

Divine Convergence

Acts 10:37-48

PART TWO

Introduction

The major theme of Acts – *the unifying work of Jesus Christ in the salvation of man.*

But is it ‘*unity at any or all cost*’?

The gospel is polemical.

Messiah is coming to build His Church and, “His winnowing fork is in his hand.” Matthew 3:12;

Simeon’s declaration in Luke 2:34

“there was a division among the people over him” John 7:43

Paul and Barnabas at Iconium Acts 14:4

1 Corinthians 11:19

These kinds of divisions don’t weaken the church. They strengthen it. They purify it. They unify it.

one of seven “abominations”, “one who sows discord among brothers.” Proverbs 6:19

1 Corinthians 3:3-4

A Unifying Convergence

“*God shows no partiality*” (v34).

“*peace*” through Jesus Christ who is “*Lord of all*” (v36),

“*you yourselves know what happened*” (v37).

Acts 26:26

“*all the prophets*” bear witness to the key to salvation for all peoples: *forgiveness offered through belief in His name* (v43).

When Messiah comes, He will judge with absolute equity.

Isaiah 11:3-4

God’s eternal plan of salvation to include people from *All Nations*:

Romans 15:8-12

God gives the Holy Spirit at the moment of belief. v44

Receiving the indwelling Holy Spirit is not dependent on any effort on our part subsequent to salvation.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

It is impossible to obey God in a manner acceptable to Him without His indwelling Spirit.

It is impossible to understand anything about salvation without the illuminating work of the Spirit (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:14).

And it is equally impossible to witness Jesus as the Christ in the absence of His power.

Those who have Christ have His Spirit. Those who do not have “the Spirit of Christ” do not have Christ:

Romans 8:9

Romans 8:16

1 Corinthians 6:19; (cp 2 Cor. 6:16)

Ephesians 1:13-14

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

2 Corinthians 5:5

John 14:16-18

John 15:26

John 16:7

Galatians 3:2. In other words, was it your doing or God's?

v45

The universal uniting factor is mutual *faith* in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the bonding agent.

Hebrews 4:2

v46

“we are hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty acts of God” (2:11).

Clear evidence in the form of an audible, objective demonstration of the Spirit descending on them!

Tongues speaking was a sign of equality, unity, and inclusion of all people groups into the Body of Christ.

v47

Acts 11:15

Wisely, Peter had six other converted Jews with him to verify what had taken place.

v48

Genuine new believers crave two things:

1) teaching;

2) fellowship.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Romans 15:13