

## NEW TESTAMENT TRUTH ON THE GIVING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Acts 8:14-17, the Samaritan converts received the Holy Spirit subsequent to believing the Gospel. The text clearly states that the giving of the Holy Spirit came with the laying on of hands by the Apostles Peter and John after they believed the evangelistic message of Philip.

Questions: are we to understand this as normative? Do believers receive the Holy Spirit after believing or at the moment of believing the gospel? Does the reception of the Holy Spirit require the laying on of an Apostle's (strict sense) hands? How can we explain Acts 8:14-17?

### The Nature of the Book of Acts

The Book of Acts records the history of the spread of the Gospel in the first 30-31 years after the ascension of our Lord. *Acts* is the historical sequel to the Gospels and as such provides the background for other New Testament books. BY NATURE, THEREFORE, *ACTS* IS DESCRIPTIVE, NOT PRESCRIPTIVE. It tells us what occurred, what the Apostles did or experienced, not necessarily what we are to do or experience.

### The Giving of the Holy Spirit in *Acts*

Nowhere is this more evident than in the giving of the Holy Spirit, which is recorded four different times in this book.

<u>Giving of Holy Spirit (When)</u>	<u>Means</u>	<u>Manifestations</u>
Acts 2: After they believed	H.S. fell on them on day of Pent.	Spoke in tongues
Acts 8: After they believed	Laying on of hands by Pet. & Jn.	None
Acts 10: Moment they believed	H.S. fell on them (mid-message)	Spoke in tongues
Acts 19: At the time of believing	Laying on of hands by Paul	Spoke in tongues

IF THE BOOK OF ACTS IS TO BE NORMATIVE FOR TODAY, WHICH OF THE ABOVE IS TO BE THE NORM? AND DO WE HAVE APOSTLES IN THE STRICT SENSE? WHERE?

### Every Believer Has the Indwelling Holy Spirit

The following passage clearly teach that at the moment of salvation, every believer in this dispensation is permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

#### 1. Romans 8:9-11

— All "if" clauses are \_\_\_\_\_ conditions, meaning, they are assumed to be \_\_\_\_\_.

— All verbs & verbals translated "dwell" are \_\_\_\_\_ tenses, \_\_\_\_\_ voices.

(OVER)

## 2. Ephesians 1:13

a. Note the order:

"You heard (Aor. Act. Ptcp.) the Word of truth, the Gospel..."

"You believed (Aor., Act. Ptcp.)

"You were sealed (Aor. Pass. Indic. vb.) with the Holy Spirit"

THE TENSES DEMAND THAT THESE 3 ACTIONS BE CONTEMPORANEOUS.

b. "Who (the Holy Spirit) is the down payment (KJV "earnest") of our inheritance...": THE SEAL IS THE HOLY SPIRIT. He is not only the agency of sealing: he is its substance.

c. Compare 2 Corinthians 1:22 , 23; 5:5 for the same idea. God anointed us, sealed us, gave us the Holy Spirit: all three are \_\_\_\_\_ particles: all refer to the giving of the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation.

## 3. 1 John 2:20, 27 - All verbs are Present Active Indicatives, meaning?

## 4. 1 Corinthians 6:19

### Explanation of Acts 8:14-17

If every believer in the church age normally receives the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation, how do we explain Acts 8:14-17?

1. God required the Apostles (strict sense) involvement in the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Samaritans to clearly demonstrate to them that they were not exclusive; i.e., they could not set-up their own Samaritan Church as opposed to a Jewish Church (as they had previously done with a spurious Temple).
2. God required the Apostles (strict sense) involvement to prove to the Apostles and to the Jerusalem church that the Samaritans were in no way inferior to the Jewish believers in Jerusalem.
3. God uses Paul, an Apostle in the strict sense, in the same manner in Acts 19 with the disciples of John.
4. Acts 8 & 19 are unique: the New Testament very clearly teaches that every believer in the Church Age is indwelt by the very Holy Spirit of God the moment that he/she believes the Gospel.
5. Because we are permanently indwelt, we are never told to pray for the Holy Spirit nor are there any examples of anyone praying this way.

THE BIG QUESTION IS: WHAT DOES BEING INDWELT MEAN?