



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High.

Title: The Hand of God

Lesson: 66

Text: Acts 11:1-21

Date: Feb. 18, 2024

Acts 11:1 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."

"circumcised" "uncircumcised"

Circumcision was a sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham and his descendants Gen. 17:9-14).

It is repeated in the Mosaic Law as a requirement in Lev. 12:2-3

"took issue" - Hostile opposition (Jude 9)

4 But Peter began speaking and proceeded to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying,

Peter offered three facts as evidence:

1. God's sovereign _____.

5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an 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 on 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 "I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, 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 "This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky.

11 "And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. 12 "The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. 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 will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

2. The _____ of the Holy Spirit.

15 “And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning.

The baptism of the Spirit demonstrates equality.

“just as He did upon us”

Acts 11:1 Judea heard that the Gentiles also received the word of God

Acts 1:17 “Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also

Acts 1:18 ... “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”

3. By the _____ of God’s Word.

16 “And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

17 “Therefore if God 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?”

Four facts about the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

1. All believers are baptized _____ upon their faith in Christ.

2. All believers receive the Spirit fully _____
and _____

3. There is no _____ baptism of the Spirit.

4. It is not received by _____ 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?”

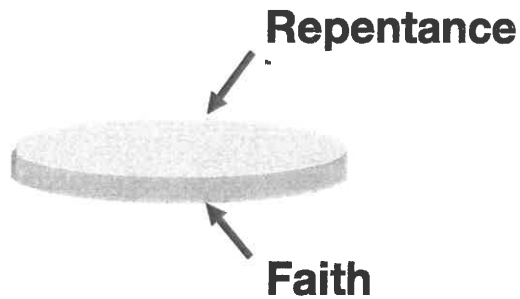
18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”

“Gentiles”

Gentile conversions set a precedence in two ways:

1. It confirmed that both Jews and Gentiles make up the NT church.
2. Gentile conversion occurs apart from any allegiance to Judaism.

“repentance”



Definition - "Repentance is a change of _____
that results in a change of _____."

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that **all people everywhere should repent**."

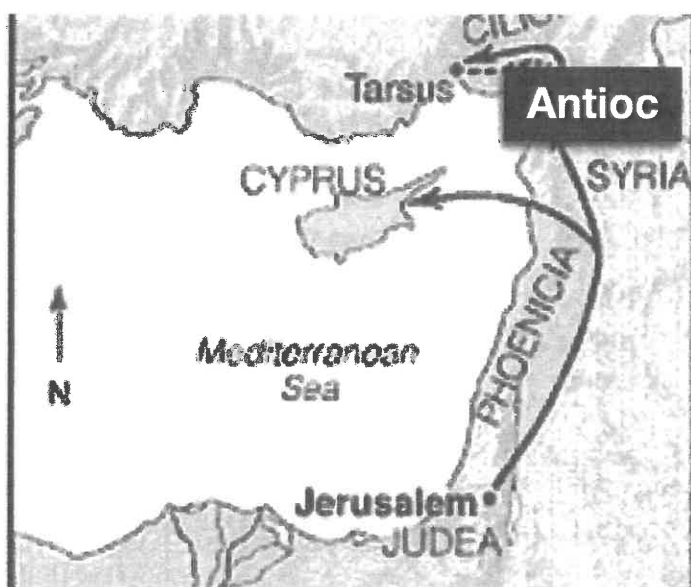
Acts 26:20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should **repent** and **turn to God**, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

18 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."

"**granted**" (Acts 5:31)

"**leads to life**" (2 Cor 7:10)

19 So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.



Antioch became the key city for missionary work

20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to **Antioch** and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

“But”

Who were these people?

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

“And”

Why were the men so successful?

“the hand of the Lord” was on them”

(20) Preaching the
Lord Jesus



(21) “believed and turned
to the Lord

Five disciplines that draw the hand of God:

1. Church leaders are committed to upholding and _____ God’s Word.
2. Non-prominent believers engage in _____ of Christ.
3. When there is trust in the _____ alone to save sinners.
4. _____, not legalism, permeates the body.
5. His people are _____ and willing to submit to the authority of Scripture.

Discussion Guide

1. What have you been taught that you originally disagreed with but changed your mind once you saw it in Scripture?
2. Why is it important that we understand the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Why is a second baptism of the Holy Spirit unbiblical and dangerous?
3. Why is it important to include the repentance when we give the gospel? Why is it not adding works?
4. Have you considering going to Belize? Why or why not?
5. What are the five necessary disciplines that ensure the hand of God? Which one's do we do well and where do we need improvement?



ANSWERS: preparation, baptism, fulfillment, immediately, equally, permanently, second, water, mind, action, defending, bearing witness, gospel, Grace, teachable