

Scriptural Witnesses

Introduction:

In **Acts Chapter 8**, the ministry of Philip in Samaria is recorded.

As we study this account, it becomes evident that salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are two separate experiences.

Acts 8: 5-8, Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.

6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.

8 So there was much joy in that city.

Acts 8: 12-17, But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,

15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip, (who was later called Philip the evangelist, in **Acts 21:8**) had a marvelous ministry in Samaria, as seen in verses 7 and 8.

Great and magnificent miracles were consistently being manifested in Philip's ministry and many people were being saved.



Notice, however, that in **Acts 8**, not one person received the Holy Spirit under Philips ministry.

Evidently, at least at this point, it was not a part of Philips ministry, but getting folks saved and healed was!

However, when the apostles at Jerusalem heard about the wonderful things God had done through Philip's ministry in Samaria, they sent Peter and John to lay hands on the new Samaritan believers so that they might receive the Holy Ghost.

Now pay attention to this, there is no record that anyone whom Peter and John laid their hands on failed to receive the Holy Ghost.

This is most likely because Peter and John had more of a ministry along this line.

The bible says in **Acts 8: 17, *Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.***

These verses helped me as a young minister to see that there is an experience subsequent to, or following salvation, called the infilling or the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

I had been taught that you received everything you could from the Holy Spirit when you got saved.

However, the apostles didn't believe that these converts had everything the Holy Spirit had to offer, otherwise, why would they have sent Peter and John to them so the Samaritan's could receive the infilling or the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Some people ask the question, why did Peter and John have to pray for the Samaritan believers to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit?

Why couldn't Philip just pray for them to receive himself?

One of the things we must remember that we all have a place in the plan of God.

We all need to find that place and do what God wants us to do.



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God has not called all of us to minister in the same identical way.

He has not given all the same gifts.

Philip had a great ministry; can anyone argue that point?

I don't believe you can.

What I have taught in the past still remains true, anyone can lay hands on people for the purposes of prayer, as a matter of fact, that truth is extremely scriptural.

When we look at someone's life like Philip's, we can easily see that there are ministry gifts that seem to manifest in a more consistent manner.

Philip, for example, had more of a ministry of bringing people into salvation and of ministering healing.

Peter and John, on the other hand, had a ministry more along the line of bringing believers into the baptism of the Holy Spirit; when they laid their hands on the Samaritans, they received the Holy Ghost.

Let's turn our attention to another important question; how long do I have to wait to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19: 1-7 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples.

2 And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism."

4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus."

5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

7 There were about twelve men in all.



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Have you ever thought, how could these “disciples,” have never heard of the Holy Spirit?

We can safely determine that these 12 people were not in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost as recorded in **Acts 2**.

The fact they were woefully informed doesn’t surprise me at all.

The way things are today, it is hard to believe that anything can happen in the world that we wouldn’t hear about it in the news in short order.

In this account in **Acts 19**, I am reminded that in those days, if you were 100 miles away from an event you may never have heard the news.

These people had heard John the Baptist preach and tell that One was coming who would save them from their sins.

They believed John’s message and were baptized by John.

Somehow though they were not familiar with the message of Jesus and the work He accomplished in this world.

They were walking only in the light that they had.

So Paul taught them they needed to know and proceeded to baptize them in the name of Jesus and immediately laid hands on them and they were filled with Holy Ghost.

There is no suggestion that waiting for a long period of time is a requirement.

In Conclusion: Two important Thoughts

First, as we have seen, salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are two separate experiences, although the Holy Spirit is involved in both supernatural events.

Second, in all of these scriptures we have examined, there is no evidence that believers are required to wait a long time o be filled with the Holy Spirit.



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