



## Acts 2:37-47 | Session 8 | Conviction and Converts

### Acts 2:37-47: The Results of Pentecost

Verse 37—

**Now when they heard this, they were pricked in the heart.** Keep in mind who **They** are. They are: *Men of Judaea* (2:14), *Men of Israel* (2:22), *Men and brethren* (2:29). Peter was speaking to the Jews (or converts to Judaism). When *they* heard they had put their Messiah to death! They were pierced through the heart, we might say, “When I heard the news it was like I was stabbed in the heart!” The shock of hearing what they had done left them *heartbroken*. All their lives they had waited for Messiah, and now they discovered they killed him. **What shall we do?** Their only hope would be to listen to the twelve apostles to tell them what to do.

Verse 38—

**Then Peter said unto them** (The Jews). Peter is the main spokesman for the apostles (See notes on session 5, where we discussed Peter’s influential role among the apostles). The first thing Peter tells the Jews who rejected Messiah what they must do is to **Repent**. Notice Peter does not say, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ? There is no mention of faith.

Therefore, we have a contradiction if we believe Peter is saying repentance leads to salvation. The condition for Salvation for anyone today is based solely on faith. Therefore, repentance is a false addition to faith. Repentance today carries the idea of cleansing our life before we can be accepted by God. The clear teaching in the New Testament it is that you and I are saved by *grace through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God* (Eph. 2:8). Repentance requires you to do something to gain salvation. Peter tells the Jews in verse 40 *save yourselves*.

**Be baptized.** Baptism is another false addition to faith. **Baptized** is the Greek word *baptizo* which means to immerse, or dip. The baptism here is the Jewish ceremonial cleansing baptism. Most Jews practiced purification immersion, or ritual washings in a Mikveh. In this case, for the Jews, it was a summons to turn to God, but this time in the name of Jesus Christ (Messiah). Their repentance was the verbal act and the baptism was the cleansing act of their repentance. Without both there could be no **remission of sins**, that is, the sin of killing their Messiah. What Peter promises them is the **gift of the Holy Ghost**, not salvation

Today all believers have been baptized (immersed) into the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:3,4; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5; Galatians 3:26-28). What we call Christian baptism today is purely symbolic and is not required for salvation. Does the New Testament prohibit baptism today for anyone in the Body of Christ? No, but neither does it command it.

Verse 39—

**The promise** is the everlasting covenant of the Kingdom that was first promised to Abraham (Genesis 17:7,8), **unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off**, all Israel, even those scattered.

Verse 40—

**Save yourselves from this untoward generation.** Salvation is *not of yourselves*, this cannot be salvation by grace through faith.

Verse 41—



Not personal salvation by grace through faith, but 3,000 added to those who already believed the kingdom was at hand (See Acts 1:6; either the 120, Acts 1:15, or the twelve). They were added via repentances and baptism, that is immersion in the many mikvehs that were surrounding the Temple complex. They were not becoming Christians as we think of becoming a Christian today. They were preparing themselves for the promise of the Kingdom of God. Why only Jews? Were they against the Gentiles? No, they knew some Gentile nations would serve Messiah in the kingdom (Isaiah 60:3) and that nations would be redeemed, but only AFTER the kingdom was established (Zechariah 14:16).

It is only after the kingdom is rejected, and postponed, by the nation of Israel that the Lord appeared to Saul (later Paul) to reach the Gentiles and offer justification apart from the works of the Law (that is, by grace through faith). We will see this come to pass in Acts 9, 13 ff).

For now the offer was to prepare the Jews for the Kingdom by repenting, changing their minds about the Messiah.

Verse 42—

Four things they continued in. **The apostles doctrine** (that is, the “great commission”), **fellowship, breaking of bread** (taking meals together), **prayers**.

Verse 43—

**And fear came upon every soul.** This does not sound like a grace message. **Fear**, is the Greek word *phobos*. The word is sometimes translated *terror or dread*. Caused by the apostolic **wonders and signs**.

Verse 44, 45—

**Together, and had all things in common, sold their possessions and goods, parted them to all, as every man had need.** In preparation for the Kingdom they were taking the words of Jesus literally (Matthew 19:29).

Verse 46—

**Continuing daily with one accord in the temple.** They were still practicing Jews which means they were living under the Law of Moses. They were still under the Law. The dispensation of grace had not begun.

Verse 47—

**Favor with all the people.** Because they were practicing Jewish law there was no discord. **And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.** That is, the Lord added to the ekklesia, this assembly of Jewish brethren who repented and were baptized. The word **church** must always be interpreted in its context. What is it they were begin **saved** from? The answer is in verse 40, *this untoward generation*. We cannot assume this is salvation as we understand it. To do so means we are reading something into the passage that is not there. Salvation by grace through faith will come, but this is not that.

