

Acts 8:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Analysis

The Spirit had not yet 'fallen upon' any Samaritans though they had been baptized 'in the name of the Lord Jesus.' This separation of baptism from Spirit-reception was exceptional, not normative. The phrase 'fallen upon' suggests visible manifestation similar to Pentecost. Luke emphasizes this anomaly to show that even Samaritans - despised by Jews - received the identical Spirit. Reformed theology sees baptism as a sign and seal of the covenant, but the reality signified (Spirit's indwelling) is sovereignly given by God, not automatically conferred through the rite.

Historical Context

Baptism 'in the name of Jesus' distinguished Christian baptism from John's baptism (Acts 19:5) and indicated submission to Christ's lordship. The formula used (whether Trinitarian or specifically Jesus' name) is debated among scholars.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between water baptism and the Spirit's baptism?
2. Why does Scripture emphasize that the same Spirit came upon Samaritans as upon Jews?
3. How do we avoid either exalting sacraments above the Spirit or minimizing their importance?

Interlinear Text

οὐπω	γὰρ	ἦν	ἐπ'	οὐδενὶ	αὐτῶν	ἐπιπεπτωκός	μόνον
as yet	(For	he was	upon	none	of them	fallen	only
G3768	G1063	G2258	G1909	G3762	G846	G1968	G3440
δὲ	βεβαπτισμένοι	ὑπῆρχον	εἰς	τὸ	ὄνομα	τοῦ	κυρίου
G1161	baptized	they were	in	G3588	the name	G3588	of the Lord
	G907	G5225	G1519		G3686		G2962

Ἰησοῦ

Jesus

G2424

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:38 (Baptism): Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 19:2 (Parallel theme): He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Matthew 28:19 (Parallel theme): Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: