

## A Man Approved of God

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: (Acts 2.22 AV)

Here Peter makes it absolutely clear on the day of Pentecost that Jesus was a man. Furthermore, he says that Jesus was a man approved by God. Then he goes on to say that the miracles and wonders and signs that were worked were done by God. The primitive church started with the man and went on to recognize that Jesus was also God. This was natural to them. They would not have thought of approaching it any other way. After all, Jesus came to them as a man, they lived with him and touched him and knew who he was. It was only centuries later when the councils of bishops were meeting to combat various heresies that they started with the God who had been recognized in Jesus and also gave assent to his humanity. This stress on his humanity is what gave the early disciples the zeal and confidence they needed to “turn the world upside down.”(Acts 17:6) They were of the same humanity as Jesus. He did what he did by the Holy Spirit. So they believed that they, as possessors of this Spirit, could do the same things and even greater things.

By the time the church councils were meeting and starting with Jesus the God and admitting to Jesus the man the power was gone from the church. In their efforts to put down the heresies which denied that Jesus was God they forgot about his humanity. It was a long hard battle that they had to win and they won it only to find that they had gone off the road on the other side. The reformation addressed the problem but not hard enough. In the eighteenth century the Scottish minister Edward Irving stressed it and a true Pentecostal revival broke out. But the Church of Scotland put him out. Later some other theologians tried to restore the truth of the humanity of Jesus to the church but they were considered to be liberals to Bible believing folk and the word never got out to the membership. Now is the time for all to understand. Jesus was a man. He was a man approved by God which God the Father used to work miracles and signs and wonders among the Jews. He was dependent on his Father to do this through the power of the Holy Spirit because he had left his own divine prerogatives behind for a while.