

Acts 2:16-47 | 12/20/15

- Introduction
 - The promised Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers
 - Peter's first sermon having been empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Peter's Sermon | Acts 2:16-41
 - **Read Acts 2:14-15**
 - Peter responds to the previous question and sneering comment.
 - In verse 12 the people who heard the Apostles speaking in other languages about the magnificent acts of God were amazed.
 - They asked the question "What could this be?"
 - Peter sets out to respond to this question by preaching the Word of God.
 - Peter defended the Apostles.
 - Peter just having been filled with the Spirit tells those who sneered and assumed they must be drunk that they in fact were not.
 - He says that it is even ridiculous to think that since it was 9 in the morning.
 - But instead he begins to tell them that what they had just heard was foretold by God through the prophet Joel.
 - The prophecy of Joel – Acts 2:16-21
 - **Read Acts 2:16-21**
 - The purpose of Peter's sermon is to tell them what the Scriptures say that Jesus Christ truly is.
 - As Peter being filled with the Spirit begins to preach those listening and he began with a prophecy of Joel to essentially set the stage for the remainder of his sermon on Christ.
 - This prophecy of Joel primarily speaks to both the pouring of the Holy Spirit that they just witnessed and also the return of the Lord which is the second coming of Jesus Christ.
 - You might consider these events a pre-fulfillment of the full prophecy.
 - But he begins here to tell them that what they had witnessed was the pouring out of God's Spirit and other works that would ultimately be fulfilled by Christ.
 - The pouring of the Spirit
 - The pouring of the Spirit was obviously taking place upon the believers. So in this regard we can see the relation with the prophecy of Joel that God's plan is beginning to move.
 - Because God beginning at Pentecost has been pouring out His Spirit upon all those who believe.
 - We can see the pouring of the Spirit upon the Gentiles later on.
 - Acts 10:45
 - "And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles"
 - The Holy Spirit was poured out then and it is still poured out today upon all those who call upon the name of the Lord.
 - Joel's prophecy had not yet been fulfilled but the events he speaks of would be by Christ.
 - While they were not being fulfilled that day Jesus Christ whom He is going to make clear to the world fulfill them before the day of the Lord.
 - Christ proclaimed | Acts 2:22-36

- Peter proceeds to tell his audience exactly who was Jesus Christ with four examples.
 - Jesus of Nazareth | Acts 2:22-24
 - **Read Acts 2:22-24**
 - The works of Christ were not done in secret and Peter makes this clear stating that His miracles, wonders and signs were done among them so **his audience were witnesses to what He did.**
 - This is similar to what Paul told King Agrippa in Acts 26:24-27
 - These works of Christ God used to point out that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that by believing in Him we can be saved.
 - John 3:2 – Nicodemus realized this truth.
 - “This man came to Him at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him.”
 - John 20:30-31
 - “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
 - Peter recounts the evil done by the people who nailed Jesus to the cross.
 - He makes sure they were reminded of the evil deed that they did, that they out evil intent murdered Jesus Christ.
 - However, Peter is also aware that this was all part of God’s plan that God used the evil intent of others to ultimately bring about salvation
 - **Peter’s audience at this point were OK with the crucifixion of Jesus. What reasoning did they use to justify this?**
 - Peter recounts the resurrection
 - To further signify just who was Jesus Christ he recounts the resurrection, that Jesus is not longer buried and in a tomb but he has been resurrected.
 - David speaks of the coming Christ | Acts 2:25-31
 - **Read Acts 2:25-31**
 - Peter then turns again to Scripture to where David spoke of the coming Messiah and a prophecy foreshadowing that He would be resurrected.
 - He tells that that David was not speaking about himself because he is obviously dead and buried, David was not who was resurrected.
 - But David was a prophet and God had told him that one of his descendants would sit on the throne and this descendant was Jesus.
 - Psalms 132:11
 - Peter and the apostles were witnesses to the resurrection | Acts 2:32
 - **Read Acts 2:32-35**
 - Peter made sure there was no doubt that they were witnesses to the resurrected Christ, that this was not some story they were retelling. They had seen Jesus with their own eyes.
 - Acts 1:3

- “After He had suffered, He also presented Himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”
 - This was one of the requirements to be an apostle that we spoke about previously.
- The Holy Spirit | Acts 2: 33-35
 - Joel had promised that one day the Spirit would come and that time was now.
 - Everything that they had witnessed (tongues) was proof of this.
 - Then we see a reference to the trinity where the Lord declared to my Lord.
 - **This is the answer to the question that was proposed earlier “What does this mean?” - Christ pouring out the Holy Spirit.**
- Peter then boldly declares that this Jesus is the Messiah | Acts 2:36
 - **Read Acts 2:36**
 - This passage is the climax of Peter’s sermon.
 - Peter after making it clear who Jesus was by proclaiming that He truly is the Messiah, the one spoken of by all of the prophets in the Old Testament.
- Conviction and forgiveness | Acts 2:37-40
 - **Read Acts 2:37-40**
 - Conviction brought belief (faith)
 - Peter being full of the Holy Spirit spoke a spirit filled sermon that was ordained by God.
 - This sermon was powerful because it was the Word of God, it wasn’t Peter’s opinions or thoughts, but it was God’s Word.
 - Only God’s Word can bring conviction and cultivate saving faith.
 - Romans 10:17
 - “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.”
 - As Peter’s sermon climaxed with the truth that Jesus Christ was the Messiah, it brought forth deep conviction from his audience.
 - They now realized that truly this Jesus that they crucified was the Savior.
 - Belief (which is faith) that Jesus Christ is the Messiah brings forth salvation.
 - Romans 10:9
 - “If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”
 - **Does hearing the Word of God today bring forth this same conviction and belief?**
 - So what shall we do?
 - Upon being convicted of their sins and knowing who Christ truly was they now ask Peter and the rest of the Apostles what must they now do?!
 - They must believe in Christ
 - They had to believe in Christ which was evident by his sermon the conviction set in when they realized and believed in who Jesus was.
 - They must repent of their sins
 - Peter tells them that they must repent meaning they have to acknowledge their sins and ask God for forgiveness.
 - The Bible teaches that all have sinned

- Romans 3:23
 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 - But if we do not acknowledge them and if we say that we have no sin that needs forgiven then we cannot receive salvation
 - 1 John 1:10
 - “If we say, “We don’t have any sin”, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”
 - But if we confess those sins then He is faithful and righteous to forgive us.
 - 1 John 1:9
 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
 - They too will receive the Holy Spirit
 - The Holy Spirit is not just for the Apostles, everyone who believes in Christ will receive Him.
 - They needed to be baptized
 - Baptism was a command of Christ as an external proof of what has taken place within their hearts.
 - Matthew 28:19
 - “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
 - The response of the 3000
 - So what was the results of Peter’s sermon? There were 3000 that received his word and had true saving faith in Jesus Christ.
 - There were immediately baptized to show their obedience and that they publically acknowledged the change in their hearts.
 - That was a Godly delivered sermon 😊
- Believers Baptism
 - Peter speaks to baptism here and in the way it is written it sounds like baptism is a requirement for salvation because of the spoken order before the Holy Spirit.
 - However, we must not use the passage as a specific precise order that must be followed to be saved.
 - When we look at Scripture as a whole we can see very clearly that baptism is not a requirement.
 - We must not take Peter’s words here as a specific and technical order.
 - Peter called them to be baptized just as Christ commanded.
 - In the great commission Jesus told His disciples to baptize, it was important that this take place so obviously they are going to be doing it.
 - Jesus wanted the believers to publically identify with Him through the waters of baptism with His death, burial and Resurrection.
 - Matthew 28:19
 - Baptism publically identifies them with His death, burial and resurrection.
 - Baptism is a proof of the sincerity of their repentance.
 - If we look at the direct relationship with the baptism that John the Baptist performed it was one of repentance but it also a outward sign it wasn’t that the water itself gave them repentance.

- The baptism for the Christian is the same, it is a visible proof showing what has happened in our hearts.
- The Gentile conversion shows the Holy Spirit prior to their baptism.
 - The detailed conversion of the Gentiles clearly shows that the Holy Spirit was given prior to baptism.
 - If we had to take Peter's previous statement as a specific order of operations, then there would be contradiction here.
 - Acts 10:44-48
 - Not to mention the thief on the cross ;)
- Faith is the requirement to receive the Holy Spirit
 - It is only by faith and God's grace that we are saved and receive the Holy Spirit
 - Galatians 3:2
 - "I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by hearing with faith?"
 - Galatians 3:12
 - "The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, so that we could receive the promised Spirit through faith."
- Works are not required for Salvation
 - If baptism was a requirement, then that would mean that a physical action performed by man would be necessary for one to receive salvation.
 - This contradicts Scripture where it very clearly says that it is by faith and not works regardless of what those works are.
 - Ephesians 2:8
 - Romans 4:1-4
- The heroes of faith were never baptized
 - At further more the hero's' of faith listed in Hebrews 11, none of them were ever baptized.
 - The method of salvation was not drastically changed by adding a physical ritual requirement to receive salvation.
 - It was by faith in God that Abraham was justified and it is by faith in Jesus Christ (who is God) that we receive salvation.