

The image features two hands, one on the left and one on the right, holding the word "ACTS" in a large, 3D, blocky font. The letters are colored in a dark blue and a burnt orange. The hands are rendered in a light, semi-transparent style, appearing to hold the letters from behind. The background is a textured, light beige color.

ACTS

Y O U W I L L B E M Y W I T N E S S E S

PART 8 Second Blessing? (ch 2)

Once-off Pentecost Experience

⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” - *Mark 1:7-8*

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” - *Acts 1:4-5*

ONE Baptism TWO blessings

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - or all whom the Lord our God will call.” - *Acts 2:38-39*

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. - *Ephesians 4:4-5*

Filling not Baptism

¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- Ephesians 5:18

No “Super” Christians

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. - *Romans 8:9*

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. - *1 Corinthians 12:12-13*

The Corinthian Error

⁴ Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

- *1 Corinthians 14:4-5*

Why the Rapid Growth?

1. Attractive alternative to bland, powerless Christianity
2. Pushback against the Age of Reason
3. Members have had real experiences
4. They readily share what they have experienced
5. Appeals to individualism
6. Prosperity is often preached (“itching ear” syndrome)
7. Passionate, charismatic leaders

A Look in the Mirror ...

“It is tragic that many Christians have robbed themselves of blessing because they have distrusted, feared or despised this movement. They have been satisfied with a low level of spirituality. They have not allowed God to release them in prayer and praise and relationships, from the prison of age-long inhibitions. They have not expected to see God at work in conversions, in changing lives, in healing and in explicit guidance. They have forgotten that the manifestations of the Spirit in the New Testament had an uncomfortably concrete nature. Much of the division in the churches that has come with the Pentecostals has not been the fault of the Pentecostals themselves, but the narrow, fearful, uninspiring Christianity in whose lukewarm waters many of us are stuck, terrified to launch out into a deep experience of God”

- Michael Green, I believe in the Holy Spirit

The Corinthian Correction

³¹And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

¹If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

- *1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:1-3*