

Walking In The Way Of Jesus; Foundation Matters  
Considering the path from the tomb to the world

We talked about Philip going to Samaria in Acts 8.  
Philip went down to Samaria.....sort of like long lost cousins.

Let me give you a very quick, simple overview of why I used the term cousins.

After King Solomon, Rehoboam made some poor decisions that led to the split of the Jewish Kingdom.

The northern kingdom became Israel  
The southern kingdom became Judah

The Samaritans seem to be descendants from the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. Samaria is in the northern kingdom.

The northern kingdom of Israel was defeated by the Assyrian empire with many being taken away to Assyria. The Assyrian foreigners that were left in Israel intermarried so these half Jewish, half Gentile people.

The southern kingdom of Judah was defeated by the Babylonian empire.  
There are multiple reasons for the animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans.

**Cornelius at Caesarea was a much different because he was considered a “gentile” which was even more of a derogatory label. All people who were not Jews were called “gentiles” as they were aliens from the worship, rites, and privileges of Israel. The word was often used contemptuously by Jews. In the NT, it is often used as the equivalent for Greek due to the Hellenization of cultures.**

Acts 10:42-48 NKJV

*<sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, **whoever believes in Him will receive remission (forgiveness) of sins.**”*

*<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> 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. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup> “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup> And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.*

Reminder of the Jewish people gathered together for the Festival of Pentecost that was 50 days after Passover.

Acts 2:1-12 NLT

*On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. <sup>4</sup> And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, (in other tongues) as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.*

*<sup>5</sup> At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. <sup>7</sup> They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, <sup>8</sup> and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! <sup>9</sup> Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” <sup>12</sup> They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.*

Our last study together highlighted the differences between the Jews and the Gentiles.

The Hebrew people had some very strong, valid reasons for their position of exclusion & inclusion.

*Acts 11:1-3 NKJV Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. <sup>2</sup> And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, <sup>3</sup> saying, “You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!”*

Acts 11:16-17 NKJV

*<sup>16</sup> Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup> If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?”*

Acts 2:38-41 NLT

*<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” <sup>40</sup> Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” <sup>41</sup> Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.*

What did our Lord and Savior proclaim to His disciples in John 14:23-27 (ESV)

*<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, “If **anyone** loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> **Whoever** does not love me does not*

*keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. <sup>25</sup> "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

Illustration of the sand and the stone as a foundation from Matthew 7:24-27

### **Simple yet life altering foundational experiences.**

Ephesians 1:13-14 NASB 1995

*<sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

Galatians 3:14 NIV

*<sup>14</sup> He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

Water baptism was a really big deal in the launching of the church as recorded in the Acts of the Apprentices. It should be a big deal to us now on the most personal level.

The gift of the Holy Spirit was an even bigger deal in the launching of the church as recorded in the Acts of the Apprentices. It should be a really big deal to us now on the most personal level.

Receiving and believing in the presence of the Holy Spirit as part of your salvation experience from Jesus through Father God is imperative for a strong foundation.

We must learn of His presence and then of His power for our lives.

We must learn how to depend on His leadership in our lives.

**If you are not going in the power of the Holy Spirit.....you are going on your own.**

The power to fight the battle is only through the Holy Spirit.

**We need the comfort and help of the Holy Spirit to face the new challenges of today.**

**Don't neglect this great gift that has been given to you by Father God in heaven.**

Open your heart and mind to Him. Ask Him to fill you, comfort you, and help you.