

THE START AND THE BUILDING OF GOD'S CHURCH

12/6/22

Here is a brief summary of the purpose and content of the books of the New Testament.

The Gospel books ... The historical, prophetic and spiritual record of Jesus, the son of God... his words, deeds and promises... death and resurrection.

The book of Acts ... The only detailed accounts of the founding of the church and of full scriptural salvation. The first history and missionary journeys of those who preached the gospel of Jesus Christ, how the spirit was recognised by miracles signs and wonders, and the opposition/persecution they faced.

The Epistles ... Letters and some prophecies to churches/leaders in various stages of development. They deal with all life issues and how to maintain faith and sound doctrine through the power of God... for everyone.

The following prophecy of Jesus is an amazing and accurate revelation of the church and its development... the full and clear salvation message is confirmed.

Jesus prophesied the specific power and order of the first 3 outpourings of the New Testament church age.

ACT 1:8 But ye shall receive **power** (miracle working power), after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:

*and ye shall be witnesses unto me **both in Jerusalem** (first outpouring at Pentecost **1st mention**), and in all ***Judaea** (the continuation of the same blessing amongst all the repentant Jews),

*and in **Samaria** (amongst the mixed race Jews **2nd mention**)

*and to the Samaritan Gentiles [Cornelius of Caesarea, north west Samaria], **3rd mention**),

*and unto the uttermost part of the earth (all other countries, all races and ages to come... right up to now).

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE SCRIPTURAL DETAILS... AND ORDER OF NEW TESTAMENT SALVATION ACCORDING TO JESUS AND BIBLE PROPHECY.

1st Mention ACT 2 The following observations are all in context, in the same chapter, explaining the same event. The law of first mention can be considered.

Starting Point: the beginning of the New Testament church. ACT 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon **each of them. 4** And they were **all filled** with the Holy Ghost, and began to **speak with other tongues**, as the **Spirit gave them utterance**. Scriptural truth is confirmed by signs.

Speaking in tongues is the identifier which everyone observed. 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do **hear them speak in our tongues** the wonderful works of God. **12** And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, **What meaneth this?**

Explanation. 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet **Joel; 17** And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will **pour out** of my Spirit upon **all flesh**: Peter also uses Joel's prophecy to confirm this sign based event. No mention of a two-tier salvation... just a singular blessing that was the confirmation of past prophecy and future blessing. True Salvation is identified by the evidence of speaking in tongues.

Summary. 37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? **38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the **gift of the Holy Ghost. 39** For the promise is unto **you**, and to **your children**, and to all that are **afar off**, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. Peter also makes it clear that this same event would be the norm till Christ returns... no mention of a two-tier system. Salvation is clearly described as the anointing of the spirit identified by tongues.

2nd Mention ACT 8 The following scriptures reveal what **SALVATION ISN'T!**

ACT 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of **Samaria** (Jews despised Samaritans because they were part Jew [Northern Kingdom captives] and part Assyrian [Gentile] around 720BC), and **preached Christ** unto them. **6** And the **people with one accord** gave **heed** unto those things which **Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles** which he did. **7** For **unclean spirits**, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were **healed. 8** And there was **great joy** in that city. They had been considered as half castes or 'dogs' up to this point. **9** But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: **10** To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. **11** And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. **12** But when they **believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God**, and the name of **Jesus Christ**, they were **baptized, both men and women. 13** Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the **miracles and signs** which were **done. 14** Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that **Samaria had received the word of God**, they sent unto them Peter and John: *This was almost as notable as the Gentile conversion that is soon to come.*

List of observations that were **NOT** scripturally classed as salvation...

- 1... United in believing the gospel and its power.
- 2... Experiencing healings and blessings.
- 3... They were full of great joy.
- 4... They all individually believed the gospel.
- 5... They believed in Jesus Christ.
- 6... They were all baptised in water.
- 7... They **all had faith** to receive the healings and the faith to be baptised... **but none were saved.**

But as yet.... **15** Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: **16** (For as yet he was **fallen upon none of them: only** (alone) they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**) At this stage the people had demonstrated unity in purpose v6, great joy v8, believed the gospel message, were baptised in water v12, were partakers of miracles and signs v13, **but as yet, none were saved!!** This revelation relating to **what salvation isn't**, makes it easier to pinpoint scripturally defined salvation... the following verses are of great help and reveal God's ways of both identifying and avoiding false doctrine.

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they **received the Holy Ghost.** How did they know? **18** And when **Simon saw** (something different was now happening that Simon was able to identify) **that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given**, he offered them money, (what happened that was different than before?) **19** Saying, Give me also this **power** ('dunamis'... considering all the other powerful signs already observed, Simon noticed a different miracle than before. He saw an observable manifestation of the Spirit which he considered was a sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit, by the laying on of hands... not some sort of emotional or spiritual feeling of faith), **that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.** **20** But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

What was the difference that Simon saw that is not detailed here, but is consistent with scriptural evidence?

Tongues (the common sign that can be heard and seen), is the only remaining sign that could identify the indwelling Spirit and salvation as described here. Either that, or there is a new sign that is not described by scripture. There is only one consistent answer! Pentecost and the Gentile conversion provide us with that answer... they all spoke in tongues. The testimony of Pentecost was not new to them. You either have a love of provable truth... or you don't.

2The 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth (evidence), that they might be saved.

The scriptural record of the Samaritan conversion, rejects nearly all salvation models quoted by today's churches.

3rd Mention ACT 10 The following observations are all in context, in consecutive chapters, explaining the same event as Pentecost being common to all. Confirms the principle of first mention.

Gentile conversion. ACT 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the **Holy Ghost fell** on all them which heard the word. **45** And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the **Gentiles** also was **poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost** (identifying and confirming Joel's prophecy). **46** For (the consistent evidence as selected and quoted by God) they heard them **speak with tongues**, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, **47** Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have **received the Holy Ghost as well as we?** These two explanations in chapters 10 and 11 reveal separate information... that's why we compare them. As Peter further explains the scriptural signs identifying true salvation; he quotes **the basic message which John the Baptist preached** as being the same as what was happening here (tongues being the evidence).

ACT 11:16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, **John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.** **17** Forasmuch then as God gave them the **like gift** (common) as he did unto us, who **believed on the Lord Jesus Christ** (a way of believing that works); **what was I, that I could withstand** (who are we to deny or refuse the provable way of God) **God?** **18** When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted **repentance unto life** (the forgiveness of sins). Peter accepted the same consistent measure as being the promised salvation of the anointing powers of the Holy Spirit... all based on speaking in tongues as being the scriptural identifier of the anointing.

The Gentile conversion uses 4 different phrases to define the one event. Tongues was the sole evidence for all of them.

- 1... **was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.**
- 2... **which have received the Holy Ghost** as well as we.
- 3... **baptized with the Holy Ghost** (John's promise of salvation confirmed by the same signs as Pentecost).
- 4... **also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.**

God wants us to use his words and miraculous power, to confirm and establish salvation. 1COR 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which **man's wisdom** teacheth (experts who lack the evidence of God), but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; **comparing spiritual things with spiritual.** This is what we have done so far and have not needed to grasp at isolated scriptures with no context, nor have we had to turn to the language of the theologians... the same people who overwhelmingly rejected the message of Jesus in his day and still do today.