

## **Appendix to Lesson 10**

Lesson: 10 (Appendix)

Topic: The Persecution Led by Saul and the Ministry of Philip

Reading: Acts 8:1-40

### **Question**

Was the Samaritans' baptism void of the Holy Spirit?

This question comes from Acts 8:14-16 that states: "...they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

### **Issues to Address**

1. What does "in the name of the Lord Jesus" mean?
2. What does it mean to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus?
3. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen on any of them?

### **In the Name of the Lord Jesus**

- The phrase 'name of Jesus' (or variations of this phrase) occurs 30 times in the book of Acts. For example:
  - **Ac 2:21** – And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'
  - **Ac 4:18** – So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.
  - **Ac 4:30** – while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."
  - **Ac 5:40** – and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

- **Ac 9:27** – But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.
- **Ac 9:28** – So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.
- **Ac 15:26** – men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- I selected these verses specifically because the phrase “in the name of Jesus” is not being used in the context of Baptism but the preaching and teaching of the apostles.
- As it’s tied to preaching and teaching, the phrase highlights:
  - not a formula, it’s not the exact words they were saying.
  - There’s substance and depth to the apostle’s teaching and preaching.
  - That substance, the content and source of the apostles’ preaching and teaching is Christ Jesus, their crucified and risen Lord.
- This phrase finds its origin in Jesus’ instruction of the apostles from the OT Scriptures:
  - “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nation, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:46-47).
- Ultimately:
  - The phrase “in the name of Jesus” is used Book of Acts as a kind of shorthand for the content of the apostolic doctrine
  - Everything that Jesus did and said according to the Scriptures stands behind His name.
  - It indicates who Jesus is, what He has done, and that He is the saving content of the Gospel’s message.

## **In the Name of Jesus – Baptism**

- As we see “in the name of Jesus” weren’t their exact words but highlights Jesus is the saving content of the Gospel’s message.
- We can also apply this to instances where the phrase is tied to baptism. Examples:
  - **Ac 2:38** – And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - **Ac 10:48** – And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.
- Not all instances of Baptism include the phrase “in the name of Jesus”:
  - **Ac 8:12** – But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
  - **Ac 9:18** – And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;
  - **Ac 22:16** – And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

### **IF NEEDED**

- Additional items that we must consider:
  - **Jesus was baptized:** He who was sinless submitted to a sinner’s baptism (Matt. 3), so that we might be crucified into His death and resurrection (Rom. 6).
  - **Jesus command of baptism:** Prior to His ascension, Jesus taught that Holy Baptism should continue. He gives the exact words to use: “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*”

- **Apostles follow Jesus' Command:** Following the command of Jesus, the apostles and ministers of the Church continued to baptize repentant sinners for the forgiveness of sins.
- Holy Baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is “baptism in the name of Jesus” because Jesus the Lord and His saving death and resurrection is the content of Holy Baptism in the name of the Triune God.

### **The Holy Spirit and Baptism**

- No one can believe the gospel except by the operation of the Holy Spirit:
  - “No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:3).
- Likewise, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism always bestows the Holy Spirit on those who do not reject Him:
  - “Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:5-6).
  - “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).
  - “...he [the Father] saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his [the Father] own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he [the Father] poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior...” (Titus 3:5-6).
    - Notice the Trinitarian nature of this passage.
- In His baptism, Jesus was baptized with the Holy Spirit.
  - “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;” (Matt. 3:16).
- Jesus commanded Baptism to be administered in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matt. 28:19).

### Not a One-Time Thing

- It’s important to understand that the Spirit’s action in one instance does not rule out His action at other times.
- Examples:
  - **Jesus:** Conceived by the Spirit before baptism, He was designated as God’s Son by the Spirit in Baptism; led by the Spirit after Baptism, He offered Himself to God by the Spirit in death, and raised by the Spirit.
  - **Disciples:** Jesus breathed on them to receive the Spirit. They received the Spirit at Pentecost.
  - **Today:** We can speak of the Spirit being given before, during, or after Baptism.
- This is important to understand as the Spirit is constantly active throughout the early NT Church.
  - Acts 2:4
    - “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
    - The apostles already possessed the Holy Spirit in His capacity as creator of faith (e.g. John 20:33).
    - In Acts 2 the apostles received Him as the giver of prophetic gifts.
    - The gift in their case was the full powers of the apostolic office, including the ability to speak in languages they had never learned.
  - Acts 10:44-48
    - READ
    - “While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word...the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even

on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

- Peter points to the speaking in unlearned tongues as evidence of the Spirit's arrival.
- Acts 19:1-6
  - READ
  - This will take some further explaining when we get here...
  - However, notice for now:
    - Baptism in the name of Lord Jesus.
    - Paul laid his hands on them:
      - the Holy Spirit came on them and
      - they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.
- Acts 8:16-19
  - “Holy Spirit...fallen” (v.16)
    - Recalls what had happened at the time of Pentecost.
    - The Holy Spirit falling on the people.
  - “received” (v.17 and 19)
    - Holy Spirit is received through the laying on of hands.
  - So while the Samaritans received the Spirit in baptism, the Spirit manifests himself through the laying on of hands.
  - It was an additional sign marking them as member of the spiritual body that's created by the Spirit.
  - Further evidences of a visible manifestation of the Spirit is that Simon wants to buy this power
- Why multiple appearances of the Holy Spirit?
  - Proclamation of the Word:
    - That the proclamation of Christ crucified for sinners may continue to go forth to all nations.

- One Church

- The Spirit uses the apostles of Jesus in order to unite all believers into one spiritual body and to make this apparent.
- God didn't want two or more churches to be established: one that was Jewish, another that was Samaritan, others that were Gentile.
- All believers were to be one.
- Eph. 4:4-6, "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."