

Brookland Baptist Church
Bible Study
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Lecture VIII

March 23, 2022

The Book of Acts
Acts 2:37-47

Last week Peter reached the climax of his message with the proclamation of Jesus as Messiah and “Lord”. This reference was likely, connecting Jesus to Yahweh. It was another clear affirmation of Christ’s deity. Tonight, we will see the effects of the Spirit-filled message on the hearts of the believers.

Acts 2:37 –

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

After Peter’s powerful, Spirit-filled message, the people were deeply moved and asked, “What shall we do?” The text says that they were cut to the heart. The term “cut to the heart” speaks of genuine pain. It means to “strike, prick violently, sting sharply, stun.” The crowd was stunned! They asked the question that warms the heart of any messenger of the gospel: “What shall we do?” Peter was ready with the answer. Repent!!

Acts 2:38 –

“Peter replied, “Each of you must turn from 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.”

In answer to the people’s question, Peter presented a fourfold challenge.

1.) Turn from your sins. —

In other words, “repent.” The Greek word, metanoesate, means “change your outlook” or “change your mind.” This is not just sorrow or even sorrow for sin but an actual change in the way a person thinks.

2.) Turn to God. —

In addition to turning from sin, people must turn to God. It does no good to turn from sin without turning them to the one who can solve the sin problem.

3.) Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. —

Some believe that baptism was already being used for Jewish converts as a sign of their conversion to Judaism. John the Baptist had called for baptism as a sign of repentance and a changed heart— an external, nonverbal expression or celebration of an inward reality. For believers, baptism is visible proof of repentance and commitment to follow Jesus, the Messiah.

4.) Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. –

Only through the coming of the Holy Spirit into believers' hearts can they truly experience forgiveness of sin. The “gift of the Holy Spirit” not multiple or varied gifts but rather a singular gift - is the Spirit himself. The Holy Spirit is a gift from God. As Jesus had promised, he is the Comforter and the one who guides his people.

PETER PREACHES TO A CROWD

ACTS 2:39–42

Acts 2:39–40 -

39 “For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” 40 And with many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, “Be saved from this corrupt generation!”

The promises shared by Peter shows inclusive and universal applications. This promise of the work of the Spirit in the life of the believer has a personal application to you, a generational application to your children, and a global application, even to the Gentiles. Luke recorded no more of Peter’s words to the gathered crowd.

Acts 2:41 -

“So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about 3,000 people were added to them.”

What a response! Three thousand people believed and took the step of faith in Christ and were baptized — they took that first step of obedience, publicly identifying themselves with Christ. And they were added to the church; that is, they immediately joined the fellowship of believers.

Acts 2:42 -

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.”

Luke gives us a glimpse of the early church at Jerusalem during the first week of its existence. The three thousand new believers joined with the other believers. That is, they gathered with others of like mind and faith. Devoted themselves implies that they were regularly, continually persisting in the activities that follow. This could be considered the first New Members orientation class. Because these activities form a practical map for not only the day-old church but for any church of any age.

The apostles’ teaching was central to the content of what was to be studied. The apostles, the eyewitnesses of all Jesus had done, would be the ones whom the Holy Spirit would remind of the crucial truths by which the church would be directed for centuries to come
John 16:13 From the beginning, the early church was devoted to hearing, studying, and learning what the apostles had to teach.

THE BELIEVERS MEET TOGETHER

Acts 2:43–47

These verses provide a concise example of what the early church was about; they also provide a model of what the modern church should look like as well.

Acts 2:43 -

“Then fear came over everyone, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles.”

The word awe is the Greek word literally translated “fear.” This awe was partly caused by the many miraculous signs and wonders performed by the apostles, showing God’s approval of the church. The “wonders were fabulous miracles that evoked awe in those who saw them. These “miraculous signs” were given to authenticate the message and to

let everyone know that they came from a divine source.

Acts 2:44–45 -

44 “Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need.”

It was a sharing Church. These early Christians had an intense feeling of responsibility for each other. A real Christian cannot bear to have too much when others have too little. When a need arose, believers would sell their possessions to help those in need.

Acts 2:46–47 -

46 “Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved.”

They continued “with one accord” in the Temple because they had one purpose and goal. They ate their food with joy and oneness of heart. They ate with no conflict, strife, or divisions in their ranks, for they showed kindness to all people.

You see, The Christians you meet in the Book of Acts were not content to meet once a week for “services as usual.” They met daily, cared daily, won souls daily, searched the Scriptures daily, and increased in number daily. Their Christian faith was a day-to-day reality, is not a once-a-week routine. Why? Because the risen Christ was a living reality to them, and His resurrection power was at work in their lives through the Spirit.