

water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have (οἵτινες τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον ἔλαβον ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς).' "

Here again we see the nontechnical nature of the terms, "came on", "poured out", "received". Peter, looking back to the baptism (pouring out, filling) of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, says "They (the people in Cornelius' home in Caesarea) have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

Acts 11:15-18 -- "As I (Peter) began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning (ἐπέπεσεν τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον ἐπ' αὐτούς ὡσπερ καὶ ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν ἀρχῇ). Then I remembered what the Lord had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit (βαπτισθήσεσθε ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ).' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God!' When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, 'So then, God has even granted the Gentiles repentance unto life.' "

Notice again the nontechnical terminology: the Spirit is "poured out", these people are "baptized", the Spirit "comes on" them, they "receive" Him. Notice also the opening of yet another "room" in the household of salvation: first the Samaritans, now the Gentiles. Notice also that the opening of each of the doors to these rooms is marked by a further outpouring of the Spirit on the believers present, symbolic of God's opening of the opportunity of salvation to that entire group.

Acts 19:1-7 -- "While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived in Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' They answered, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' So Paul asked, 'Then what baptism did you receive?' 'John's baptism,' they replied. Paul said, 'John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.'

It is not easy to know what these men meant by the words, "we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit," since they were Jews who had joined themselves to John the baptizer. As Jews, they were surely conversant with the many references to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament! What, then, could they have meant by this cryptic statement?

Perhaps they were saying that they had not even heard that there was such a thing as the Holy Spirit's outpouring on all believers (i.e., that it had taken place), and had therefore not received the Spirit in this way. Or perhaps they were saying that they had not heard that the One coming after John, in whom John had told them to believe, had already come and accomplished redemption, and that therefore they needed to trust in Christ's finished work and be symbolically joined to Him by water baptism.

In any case, they were baptized in Jesus' name, Paul placed his hands on them, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 -- "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."