

Acts 11:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said,
John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with
the Holy Ghost.

Analysis

Peter remembered Jesus' words: 'John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.' This prophecy (Acts 1:5) found fulfillment not only at Pentecost but also at Cornelius's house. The contrast between John's water baptism and the Spirit's baptism shows the superiority of new covenant reality over old covenant shadows. Reformed theology distinguishes between the outward sign (water baptism) and the inward reality (Spirit baptism) - the latter being the saving work of regeneration and incorporation into Christ's body.

Historical Context

Jesus spoke these words shortly before His ascension (Acts 1:5). That Peter applied this promise to the Gentile Pentecost showed he recognized this as fulfillment of Christ's prophecy, authenticating Gentile inclusion in the church's foundation.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between water baptism and Spirit baptism?
2. How does Spirit baptism fulfill what John's water baptism prefigured?
3. Why is baptism with the Holy Spirit the essential mark of new covenant believers?

Interlinear Text

ἐμνήσθην δὲ τοῦ ῥήματος κυρίου ὡς ἔλεγεν
remembered I **Then** G3588 **the word** **of the Lord** **how** **that he said**
G3415 G1161 G4487 G2962 G5613 G3004

Ἰωάννης μὲν βαπτισθήσεσθε ὕδατι ὑμεῖς δὲ
John **indeed** **baptized with** **water** **ye** **Then**
G2491 G3303 G907 G5204 G5210 G1161

βαπτισθήσεσθε ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ
baptized with **with** **Ghost** **the Holy**
G907 G1722 G4151 G40

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:5 (Holy): For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Mark 1:8 (Holy): I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

Proverbs 1:23 (Spirit): Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Matthew 3:11 (Holy): I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

John 14:26 (Holy): But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Luke 3:16 (Holy): John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

Acts 20:35 (Word): I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

2 Peter 3:1 (Parallel theme): This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

1 Corinthians 12:13 (Spirit): For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

John 16:4 (Parallel theme): But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.