

Introduction: the promise of the Spirit to be in the New Covenant people; last week the outpouring at Pentecost

- there are three things that Luke highlights as the work of the Spirit in the acts after the day of Pentecost
- there are other things, but I am summarizing to these three major themes

I. THE INTERNATIONAL SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

- Visible signs that are never exactly repeated¹
- Notice that none of these examples are the same, showing not mechanical or automatic, no "pattern" to follow
- Notice that all three instances involve either John, Peter, or Paul
- There is no indication that this particular mark of the Spirit was "common", but specifically tied to these events
- Purpose? 1:8 – the outbound work of the Gospel to the nations
- There is no indication that they were taught beforehand what tongues was, or that they should pursue it
- A. Samaritans (Jewish/Gentile mix) (8:15ff)**
- B. Gentiles Proselytes (10:44-48 11:15-18)**
- C. Disciples of John (Jews) (19:1-12)**
- the passages in which the Spirit is leading and speaking (in Acts) has directly to do with the Spirit's direction as to where the Gospel is going

II. THE EQUIPPING OF SERVANTS OF THE GOSPEL

- A. Local Church "Deacons" (6:3-7)**
- B. Missionary Church Planters (13:2-4 [Barnabas 11:24 Saul 9:17])**
- C. Local Church Elders (20:28)**
- the work of the Gospel, whether in serving the practical needs of the body, or proclaiming the Gospel, or planting churches (locally or worldwide), or caring for the local flock, can only be done by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the church

III. THE FRUITFUL BLESSINGS OF THE GOSPEL

- A. Boldness in proclaiming the Gospel (4:31)**
- B. Comfort and Joy Because of the Gospel (9:31 13:52)**
- C. Generosity in the Gospel (11:28)**
- All of these things are connected to the Gospel (coming, life, death, resurrection, coming again of Jesus)
- Isn't this what we desire above all, to see in our own lives and church?
- The place where the Spirit will most work and be seen is where the Gospel is cherished and loved
- If we want to invite the work of the Spirit, the most basic thing we can do is set our hearts on the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - o it isn't the work of the Spirit apart from the Gospel
 - o it isn't a focus on secondary things
 - o it is making the Lord Jesus Christ as presented in the Gospel our Magnificent Obsession
- Second, we should pray, we should ask, seek, knock (Lk11), asking the Spirit to open our eyes to the glory of Christ, the power that works in us, the promise of His coming
- If you have not believed, then I do just what the early church – proclaim the Gospel to you

¹

Acts	2:1-11	8:14-19	10:44-48	19:1-6
Recipients	Jews (apostles+?)	Samaritans	Gentiles	?, disciples of John
Apostles	Yes	Peter and John	Peter	Paul
Location	Jerusalem	Samaria	Caesarea	Ephesus
Visible signs	Tongues of fire	Yes, signs before	No	No
Sounds	Sound of wind	No	No	No
Tongues	Yes	Not mentioned	Yes (11:15)	Yes
Laying on of hands	No	Yes, afterward	No	Yes
Water baptism	Significantly before	Yes, before	Yes, after	Before
Time lapse after belief	Yes	Yes	No, as believe	Yes