

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 G3361
G3385 G5204 G2967 G5100

βαπτισθῆναι τούτους οἵτινες τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἄγιον

be baptized that these which G3588 Ghost G3588 the Holy G40
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.