

Abounding Grace Christian Church

The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Church – Part 35

I. Exposition of Chapter Ten (Continued).

A. Verses 36-39 – The Earthly Ministry of Jesus (Continued).

1. Verses 37-38 – **“that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”**

a. Verse 37 – The **“word”** which Peter declared to his audience that they knew would have been the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Apparently, Peter concluded that Cornelius and the others had to have heard of Jesus. Note what Dr. Stanley Horton writes:

“Then he goes on, reminding them of the message that they knew... This means they knew the facts about Jesus, including the promise of the Holy Spirit... no one who attended the synagogues could have escaped hearing about it.”¹

b. Verse 38 – This is the message of Jesus Christ in a nutshell. Peter starts off by saying; **“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power...”** Stanley Toussaint points out:

“The word *Messiah* means ‘Anointed One’; so when Peter said, God anointed Jesus of Nazareth he was saying, ‘God declared Him the Messiah’ (cf. Isa. 61:1–3; Luke 4:16–21; Acts 4:27). This declaration occurred at the Lord’s baptism (cf. Matt. 3:16–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:32–34).²

c. In describing the ministry of the Messiah – Jesus, Peter goes on and says: **“...who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”** The word for **“healing”** is referring to physical healing. This word is defined as: **“to cause someone to become well again after having been sick—‘to heal, to cure, to make well, healing.’ they came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases’ Lk 6:18.”³** The word **“oppressed”** means; **“to exercise harsh control over one, to use one’s power against one”⁴** So from this verse, we see that physical sickness and disease is called an oppression of the devil!!

1) **Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil! – I John 3:8.**

2) Satan has been **“disarmed”**. **Colossians 2:9-15.**

3) Christians have been given authority over Satan and all of his weapons. **Mark 16:15-20; John 14:12-14; Ephesians 1:20-23.**

“But Satan (who was defeated) holds his master (the church, which is the body of Christ) in bondage. The defeated one is binding his own master. According to the New Testament, the church is given power and authority over an already conquered Satan. Can you afford to subject yourself to Satan’s dominion any longer? Never. Arise from his bondage. Confess that you are the conqueror.”⁵

2. Verse 39 – **“And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.”**

a. Peter now emphasizes that what he is saying about the ministry of Jesus is not something made up that he and the other apostles were witnesses of all of this. Later Peter wrote:

“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.” – II Peter 1:16 (cf. I John 1:1-3).

b. **“...whom they killed by hanging on a tree.”** – This, of course, is referring to Jesus being crucified on the cross. Dr. Horton, in the footnote of his commentary states: **“tree’ can also mean anything made from the wood of a tree, such as the rough-hewn cross Jesus died on. Cf. Gal. 3:13-14 and Deut. 21:23”⁶**

¹Stanley M. Horton, *Acts: A Logion Press Commentary* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2001), 204.

²Stanley D. Toussaint, “Acts,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 381.

³Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996),

⁴Joseph Henry Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1977)

⁵T.L. Osborn, *Healing the Sick* (Tulsa, OK: Harrison House Inc., 1992), 111.

⁶Horton, 205.

B. Verses 40-43 - The Resurrection of Christ.

1. Verses 40-41 – **“Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.”**

a. As has been stated before, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is an essential part of the Gospel and is the very foundation upon which Christianity stands. Without it, there is no Christianity. **“The resurrection is not merely important to the historic Christian faith; without it, there would be no Christianity. It is the singular doctrine that elevates Christianity above all other world religions.”** Adrian Rogers⁷

b. It's interesting that Jesus did not appear to everyone after the resurrection but only select persons. (cf. **John 15:27; 16:16, 22; I Corinthians 15:5-9**).

I. Howard Marshall states:

“The resurrection appearances were not made to the people at large. The reason appears to have been that those who saw Jesus were constituted to act as witnesses to the many people who could not see him, and this obligation was not laid on people who were unfit for it but only on those who had been prepared by lengthy association with Jesus and by sharing his work of mission.”⁸ (cf. **John 20:24-29**).

c. It's worth noting that Peter mentions that they (the apostles) **“...ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.”**

1) According to Grant Osborne, Gentiles (non-Jews) didn't generally believe in a physical resurrection so it was important for Peter to give a strong emphasis to it – including the fact that they ate and drank with Him.⁹

“After Christ's resurrection the disciples ate and drank with Him (cf. John 21:13). This was proof that the resurrected Lord Jesus was no bodiless phantom and it explains how Christ was seen (Acts 10:40).”¹⁰

2. Verses 42-43 – **“And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”**

a. Peter refers to the command of Jesus to preach to the people - cf. **Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:47-48; Acts 1:8**). This was to begin in Jerusalem but also to all the world.

b. Peter states that God (the Father) ordained Jesus to **“...be Judge of the living and dead.”** - **John 5:22, 27; Acts 17:31; II Corinthians 5:10; II Timothy 4:1; I Peter 4:5**.

c. Peter mentions that all the prophets (cf. **Luke 24:27-35; 44-45**) testified that through Christ (the Messiah) **“...whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”** It's important to note that the word **“whoever”** includes people from every race of people.

C. Verses 44-48 – **The Gentiles are Saved, Filled with the Holy Spirit and Baptized in Water.** 1. Verse 44 – **“While Peter was yet speaking...the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.”** This is the same experience the believers experienced on the Day of Pentecost 10 years earlier (cf. **Acts 2:1-4**). This was promised by Jesus after He rose from the dead (**Acts 1:8**).

2. Verse 45 – The **“circumcision”** (Jewish Christians) were shocked that the Holy Spirit was given to the Gentiles.

3. Verse 46 – This explains how they knew the Holy Spirit had come upon them – **“...they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God...”**

4. Verses 47-48 – This is referring to water baptism. Water baptism by immersion into water symbolizes the fact that spiritually we died with Christ (**Galatians 2:20**) and now we have come into a new life. It's an outward demonstration of an inward faith. (cf. **Ephesians 2:1-6**)

“Remember that He who rose from the dead, rose to pour out His Holy Spirit into human lives, and, by that Spirit, to make available to any individual all the fullness of Himself, twenty-four hours a day.” Ray C. Stedman¹¹

⁷Quoted in: *Lift: Experiencing the Elevated Life*, by Tony Cooke (Tulsa, OK: Harrison House Publishers, 2017), 19.

⁸I. Howard Marshall, *The Acts of the Apostles: An Introduction and Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980), 193.

⁹Grant R. Osborne, *Acts: Verse by Verse*, Osborne New Testament Commentaries (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2019), 205. ¹⁰Toussaint, “Acts,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, 381.

¹¹Quoted in *Lift: Experiencing the Elevated Life*, by Tony Cooke, 52.