

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for January 5, 2014

“The Ministry By The Holy Spirit To The Gentiles”
Acts 10:44-48

Acts 10:44-48 concludes the report of the good news of Jesus Christ coming to the Gentiles. The conversion of Cornelius, a centurion, and his friends and relatives (Acts 10:24) began the movement in the Book of Acts of the gospel going to the world.

1. The Spirit baptism of the Gentiles (10:44-46)

a. The coming of the Holy Spirit (10:44)

The most notable detail of the Holy Spirit coming to the Gentiles was the suddenness. There was nothing that preceded their conversion other than the hearing of the word. The salvation of the Gentiles was dependent upon only belief.

The complete lack of any means other than the preaching of the gospel for salvation is instructive. No act of any kind was essential prior to, or at the moment of, their conversion.

b. The confusion over the Holy Spirit (10:45)

The degree of amazement (EXISTEMISAN) demonstrated by the six Jewish believers who came with Peter (cf. Acts 11:12) can be seen in how this word can mean, “beside one’s self” (cf. Mark 3:21; 2 Corinthians 5:13). This same term described the apostles’ shock on the original occasion of the Spirit coming at the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:12).

c. The confirmation of the Holy Spirit (10:46)

One evidence of the Holy Spirit coming to the Gentiles was speaking in tongues, which is the supernatural ability to speak in a language that the speaker has never learned.

It has been suggested that a language the Gentiles spoke was Aramaic, since this would be a language understood by the Jewish believers but unknown by the Gentiles.

The other evidence of the Holy Spirit coming to the Gentiles was their exalting, or magnifying, God (cf. Acts 2:11). Today, all true Christians will manifest the Spirit by the exaltation of God instead of the exaltation of self.

2. The water baptism of the Gentiles (10:47-48)

a. The instruction by Peter to be baptized (10:47-48)

Peter's question is rhetorical, pointing out that it is impossible to deny the equal status of these believing Gentiles when God's Spirit indwells them.

Spirit baptism incorporates us into the church positionally, water baptism incorporates us into the church publicly. Water baptism is the outward expression of our inward faith and is designed to connect us to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

b. The invitation by the Gentiles to stay (10:48)

The invitation to stay with Cornelius was significant because devout Jews would not reside with Gentiles.

Peter responded to the Spirit by inviting the Gentiles into where he was staying (Acts 10:23), then by visiting the Gentile home of Cornelius (Acts 10:25), and finally by residing in the Gentile home (cf. John 4:39-43). This willingness to relate to Gentiles would soon become an issue in Jerusalem (Acts 11:3).

May we bring the good news of Christ to all men and welcome those who respond into fellowship regardless of their familiarity with our Christian culture.