

Decade of Availability The Word and the Spirit

“I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”

Isaiah 42:6-7 KJV



A. The Word vv. 34-43

1. **Short and effective:** Peter packs a lot into this message. We often confuse length with effectiveness. Remember...since Pentecost, the Spirit has been directing Peter every step of the way.
2. **Logos and Rhema:** The word “**word**” appears four times in this passage, twice as ‘logos’ and twice as ‘rhema.’

Logos: Lit=laid out in order. In the time of Christ the Greeks used the word to mean the great unknown God. It also meant the voice of God to the Jews. John 1:1-2 reveals Jesus as the Word.

Rhema: Lit=something spoken or revealed. Most often associated with Spirit inspired divine revelation.

See vv. 36-37 and 44 for how these words are used.

B. The Spirit vv. 44-48

1. **Divine interruption:** v. 44 WOW—the Holy Spirit falls on the entire household of Cornelius while Peter is still speaking.
2. **Hearing the Word:** v. 44 Since the Holy Spirit Baptism is only for those who are believers...the entire household put their faith in Jesus for salvation based on Peter’s message; the **logos!**
3. **Astonished:** v. 45 The Jews that came with Peter were shocked that the Holy Spirit fell on these Gentiles. Has the Holy Spirit astonished you lately?
4. **How did they know?** ...that the Holy Spirit had fallen? How do we know when someone receives the Lord? How do we know when someone has received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Importance of knowing: If there had not been the initial evidence of “speaking in tongues” no one would have been sure that the Gospel was given to the Gentiles.

Tongues or other languages? The Greek word-phrase used for tongues here is slightly different than in Acts 2:4 where it is ‘other’ tongues. Here is simply ‘tongues’ which is identified as ‘magnifying God.’ “Other tongues” only happened at Pentecost while the rest of the Bible reveals ‘tongues’ are for personal prayer and praise or for the church with interpretation. They are both ‘initial and continuing evidence’ of the Spirit’s presence.

(See 1 Cor 12-14)

Initial physical evidence: There are many evidences of being Baptized in the Holy Spirit but speaking in tongues is the **ONLY physical** evidence. Is the ‘evidence’ any different now than in the Book of Acts? No. As we go deeper into the book of Acts and compare the flow of the Holy Spirit we will conclude that speaking in tongues is the ‘initial physical evidence’ of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:34-48 (NKJV)

34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. **35** But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. **36** The word [logos] which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ— He is Lord of all— **37** that word [rhema] you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. **39** And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. **40** Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, **41** not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. **42** And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. **43** To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

44 While Peter was still speaking these words [rhema], the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word [logos]. **45** And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. **46** For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, **47** “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” **48** And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

