

Acts 10:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

Analysis

Peter asked: 'Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?' The rhetorical question highlights that Spirit-reception precedes water baptism, showing baptism doesn't confer grace but signifies grace already received. The phrase 'as well as we' emphasized equality - Gentiles received the identical Spirit. Reformed theology sees baptism as a sign and seal of covenant grace already given, not the means of conferring it. The Spirit's prior giving demonstrated these Gentiles were regenerate believers who should receive the covenant sign.

Historical Context

This established the pattern that Gentile converts should be baptized without first becoming Jewish proselytes (circumcision, etc.). The Jerusalem Council would later confirm this principle (Acts 15), establishing that faith in Christ alone, not law observance, is the basis for inclusion in the church.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the Spirit's reception before baptism teach about baptism's nature and purpose?
2. How does this passage demonstrate that regeneration precedes baptism?
3. What does baptism signify about the believer's relationship to Christ and His church?

Interlinear Text

Μήτι	τὸ	ὕδωρ	κωλῦσαί	δύναται	τις	τοῦ	μὴ
Can	G3588	water	forbid	G1410	any man	G3588	not
G3385		G5204	G2967		G5100		G3361
βαπτισθῆναι	τούτους	οἵτινες	τὸ	πνεῦμα	τὸ	ἅγιον	
be baptized	that these	which	G3588	Ghost	G3588	the Holy	
G907	G5128	G3748		G4151		G40	
ἔλαβον	καθὼς	καὶ	ἡμεῖς				
have received	well as	as	we				
G2983	G2531	G2532	G2249				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 8:36 (Baptism): And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

Romans 10:12 (Parallel theme): For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.