

History in the Making
Understanding the Book of Acts
Lesson Seven

The Setting:

- ✓ The Pentecost outpouring
- ✓ The Pentecost inquiry-what does this mean?
- ✓ The Pentecost response-last days climate, outpouring on all flesh, with a great harvest

And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. ' Acts 2:21 NKJV

- ✓ The Pentecost challenge-would come to Christ-the one they had crucified

NOTE: God has exalted Him

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. " Acts 2:36 NKJV

(Miracles, death, resurrection, exaltation to the Father's right hand)

- ✓ The Pentecost conviction

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2:37 NKJV

NOTE: Peter will finish his sermon that will lead to:

- ✓ The Pentecost conversion

And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. Acts 2:40-41 NKJV

(120 to 3,000 in a single sermon!)

What emerges is a New Testament Church paradigm that we should consider
Specifically: What does it mean to be incorporated into the church-the Body of Christ?

I. The New Testament Church believed that repentance was necessary for forgiveness of sins.

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 NKJV

A. Repentance-"metanoeo"

Meta-nah-ay'ō

- ✓ Meta-after, implying change
 - ✓ Noeo-to perceive (nous-the mind)
 - ✓ To perceive afterwards and change one's mind
- B. Jews to whom Peter was preaching had crucified Christ-now he has said-God has made Him Lord and Christ?
1. Repentance required-mind change was about Christ-believed he is Christ and Lord
 2. It is that repentance that leads to forgiveness

NOTE: Paul's words later

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9-10 NKJV

C. A re-orientation of one's life because of a change of thinking that is necessary for salvation

I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." Luke 13:5 NKJV

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, Acts 3:19 NKJV

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, Acts 17:30 NKJV

- D. Change of mind (repentance) that led to turning from sin has to do with a change in understanding of who Christ is:
1. Must be prepared to articulate this in a culture that doesn't know-just as Peter did
 2. Spirit of God moving gave an audience to the proclamation of the Word that led to repentance

NOTE: Just the moving of the Spirit without proclamation would have left them confused. What does this mean?

II. The New Testament Church believed that baptism was a clear and crucial step after repentance.

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 NKJV

✓ Philip and Ethiopian eunuch

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. Acts 8:36-38 NKJV

✓ House of Cornelius

"Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days. Acts 10:47-48 NKJV

✓ Conversions in Philippi

Lydia

And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us. Acts 16:13-15 NKJV

Jailer

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. Acts 16:29-34 NKJV

- A. Baptism was common as what one did when they repented or changed their mind
 - 1. Proselytes to Judaism
 - 2. John's baptism in hope of the Messiah to come
- B. In the name of Jesus (not the formula)

NOTE: Jesus established that as Trinitarian

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

- 1. In His authority
- 2. His name was invoked or confessed by the persons being baptized

NOTE: Paul's testimony regarding what Ananias said

"Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there, 13 came to me; and he stood and said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that same hour I looked up at him. 14 Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. 15 For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' Acts 22:12-16 NKJV

C. Importance of Baptism

- 1. Confession of faith in Christ (follows the repentance or turn-around)
- 2. Communion with Christ (death, burial, resurrection)
- 3. Consecration for Christ (willing to be humbled; all that I thought I could depend on is dead)

(ILL) Businessman in 3-piece suit

- 4. Consummation-anticipating Christ in all of His glory-new life

III. The New Testament Church believed that Spirit baptism was a gift/promise of the Father and available to all

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38-39 NKJV

NOTE: Tied to last words of Jesus

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; Acts 1:4 NKJV

For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Acts 1:5 NKJV

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." Acts 1:8 NKJV

A. The transfer of Pentecost

NOTE: Jesus transfers his earthly charismatic ministry to His follower is Spirit baptism

Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. Acts 2:33 NKJV

NOTE: They will continue to do and teach what Jesus began to do and teach (Acts 1:11)

1. Spirit baptism was NOT salvation but rather equipping for service (power AFTER Holy Spirit-Acts 1:8)
2. Analogous to the experience of Moses (Numbers 11)

a. God's word to Moses

So the Lord said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. 17 Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone. Numbers 11:16-17 NKJV

b. 70 empowered

Then the Lord came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again. Numbers 11:25 NKJV

c. Jealousy of Joshua

So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, "Moses my lord, forbid them!" Numbers 11:28 NKJV

d. Rebuke of Moses

Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!" 30 And Moses returned to the camp, he and the elders of Israel. Numbers 11:29-30 NKJV

NOTE: Both Moses/Pentecost-transfer of leadership from one to a group

B. The Miracle of Pentecost

1. Contrary to what many have taught, it was not a one time, isolated and unique event

Luke 1:15	John filled	Prophetic ministry
Luke 1:41	Elizabeth filled	Prophesied
Luke 1:67	Zachariah filled	Prophesied
Acts 2:4	Disciples filled	Spoke in tongues
Acts 4:8	Peter filled	Great bold witness
Acts 4:31	Disciples filled	Great witnesses
Acts 9:17	Paul filled	New repentance
Acts 13:9	Paul filled	Judgment promised
Acts 12:52	Disciples filled	Great joy

2. Both corporate and individual
3. Not once and for all (Peter and Paul more than once)
4. Being filled always led to inspiration-usually in speech (prophecy, tongues, bold witness)

C. The universality of Pentecost

For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:39 NKJV

Still available

IV. The New Testament Church believed in the power of unified community.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47 NKJV

- A. Committed to apostles doctrine (v. 42)

Today we have it in the New Testament canon

- B. Committed to fellowship
- C. Committed to unified prayer-appointed seasons
- D. Committed to sharing
- E. Committed to Lord Supper-breaking of bread

Conclusion: Effects of the New Testament Church paradigm?

- A. Ongoing and lasting fear (awe) conviction
- B. Ongoing miracles
- C. Ongoing growth of the church

Repentance/Baptism/Spirit Filing/Unified Community