

# The Samaritan conversion

## Introduction

Continuing series on Acts

Story starts at the beginning:

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

*3 And God said,*

**Genesis 1 v 1 - 3 (ESV)**

Trinity here can be thought of as:

Father	Identity of God	answer to the question 'who is God?'
Holy Spirit	Activity of God	answer to the question 'what does God do?'
Son	Word of God	answer to the question 'what is God like?'

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*

**John 1 v 14 (ESV)**

OT - story of God the Father, NT story of God the Son and later the Holy Spirit?

## Activity of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

*18 So the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. 19 Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight.*

**Numbers 27 v 18**

*10 The Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he judged Israel.*

**Judges 3 v 10**

*34 But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet*

**Judges 6 v 34**

Holy Spirit on the people of God, and they **did** things.

## **Acts 8 - Philip Proclaims Christ in Samaria**

But as for me, I am filled with power,  
with the Spirit of the Lord,  
and with justice and might,  
to declare to Jacob his transgression  
and to Israel his sin.

### **Micah 3 v 8**

The Holy Spirit was active, but there was more to come:

I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring,  
and my blessing on your descendants.

They shall spring up among the grass  
like willows by flowing streams.

This one will say, 'I am the Lord's,'  
another will call on the name of Jacob,  
and another will write on his hand, 'The Lord's,'  
and name himself by the name of Israel."

### **Isaiah 44 v 3 - 5**

"And it shall come to pass afterward,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the male and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

### **Joel 2 v 28 - 29**

The Holy Spirit is at work in people, and they are doing things that God wants them to do.

There's also a promise of more, a greater more powerful display of the Spirit yet to come.

## **The Holy Spirit in the gospels**

John the Baptist (His father Zechariah was 'filled with the Holy Spirit and sang a prophesy in Luke 1) said:

"I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

### **Luke 3 v 16**

Jesus explained to his disciples:

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

### **John 14 v 16 - 17**

The Holy Spirit was with them and there was more to come! The Spirit would be in them to help them do the things that God wanted them to do.

## **Acts 8 - Philip Proclaims Christ in Samaria**

### **Pentecost**

After his death and resurrection, Jesus said to the disciples:

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

#### **Acts 1 v 8**

The Spirit would come, so that they would witness, first to Jews, then to the outcasts, then to the dogs.

Disciples go to upper room to pray.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

#### **Acts 2 v 4**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, and then they spoke in tongues. Then the action surrounding this poured out onto the streets and the timid, shy, Jesus-rejecting disciple Peter stands up and preaches the sermon of his life, talking about the OT, about the Father, the Holy Spirit and about Jesus.

37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Acts 2 v 37 - 38**

Everything has changed - faith, repentance, baptism, receive the Holy Spirit. It now comes as a package. People were supposed to receive a life-changing encounter with God the Holy Spirit when they were converted, to enable them to do the things that God had planned for them to do. The Holy Spirit was for all believers.

The disciples experience of the Holy Spirit grew and grew:

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

#### **Acts 4 v 31**

Apostles had just stood before Jewish leaders - seems like there were already pretty bold to me!

### **How come they were filled with the Holy Spirit a second time?!**

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

#### **Ephesians 5 v 18**

Stephen when he was stoned was filled with the Holy Spirit and looked up and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand.

Stephen was then stoned to death in the presence of Saul, who began a hate campaign against Christians. The disciples stayed in Jerusalem but other believers (among them Philip)

Philip (one of the men charged with caring for the poor in Jerusalem) went to Samaria to people the Jews viewed as outcasts, and with whom Jews did not associate.

4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 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

## **Acts 8 - Philip Proclaims Christ in Samaria**

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.

He performed signs and wonders amongst them (showing that the commission of Jesus - do as I do - was not just for the apostles), and was the first person to preach the good news to large numbers of non-Jews.

9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practised magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. 10 They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." 11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptised 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. 18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." 24 And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

25 Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

### **Acts 8 v 4 - 25**

Disciples hear that people hadn't received the Holy Spirit so hot-foot it down to Samaria to pray for them.

Why was it so important that the believers received the Holy Spirit? Because he:

- Empowers
- Purifies
- Reveals
- Unifies

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

### **1 Corinthians 12 v 12 - 3**

The Holy Spirit was a sign of unity and equality of the believers.

Simon the sorcerer - magic was prevalent at this time (books of incantations have been found) but what he saw happening amazed him, and he wanted to buy it, but the blessing of God was not for sale!

### **Acts 8 - Philip Proclaims Christ in Samaria**

Story is about people who were outsiders and outcasts who received the Holy Spirit and their lives were changed for the better. They loved God more, they prayed and people got well, they had an increased ability to live a less sinful life, they loved other people more.

*Have you never received the Holy Spirit? Are you not sure? Then come and be prayed for!*

*Do you feel that you need boldness? Come and ask for boldness, and receive the Holy Spirit*

*Already been filled? Come again, the disciples did*