

6-30-2024, COTR Texarkana

Title: The God Connection, pt-9

Purpose: Provoke people to be filled or baptized with the Holy Spirit and desire to hear and obey His voice.

Truth for Today: We can be filled or baptized with the Spirit and see God move in supernatural ways including being led by the Holy Spirit.

Text: Acts chapter 8

Topic: Holy Spirit, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Divine Guidance, Supernatural

Series Title: 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-9

I. Introduction

- A. The Great Commission, our #1 job, [Mark 16:15 (NCV) Jesus said to his followers, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.] Part of the Great commission includes reaching people around the world who have never heard about Jesus. 8 billion/ 2.2 billion Christian. Global Advance is one of our partners reaching them, John Hall. (1) Tell us about Global Advance and what would you do to reach people who have never heard about Jesus if someone gave you \$100k.
- B. Video Wilson Why did he disobey? [Psalm 51:5 (NLT) For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.]
- C. Review Series: The God Connection...The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. We're studying the Book of Acts as a handbook to teach us what the Holy Spirit did in the early church to inspire us to have faith He can do the same through us. The same Holy Spirit who lived in the early Christians lives in us today. Why shouldn't we expect Him to give us the same spiritual gifts to do the same supernatural works they did? We share the Great Commission and the same promise from Jesus, [Acts 1:8 (NLT) 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."]
- D. Today in chapter 8 we'll see (1) Christians in Samaria were baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit after salvation. (2) The H. Spirit will speak to us and show us what to do.
- E. Title: The God Connection, pt-9

II. Ch 8, Early church evangelism was accompanied by spiritual gifts and Holy Spirit power

- A. Context persecution, [Vs. 4 But the believers who were scattered preached...about Jesus wherever they went. 5 Philip...went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. 6 Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. 7 Many evil spirits were cast out... And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed...¹²...the people believed Philip's message...of Jesus Christ...many... were baptized.]
 - 1. Philip the deacon², (not an apostle), operated with the power of the Holy Spirit, using spiritual gifts to authenticate the truth of the gospel. The result was people

coming to Christ. If he needed the power of the Holy Spirit then, don't we need that same power today?

III. The Samaritan Christians had an encounter with the Holy Spirit after salvation. Controversial

- A. [Vs. 12 But now **the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.**] Clearly, they are Christians; they believed in Jesus and were baptized in water. *When we are saved, God the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us. *Our theology of the Holy Spirit begins with this foundation, [Eph. 1:13 (NLT)]... **when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit (ESV sealed with the Holy Spirit)**...] When we are saved/ born again, the Holy Spirit resides in us and influences us. Paul's writings are the primary basis of theology. The way people experienced the Holy Spirit in Acts is not the same. **Example** Pentecost Spirit came unexpectedly, In Samaria apostles laid their hands on believers, Cornelius was baptized with the Spirit before water baptism, in Ephesus they spoke in an unlearned language/ tongues and prophesied. Biblical teaching about the Holy Spirit doesn't fit like perfect puzzle pieces.
- B. [Vs 14 When the apostles...heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message, they sent **Peter and John there.** ¹⁵ **As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit.** ¹⁶ **The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon (NKJV fallen upon) any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** ¹⁷ **Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit.**] This was a sign and a pattern.
1. Observations: (1) It seems very clear these believers had an encounter with the Holy Spirit AFTER they were saved. **come upon (NKJV fallen upon)**. It would be inconsistent with Paul's teaching to say they were saved but didn't have the Holy Spirit. I understand our relationship with the Holy Spirit using 3 pronouns: with, in and upon. **Illus glass water**. Being filled with the Spirit also means We are to be under the influence/ control of the Holy Spirit. [Ephesians 5:18 (NLT) Don't be **drunk with wine**, because that will ruin your life. Instead, **be filled with the Holy Spirit**] It When you are drunk you are under the influence/ control of alcohol.³ It's a different Greek verb from Acts, filled with the Spirit, meaning living under the influence/ control of the Holy Spirit.
 2. (2) They had an experience with the Holy Spirit when Peter and John 'laid their hands upon them'. i.e., spiritual transference, Contrast Pentecost and Cornelius.
 3. (3) There was some spiritual manifestation after being filled with the Spirit., perhaps 'speaking in tongues/ an unlearned language' like Pentecost. [Acts 8:18 (NLT) When **Simon saw that the Spirit was given** when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power.]
 4. (4) This isn't the only time believers encounter the Holy Spirit after salvation: (1) Peter to Cornelius a Gentile, [Acts 10:44-46 (NLT) Even as Peter was saying these things, **the Holy Spirit fell upon** all who were listening to the message. ⁴⁵ The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that **the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out** on the Gentiles, too. ⁴⁶ For **they heard them**

speaking in other tongues and praising God. Then Peter asked, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?”] (2) **Acts 9:17–18 (NLT)** So Ananias...found Saul. **He laid his hands on him and said,** “Brother Saul, **the Lord Jesus...has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.**” ¹⁸ Instantly...he regained his sight. Then he got up and was **baptized.** (3) **Acts 19:1–6 (NLT)** ...Paul...reached Ephesus...where he found several **believers.** ² **“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”** he asked them. “No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ “Then what baptism did you experience?”...“The baptism of John.” ⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in...Jesus.” ⁵ As soon as they heard this, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** ⁶ Then when **Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.**] We have 4 examples after the Day of Pentecost who have an experience with the Holy Spirit after salvation. If this experience happened to the believers then, shouldn’t we expect it today?

5. (5) There is usually some outward sign accompanying the baptism/ filling of the Spirit: Speaking in an unknown language was mentioned or inferred 4 times and prophesying and glorifying God 1 time each.
6. This is why I believe the baptism or being filled with the Spirit in Scripture is a spiritual experience after salvation and should be sought by all believers.

IV. The Holy Spirit wants to communicate with us to reach people for Jesus

A. [**Vs 26 an angel of the Lord said to him (Philip),** “Go...down the...road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷...and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia...²⁸ and he was...reading...the book of the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ **The Holy Spirit said to Philip,** “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.” ³⁰ **Philip ran** over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?”...³⁵ So **beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.**] He’s converted and baptized.

1. Observations: (1) Angels are real and sent by God to help us. [**Hebrews 1:14 (NCV)** All the **angels are spirits** who serve God and are sent to **help those who will receive salvation.**]
 (2) The Holy Spirit somehow spoke very specifically, and Philip recognized his voice and obeyed him. **We can desire the same thing.**
2. (3) If we’re committed to follow Jesus, God puts us in the right place at the right time to accomplish His will.
3. (4) The H. Spirit will lead us if we’re willing to say yes to reach people for Jesus

V. Conclusion **Video: Barb’s testimony**

VI. Response

A. Prayer: (1) Lord, fill me with the Holy Spirit, (2) Let me learn to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and obey Him.

B. Souls: Many of us are like the people of Samaria, we're searching for God. We want Him to be real in our lives. It can happen if you decide to believe in and follow Jesus.

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

1. Toussaint, S. D. (1985). [Acts](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 372). Victor Books.
2. Newman, B. M., & Nida, E. A. (1972). [A handbook on the Acts of the Apostles](#) (p. 173). United Bible Societies.
3. Hoehner, H. W. (1985). [Ephesians](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 640). Victor Books.

VIII. Supplemental Material

A. Last week, we looked at the activity of the Holy Spirit in ch. 5-7. (1) The Holy Spirit, holiness, and the fear of God, (2) Having faith for supernatural works through the gifts of the Spirit. (3) The Holy Spirit's supernatural work in Stephen the deacon.

B. Context/ Background

1. [Acts 8 (NLT) **Saul...agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through...Judea and Samaria.**]
2. God used persecution to fulfill the Great Commission. [Romans 8:28 (NLT) And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.]

C. Philip, a Grecian Jew and therefore more broad-minded than Aramaic-speaking Jews in Israel (cf. 6:1), went to the Samaritans.¹

D. The Samaritans, as the Jews, lived in the expectation of a coming Messiah; among the Samaritans he was known as Taheb, "one who restores."²

E. The fact that **all the Jerusalem believers except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria** was God's method of fulfilling the mandate of 1:8. The word "scattered" (*diesparēsan*), also used in 8:4, comes from the verb *speirō*, used to refer to sowing seed (Matt. 6:26; 13:3-4, 18; 25:24, 26; Luke 8:5; 12:24; etc.) This statement also prepares the ¹

F. Translations are divided as to whether Luke said *the city of Samaria* or "a city of Samaria" ²

G. ³⁶ As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! **There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?**" ³⁸ He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away.** The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Meanwhile, **Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.**

H. Because of persecution believers were scattered and the Word of God spread despite spiritual opposition. This shows us God's sovereign control¹ and good can come from something bad. [Romans 8:28 (ESV) And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.] World evangelism expanded from Jerusalem because of persecution.