

## CAN ONE RECEIVE THE INDWELT HOLY SPIRIT WITHOUT WATER BAPTISM?

**Acts 10:47** "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?"

First off, the context. It has been almost 10 years since the birthday of the church and even though Peter spoke by inspiration [**Acts 2:4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.], on the day of Pentecost, he didn't realize what the Holy Spirit was giving him. **Acts 2:17** "AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;" Peter didn't realize that the gentile community would be included into the body of Christ, even though Jesus told the apostles to "baptize all nations" in **Matt. 28**. [NASB will be used throughout]

Secondly, remember, "No one scripture says all there is about any one subject." The word complements itself; It never contradicts itself. **Gal 3:2** This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? **Act 2:38** And Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Thirdly, Acts 10 and 11 must be studied together for one is a commentary on the other. Cornelius, the Caesarean, had a vision from God. He will be the first Roman, gentile ever converted. Some of his story follows: **Acts 10:1-5** "Now *there was* a certain man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, (2) a devout man, and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the *Jewish* people, and prayed to God continually. (3) About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had *just* come in to him, and said to him, "Cornelius!" (4) And fixing his gaze upon him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God. (5) "And now dispatch *some* men to Joppa, and send for a man *named* Simon, who is also called Peter;"

The very next day, Peter, while in Joppa, has a vision from heaven. The account follows: **Acts 10:5-15** "And now dispatch *some* men to Joppa, and send for a man *named* Simon, who is also called Peter; (6) he is staying with a certain tanner *named* Simon, whose house is by the sea." (7) And when the angel who was speaking to him had departed, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were in constant attendance upon him, (8) and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. (9) And on the next day, as they were on their way, and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. (10) And he became hungry, and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; (11) and he *\*beheld* the sky opened up, and a certain object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, (12) and there were in it all *kinds of* four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. (13) And a voice came to him, "Arise, Peter, kill and eat!" (14) But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." (15) And again a voice *came* to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no *longer* consider unholy."

Peter recounts this in **Acts 11:1-14** "Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. (2) And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, (3) saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate

with them." (4) But Peter began *speaking* and *proceeded* to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying, (5) "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, a certain object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me, (6) and when I had fixed my gaze upon it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air. (7) "And I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Arise, Peter; kill and eat.' (8) "But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' (9) "But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.' (10) "And this happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky. (11) "And behold, at that moment three men appeared before the house in which we were *staying*, having been sent to me from Caesarea. (12) "And the Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. And these six brethren also went with me, and we entered the man's house. (13) "And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa, and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; (14) and he shall speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'"

The very point all of this is that gentiles are no longer to be considered "unclean" to the Jew any more than their certain foods were now considered clean. Peter continues his account, to the Jerusalem counsel: **Acts 11:15-19** "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as *He did* upon us at the beginning. (16) "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' (17) "If God therefore gave to them the same gift as *He gave* to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" (18) And when they heard this, they quieted down, and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life." (19) So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone."

Let us do some work on the above passage before we consider its companion passage in Acts 10. The point is that no gentiles have been saved for the past 10 years. The Holy spirit fell upon not in them. This is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, not the indwelling. The manifestation is ALWAYS on or upon, while the indwelling is ALWAYS in. Some examples: **1 Cor 3:16** Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? **2 Cor 6:16** Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. These are a few of the indwellings, now for some the manifestations: **Acts 1:8** "but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." **Acts 8:14-18** Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, (15) who came down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. (16) For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (17) Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. (18) Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,..." Notice the word "upon" used above and not "in." "Receiving the Holy Spirit" simply means receiving the supernatural gift(s). In verse 18, notice, Simon "saw" not something 'in' but something visible, namely the manifestations, gift(s).

There are only 3 places in the NT record where the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" is mentioned. Matt., Mark, and Luke mention (they're synoptics) it once. John also mentions it once, but these sightings are all of one coming event. Look at **Matt. 3:11** "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you

with the Holy Spirit and fire. This is simply one account. The second time it is used is in **Acts 1:5** "for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Now to the question at hand. There is yet a third time this phrase is used. **Acts 11:15-17** "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as *He did* upon us at the beginning. (16) "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' (17) "If God therefore gave to them the same gift as *He gave* to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" Peter, addressing the Jerusalem Counsel, mentions "at the beginning." Why? Because he is referring to the beginning of the church, Pentecost, 33AD. There had NOT been one other "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" since that day.

Now, the companion verses. **Acts 10:44-48** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. (45) And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. (46) For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, (47) "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?" (48) And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days. Notice the word used twice, upon. Not in. They had "received the Holy Spirit" as we did at the beginning, Pentecost. Why did Peter demand them being baptized in the name of Jesus? Because the Holy Spirit did NOT dwell within. There is only one baptism that saves, **Eph 4:5** "one Lord, one faith, one baptism,"

Conclusion: One may claim to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit, and indeed, in this case, really is and still be lost! Why? **Rom 8:9** However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

One other note. "The filling of the Holy Spirit" does not constitute, necessarily "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit."

Hope this is helpful, Dick Chambers