

The Scope of God's Promise (2:39)

Acts 2:39 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

The promise = the gift of the Holy spirit and forgiveness of sin

Peter may not have had Gentiles in mind here based on his response to Gentiles being saved and receiving the Holy Spirit in Acts 10 but it also does not exclude Gentiles.

Ephesians 2:13 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

The command to repent and God's sovereign calling

Acts 2:39 "...everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

John 6:44 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:65 65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

Acts 2:47 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

More than an Emotional Appeal (2:40-41)

Acts 2:40-41 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Continued to bare witness and exhort implies the crowd was not making a rash emotional decision but was seeking to fully understand

The Call to Separation

Acts 2:40 "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."

Deuteronomy 32:5 5 They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation.

For Peter's Jewish audience he was calling them to...

- Break from the religious and societal system that had condemned Jesus
- Leave the safety of the majority to join a small community of disciples
- Transfer loyalty from the current corrupt leadership to the authority of the risen Christ
- Return home and face their friends and family who may reject their newfound faith in Jesus Christ

The final response

- Some of the crowd (3000 out of ????)
- Received what Peter shared (repented for forgiveness of sin)
- Made a public declaration with baptism

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No. 7 | Arrival of the Holy Spirit, pt. 3

Acts 2:36-41

Review and Context

The Holy Spirit's arrival comes on the day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-3 1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

Acts 2:6 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

Acts 2:12-13 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

In response, Peter guided the crowd to see the connection between these events and Jesus of Nazareth:

- **Jesus is Israel's Lord:** He is the Lord the name that people call on to be saved. (Acts 2:21, 36)
- **Jesus is Israel's Messiah:** He is the true Messiah, superior even to King David. (Acts 2:29-31, 36)
- **Jesus is Exalted:** He is now at the right hand of God, actively pouring out the Holy Spirit upon His people. (Acts 2:32-33)

Acts 2:36 "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Peter demonstrates for us what a faithful gospel presentation includes as he pushes his audience to receive Christ.

The Reality of Spiritual Conviction (Acts 2:37)

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

"Cut to the heart" – used to describe a literal wound it functions as an idiom for acute emotional distress, connoting a sharp, agonizing pain associated with profound anxiety, remorse, and being conscience-stricken

Audience	Response to the truth about Jesus
Acts 2 crowd (Acts 2:38)	Cut to the heart - "what shall we do?"
Sanhedrin (Acts 5:29-33)	Enraged, wanted to kill the apostles
Crowd at Stephen's testimony (Acts 7:54-59)	Ground their teeth, stopped their ears, stoned Stephen to death

Same category of message in each instance. Same apostolic boldness. Radically different response.

The work of the Holy Spirit

John 16:7-11 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged

The Need for Conversion (2:38)

Acts 2:38 38 And Peter said to them, "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.

The command to repent

- Familiar term to 1st century Judaism
- Emphasized sorrow for sin
- Emphasized a turn or change that leads to a reoriented life toward God

Matthew 3:1-2 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The command to baptism

A familiar concept to Peter's Jewish audience

Ceremonial Washings

Exodus 29:4 4 You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and wash them with water.

David's prayers for spiritual cleansing

Psalm 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin!

The Prophet's use of water as a symbol for national renewal

Isaiah 1:16-17 16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, 17 learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

John the Baptist use of baptism by immersion

Luke 3:3 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Baptism becomes the public, mark of identification with the crucified and risen Messiah in accordance with Jesus command to baptize.

Matthew 28:19-20 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The pattern across Acts is consistently belief/repentance causes or produces forgiveness, not baptism.

Passage	Text	Response	Result
Acts 2:38	And Peter said to them, " <u>Repent</u> and <u>be baptized</u> every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the <u>forgiveness of your sins</u> , and you will receive the <u>gift of the Holy Spirit</u> ."	Repent... be baptized	Forgiveness/Holy Spirit
Acts 3:19	<u>Repent</u> therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,	Repent	Sins blotted out
Acts 5:31	God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give <u>repentance</u> to Israel and forgiveness of sins.	Repentance	Forgiveness of sin
Acts 10:43	To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who <u>believes</u> in him receives <u>forgiveness of sins</u> through his name."	Believe	Forgiveness of sin
Acts 13:38-39	Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who <u>believes</u> is <u>freed</u> from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.	Believe	Justification (freed)
Acts 16:30-31	And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they said, " <u>Believe</u> in the Lord Jesus, and you will be <u>saved</u> , you and your household."	Believe	Salvation

Acts 10:44-48 44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 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. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Forgiveness and the Holy Spirit

Luke 24:44-49 44 Then he said to them, "... 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you.

