

Saturday, August 6, 2022 ▫ Read Acts 10:44–11:18

Questions from the Scripture text: What was Peter still doing (v44)? What did the Holy Spirit do? Who were astonished (v45)? What is the Holy Spirit called here? What had been done with this Gift onto whom? How did the Jews know that the Spirit had been poured upon these Gentiles (v46)? What does Peter question whether it could be forbidden them in v47? What would be done to them with this water? In what manner had they received the Holy Spirit? What does he command be done (v48)? In what Name? What did they ask Peter to do? What two groups heard what in 11:1? Where had Peter come in v2? What were the Jews called here again (cf. 10:45)? What was their specific complaint (v3)? Where does Peter start his explanation (v4–5)? What had he seen in the vision (v5–6)? What command did he receive (v7)? How had he responded (v8)? But what did the voice answer about Peter's exception to the command (v9)? How many times did this happen (v10)? When does v11 occur? What happened? Who still had to command Peter at this point (v12)? And what did the Spirit tell him not to do? How many "of the circumcision" came along? What did they all enter? Whom had the man seen (v13)? What had the angel said to do? What had the angel said that Peter would do (v14)? Who would be saved by these words? What happens as Peter begins preaching (v15)? What does the Holy Spirit do? Whose word does Peter now remember (v16)? With what had John baptized? And what did Jesus say would happen by the pouring and falling of the Holy Spirit? What had God done when (v17)? Whom did Peter say that he would be withstanding if he forbade the water (v17b, cf. 10:47)? How do they respond to hearing these things (v18)? Whom do they glorify? How do they describe these Gentiles' being saved?

Who is saving whom and how? Acts 10:44-11:18 looks forward to the morning sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these forty-three verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **it is God Who grants repentance to life, by the pouring out of His Spirit, the gift of Whom He affirms and signifies by the pouring of water in baptism.**

Faith comes by the pouring of the Spirit. Peter is telling them about believing (v43), when suddenly it becomes apparent that the believing itself has happened. We had seen in 9:34 and 9:40 the power of the Word to give what it commands. Now we find out more specifically who applies that power: the Holy Spirit. He fell upon them (v44b). He is a Gift Who was poured out upon them (v45). It is the Lord Jesus Who did this pouring (11:16, cf. Mk 1:8, Jn 1:33, Ac 1:5), when the Holy Spirit fell upon them (11:15).

Faith is not immediately visible. But the Spirit makes them see His work by hearing. This time, it is Gentiles speaking in language that they do not know, probably Aramaic (v46)—though those "of the circumcision" were astonished by it, the evidence was clear enough that they could not deny it!

So God demands that His church baptize with water. The Spirit has been given, been poured, and fallen. Peter asks, "Can anyone forbid (hinder, refuse, withhold) water that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" (v47). In 11:15, he describes that time, "the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning."

We learn more of what's behind Paul's question in v17. To not apply water in physical baptism, just as the Lord Jesus has applied the Spirit in spiritual baptism, is to "withstand God." This is one reason why baptism could not be delayed.

Though there are those who are baptized and later receive the Spirit (cf. Ac 19:5–6), when it is plain that someone has been brought to faith, there is a strong, urgent obligation to baptize him. The church is required to affirm on earth what Jesus does from heaven. The church is required to imitate with water what Christ does with His Spirit, to signify the method by which we are brought to faith and repentance. The church affirms this publicly for the honor of God and the strengthening of our faith. We need assuring that salvation is God's divine work, and God helps us not only by the Word and by the Supper but also by the sacrament of Christian Baptism.

This baptizing glorifies God for being pleased to add to His church from all nations. God's people, His church to use Stephen's word about them from 7:38, had been marked off by circumcision. Twice in our passage, believing Jews are called "those of the circumcision" (10:45, 11:2) implying that they were still thinking of God's people at that way. In fact, they less upset that Peter had baptized Gentiles than that he had entered the Gentile house and ate with the Gentiles (v3). This was an error that Peter himself and even Barnabas would get carried into later (cf. Gal 2:11–13).

But we are not of the circumcision, which belonged as a spiritual ordinance to just the one nation. Christ's church can be called "of baptism," which belongs as a spiritual ordinance to people of all nations. Baptism helps us do more than be sure that it is Christ Who saves; it turns our hearts to praise. "They glorified God, saying "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life"" (v18). It is God Who decides who will repent. It is God Who grants repentance. And He is granting it to people from all nations. Each baptism we attend should stir up not only our faith but our praise!

If you believe in Jesus, how did that happen? If you don't, then how can it happen? What must the church do with someone whom God adds to her? What are two ways that we should respond to Baptism?

Sample prayer: Lord, we praise You Who have poured out Your Spirit to give repentance and faith. Forgive us for when we are closed hearted toward anyone in Your church. Grant unto us to treasure them as marked off to Yourself, and to look to You for grace to complete the sanctifying and glorifying of us all in Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP67 "O God, Give Us Your Blessing" or TPH424 "All Authority and Power"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Acts Chapter 10, beginning in verse 44 and going through chapter 11 and verse 18. These are God's words. While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word and those are 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, for they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God than Peter answered. Can anyone forbid water that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit as we have. Just as we have, he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord, and they asked him to stay a few days.

Now, the Apostles and the brethren who are in Judea heard that. The Gentiles had also received the Word of God. And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, Those of the circumcision, contended with him saying, you went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them, but Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning saying I was in the city of Joppa praying and in a trance I saw a vision and an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners.

And it came to me When I observed it. Intently and considered. I saw four footed animals of earth, while beasts creeping things and birds of the air and I heard a voice saying to me, rise, Peter kill and eat. But I said not so Lord for nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth with the voice answered me.

Again from heaven. What? God has cleansed. You must not call common. This was done three times and all were drawn up again, into heaven, at that very moment. Three men stood before the house where I was having been sent to me from Caesaria, then the spirit told me to go with them doubting nothing.

Moreover, these six brethren accompanied me and we entered the man's house and he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house who said to him, send men to Joppa and call for Simon. His name is Peter. Who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.

And as I began to speak the Holy Spirit, fell upon them as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said John indeed. Baptized with water but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. If therefore, God gave them the same gift as he gave us.

When we believe to the Lord, Jesus Christ. Who was I that I could withstand God when they heard these things. They became silent. And the glorified God saying, Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance until life.

That sends this reading of God's inspired and inherent toward. So we begin hearing, this passage preached on the last. Lord's Day. Recognizing that Jesus's saving from heaven is signified by the sign that he has given us on earth and we looked at Matthew 28, which we will do again briefly just now

And starting in verse 16, then the 11 disciples went away into Galilee to the mountain, which Jesus had appointed for them. And when they saw him, they worshiped him. But some doubt it And Jesus came and spoke to them saying all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth as you go.

Therefore make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to observe, all things that I've commanded you and low. I am with you always even to the end of the age And so they were doubting, but Jesus tells them that not only is he risen from the dead but he has been given all authority in heaven.

So when he ascends to heaven, he doesn't ascend to be part of the lower ranks, or the mineral ranks or the higher ranks, but he ascends even now in his humanity, to have that place, that is right his by, right. And that he has, in his divinity, all authority.

In heaven has been given to him. And what is he going to do on earth with this authority that he has? If he has all authority in heaven, then of course he has all authority on earth. But what is it that he wants to be done with his authority on earth He wants and what he is going to do is to make disciples not just from one nation, but from all the nations and His way of doing that is going to be by sending men that he has chosen to speak.

The good news about, Jesus dying for sinners and rising again, with power. Being God from all eternity, who has become a man in order to save us by his death and resurrection. And as he sends them out, he is going to attend them with his power. And there are two things that they must do with everyone.

Whom he adds to his church, by his ministry that he has ordained. The first thing is to baptize them and the second then thing is to teach them to keep all that he has commanded. And so in the first place, baptizing them demonstrates, that it is Jesus from heaven by his power.

How do we know that because baptism by water, which John had done on earth and said there was someone coming who had baptized of the. Holy Spirit is what Jesus does from heaven with the Holy Spirit and that's the great baptism that takes place here. When he says, in verse 15 of our passage, and as I began to speak the Holy Spirit, fell upon them.

When Peter says as and as I began to speak the Holy Spirit, fell upon them as upon us beginning. Then I remembered the Word of the Lord, how he said John indeed. Baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. And so when it says in verse 44 of chapter 10, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

And when it says in verse 45, the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles. And then when he says again in verse 14 of chapter 11, the Holy Spirit fell upon them as upon us at the beginning. Peter is saying he recognized this pouring of the Holy Spirit This falling of the Holy Spirit as that baptism, that Jesus promised that he would give of his Holy Spirit.

Not now, with water as the element. But with the Holy Spirit, if we can say this reverently as the element of the true and great Christian baptism that the reason we baptized with water on earth is because Jesus baptizes with water from head, or with sorry with the spirit, from heaven.

Now, he commands us. Whoever is added to the church that we baptize with water, but he is the one who in His time, pours out the Holy Spirit so that the Holy Spirit falls upon and dwells in the one to whom the Lord Jesus gives him. And so, we see, not only that Christ's salvation is signified, but that Christ's salvation must be submitted to. The church submits to his salvation by applying the sign that he commands and but teaching the scriptures as he commands.

And so there's the baptizing them in the name of the Triune God and there is teaching them to observe all that. I have commanded you and so all those who who are added to the church, they must be baptized and they must be taught. If we withhold the water, we would stand against God.

It's important to note that verse 17 is talking about something that is actually after what the Judaizers are complaining about in verse 2. When Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision, contended with him saying, you went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them, but Peter has already told them that he and the six others who were with him, had entered the man's house and they had also lodged the man back in Joppa at Simon the Tanner's house.

And so so his feeding them eating with them in Joppa and probably again in Caesarea and then his entering their house in Caesarea. Those things that already happened at the point that he's describing in verses, 15 through 17. And what he is implying then when he says, if therefore God gave them the same gift as he gave us.

When we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. Who was I, that I could withstand God. Is that you guys should be more concerned with the fact that we baptize them. Then that we went with them and that we entered their house. Because now they have been recognized as members of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ by their baptism and therefore he even implies that, not baptizing them would have been to withstand God in Acts 11 verse 17.

And that's why he says, Can anyone forbid or withhold or refuse water? That these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit, just as we have, and he commanded them to be baptized.

The command here then applies both to the church, which is required to give the baptism. And to those who have been added by the Lord Jesus. And to those who must receive it, that they would submit to the baptism. No, this is a command that is very similar to the command.

For circumcision. That one could be added to the church of the Lord, under the administration of Abraham or the administration of Moses without being circumcised. And that, of course, and no male could be. And that of course, included even the babies. This is why Jesus had to have godly parents.

There were a number of things concerning God's law that were required to be done with the Lord Jesus Christ in order for all righteousness, to be fulfilled, that actually weren't under his control. Part of his humiliation was being a baby. He couldn't present himself for circumcised himself. He couldn't bring himself to the temple at the appointed time as a first-born son and and the redemption sacrifice and the be made for him.

There, he couldn't come to Jerusalem for feast and so forth. So these are commands that must be kept by the church who applies the sign and teaches and preaches, all that, the Lord Jesus says. And there are commands that must be submitted to by all who are in the church that they submit not just to being baptized, but they also submit to being taught.

And what are they submitting to to be taught up? Well, everything enact chapter 20. The Apostle Paul is saying His goodbye to the Ephesian elders. And he says, you know, how in what manner, I always lived among you versus 20. Now how I kept back? Nothing. That was helpful but proclaimed, it to you and taught you publicly and from house to house and then even more strongly in verse 26.

Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men for. I have not shunned to declare to you, the whole counsel of God. And so the when the Lord adds someone to his church whether by adult conversion or by baptism or by sorry, birth into a covenant family, there is the requirement of doing, both of those things, You may not withhold baptism from them anymore.

Then you can withhold some part of the whole Council of God from the teaching and you may not withhold, the whole counsel of God, in the teaching, from them, or any part of it anymore, than you may withhold baptism from them. But the same or similar is true. For the one who has been added to the church that you must receive.

And and whether as a baby who doesn't really have a say in the matter or if you have been added to the church later in life you You must submit to yield to being baptized or if the Lord adds your baby, you must yield unto the Lord that your baby would be baptized as Joseph and Mary did for the Lord Jesus with his circumcision.

But you are just as much a guilty if you if you don't yield to being taught as if you didn't yield to being baptized. So it's the church's job to preach and to teach the whole Council of God and God says that their implies there in Acts chapter 20, that if the church is leaving something out in the preaching and teaching that those who are in the leadership, who've been called to that office of the preaching and the teaching and pastoring are guilty of the blood.

And that's not just physical death. Now, he's using a phrase that refers to death, but it means, spiritual everlasting, body, and soul death in the in suffering. Hell forever. He says the church or the minister or the elder who leave something out of the preaching and teaching is guilty of the blood of those who are entrusted to His care.

But similarly, for you who have been brought into the church, if the church is doing the preaching and the teaching and you are not receiving it, you will be guilty of your own blood. And so it is necessary. As Jesus says, in the passage, in Matthew to, not just to baptize those whom he adds to the church, but to teach them to keep all that he has commanded.

And the first thing to keep, of course, is to recognize that it is Jesus, who gives spiritual life. It is Jesus who gives His Holy Spirit that is Jesus who gives faith in himself. It is Jesus who gives himself to that faith by the working of his Spirit, It is Jesus who gives the washing of His blood in Himself, for the forgiveness of his sins.

It is Jesus that gives in himself, His obedience and righteousness to be counted as yours. It is Jesus that by giving Himself gives all of his life and His goodness to be the power by which you are transformed to be like Him and to become more and more good in the way you you think can respond and live.

First, and foremost before the face of God and in interaction with him. And of course, then in his world, and with His creatures, and especially the ones that are made in His image, and even among those, especially the ones whom he's gathered into his church, that all of these things come from, Jesus Christ, through faith.

And therefore, the first thing that you need to be taught to be commanded. If you're that you are commanded to receive as teaching if you're going to receive

the whole Council of God is to turn from your sin and to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, looking to Him.

Even to give you the faith by which you do. So and he will, and he does cross salvation must be submitted to by the whole church by those who are already in the church, giving the baptizing, giving the teaching and by those who are added to the church yielding to be baptized and yielding to be taught apparent to understands that they are to yield and bring their child for baptism.

And does that. But then allows life to be full of other things. And is often not act the preaching or the teaching and doesn't make use of. It doesn't lead their own. The father doesn't lead his family and worship taking the preaching and teaching of the whole Council of God, and the public ministry, and leading it every day, and his home.

And having the elders into his home on a regular basis to reinforce it. And the father who doesn't do that is just as much withholding, what Jesus has commanded as the one who does not baptize his child? It's even worse, isn't it? I think to take the sign and and use the sign, but then not to attend upon that teaching them to obey.

All that has been commanded. Well, his salvation is not just signified from heaven. Like we heard last week is salvation is not just submitted to by all in the church and over the church and being added to the church. But his salvation is to be celebrated when the Lord Jesus gives the sign on earth and displays that he is the one who gives the spirit from heaven.

That he is the one who is saving by giving his spirit from heaven. We are to celebrate that He has come and accomplished. Our salvation that he is the one. Who now by his Spirit is applying our salvation, We are to celebrate his adding to the church. The portion of the passage it starts in chapter 11.

Begins with complain. Those are the circumcision. Contended with him saying you went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them and Peter concludes his explanation by saying I remembered the word of the Lord how he said John indeed baptized with water but you shall be baptized to the Holy Spirit.

If therefore, God gave them the same gift as he gave us. When we believed on the Lord, Jesus Christ. Who was I, that I could withstand God, But the response to recognizing that it is Jesus who pours out the salvation from heaven is not just to tolerate those around us or even to welcome them and love them as our brothers and sisters which we ought to do and we should and we do and we rejoice over there.

Coming among us but we should whenever we see a baptism. Celebrate that. The Lord Jesus is the one who is saving everyone in the church. We should celebrate that. The Lord Jesus is the one who has added this one to the church. We should celebrate that. The Lord Jesus is the one who has given now the teaching by which this one will be brought to, and grown in faith or perhaps, they have already come to faith.

And we're celebrate that, the Lord Jesus is the one who has brought them to faith, but what do they need? Well, they still need more faith. And he is the one who is going to give it to them. And so it's not just that his salvation is signified. It's not just that his salvation is submitted to, but it should be celebrated and that's what they do.

When they heard these things, they became silent. And the glorified God saying, Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life that became silent. But they didn't remain silent that silenced their complaints. Why? So that they could be noisy with their praise that became silent. And they glorified God saying, then God all has also granted to the Gentiles repentance unto life.

So we see someone baptized. What do we do? First of all, we submit to the rest of of what Christ requires this one is now one who is owed the teaching of the whole Council of God. That's one of the responses to to baptism by the church and you who have been baptized, how should you respond by receiving the teaching of the whole Council of God.

But we don't just submit to his salvation which we rejoice over his salvation. We glorify God. We praise Him that he has added to the church. We praise Him. That he is the one who applies. As redemption from heaven, We praise him that he grants. Repentance unto life. We praise Him.

And so you see a baptism submit and we praise at the time of rejoicing. Let's pray. Thank you. Lord. For this portion of your word, pray that you would help us to rejoice over the fact that you are the one who have granted reconciliation, who have gathered your church to yourself.

That Christ is the king in heaven and overall the earth when we pray that you would

That you would make our hearts to be obedient to him to do with the church and do with ourselves. As part of the church members of the church as Jesus says to do, but that you would also make our hearts to adore him to adore you. In him, that we would be full of praise for your great salvation.

We ask all these things in Jesus name, Amen.