

## Resourced from Brother Paul Mayes Social Media Q & A

### Question: Was Cornelius saved by Holy Spirit baptism before immersion in water?

Often when Christians try to convince the lost to obey the gospel, to become Christians by putting on Christ in baptism (Galatians 3:27) we hear the objection that the house of Cornelius was saved before immersion in water by the authority of Jesus. They submit the Holy Ghost falling on those hearers as evidence.

Things to note about the Cornelius account ....

1. If it were different than the other accounts of conversion, that is if it were an account of conversion where people were saved without baptism, then it would be in dissonance with the other accounts rather than in harmony. We know the Bible does not contradict itself.
2. We can see the other accounts of conversion all through the book of Acts that culminate in immersion in water by the authority of Jesus.

*Pentecost - Acts 2:14-41*

*Samaritans - Acts 8:5-13*

*Eunuch - Acts 8:35-39*

*Saul - Acts 9:17-18*

*Cornelius 10:34-48*

*Lydia - 16:13-15*

*The jailer - 16:30-34*

*Corinthians - Act 18:1-8*

*Ephesians - Acts 19:1-5*

3. The house Of Cornelius is the record of the first time that salvation via obedience to the gospel was offered to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit fell upon them to \*confirm\* that God accepted the Gentiles too. “And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now, therefore, why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.” Acts 15:8-11
4. Holy Ghost baptism was never for salvation.
5. They were told that they would hear “words whereby they would be saved” -- “Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.” Acts 11:14ff  
Note that the Holy Ghost fell upon them at the beginning... Before they got the words... Before they could be saved by those words.
6. The words that they heard included the instructive \*command\* to be baptized in water. “Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.” Acts 10:47-48 KJV

**Answer:** So no, the conversion of the house of Cornelius is not a case where individuals were saved before they were immersed in water by the authority of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.