

Acts 11:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

Analysis

Peter reported to the Jerusalem church: 'as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.' The comparison to Pentecost ('the beginning') demonstrated that Gentiles received the identical Spirit as the first Jewish believers. Peter's testimony emphasized God's sovereign action - the Spirit fell while Peter was speaking, not after lengthy teaching or ritual. From a Reformed perspective, this vindicates the doctrine that the Spirit sovereignly regenerates whom He wills, when He wills. The parallel to Pentecost proved Gentile inclusion in the new covenant church.

Historical Context

Peter's report occurred circa AD 40-41 in Jerusalem after returning from Caesarea. The Jerusalem church initially criticized Peter for eating with Gentiles (v.3) but his detailed testimony and the six witnesses (v.12) convinced them of God's work.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why was the parallel to Pentecost essential for Jewish believers to accept Gentile inclusion?
2. What does the Spirit's sovereign timing teach about God's control of salvation?
3. How should undeniable evidence of God's work overcome our prejudices and traditions?

Interlinear Text

ἐν δὲ τῷ ἄρξασθαί με λαλεῖν ἐπέπεσεν τὸ πνεῦμα
as **And** G3588 **began** **I** **to speak** **fell** G3588 **Ghost**
G1722 G1161 G756 G3165 G2980 G1968 G4151

τὸ ἅγιον ἐφ' αὐτοὺς ὥσπερ καὶ ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν
G3588 **the Holy** **on** **them** **as** G2532 **on** **us** **as**
G40 G1909 G846 G5618 G1909 G2248 G1722

ἀρχῇ
the beginning
G746

Additional Cross-References

Acts 19:6 (Holy): And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.