

Yielding to the Holy Spirit

2 The Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts

MMBC

March 28, 2018

The Book of Acts is so named the ACTS OF THE APOSTLES! The Book of Acts serves as the sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Acts begins with the empowering, by the Spirit, of the disciples who are so named apostles in Acts. The emergence of the church begins with Peter and ends with the Apostle Paul. Many call the Acts of the Apostles the Gospel of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is clearly in charge in the book of Acts.

Turn to **Acts 1:6-8** and hear what Jesus said. This is the foundation for the book of Acts. This is also the last command Jesus gave to His disciples before His ascension. The word “power” in the Greek is “*dunamis*” which means strength and ability.

Pentecost

Read Acts 2:1ff. Pentecost took place 50 days after the Passover.

The prophecy of Joel 2:28 was fulfilled at Pentecost. Joel’s prophecy was that the Spirit would be poured out on all flesh! What does “all flesh” mean?

Read Acts 2:38. What does Peter say the criteria is for receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit?

You are correct. Repenting, being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins is the requirement for receiving the Holy Ghost. How does that contradict some of our teaching today? The next verse, thirty nine, states this promise is to all generations.

Consider Acts 3:5. What Peter had received himself was the empowering of the Holy Spirit. It was through the power of the Holy Spirit that Peter was able to take the man by the right hand and the paralytic’s legs received strength and we hear of him walking, leaping, and praising God. Verse 12 confirms this and Peter affirms the fact he did not do this on his own or by his own power. The aftermath of the miracle is discussed in Acts 4:6-10.

Lying to the Holy Ghost

Read the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-3

Notice Peter called Ananias out and asked him why hath Satan filled his heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?

Sometime later, Peter called out Sapphira who had partnered with her husband in this ordeal. This time, Peter asked her, “How is it that ye have agreed to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?”

The Deacons and the Widows

Read Acts 6:1-3. What was the requirement for the seven men?

The Samaritans baptized in the name of Jesus in Acts 8:12. However, when the apostles heard they had received the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to pray for them that they might receive the Holy

Ghost (8:15-17). Notice Simon's request. He wanted the Holy Spirit and found out the "power" he requested could not be purchased with money!

What would be the dilemma if the Holy Spirit could be purchased with money?

The Holy Spirit in the life of a Deacon

Read Acts 8:26-40

Group or Partner Work: How many moves of the spirit do you see displayed in this narrative? How important is it to be led by the Spirit? Who and what would have been neglected if Philip hadn't been sensitive to the Spirit?

Saul's Interrupted Plans

After Paul's confrontation with the Lord Himself, Ananias was led to "lay hands" on Brother Saul and Saul received the Holy Ghost (Acts 9:17).

The Spirit Informs

Read Acts 10: 19.

What if Peter hadn't obeyed the Spirit? In reading Acts 10:44, we see where the Holy Ghost fell on them which heard the Word as well as the Gentiles. In each case, the requirement to receive the Holy Spirit is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Being Led by the Spirit for Ministry

In Acts 13:2, the Holy Spirit separated Luke, Barnabas and Saul for the ministry. How much more ground could be covered if they went separate ways? How would this be advantageous? How is it advantageous today?

The Power of the Spirit

Paul, who was empowered by the Spirit of God called a sorcerer named Elymas. Notice 13:9. What do you think is meant by Paul "set his eyes on him?"

Deeper: We have established the fact that belief in Jesus Christ is required in order to receive the Holy Spirit. In Acts 19:1-2, there seems to be a discrepancy. Or, is there?

Those who had not been filled. They said (2c), 'We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost? What is the problem? Paul addressees John the Baptist's promise. Then, he baptized them in the name of the Lord Jesus and laid hands on them and the Holy Spirit came upon them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied.

Discussion

The Misuse of Jesus' name and the result of not being filled is found in Acts 19:13-16. Next Lesson Acts II.