eph. 1:13-14](#), [John 5:24](#), [Acts 10:43](#), F. The change after salvation – growth process/refinement/sanctification preparing for the completion of our salvation – [Romans 8:29-30](#). The completion of salvation – entering Jesus Kingdom, dwelling with God forever in heaven – [Rev. 21-22](#)).

- 11:12) We know that Peter (God) brought six men with him... why because there was such animosity and prejudice between Jews and Gentiles that God gave twice the number of witnesses demanded by the law (confirm everything by 2 or 3 witnesses – [Dt. 17:6](#), [19:15](#), [Mt. 18:16](#), [2 Cor. 13:1](#), [1 Tim. 5:19](#), [Heb. 10:28](#)) so as to convince the Jews that the Gentiles are indeed equally loved by God and included in Jesus' salvation by faith ([Romans 3:22,26,28](#), [5:1-2](#), [9:30-32](#), [Gal. 2:16-20](#), [Gal. 3:8-11](#), [3:22-24](#), [5:5](#), [Eph. 2:8-10](#), [3:12-17](#), [Phil. 3:9](#), [Col. 2:12](#), [2 Tim. 3:15](#), [Heb. 11](#), [1 Peter 1:5](#)) (**Gospel summaries by Jesus - [Mark 1:15](#), Paul - [Acts 20:21](#), Hebrew author - [Heb. 6:1](#)**)

What do all these foundational gospel verses in blue have in common/similarity? (Summary statements of their entire ministry/message and...)

- (11:16) Peter references [Luke 3:16](#) ([Mt. 3:11](#), [Mk. 1:8](#), [Jn. 1:33](#)) (see also [Acts 1:5](#), [2:38](#), [10:47-48](#), and [1 Cor. 12:13](#)) and his own personal experience with Jesus – remembering that Jesus said John baptized with water but Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. This reminds me of [Jn. 7:38-39](#) <sup>38</sup> "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

What do you look for or notice in someone clearly saved as an evidence/proof of the Holy Spirit or streams of living water outflowing from their life?

- (11:17) The Holy Spirit is a GIFT ([Acts 2:38](#), [10:45](#), [Heb. 6:4](#) - **δωρεά** (dorea): a gift from **δίδωμι** (didomi): to give (God is the ultimate giver) – the same gift to the Gentiles as he gave us (the Jews at Pentecost)

Describe how is the Holy Spirit a GIFT to us/or how is the GIFT of the Holy Spirit cherished and appreciated by you?

5. (11:18) The key phrase – God has given the Gentiles “**repentance leading to life**” (**eternal life**) – reminds me of Jn. 5:24 <sup>24</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. And Lk. 24:47 <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Some “free grace” (which I call easy believism) advocates (Ryrie, Hodges) have wrongly asserted that you don’t need to repent in order to be saved. Their motive is good to protect from any “works based” salvation (wrongly seeing repentance as a work rather than a change of mind/heart – willingness to turn from sin – but the actual ability to stop sinning not given until someone is born again and empowered by the Holy Spirit). Others have tripped over semantics of the Protestant Reformation... we are saved by Grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone” thinking that faith alone means that repentance is not required and only comes *after* salvation as a part of sanctification. But this misses the fact that the Reformation motto was not denying the heart condition or the attitude of repentance necessary for salvation but specifically responding to the false doctrine of the Roman Catholics of salvation by works/7 sacraments and salvation only through the institution of the RC church/priests rather by faith in Jesus alone. Moreover, in researching all of the occurrence of repentance (μετάνοια (metanoia) change of mind, repentance / μετανοέω (metanoeo): to change one's mind or purpose (meta: change/after AND νοῦς (nous): mind, understanding, reason / νοέω (noeo): to perceive, think) and ἐπιστρέφω e\*pistrepho): to turn, to return... AROUND 80% OF NET OCCURANCE ARE IN THE CONTEXT OF SALVAITON AS A CONDITION COMMANDED IN ORDER TO BE SAVED (see Luke 24:47 as a prime example) (Lk. 24:47 repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem) ... and around 20% of examples are in the context of sanctification... which is bolstered by the fact that repentance is most often a PARTICIPLE (ongoing/continuous action) so that it makes sense that repentance starts in the mind/heart with a WILLINGNESS to turn from sin, but requires the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower the willingness to go forward continuously with the power and ability to actually stop the sinning and prove the genuine of repentance by a change in life/action (see Acts 20:26 for the best example of this. So repentance and faith are NOT works, deeds, or even meritorious in God’s eyes but rather attitudes and conditions of the heart as Scripture says Ps. 51:17 <sup>7</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. 2 Chr. 16:9 <sup>9</sup> "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. Also read 2 Cor. 7:8-11 to understand Biblical repentance.

What understanding or element of Biblical repentance do we draw from 2 Corinthians 7:8-11? What is the different between worldly sorrow/regret and Biblical repentance/change of mind/direction/purpose?

### III. Main Points/Observations of Acts 11:1-18

(11:1) Brethren throughout Judea hear that the Gentiles have received the gospel

**Point 1:** Word travels quickly in churches/among believers – here a good report – “the Gentiles have received the word of God (gospel/good news of Jesus)

(11:2) Jewish believers take issue with Peter

**Point 2:** Critical people with critical spirits – scrutinizing, finding fault, seeking confrontation – taking issue with fellow believers over non sin issues (no clear action that violates clear Scripture) has always been and remains a major problem in churches.

(11:3) They accuse Peter of going to non-Jews and eating with them (which is true – many church divisions are based on some truth, but often distorted and blown out of proportion)

**Point 3:** Christians, especially church leadership often find themselves defending their decisions, motives, and actions.

(11:4-17) Peter explains himself by giving a chronological account/summary of what happened – He ends with a honest question “who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”

**Point 4:** Peter demonstrates how to humbly but boldly defend himself by presenting the facts, showing his true motive, and avoiding confrontation by asking gentle questions.

(11:18) “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”

**Point 5:** Once the confrontational Christians heard all the facts – they not only quieted down, they did a 180 and actually glorified God by saying this poignant one liner about God granting repentance to life.

Did you see or observe any other main points that Chad may have missed or didn’t stress?

**IV. Conclusion:** This important statement “God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life” reveals several key points:

- A. God grants salvation (He gets all the glory because He is the author, giver, and sustainer of salvation)
- B. The Gentiles are loved by God just as much as Jews (no favoritism) (no place for prejudice, discrimination, separation in the Church)
- C. Repentance is required for salvation/eternal life (Salvation is offered/available to everyone but only those who repent and by faith call on Jesus as Lord will be saved – Romans 10:9-13)
- D. God initiates/grants/gives eternal life THROUGH repentance and faith (lit. “therefore also the nations the God the repentance into life has given”) (You can’t have true/real/genuine repentance without faith nor genuine/rel/true faith without repentance)
- E. Biblical repentance has many aspects (2 Cor. 7:8-11) conviction/change of mind (I am a sinner), confession (Lord please forgive me), broken heart/willingness to change (Lord help me stop/change direction), actual change/replacement (replacing the lie/sin with truth/righteousness/right living), and ongoing watchfulness/confession (1 John 1:9) and constant putting off and putting on (Eph. 4, Col. 3)

**V. Application: 2 Corinthians 7:8-11** What is the ONE THING/the one area that God is calling you to repent/confess (1 John 1:9)? What are the things our church as a whole needs to repent? (Rev. chapters 2-3)

# TRUTH BIBLE CHURCH



## FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SEEKING TO...

### LOVE GOD SUPREMELY

**Matthew 22:37-38** <sup>37</sup> And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." <sup>38</sup> "This is the great and foremost commandment.

### SERVE PEOPLE SINCERELY

**Matthew 22:39** <sup>39</sup> "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

**John 13:34-35** <sup>34</sup> "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

### REACH THE LOST URGENTLY

**Matthew 28:19-20** <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

# Acts 10:43–48 (LSB)

43 Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.” 44 While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the word. 45 And all the circumcised believers who came with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and magnifying God. Then Peter answered, 47 “Can anyone refuse water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?” 48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for a few days.



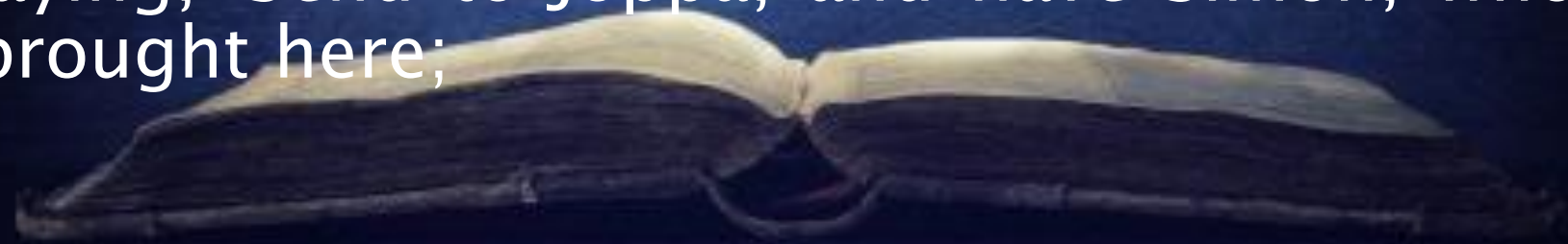
# Acts 11:1-18

1 Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, 3 saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." 4 But Peter began speaking and proceeded to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying, 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, a certain object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me, 6 and when I had fixed my gaze upon it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air.



# Acts 11:1-18

7 "And I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Arise, Peter; kill and eat.' 8 "But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' 9 "But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.' 10 "And this happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky. 11 "And behold, at that moment three men appeared before the house in which we were staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. 12 "And the Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. And these six brethren also went with me, and we entered the man's house. 13 "And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa, and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;



# Acts 11:1-18

14 and he shall speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' 15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He did upon us at the beginning. 16 "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 "If God therefore gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" 18 And when they heard this, they quieted down, and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."



“A Cosmic Coincidence”  
“An Amazing Show  
by Mother Earth”  
“Nature’s Display”  
“Motivates a Love of Science”  
“A Spectacular and  
Moving Experience...for some  
even spiritual”  
“It Brings us together as humans”  
“It Makes us feel so small”  
“It Reminds us of our place  
in the solar system.”

(but no mention of God... till someone said to a reporter, hey I know you and your family are religious, what does this mean to you... “This reminds me that this...we cannot happen without God.”

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools... **Romans 1:18-22**



Within a span of under 6 months, an annular eclipse and total eclipse will criss-cross North America with Texas being the bullseye for both solar eclipses



ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE

OCTOBER 14, 2023

The map shows the continental United States and parts of Canada and Mexico. A yellow circle is positioned over central Texas, representing the path of the annular solar eclipse on October 14, 2023. A white sun with a black disk is positioned over the eastern United States, representing the path of the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. Two semi-transparent grey bands cross the map diagonally, indicating the paths of the eclipses. The map is viewed from a high angle, showing the curvature of the Earth.

APRIL 8, 2024

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

# Total Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024

Time of totality  
**3:09:00 pm EDT**

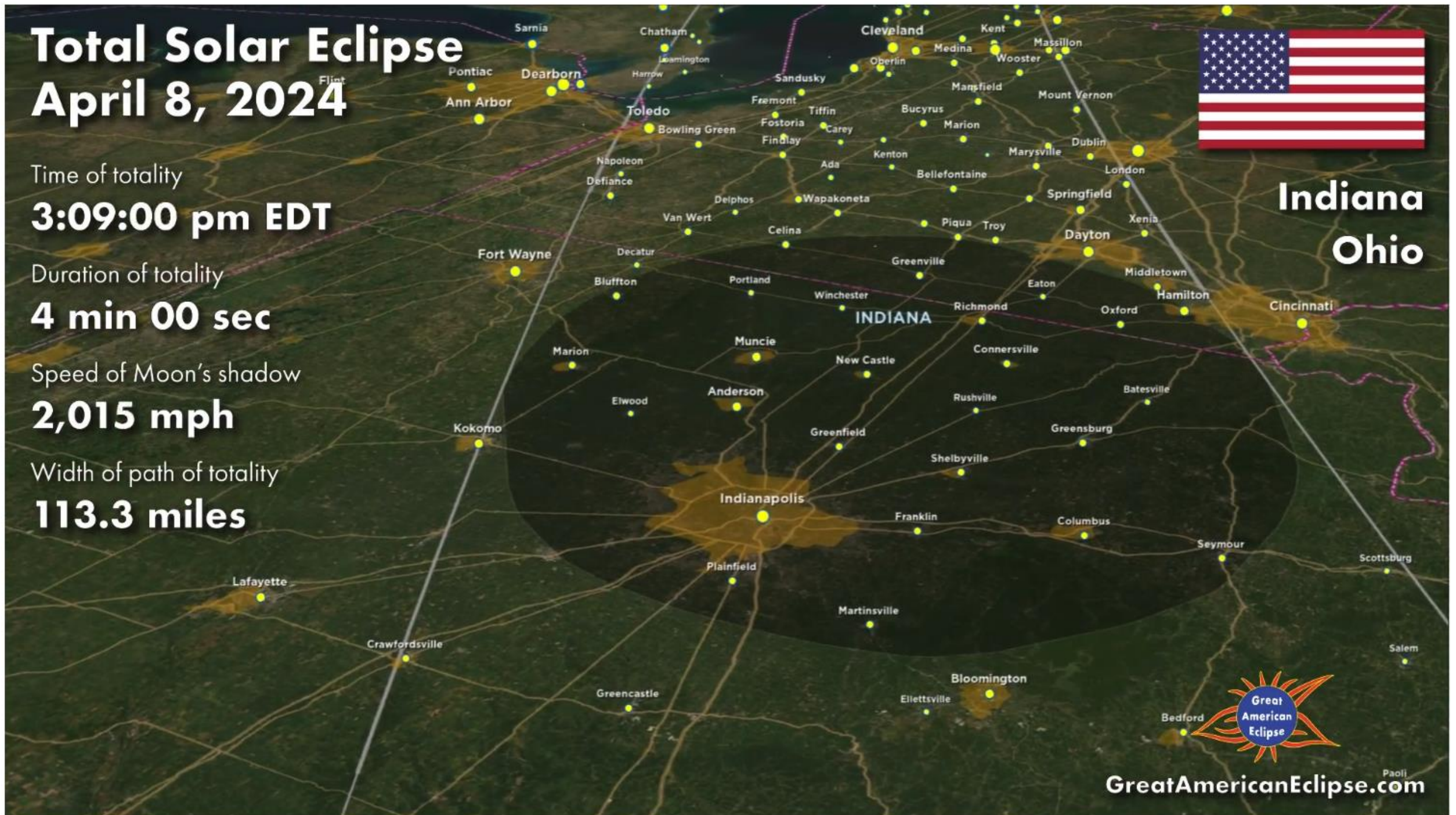
Duration of totality  
**4 min 00 sec**

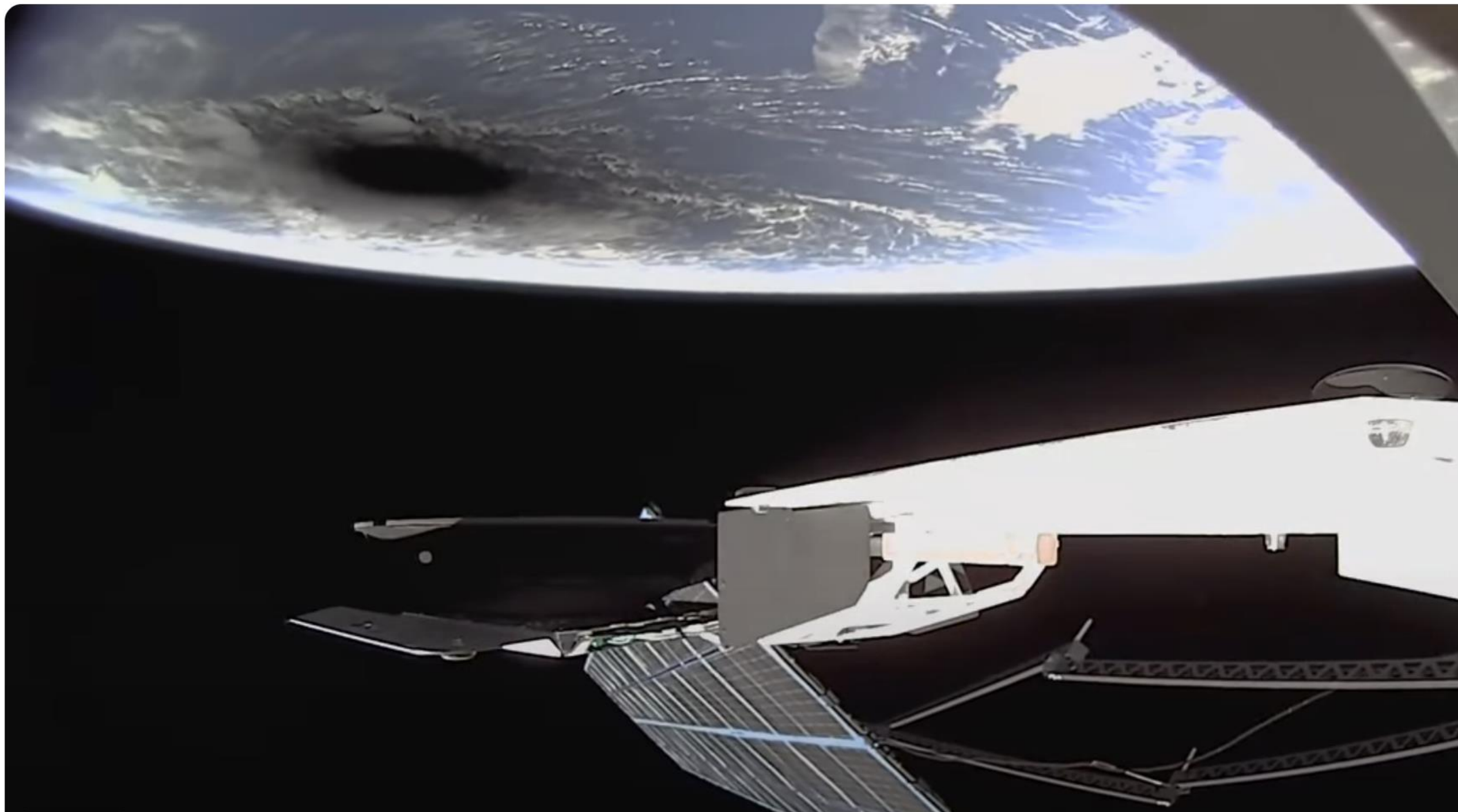
Speed of Moon's shadow  
**2,015 mph**

Width of path of totality  
**113.3 miles**



**Indiana  
Ohio**





HOULTON


+ 00:01:24



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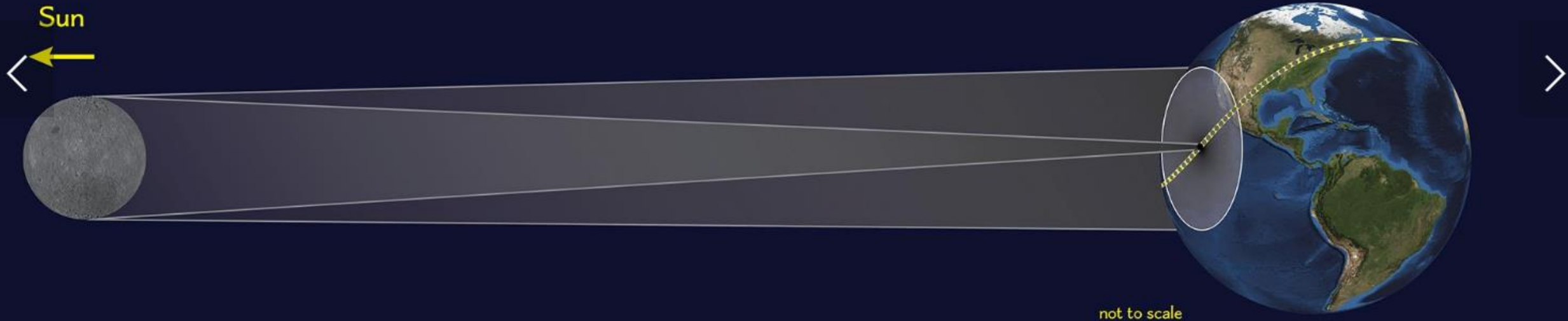
On April 8, 2024, the Sun, Moon, and Earth align to reveal nature's great sight — a total eclipse of the Sun!

Join us and learn what's so special about solar eclipses, what you'll see, and the best places to go see the Great American Eclipse.



# A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

We are fortunate for a cosmic coincidence that allows us to see the full drama of the Sun's corona; the Sun has a diameter about 400 times that of the Moon and is also about 400 times further away from Earth. That's why the Moon can neatly eclipse the Sun! Total eclipses like ours are a rare occurrence in our galaxy.



The Moon's inner shadow— the umbra — is where the total solar eclipse can be seen  
The Moon's outer shadow— the penumbra — is where the eclipse is seen as partial

Today's Sermon Title:

Acts 11:1-18

A man in Roman-style armor, including a breastplate and shoulder guards, is kneeling on a tiled floor in a grand, dimly lit room with large stone columns. He has his hands clasped in prayer and a somber expression. A red cloak is draped over his shoulders and lies on the floor around him.

**“The Repentance that Leads to Life”**

(The Gift of the Holy Spirit)

Breaking  
the Cultural  
Barriers  
Acts 11:1-18



# Some facts that Acts 11 give us that Acts 10 didn't

1. (11:1) Cornelius and his friends did in fact believe (the Holy Spirit did not fall on them without believing first) as 11:1 says they RECEIVED the word of God – also look at 11:17 which says the Holy was given AFTER they believed!
2. (11:12) We know that Peter (God) brought six men with him
3. (11:16) Peter references Luke 3:16 and his own personal experience with Jesus – remembering that Jesus said John baptized with water but Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit
4. (11:17) The Holy Spirit is a GIFT – the same gift to the Gentiles as he gave us (the Jews at Pentecost)
5. (11:18) The key phrase – God has given the Gentiles “repentance leading to life (eternal life) – reminds me of Jn. 5:24 <sup>24</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. And Lk. 24:47 <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

# Outline of Acts 11:1–18

11:1 Brethren throughout Judea hear that the Gentiles have received the gospel

1. Word travels quickly in churches/among believers – here a good report – “the Gentiles have received the word of God (gospel/good news of Jesus)”

11:2 Jewish believers take issue with Peter

2. Critical people with critical spirits – scrutinizing, finding fault, seeking confrontation – taking issue with fellow believers over non sin issues (no clear action that violates clear Scripture) has always been and remains a major problem in churches.

11:3 They accuse Peter of going to non-Jews and eating with them (which is true – many church divisions are based on some truth, but often distorted and blown out of proportion)

3. Christians, especially church leadership often find themselves defending their decisions, motives, and actions.

11:4–17 Peter explains himself by giving a chronological account/summary of what happened – He ends with a honest question “who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”

4. Once the confrontational Christians heard all the facts – they not only quieted down, they did a 180 and actually glorified God by saying a poignant one liner “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”

In this important statement (God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life” ... we glean several key points:

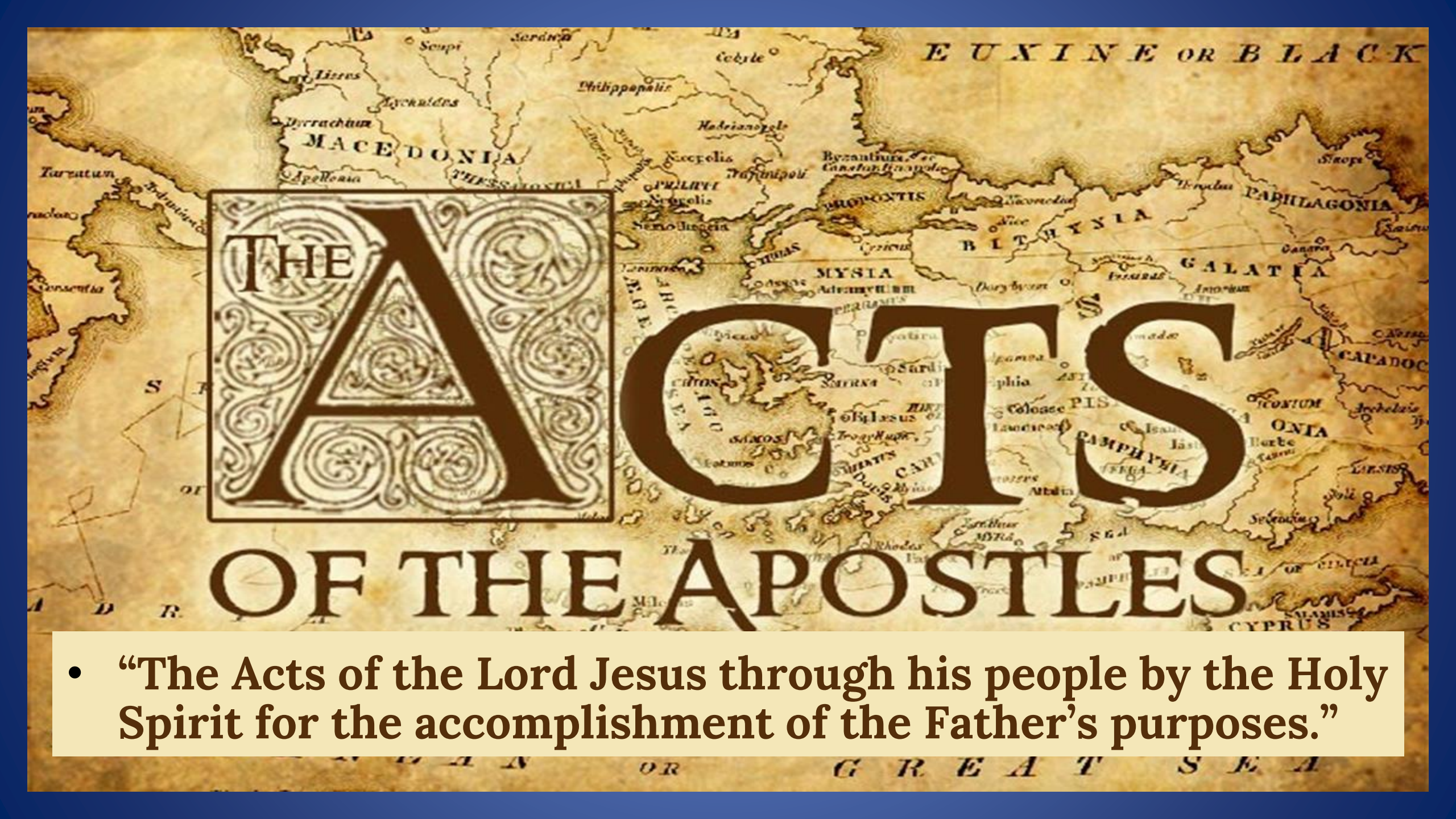
- A. God grants salvation
- B. The Gentiles are loved by God just as much as Jews (no favoritism)
- C. Repentance is required for salvation / eternal life
- D. God initiates / grants / gives eternal life through repentance (lit. “therefore also the nations the God the repentance into life has given”)

# SO WHAT?

## Application



**2 Corinthians 7:9-11** 9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. 10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.



# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- “The Acts of the Lord Jesus through his people by the Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of the Father’s purposes.”

Today's Sermon Title:

Acts 10:43-48

A man in Roman-style armor, including a breastplate and shoulder guards, is kneeling on a tiled floor in a grand, dimly lit room with large stone columns. He has his hands clasped in prayer and is looking down. A red cloak is draped over his shoulders.

# “The Gospel Peter gave Cornelius”

(10 Truths of Evangelism) Pt. 5

(The Gift of the Holy Spirit)

## Recap/Summary of Acts 10 (Peter's Gospel Message to Cornelius and friends)

### 10 Truths of Biblical Evangelism:

1. (10:36a) The Gospel is a message of **Peace** (reconciliation with God)
2. (10:36b) Jesus is the **Christ** (the anointed/chosen one of God to save and to judge)
3. (10:36c) Jesus is **Lord** (the ultimate authority – King of kings, Lord of lords)
4. (10:37–39a) Jesus' **Perfect Life** = imputed righteousness/right standing with God
5. (10:39b) Jesus' **Sacrificial Death** on the cross = payment for our sins by His blood
6. (10:40) Jesus' **Victorious Resurrection** = eternal life (promise of our resurrection)
7. (10:41) Jesus' post-resurrection **Appearances** (validation by eye-witness testimony)
8. (10:42) Jesus' **Great Commission** (we are ALL commanded to preach the gospel)
9. (10:43) Jesus' awesome gospel/good news of salvation is **Available to EVERYONE**...everyone who believes (repents and trusts in Jesus by faith for salvation from God's wrath) receives forgiveness of sins
10. (10:44–46) Jesus' gift/baptism/seal of the **Holy Spirit** is given as immediate proof/validation of salvation

**Acts 10:42-48** <sup>42</sup> "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins." <sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. <sup>45</sup> And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup> "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?" <sup>48</sup> And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

11. (10:47–48) Jesus' commands every true believer to be baptized/immersed in water as evidence of genuine salvation (an outward sign of their inward commitment and participation in the new covenant)

**Acts 10:44-48a** <sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. <sup>45</sup> All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup> "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?" <sup>48</sup> And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

## 10. Jesus' gift/baptism of the Holy Spirit is given as immediate proof and validation of salvation (genuine belief/repentance/faith in Jesus as Lord)

- ▶ **Holy Spirit fell upon** – ἐπιπίπτω *epiipipto*: to fall upon
- ▶ **Poured out** – ἐκχύννω *ekchunno*: to pour out, fig. *to bestow*
- ▶ **Gift** – δωρεά *dorea*: a gift
- ▶ **Tongues (languages)** – γλῶσσα *glossa*: the tongue, a language
- ▶ **Magnifying** – μεγαλύνω *megaluno*: to make or *declare great*
- ▶ **Verses on indwelling and seal of the Holy Spirit:** John 14:16–17, 15:26, 16:7–15, Romans 8:9, Eph. 1:13–14, 4:30, 1 Cor. 3:16, 2 Cor. 1:22, 6:16–19, 12:9, Eph. 2:22, 3:17, 2 Tim. 1:14, Titus 3:3–7



# The Promise of the Holy Spirit (His names/roles)

John 14:16-17,26, 15:26-27, 16:8-14

- ▶ **14:16** "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup> *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.
- ▶ **14:26** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
- ▶ **15:26** "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, <sup>27</sup> and you *will* testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.
- ▶ **16:8** "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup> and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; <sup>11</sup> and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.
- ▶ **16:13** "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

# The Seal of the Holy Spirit – God's Mark/Proof of Ownership (Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30-32)

- ▶ **1:13** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.
- ▶ **4:30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

# The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit at Conversion

## Romans 8:9-11

- ▶ <sup>9</sup> However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.  
<sup>10</sup> If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

# The Temple of the Holy Spirit (our hearts/body)

## 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, 5:1-5, 6:19-20

- ▶ <sup>21</sup> Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, <sup>22</sup> who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.
- ▶ <sup>1</sup> For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven...<sup>5</sup> Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.
- ▶ <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

# The Tests/Proofs of the Holy Spirit - Doctrinal, Moral, Fellowship

2 Cor. 13:5, 1 John 2:3-6, 3:24-4:4, 4:9-21

- ▶ **2 Cor. 13:5** <sup>5</sup> Test yourselves *to* see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?
- ▶ **1 Jn. 2:3-6 (Moral/Obedience Test)** <sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: <sup>6</sup> the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked...3:6-11 <sup>6</sup> No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; <sup>8</sup> the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. <sup>11</sup> For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;
- ▶ **1 John 3:24-4:4 (Doctrinal Test)** The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. <sup>4:1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. <sup>4</sup> You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.
- ▶ **1 Jn. 4:9-21 (Fellowship/Love Test)** <sup>9</sup> By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him... <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

# The Good Confession enabled by the Holy Spirit

## 1 Corinthians 12:3-7

- ▶ 1 Cor. 12:3-7 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.<sup>5</sup> And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.<sup>6</sup> There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.<sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

# Access to God and Building of the Church by the Power the Holy Spirit - Ephesians 2:18-22

- ▶ <sup>18</sup>... through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

# Gift of the Inspired Holy Scriptures by the Holy Spirit

2 Peter 1:20-21, 2 Timothy 1:13-14

- ▶ 2 Pet. 1:20-21 <sup>20</sup> But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
- ▶ 2 Tim. 1:13-14 Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to *you*.



# The Miracle of Salvation/Conversion by the Holy Spirit - Titus 3:5-7

- ▶ Titus 3:5-7 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

# The Change/New Life/fruits of the Holy Spirit

## Galatians 5:22-26

- ▶ Gal. 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

**Baptism/indwelling/seal of the Holy Spirit** (regeneration at conversion)

VS

**The filling/empowering/enabling by the Holy Spirit** (power for special times & tasks)

(Greek words πληρώω pleroo – to make full, fulfill/complete – and πίμπλημι pimplemi – to fill, be full of)

**1. John the Baptist Prophecy of Jesus baptizing with the Holy Spirit**

(Mt. 3:11, Mk. 1:8, Lk. 3:16, Jn. 1:33)

**2. Jesus' Promise of the Holy Spirit** (John 7:38–39, John 14:7)

**3. The Disciples Promise or Receiving the Holy Spirit**

(11 disciples – John 20:22)

**4. The Coming/Falling of the Holy Spirit/Baptism of the Church**

(Pentecost – Acts 2, Samaritans – Acts 8, Gentiles Acts 10, OT saints in Ephesians – Acts 19)

**5. The Filling of the Holy Spirit at special times for special missions**

Lk. 1:15, 1:41, 1:67, Acts 2:4, 2:8–11 / Psalm 16:8–11, 4:8, 4:31, 9:17, 13:9, 13:52,  
Rom. 15:13, 15:14, 15:19, 2 Cor. 7:4, Eph. 1:23, 3:19, 5:18, Phil. 1:11, 2:2, 4:19, Col.  
1:9, 1:25, 4:17, 1 Thess. 1:11, 2 Tim. 1:4, 1 John 1:4, 2 John 1:12.

# Baptism/indwelling/seal of the Holy Spirit VS The filling/empowering/enabling/completing by the Holy Spirit

(Greek words πληρώω pleroo – to make full, fulfill/complete – and πίμπλημι pimplemi – to fill, be full of)

## ▶ The Filling of the Holy Spirit at special times for special missions

- John the Baptist mission while in his mother's womb to turn Israel back to God – Lk. 1:15,
- Elizabeth prophesying blessedness of Mary's womb – Lk. 1:41,
- Zacharias – prophesying redemption for Israel – Lk. 1:67,
- Jerusalem believers speaking the gospel in different languages – Acts 2:4,
- OT quote/Psalm of the power/ability to be full of gladness/joy in God's presence – Acts 2:8–11/Psalm 16:8–11,
- Peter speaking courageously and confidently of Jesus resurrection and the only way of salvation when on trial – Acts 4:8,
- Peter, John, early church praying/room shaken speaking the Word of God with boldness – Acts 4:31,
- Ananias baptizing Saul and him proclaiming Jesus is the Son of God in the synagogues – Acts 9:17,
- Saul/Paul boldly rebutting Elymas the magician in front of the proconsul at Salamis – Acts 13:9,
- Paul and Barnabus and other believers filled with joy despite persecution – Acts 13:52,
- Paul's prayer for the Roman believers to have joy and peace in believing and to abound in hope and power by the Holy Spirit – Rom. 15:13,
- Believers being full of goodness, knowledge, and able to admonish one another – Rom. 15:14,
- Signs and wonders given to Paul by the power of the Holy Spirit – Romans 15:19,
- The filling of Paul with comfort and joy in regards to the Corinthians – 2 Cor. 7:4,
- The fullness of Christ/God given to the church – Eph. 1:23, 3:19,
- Command by God through Paul for believers to be filled/controlled by the Holy Spirit instead of alcohol so they speak to one another in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, sign and make melodies in their hearts to the Lord...always giving thanks for all things in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and to be subject to one another in the fear of Christ – Eph. 5:18,
- The filling of believers/Ephesians with the fruit of righteousness/right living – Phil. 1:11,
- The filling of believers to be of the same mind, love, and unity and purpose in the Spirit – Phil. 2:2,
- God promises to supply/fill all our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus – Phil. 4:19,
- The prayer for believers to be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding – Col. 1:9,
- Fulfilling/carry out our ministry of preaching the Word of God – Col. 1:25,
- Our completion in Christ/removal of sin – Col. 2:10, and overall to fulfill the ministry God has given us – Col. 4:17,
- Living a life worthy of our calling and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power – 1 Thess. 1:11,
- Filled with joy – 2 Tim. 1:4,
- Joy made complete – 1 John 1:4, 2 John 1:12.

# SO WHAT?

## Application



**John 7:37-39** 37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

**Acts 10:44-48a** <sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. <sup>45</sup> All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup> "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?" <sup>48</sup> And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Application of Acts 10: Believer's Baptism in water should follow SOON after conversion/making the good confession/commitment (Jesus is Lord) as EVIDENCE/proof of salvation

- ▶ **Baptized in water** (βαπτίζω *baptizo*: to dip, sink, immerse, envelope/overwhelm completely)
- ▶ **Who have received the Holy Spirit** (λαμβάνω *lambano*: to take, receive)
- ▶ **Baptized in the NAME of Jesus Christ** (ὄνομα *onoma*: a name, authority, cause)

# Verses on Believer's Baptism:

- ▶ **Command to baptized:** Matt. 28:18–20 (Why does God command believers to be baptized in water?)
- ▶ **Symbolism of Baptism** (Jesus life, death, resurrection, spiritual rebirth, spiritual cleansing)
- ▶ Rom. 6:3–11, Acts 22:16 (Why should a believing child wait to be baptized if they don't yet comprehend the symbolism of baptism?)
- ▶ **John the Baptist's baptism of repentance** (preparation for salvation)
- ▶ Matt. 3:11, Mk. 1:8, Lk. 3:16, Jn. 1:26, 1:31, 1:33, 3:23, Acts 1:5, 11:16
- ▶ **Jesus' baptism** (why do you think Jesus was baptized?)
- ▶ Matt. 3:13–17, Mk. 1:9–11, Lk. 3:21–22
- ▶ **Jesus' disciple's baptizing** (why do you think the disciples rather than Jesus did the baptizing?)
- ▶ Jn. 3:22, Jn. 4:1–2
- ▶ **10 examples of Believer's Baptism in water in the book of Acts:**
- ▶ Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12, Acts 8:13, Acts 8:35–39, Acts 9:18, Acts 10:47–48 Acts 16:14–15, Acts 16:33, Acts 18:8, Acts 19:1–7

# Matthew 28:18-20

- ▶ <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.  
<sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



# Romans 6:1-11

- ▶ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. <sup>10</sup> For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

# Acts 22:13-16

- ▶ 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him. <sup>14</sup> "And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. <sup>15</sup> 'For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup> 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

# Luke 12:50 and 1 Peter 3:18-22

- ▶ <sup>50</sup> "But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!
- ▶ <sup>18</sup> For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; <sup>19</sup> in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits *now* in prison, <sup>20</sup> who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the* water. <sup>21</sup> Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

## 10 Examples of Believers Baptism in Scripture

- No examples of infant baptism or sprinkling
- All examples occur on the same day as conversion

Reference	Occurrence
Acts 2:41	The 3000 who accepted Peter's invitation were baptized that same day
Acts 8:12	The men and women who responded to Philip's gospel message were baptized
Acts 8:13	Simon the Sorcerer believed and was baptized (possible occurrence of false profession & baptism - not 100% avoidable)
Acts 8:35-38	The Ethiopian eunuch believed with all his heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and was baptized the same day at the first site of water
Acts 9:18	Saul (Paul) was baptized three days after his introduction to Jesus, but the same day he received the Holy Spirit.
Acts 10:48	Comelius' household (Gentiles) believes Peter's preaching as evidenced by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and they were baptized
Acts 16:14-15	Lydia from Philippi: the Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul, and she was baptized.
Acts 16:33	The Philippian jailer in charge of Paul and Silas is converted and he and his entire family are baptized that same night
Acts 18:8	Crispus, the Corinthian synagogue ruler, along with his household and many Corinthians heard, believed, and were baptized
Acts 19:1-7	12 Ephesian men who knew of John's Baptism of repentance, believe on Christ Jesus and are baptized in his name

## Acts 8:35-39

- ▶ <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. <sup>36</sup> As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>37</sup> *And 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."* <sup>38</sup> And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

# 1. Who Should Be Baptized?

- A. Acts 2:41 - Those who had received his word were baptized that day
- B. Acts 8:12 - Those who believed were baptized, men and women alike.
- C. Acts 18:8 - When they heard were believing and being baptized.

▶ Conclusion: Everyone that has repented and by faith believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord should be baptized. (Romans 10:9-13)

Romans 10:9-13 <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; <sup>13</sup> for "Whoever will call upon the name of the LORD will be saved."

## 2. Why Be Baptized?

- A. Obedience - Christ commands every believer to be baptized. Jesus said:
- 1) Matthew 28:19 - Make disciples of all the nations and baptize them.
  - 2) 1 John 2:3-6 – Obedience is a test/proof of our faith.

- B. The example set before us - The early church practiced baptism.
- 1) Acts 8:36-38, Acts 10:44-48, Acts 16:31-33, Acts 18:8 -

▶ Conclusion: Baptism is an act of obedience to Christ's command (Matthew 28:19) that was obeyed by the first Christians

Matthew 28:18-20 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

# 3. What Is The Meaning of Baptism?

## A. Baptism is not a saving ritual.

- a) Ephesians 2:8-9 – We were saved by God’s grace through faith and not by our works
- b) Titus 3:5 - “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy...”

## B. Baptism is a declaration of our identification with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection.

- a) Colossians 2:12 “having been buried with Him in baptism . . .”
- b) Romans 6:4 “we have been buried with Him through baptism . . .”

## C. Baptism is symbolic

- 1) Death - Going down into the water- “Baptized into His death” (Romans 6:3) – *Atonement for sin.*
- 2) Burial - Down under the water or submerged- “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death” (Romans 6:4a) - *Burial of the old sin nature.*
- 3) Resurrection - Coming out of the water- “In order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4b) – *New Life Now/Eternal Life Later*
- (4) Spiritual Cleansing – Picture of washing/forgiveness - “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16)
- (5) New Birth - Picture of rebirth. “You must be born again” (John 3:7) – *New Birth.* Water is a symbol of birth/spiritual regeneration - “He saved us...by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit”(Titus 3:5, 2 Cor. 5:15-27) – *New Nature*

**Conclusion:** Baptism is symbolic and *only demonstrates* our salvation. Baptism in no way adds to, enhances, or makes possible our salvation. If we were in any way saved by baptism, we would then be saved by our own deeds.

Romans 6:3-5 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection,

# 4. How are we to be baptized?

## A. Biblical example

1) Baptism in the New Testament was by immersion in water.

a) Matthew 3:16 - "And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water..."

b) Acts 8:38-39 - "and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water..."

## B. The definition of the word - The word "baptism" means "to dip, to immerse".

a) Kittle's Theological Dictionary of New Testament Words: "to dip in or under"

b) Thayer's, Greek-English Lexicon: "to dip, dip in, immerse"

**Conclusion:** There is sound Biblical, grammatical and historical evidence for baptism by complete emersion.

Acts 8:36-39 36 And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 37 And 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." 38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing.



# 5. Who may do the baptizing?

- A. Matthew 28:19 - A general command for all believers to “make disciples”, and does not stop them from baptizing those new believers they lead to Christ.
- B. Acts 8:38 - Philip, commonly called a deacon (Acts 6:5), baptized the new Ethiopian convert.
- C. Acts 9:18 - Ananias, simply called “a disciple” (Acts 9:10), Baptized the new convert Saul, later called Paul.
- D. 1 Corinthians 1:17 - Paul said, “Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel,…” Even as an Apostle and missionary, Paul did not say that only he could baptize but he left the joy to others.

**Conclusion:** Any believer who is walking in obedience to Christ and His Word may baptize another believer who is in need of being baptized.

(Because of the principle of headship (Ephesians 5:23-24 <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.) and biblical leadership/submission (1 Peter 5:5/Hebrews 13:17), as well as the responsibility we have before the Lord in making sure the people we baptize are truly saved and born again, our preference as a church is for Elders or Dads to baptize)

# 6. When Should We Be Baptized?

- A. Acts 2:41 – “So then, those who had received his word were baptized”
- B. Acts 8:12 – “But when (or as) they believed. . .they were being baptized”
- C. Acts 9:15, 18 - . . . Paul arose and was baptized as soon as he was able.”
- D. Acts 16:32-33 – “and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household”

**Conclusion: In Scripture the response to the command to be baptized was inextricably tied together with conversion and took place immediately after conversion.**

(Because all 10 examples of believer’s baptism in Scripture took place on the same day as conversion we believe and teach that the principle to be followed is to be baptized SOON after conversion as proof of conversion. But we stress that baptism is NOT a requirement for salvation (the Bible says only belief through repentance and faith are required to receive salvation as a gift ) nor is baptism the source of salvation since Jesus’ blood & righteousness are what saves us)

Acts 2:38-41 <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> "For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself." <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" <sup>41</sup> So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

# 7. Why is Baptism Important?

Baptism is an Important “S.T.E.P.”

**S**ymbol of salvation (picture of the gospel: death, burial, resurrection, washing, and rebirth)

**T**estimony of faith in Jesus Christ (his disciple)  
to the body of believers (part of the church)  
to any unbelievers who attend (testimony)

**E**vidence of genuine salvation (Holy Spirit)  
of Jesus’ Lordship in your life (obedience to Christ and His Word)

## Personal Confession

that “Jesus is Lord!”

that “I am a Christian!”

that “I am forgiven and have eternal life in Jesus!”

that “I believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus”

that “I have repented and died to my old life and living for self”

that “I have faith and placed my trust in Jesus’ blood and righteousness to save me”

that “I have new life now and eternal life later because I am a new creation in Jesus”

**Conclusion: Baptism is Picture of my salvation, a Public declaration of my faith (identifying with Jesus and other Christians), and Proof of my repentance and faith that follows and obeys Jesus as Lord.**

Acts 22:16 16 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

# SO WHAT?

## Application



**1 Peter 3:18-22** 18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, 20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. 21 And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.