

***THE HOLY GHOST
IN THE
BOOK OF ACTS***

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INTRODUCTION

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was I the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:1-14

Note this passage of Scripture from the book of John. It contains the summation of the will of God for every believer, through revelation, to come to full knowledge and understanding of, the necessity to become born of God and at the same time, to become a son of God. The fact that recorded history tells us of this amazing One who walked the earth, gives credence to the fact that He had, and still has many followers, and rightly so. This following passage is a translation of the original historical documentation from the Works of Josephus, a first century Jewish historian. “His works are the principal source for the history of the Jews from the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes (B.C. 175-163) to the fall of Masada in A.D. 73, and therefore, are of incomparable value...” (Whiston 1987, ix)

“Now about this time, one Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful words, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles also: -he was the Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him: for he appeared to them alive again *the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold them and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him*” Whiston, 1987

“At the outset of His public ministry, Jesus claimed to be Messiah and to have the anointing of the Holy Spirit to empower His ministry. He did this by citing Isaiah 61:1-2 and claiming that it was fulfilled in Him that day: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight of the blind, to release the oppressed (Luke 4:18)” (Deffinbaugh, 2004)

Many of Jesus’ instructions to his disciples involved the subject of the Holy Ghost. This Holy Ghost had already “performed an Old Testament ministry, but now his work was to introduce three completely new elements: It was to be universal. It was to be permanent. It was to be perfecting”. (Wilmington 2011, 279)

This paper will bring in Old and New Testament Biblical references regarding the Holy Spirit, but will mainly focus on the book of Acts, Holy Spirit experiences as the culmination of the references. This will include prophecies regarding the initial outpouring and related verses that refer to God’s Holy Spirit. We will examine: root word meanings that shed light on the subject; repetitions of words; Holy Spirit experiences; simile/metaphor use; parallel word and passage use; and allegorical and typology references that may be found in the Bible. This paper will be a thorough study of what exactly the Holy Spirit is, how it comes to take up residence inside of us, and what we can expect as we allow it to move through us, just like it did in the book of Acts.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Strong’s Concordance shows us that holy comes from the Greek root word *hagios* which means set apart or sacred. By definition, if something is holy, it is set apart. Strong’s expounds on this by letting us know that by being set apart, it is therefore “different from the world” because it is “like the Lord”. We see a simile use of the word holy here, because, as we become like the Lord, we become holy as well. “Spirit” comes from the word *pneuma* which can also take on the

meanings of wind or breath. The Holy Spirit therefore, through the ages, has been referred to metamorphically, as the breath of God. A Biblical parallel to the use of the word breath was when God breathed life into Adam, so He breathes spiritual, new life into those that call on Him and surrender their lives to Him. Another metaphor/simile we find in the Bible regarding the Holy Spirit is the tongues like as of fire which sat upon those receiving it in the book of Acts 2. There again, another Old Testament parallel with the uses of fire were God's ways of showing His people that He was present with them: Moses in the burning bush; His consummation of the Priest's accepted sacrifices in the tabernacle; and the pillar of fire by night when leading His people through the wilderness (Ex. 13:21) (Treece 1993, 36). His presence on the day of Pentecost was His way of showing them that He was still with them, and was accepting of them, into the His Kingdom of the spiritual realm. We know God, by His very loving nature, has different attributes that seek to connect with us as His creation. He: as Father, is our creator; as the Son, is our redemption; and as the Spirit, regenerates us from the fallen state of man, in other words, He recovers us from our sinful state that we were born with. It is the regeneration attribute of the Spirit that the focus of this paper purposes to address.

PURPOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When one has had the Spirit of God "fall" on them, by definition, it gives the inference and connotation of: inspiration, impulse and seize, along with taking possession of. Therefore, when the Holy Spirit fell on people in the Bible, it was actually God inspiring them to; go a certain direction, speak significant words to specified people and act in specifically directed ways. The Holy Spirit comes in and changes us to His nature, which is contrary to the nature we were born with. Galatians 5:16 tells us "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are

contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.” Those with the Spirit of God residing inside them will: be different; act different; talk different; and have different values from those who do not have the Spirit of God living in them. By having the Holy Ghost, we are assured that we do indeed belong to God. For Romans 8:9 says “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Besides having this blessed assurance of God claiming us as His, there are numerous benefits of having the Holy Ghost that will be discussed later in this article. Before that, we need to look at the Old Testament prophecies that came full circle in the New Testament. They can be seen as parallel scriptures that have taken on new revelatory meaning by their use in the New Testament Church. They are not in any particular order, just charted to make a point that when God said something to the Old Testament prophets, He made sure to give credence to their significance by repeating them in a similar fashion, several hundred years later. There are numerous Old Testament prophecies alluding to the fact that God’s Spirit would be poured out upon mankind at the time of His choosing, His designated and specified time. Prophets, holy men of God “spake, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pet 1:21). They were anointed of God when they brought forth the Scriptures, forth-telling the coming of the Spirit of the Lord upon man.

Parallel Holy Ghost Prophecy Scriptures

Old Testament

New Testament

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| <p>“And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:” Ez 11:19</p> | <p>“For as much as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.” 2 Cor 3:3</p> |
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| <p>”Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.” Ez 39:29</p> | <p>“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”. Acts 2:4</p> |
| <p>“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” Joel 2:28</p> | <p>“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions” Acts 2:17</p> |
| <p>“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.” Jer 31:33</p> | <p>“And for this cause he (Jesus Christ) is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions <i>that were</i> under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.” Heb 9:15</p> |
| <p>“...and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons for ever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name for ever.” 1 Chr 23:13</p> | <p>“The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:” Heb 9:8</p> |
| <p>“That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.” Ez 11:20</p> | <p>“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in <i>them</i>; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” 2 Cor 6:16</p> |
| <p>“As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” Is 66:13.</p> | <p>“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” Jn 14:26</p> |

“For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her (Jerusalem) like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream.” Is 66:12

“Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and *that* they will hear it.” Acts 28:28

“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.” Acts 10:45

OTHER HOLY GHOST NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECIES

The life of John the Baptist showed that he was not only the forerunner of Christ in terms of the messages of repentance and baptism, we see from the following verses that his Messianic anointed prophecies included the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.” (Mt 3:11)

“I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.” Mk 1:8 (parallel verse to Mt 3:11)

“John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” Lk3:16 (parallel to Mt 3:11 and Mk 1:8)

The fact that Jesus himself confirmed John’s message regarding the Holy Spirit should have caused his followers to be even more convinced that something miraculous was fixing to take place when he said:

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” (Jn 14:26).

“And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” (Lk 24:49)

“...wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptize with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” (Acts 1:4b,5)

THE GREAT COMMISSION

The words of Jesus need to always be held in the highest of honor and respect, particularly when it comes to heeding His instructions to the church. The word command is found as the root of two words used in his final dialogue with the disciples in Acts 1, commandments and commanded. “Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen” (v.2). “And being assembled

together with them commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptizeth with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence” (v.4,5). Other Biblical references to these passages are sanctioned to be key verses in what is referred to as the Great Commission and can be found in: Mt. 28:16-20; Mk 16:15-18; and Lk 24:44-49. “the word *enteilamenos* is “commands,” “charge,” or as I have given here “orders” (Treece 1993, 3). Jesus Christ gave His disciples clear instructions, commands and/or orders that we need to pay every bit as much attention to as the 10 Commandments! The elements of the Great Commission that we heed, because his disciples heeded, along with Luke’s reiteration in Acts 1:4 are: teach and preach the gospel; baptize; do so in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost (Jesus), and wait for the promise, the baptism of the Holy Ghost. We see parallel usage of these scriptures along with multiple actual experiencing in the carrying out of Jesus’ orders in the book of Acts. But let’s first of all explore the cultural and historical facts that surrounded this important significant piece of history.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Pentecost gets its name from a Jewish celebration that took place every year when the Israelite nation would remember the “giving of the law at Mount Sinai (Tenny 1985, 94). It was always 50 days after the offering given of a wave sheaf for the Passover celebration. Other names for the Pentecost celebration were; Feast of Weeks and Day of Firstfruits. “The audience at Pentecost was Jewish (Acts 2:5), and the preaching was addressed to “men of Israel” (Acts 2:22) (Tenny 1985, 238). An upper room in Jerusalem became the gathering place of what the Bible tells us to be 120 people. Those included were Mary, Jesus’ mother, the disciples and others, who, in one accord continued praying and making supplication. Just before this, they’d heard

Jesus' order to wait for the Holy Ghost, so they took it seriously and earnestly made a concerted effort to follow through with his instructions. (While they were waiting, the Bible says Peter stood up to speak regarding the fate of Judas who'd betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and Matthias was then chosen by the apostles to become his replacement.) We see that as Jesus' followers were in one accord in their praying and making supplication, their obedience brought them great reward as the amazing, quite out of the ordinary phenomena happened: "When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" Acts 2:1-4. Tongues comes from the Greek word glossai and it is used in the plural form. Men from other nations understood what was being said, but those speaking the unknown language did not. Paul has made inference to speaking in tongues when he said that "there are tongues of men and of angels". And he also alluded once again to tongues "when he said that he had been 'caught up' to the third heaven and heard 'inexpressible words' (2 Cor 12:14) (Treece 1993, 38) What this means is, they now have access to an "endless source of refreshment available to them, as implied by the verse "out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38) (Treece 1993, 37).

MORE EVIDENCE OF NEW TESTAMENT HOLY GHOST BAPTISMS

On the day of Pentecost, we know that 120 received the Holy Ghost, then after Peter preached his message that explained what had happened and where to go from there, a total of about three thousand souls were “added to the church”. (Acts 2:41). Peter’s message contained the keys to salvation and as we remember that Jesus gave Peter the keys in Mt 16:18,19, we pay special attention to what they are: “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 you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” Acts 2:38. There are many other incidences in the book of Acts where Holy Ghost baptisms were inferred or occurred including: Acts 5:32, 8:14-17, 10:44-48, 11:14-16, 15:8 and 19: 1-7. And in the epistles, again, many more references are evident. God has used the numerous accounts of the baptism of the Holy Ghost to make a point of its significance, relevance and importance. In our efforts to totally grasp what it is we are to be getting in our comprehension, we must remember that “Authors use repetition to signal an important truth, and you don’t want to miss it” (Duvall & Hays, 2012).

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER?

The Holy Ghost’s influence upon our hearts is in essence, Jesus writing His law upon our heart and prophecies regarding the heart of man being changed from stoney, to the condition of flesh, which is only able to come about by the Spirit’s influence (2 Cor 3:3). The book of Acts is Luke’s “continuation of the gospel” where the Holy Ghost, as “the main character”, “is still Jesus” (Treece, 1993). It is lovely isn’t it, to see a modern day theologian accurately comprehend and attest to the connection of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit all being one? A passage, John 1:33 makes it explicitly clear regarding this deity that we know as Jesus, “And I

knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.”. (The parallel verse to this is Mt 3:11 “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but he that cometh after me (Jesus) is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:”) We know from Mt 3:16 that Jesus had the spirit descend “like a dove and lighting upon him” at the time of his baptism. The spirit of God is given as a simile here, of being like a dove, which is symbolic of peace. God the Father, which is Jesus, the son, is seen to be the Prince of Peace, another parallel from the Scripture (Is 9:6). Parallel to this is just a couple of the many Scriptures, too numerous to mention, indicating that the Holy Spirit is God, and is from God, and can also be referred to as Jesus, “the main character” of our lives. (Treece, 1993) It is clearly Jesus that baptizes us with the “Holy Ghost and with fire” (Mt 3:11)!

BENEFITS OF HAVING THE HOLY GHOST

It gives us:

Scripture References

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| Strength and Power | Acts 1:8, Acts 2:33, Acts 6:8, Ro 15:13, 1 Cor 2:4, Eph 3:16, Col 1:11 |
| Comfort and help | John 14:26, 15:26 |
| Guidance into all truth | John 16:13 |
| Shows us things to come | John 16:13 |
| Witness ability with boldness | Acts 1:8, 4:31, 5:32, 22:15 |
| Joy | Acts 2:28, 8:8, 13:52, 15:2, 1 Thes 1:6 |
| Conviction of Sin | John 16:7,8 |
| Remembrance of Jesus’ words | John 14:26 |
| Regeneration/Newness of life | Ro 6:4, Tit 3:5, 2 Cor 5:17, Ga 6:15 |

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| Intercessory prayer | Ro 8:26 |
| Jesus residing in our temple | 1 Cor 6:19-20 |
| The Mind of Christ | 1 Cor 2:14-16 |

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

The lesson we learn from the Old Testament event of the Tower of Babel, is that God endowed diverse tongues upon His people in order for them to follow His command to disperse and populate the earth. The New Testament outpouring, which was accompanied by another God-sanctioned language diversity, was to accomplish several things: prove that He had indeed resurrected and ascended to heaven; seal the believers with His Spirit as a king applies his seal to an important document; and to bring unity to the followers. By nature of the fact that this experience was not limited to just the Jewish nation, it proceeded to do just the opposite of the Tower of Babel, and brought people together of all nations, in purpose and passion, which amazingly enough, still does the same today! (Treece 1993, 38,39). We need to follow the keys given to Peter to fully understand the salvation message that Acts carries in 2:38, but first we must have faith to believe it.

BELIEVE

The initial step, to believe, is of utmost importance if one is to be filled with the Holy Ghost. It's the same as having faith in the one true God, the one that suffered and died on the cross for our sins. "For without faith, it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb 11:6). It's important to follow up our belief with action. "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (Ja 2:26).

REPENTANCE

Repent comes from the Greek word *metanoeo* and means that change will come to a person's life once they have experienced a "Godly sorrow". "Paul said to the Corinthians, "Now I am rejoicing, not that you were grieved, but that you were grieved unto repentance; because you were grieved according to God (or with regards to God)" 2 Cor 10:9 LW (Treece 1993, 75). So, we see, it's not just a "change of one's mind", but of one's life, and/or lifestyle (Treece 1993,75). The dictionary definition of repent, states that one will feel remorse and regret for one's behavior. 2 Cor 7:10a tells us that "godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation". It is imperative that this step happen as a precursor to one receiving the Holy Ghost. If one has not asked God to forgive them of their sins, and purposed in their heart to make a concerted effort to change, then they are not ready to receive God's spirit. Other verses that bring home the point of the necessity of repentance are: 2 Cor 7:8-10, 2 Tim 2:24-26, Heb 6:1-3, 2 Pet 3:9, Acts 3:19, Ro 10:10 and Is 59:2. According to Easton's Bible dictionary, repentance involves four elements: "a true sense of sinfulness, an apprehension of God's mercy in Christ, an actual hatred of sin (Psa 119:128, Job 42:5, 6 and 2 Cor 7:19) and turning from it to God; and a persistent endeavor after a holy life in a walking with God in the way of his commandments." Carrying one's guilt and shame to the foot of the cross is the beginning of a life of liberty and joy, but it does come with a price, the price of being humble and being willing to admit that you are a sinner, in need of a Savior.

BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

1 Peter 3:21a says that “baptism now saves us, not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God”. We follow the apostle’s example of being immersed, for baptism comes from the Greek word Baptizo, which means to immerse, or make fully wet. This is the water portion of Jesus’ instruction to be born again of the water and the spirit in John 3:5. Our sins become remitted, washed away, when we are baptized according to Acts 2:38. More verses that confirm the need for us to be baptized are: Mk 16:16, Ro 6:4, Col 2:11,12, Ga 3:27, Acts 10:47-48, Acts 19:5. We use the name of Jesus Christ when we baptize, for “in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Col 2:9). And, “there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” Acts 4:12b. Having His name applied to our life in baptism is exactly how the Apostles did it, and they were being obedient to Jesus, like we need to be.

RECEIVING THE HOLY GHOST

Receiving the Holy Ghost is the most exciting experience one can ever have and at the same time, the most peaceful and joyful. Is 28:12 speaks of the rest that the Spirit brings, which causes the weary to rest. We bring our weary lives, our desperate situations, our seemingly hopeless cases and lay them at the feet of Jesus. We know that it’s a pitiful offering, but we are offering up our lives as a “living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God”(Ro 12:1a). He makes us holy, when He fills us with His Spirit. We must identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus in order to be filled with His Spirit. We do this through the steps of repentance and baptism in His name. Romans 6:4 tells us “Therefore we are buried with him by

baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”. Receiving the Holy Ghost, just like they did on the day of Pentecost is the final step in securing our salvation, although we need to continue in the faith to be assured of continual spiritual security. 1 Tim 1:3b Paul told Timothy to “remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine...” and then later he admonished “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself, and those who hear you”. 1 Tim 4:16.

When you actively seek God in prayer, and learn to talk to Him as your best friend, out loud, you are beginning the process of the spiritual connection He has for you. Find a place where there are no distractions, ask Him to forgive you of all of your sins, and empty yourself out to Him. Thank Him for forgiving you and ask Him to fill you with His Spirit. If you love Him and seek Him with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength, you will find Him. Purpose to serve Him with all of your mind, soul, heart and strength, and you will find yourself communing with God with your spirit connecting with His Spirit, and you will begin to speak in a language that feels and sounds strange. Let the peace of God flood your soul as you do, and let his love overwhelm you like a flood. You are being made into a new creation. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new” (2 Cor 5:17).

CONCLUSION

What began as a Jewish feast celebration is now the anniversary of the Christian church, the Day of Pentecost (Tenny 1985, 239-240)! This has become the Christian church’s mantra that Jesus is not dead. He did indeed arise from the dead, and ascended into heaven. “Peter declared it to be a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel (Acts 2:16-20) and a proof of the resurrection of Christ

(Acts 2:32-36). “The book of Acts is said to be the centerpiece of the entire Bible” (Treece 1993) The Old Testament prophecies and its foundational, spiritual and functional structure orchestrated the bringing in of a new covenant. This new covenant is the Spirit of God being breathed into an individual’s very core of existence. It is referred to as the baptism of the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit (Heb 8:5, 10:1). The New Testament gospels of the life of Jesus Christ and His words regarding His Spirit offer many preceding acclamations of the coming Holy Spirit of experience. The Old Testament Prophets heard God, the New Testament disciples heard Him, saw him with their eyes and felt him with their hands, but it wasn’t until the day of Pentecost that they actually experienced Him. Spiritual communion, total intimate spiritual engagement and immersion was now available to all of mankind.

The New Testament was a new covenant itself in the way God dealt with mankind and the way the Jewish nation conducted the business of the church. But once the Holy Ghost was poured out on the day of Pentecost, it changed everything, including the mode of water baptism. Under this latest and greatest covenant, baptism in his name is now the mandate for mankind, so that He knows we are recognizing and endorsing the new way in which He now interacts with us, through His Spirit. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ foreshadowed all of the steps to salvation, and we identify ourselves with Him in our own personal death, burial and resurrection: death at repentance; burial at water baptism and resurrection with the baptism of the Holy Ghost

Once again, Acts is referred to as a Bible “centerpiece”, in the calculating of the events that preceded it, and followed it. (Treece, 1993) It signifies the pivotal point on which the Kingdom of God swings the spiritual pendulum. What was once available to a specific group of people (the Jewish nation), is now available to all of mankind, the favor of God. Mind blowing, and yet at the same time, scandalous, for the implications of the new covenant and the disciple’s

faithful obedience to the gospel “turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). “This thing was not done in a corner” and removes all excuses of not being able to have God’s favor in one’s own life (Acts 26:26).

Much of what is documented in this paper is not generally taught in most mainstreamed religious organizations that call themselves churches. Let it be known that the same Holy Spirit that came upon those in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost and in other Acts accounts, still fills people today the same way as He did then. Think about the benefits of what having the Spirit of the God living in you could do for you. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev 3:20).

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