



There Is More ...

"Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:17).

Bulletin VCAT23

4 October 2023

"Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:14-17).

Great gospel light has shone in Samaria. Salvations, Deliverances and spectacular miracles has brought great joy to the city. The inhabitants could have thought that "it could not be better than this", but in God's plan and programme, there was more in store for them. There is always something more that God has in store for you. Keep on exploring in faith.

- 1) News of the revival at Samaria got to the apostles at Jerusalem. Instead of just sitting down in Jerusalem and praising God for it, two representatives went to see things for themselves. Although God is not restricted by time, media or distance. There are instances where Jesus healed those who were not physically present at the scene. However there is also valuable divine impartation that takes place through personal interactions in a fellowships setting than may be possible through distant ministrations. Iron has to make contact to sharpen one another. "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend" (Proverbs 27:17).
- 2) Paul's epistles were and are still powerful, influential and effective in changing lives for good. Yet, when writing to the Roman believers, he said "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established" (Romans 1:11). The implication of this is that distant ministration is good, but needs supplementing with in-person ministration, for completeness. It is for this reason, that the Bible commands in Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching". In this days of multivariant possibilities in media and online ministry, that believers must exploit for the advancement of the gospel, it is still important to recognise the benefits of personal interaction in fellowship that may not be possible via online /

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39).

media ministry alone.

- 3) On their arrival and inspection of the believers, they identified a need for something more than salvation, deliverances and miracles - a need for the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
- 4) Philip had made significant strides in his ministration to the Samaritans, including water baptism (vs, but they had not yet received the Holy Ghost (vs 16), even though he himself was filled with the Holy Ghost (Acts 6:3-6). It is not clear if Philip has ministered to them on this, or was mainly concentrating on other priorities of the moment. Whatever the reason, Peter and John spotted this gap as a ministry opportunity and straightway filled them through prayers and the laying on of hands (vs 15,17).
- 5) God honoured their ministration "and they received the Holy Ghost" (vs 17).
- 6) The Holy Spirit is still for believers today. It is not an added extra for certain categories of high ranking believers. Peter confirmed in Acts 2:39 that "... the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call". So, you and I are included in this promise. Do not settle halfway in your spiritual pilgrimage. There is something more than salvation, deliverance, healing, etc. We must all press on to obtain the fullness of all that Christ paid for on Calvary.
- 7) Jesus assured us that prayers for the Holy Spirit will be answered "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13). The believers who tarried, as commanded by Jesus, all received the baptism of the Holy Ghost in Acts 2. Stop doubting, start praying in faith and you will receive the promise of the father, and it will make a world of difference in your life and ministry.

Pray today and receive the Holy Ghost!