



The Acts of the Apostles

The Journey – 2020
Jim Hoffman

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 1:4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**" 6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" 7 He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses,** telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." NLT

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"you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit"

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- This is perhaps “the” doctrine that sets The Assemblies of God and Pentecostal churches apart from most of the Evangelical world.
- We believe that there is an action of God that is available to all Christians called “The Baptism in the Holy Spirit”.
- We also believe that those who receive this baptism will speak in tongues as the initial physical evidence.

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- In Acts 2 we see the believing Jews speak in tongues on the day of Pentecost.
- In Acts 8 we see the believing Samaritans (half breed Jews) speak in tongues.
- In Acts 10 we see believing Gentiles speak in tongues.
- In Acts 19 we see O.T. believers speak in tongues.

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- On rare occasions some in our movement have suggested that unless you have spoken in tongues you are not saved.
- There are no new testament scriptures to support such a position.
- Another piece of evidence contrary to that position is that no one in the Old Testament spoke in tongues.

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- Some in our movement have thought that you do not have the Holy Spirit unless you have spoken in tongues – but that is just not so.
- Eph 1:13 And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. **And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit**, whom he promised long ago. 14 The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him. NLT

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All Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9 makes this clear: "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." All those who have made Jesus Lord and Savior have the Spirit living within them.

- 1st Corinthians 12:13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have **all been baptized into one body by one Spirit**, and we all share the same Spirit. NLT

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- The Assemblies of God believe in a second work of grace, after salvation, that is available to all believers.

There is a second, separate work of grace called the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus told His followers, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." The experience in the Book of Acts was described variously as being "baptized with the Holy Spirit" (1:5), "filled with the Holy Spirit" (2:4), receiving "the gift of the Holy Spirit" (2:38), and the Holy Spirit falling upon them (10:44).

The Baptism is a definite experience that is subsequent to salvation. This is clearly seen among both the Samaritan and Ephesian believers in Acts 8:14-17 and 19:1-6.

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- This “second work of grace” can happen at different times in different people.
- God knows what is best and the timing he has chosen for you is impeccable because he makes no mistakes.
- Keep asking, seeking, and knocking – he will answer in his timing and that is always the best of all possible paths for our lives.

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- Two major Christian denominations arose from the Azusa Street revival in Los Angeles that started in 1906 and continued through 1915.
- The Assemblies of God and The Christian & Missionary Alliance both came out of Azusa Street and both believe in a second work of grace.
- We point to tongues as the evidence and the C&MA cite a “crisis experience” that could take many forms.

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- From the C&MA website – “It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly, being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service. This is **both a crisis and a progressive experience** wrought in the life of the believer **subsequent to conversion.**”
- It is easy to see that these two movements are tied together by a desire for being filled with the Spirit.

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- Of all that we believe, this distinction may well be the most debated – not speaking in tongues, but that it is the initial physical evidence of Spirit baptism.

The initial, physical evidence of the Baptism is speaking in tongues.

We see this repeatedly in the Book of Acts, first of all in 2:4. In Acts 10:45,46 the Christians know that "the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also" because "they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God."

But speaking in tongues is not enough. There is more to being Spirit-filled than that.

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- Eph 5:18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, **be filled with the Holy Spirit, 19 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs** among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. 20 **And give thanks for everything to God the Father** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21 And further, **submit to one another** out of reverence for Christ. NLT

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- The "be filled" in the text could be translated from the Greek as, "Be ye, being filled with the Holy Spirit". (or keep on being filled) Present imperative tense.
- One who is filled with the Spirit will display at least these actions to one degree or another –
 - Praising God.
 - Thanking God.
 - Submitting to the needs of others.

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- There are at least these types of Christians with respect to “the baptism”.
 - Those who do not believe it is for today.
 - Those who have no interest in receiving it.
 - Those who have received it.
 - Those who are still waiting and trusting God to provide it in **his timing**.

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- Timing is a big deal to us but seems much less so to God – the Israelites prayed for deliverance for more than 400 years!
- Exodus 3:7 Then the Lord told him, “**I have certainly seen** the oppression of my people in Egypt. **I have heard** their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, **I am aware of their suffering**. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt. NLT

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- John 9:1 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had **been blind from birth**. 2 “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” NLT
- What about those whom God heals instantly, and those he heals later, and those he chooses to heal by taking them to heaven?
- Evidently when you are an eternal being, time is of little significance.

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• You might say, "Jim, how can you teach on something you've never experienced?"

- I teach about creation, but I wasn't there.
- I teach about heaven, but I haven't experienced it.
- I teach on atonement, but I did no atoning.
- I don't have to be an adulterer to teach that its wrong.
- If the scriptures proclaim it, I can teach it. ☺

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• I once thought that Pentecostals had it all wrong and that they were just looking for emotional experiences.



• I have enough trusted friends who speak in tongues to know that it's a real thing, so you don't have to convince me.

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• We do have to admit that we have no answers for people who have never spoken in tongues, yet operate in the power of the Spirit.

- Charles Spurgeon
- A.W. Tozer
- D.L. Moody
- Billy Sunday

Having been in both camps I am in a position to say that "they" have no answer for the effective Pentecostal preachers either.

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Holy Spirit

Baptism

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Salvation ■ Holy Spirit Baptism ■ Divine Healing ■ Second Coming

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Questions

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