

5-19-2024, COTR Texarkana

Title: The God Connection, pt-4

Purpose: Provoke people to seek and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us to encourage believers and reach the lost.

Truth for Today: The Holy Spirit wants to work through us to encourage believers and reach the lost.

Text: Acts 1:8

Topic: Acts, Holy Spirit, Cessationism, Continuationism, Supernatural, Power

Series Title: The God Connection...The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Series Purpose Provoke people to (1) Develop a vital relationship with the Holy Spirit, (2) Allow Him to work in us, (3) Have faith to let Him work through us supernaturally using spiritual gifts.

The God Connection, pt-4

I. Introduction

- A. Review: Series Title: The God Connection...The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer
- B. Series Purpose: Provoke people to (1) Develop a vital relationship with the Holy Spirit, [1 Cor. 6:19 (NLT) your body is the temple of **the Holy Spirit, who lives in you.**] (2) Allow Him to work in us, (3) Have faith to let Him work through us using spiritual gifts.
- C. Now we're going to shift from what the Holy Spirit wants to do in us to what the Holy Spirit wants to do through us, using spiritual gifts as a tool to help Christians and reach the lost. We'll use the Book of Acts as a model for us to embrace the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. Rather than do a verse-by-verse study of Acts, we'll highlight the activity of the Holy Spirit working through the believers.
- D. Title: The God Connection, pt-4

II. Overview of the Book of Acts and Cessationism

- A. Overview of the Book of Acts.
 - 1. Key verse, [Acts 1:8 (NLT) But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my (Jesus) witnesses, telling people about me everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
 - 2. In the Title, ‘Book of Acts’, what ‘Acts’ are being referred to? Acts of the apostles/ disciples, Acts of the Holy Spirit or *Acts of the Holy Spirit working through believers to reach the world for Christ. Acts as a verb means to take action^s by fulfilling Jesus call to world evangelism through the power, gifts and direction of the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. Overview of Acts (1) The Ascension of Jesus; (2) The coming of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem on The Day of Pentecost, the day the church was born. (3) Ch. 1-12 Jerusalem is the main location; the Jews are the primary focus and Peter is the main leader, (4) Ch. 13-28 the epicenter of the Gentile church shifts to Antioch and the gospel goes to the world; the Gentiles are the primary focus and Paul is the main leader. (5) There is no ‘amen’ or ending on the book of Acts; the Holy

Spirit is still ‘writing’ the acts of the Holy Spirit empowering believers to advance the gospel today.

- B. The Book of Acts is the history of how the Holy Spirit worked through the early church AND is a model for us today. Christians disagree.
1. **Cessationism** is a doctrine that spiritual gifts such as prophecy and healing (1 Cor. 12) ceased when the original apostles died. **Continuationism** is a Christian theological belief that the gifts of the Holy Spirit continue today.¹
 2. Why I believe the gifts of the Holy Spirit should be sought and exercised today and Cessationism is wrong: (1) It contradicts the model of ministry Jesus practiced and taught His followers, 12/ 70/ Acts and church history. Why would Jesus establish a model for ministry only to stop using it when the original apostles died? (2) Supernatural gifts and ministry were done by believers, not just apostles in the NT, e.g., Philip, Stephen. (3) There is no clear Biblical teaching that the Holy Spirit will stop giving spiritual gifts. I believe personal experience, not Scripture, is the basis of this belief. (4) Personal experience: receiving and practicing spiritual gifts has changed my life.

III. Acts ch. 1

- A. [Acts 1 (NLT)] In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything **Jesus began to do and teach** ² until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the ***Holy Spirit.***]
1. Acts is the historical account of the continuation of what Jesus taught and the supernatural acts He did through the early believers. They “did and taught; so can we because we have the same Holy Spirit living in us to help us reach the world.
 2. “Instructions through the ***Holy Spirit.***” The Holy Spirit had an active role in Jesus life and the same Holy Spirit who lives in us wants an active role in our lives.
 3. **Do it in me Lord** Phrase to express faith that the Holy Spirit will move through us
- B. [Vs. 4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “**Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.** ⁵ **John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**”] Referring to the Day of Pentecost.
1. “the gift he promised” is referring to the Holy Spirit.
 2. John Baptist, [Matthew 3:11 (NLT)] “**I baptize with water** those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am... **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**]
 3. Strong’s³ Def. baptize: βαπτίζω (*baptizō*): 1. wash, assumedly by dipping, in a ceremonial way (Mk 7:4) *Pharisees washing hands*; 2. baptize, to ceremonially cleanse, with the visible agent of water, to show purity and initiation into Christ through repentance (Mt 3:6) *John the Baptist*; **3. Cause a religious experience, involving special manifestations of God’s power and presence.** (*Baptism in the Holy Spirit* ² Theological Dictionary of the NT⁴: **to overwhelm, saturate**, e.g., dying a garment. Just as dying a garment changes it so we are changed when the Holy Spirit baptizes us. Baptism is confusing because in the NT it is used to refer to water, fire, suffering, into the Body of Christ and baptized with the Holy Spirit.

4. What does it mean to be “baptized with the Holy Spirit”? A religious experience, involving special manifestations of God’s power and presence ² e.g. Day of Pentecost, Acts 19 disciples at Ephesus. TDNT: to be overwhelmed or saturated by the Holy Spirit. The purpose is...
5. [Vs. 8 **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”] The supernatural ability to fulfill the Great Commission.
6. Our primary task given by Jesus is to fulfill the Great Commission, i.e., tell everyone in the whole world that God loves them, Jesus can forgive, save them and give eternal life if they believe and follow Him. This is the power to “teach and do” like Jesus did. **Do it in me Lord**
- C. [Vs 9 After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”]
 1. The Ascension and the 2nd Coming of Jesus/
- D. [Vs 12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem...¹³ When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house...¹⁴ **They all met together and were constantly united in prayer**, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.]
 1. Constant, corporate prayer creates the environment for the Holy Spirit to work through us. **App**. This applies to us today. If we want to experience God’s Presence and Power we must be a church that prays. We need to be more committed to prayer at COTR.
- E. [Vs. 15, During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. ¹⁶ “Brothers,” he said, “the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. **This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David.**] Ps. 109:8
 1. The idea of people speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit occurred throughout the OT and NT. **Do it in me Lord**

IV. Conclusion

- A. Next week, Acts ch. 2, the day of Pentecost
- B. Reflect on today’s text: [Acts 1:8 (NLT) **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my (Jesus) witnesses, telling people about me everywhere**] **Do it in me Lord**
- C. Prayer: Lord, I want everything the Holy Spirit has for me. Would you baptize me afresh with the Holy Spirit...overwhelm and saturate me with your Holy Spirit so I can help people and be a better witness for Christ.

V. Response

- A. Prayer:
- B. Souls

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Wikipedia
2. Swanson, J. (1997). In [*Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)*](#) (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.
3. Strongs Concordance
4. The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament
5. Merriam Webster

VII. Supplemental Material

- A. [Eph. 1:13 (NLT)...when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit] If the Holy Spirit lives inside me, what does He want to do in and through me?
- B. **Cessationism versus continuationism** involves a [Christian theological](#) dispute as to whether [spiritual gifts](#) remain available to the [church](#), or whether their operation ceased with the [Apostolic Age](#) of the church (or soon thereafter). The cessationist doctrine arose in the [Reformed](#) theology: initially in response to claims of Roman Catholic [miracles](#). Modern discussions focus more on the use of spiritual gifts in the [Pentecostal](#) and [Charismatic movements](#), though this emphasis has been taught in traditions that arose earlier, such as [Methodism](#).
- C. **Cessationism** is a doctrine that spiritual gifts such as [speaking in tongues](#), [prophecy](#), and [healing](#) ceased with the [Apostolic Age](#). The doctrine was developed in the reformation and is particularly associated with the Calvinists. More recent development has tended to focus on other spiritual gifts too, owing to the advent of Pentecostalism and the Charismatic movement that have popularised continuationism, the position that the spiritual gifts are meant for all [Christians](#) in every age.
- D. **Continuationism** is a Christian theological belief that the gifts of the [Holy Spirit](#), the spiritual gifts, have continued to the present age. Continuationism as a distinct theological position arose in opposition to cessationism, and is often manifested in advocacy of the recovery of spiritual gifts in the Church today, but also encompasses any tradition that does not argue the gifts have necessarily ceased.¹