

Acts 2:36-41. Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”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?”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—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

A Power Filled New Beginning

1. Repent and Believe

□ Conviction of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit illuminates the truth to us

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? 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.”

□ Understand sin – ‘badness and goodness’

- Study the teaching of Paul in Romans Chapters 1 to 5

Romans 3:20. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

□ Understand the wages of sin

- Awareness of the eternal consequences of sin

Romans 6:23. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

□ Deep remorse, sorrow and regret

- Deep heart felt knowledge and consciousness of sorrow and guilt

2 Corinthians 7:9-10. ...yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us.¹⁰ **Godly sorrow brings repentance** that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

□ Change of heart and mind about sin and about God

- Prodigal after abusing his father's grace and love

Luke 15: 18-19. I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, **I have sinned against heaven and against you.**¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'

□ Yield to the mercy, grace and favour of God

- David after adultery and arranging a murder

Psalms 51:1-10. **Have mercy on me,** O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. ⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

2. Be Baptised

Acts 2: 38. Peter replied, "**Repent and be baptized,** every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

□ Who told us to be baptized

- Our Lord, Master and Saviour

Matthew 28:19. ...make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

□ What is water baptism

- **Full immersion of the ‘new believer’ in water**

*Acts 8:36-39. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, **here is water**. What hinders me from being baptized?” ³⁷ Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” ³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went **down into the water**, and he baptized him. ³⁹ Now **when they came up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.*

□ **When should we be baptized**

- **As soon as we believe**

*Acts 8:12. But **when they believed** Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women.*

*Acts 16:33. **At that hour of the night** the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all **his household were baptized**.*

□ **What is the meaning of water baptism**

- **It is an identification with Christ and his family (body/church)**

Romans 6:4. Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

3. You will receive the Holy Spirit

*Acts 2:38-39. 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—for all whom the Lord our God will call*

□ **Who promised this gift?**

- **A promise by Jesus Christ in person**

*Acts 1:8. But **you shall receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

□ **The promise is for you – and all your descendants**

- **This promise and gift is available for all**

*Acts 2:16-17. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That **I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;** Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.*

□ **You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**

- **The same as the first people who received this amazing gift**

*Acts 2:4. And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to **speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

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| <p><i>Peter pleaded with his listeners to respond</i></p> |
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*Acts 2: 40-41. With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who **accepted his message** were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

- **People responded and the new church exploded across the world.**

Today is your opportunity to respond...