

SIGNS OF SALVATION — ACTS 10:44-48

1 SPIRITUAL POWER

— Received the Holy Spirit

vs.44-45

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. (Ac.10:44-45)

- There are some who teach that a believer can get the Holy Spirit after they believe upon asking for Him to indwell them. It is mistaken to say that someone can be saved and not have the Holy Spirit. If you do not have the Spirit: [1] everything you do would be in the flesh (Ro.7:5-6); [2] you would not be able to communicate your faith (1Co.12:3); [3] you would still be comfortless (Jn.14:16-17); [4] you simply do not belong to God (Ro.8:9).
- In Acts 8 the Samaritans were saved but did not receive the Spirit until Peter arrived. God wanted the Jews to know that Samaritans were equal in Christ and must be received into the same spiritual body.
- If God had given the Samaritans the Spirit independently of the presence of Jews, there would have been two churches. You would never have brought Samaritans and Jews together because they hated each other so much, even less Gentiles. God in a beautiful plan, melted the Samaritans and then Gentiles together as one. They were fully accepted by God without first having to become Jewish proselytes. This amazed the Jews but was necessary for them to recognize it.
- The moment you put your faith in Christ you receive the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God (Ek.36:26-27; Jn.7:37-39; 14:16-17; 16:13; Ac.1:8; Ro.8:9; Ep.1:13-14; 1Jn.2:27; Ju.1:19).



2 SYMBOLIC CONFESSION

— Spoke in Tongues

v.46

For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, (Ac.10:46)

- Why did they speak in languages? How else would the Jews know anything happened?
- The same supernatural manifestation of the Spirit that occurred at Pentecost, occurred again involving Romans. This must have seemed extreme because he was seen as the enemy.
- This special sign was not for Cornelius and his friends only, but primarily for the circumcised believing Jews (Ac.11:12, “six brethren”) that accompanied Peter. They will report back to the Jerusalem church (Acts 11).
- Tongues (languages) is a sign gift especially for stubborn and unbelieving Jews (1Co.14:21-22) as God is breaking barriers of prejudice.



3 STATEMENT OF BAPTISM

— Identification in Christ

v.47

“Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” (Ac.10:47)

- Notice that the order of events changes. The Spirit comes before water baptism, not in conjunction with it (Ac.2:38) or after it (Ac.8:17). Luke records what happened, not what “should have happened.”
- Can you imagine those six Jews baptizing all those Gentiles? It was important for Peter not to be the one that baptized them, and that it be the Jews with him. Otherwise, the Jerusalem church would say this was all of Peter and treat it as suspect. The six Jews will report back that all these things were true. When people get involved in something, they usually will defend it and they did.



4 SWEET FELLOWSHIP

— Request to Know More

v.48

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days. (Ac.10:48)

- You can typically tell when someone is really saved, because they desire Christian fellowship (Jn.13:34-35; 15:12; 1Jn.2:9,11; 3:14; 4:20).