

- 1) To begin, let's go back and look at a couple of key parts of Peter's sermon that would definitely have an impact on how this crowd reacted.

Acts 2:22–24 (NIV)

- 2) Then in verse 31 to 33 speaking of what David as the prophet said:

Acts 2:31–33 (NIV)

- 3) Then Peter's conclusion in verse 36

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

- 4) So, again, think of yourself as part of the crowd and let's look at actually how they react.

Acts 2:37 (NIV)

- 5) Forget what you know Peter says next and let's talk about this statement. I have three questions:

First question – why did the crowd not get angry and want to kill Peter and the others? After all, that was the normal reaction of their leaders right?

Second question – What were they asking? Perhaps a different way to ask it is... What did they see as the problem they were needing to do something about?

Third question – So, what made the difference? – Why did these people suddenly abandon normal human reactions and behaviors and cry out in anguish “what must we do?”?

Our only logical and plausible explanation is the action of the Holy Spirit!

Acts 2:38–41 (NIV)

- 6) There are two amazing things to really consider here.
 - a) First, as we were just discussing it the absolute change of heart of the large group of people.
 - b) The second is a bit more subtle.
 - c) Peter says:

“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;

- 7) Just like us when we are saved – we first must be convicted of our sins and understand the need for the salvation.
 - a) Again, the Holy Spirit’s action is to convict us (and them) of sin.
- 8) Peter’s statement then became a gift of huge magnitude to those who were standing there.
 - a) Forgiveness – not just kicking the can on down the road – full and complete forgiveness simply by being baptized (WELL – Maybe not just that?).
 - b) No more priestly requirements, no more day of atonement, everyday they were able to be forgiven directly from God.
 - c) Pretty awesome!
 - d) However, there is much more than just getting wet for them.
 - e) As N.T. Wright points out – it is becoming part of the kingdom-movement that is identified with Jesus, part of the people who claim his life, death and resurrection as the center and foundation of their own.
 - f) This is no small ask especially for these folks.
 - g) However, when we consider where their hearts are and what they have been convicted of it is the only way.
 - h) They are convicted in their hearts of killing the one and only Son of God or at least of taking part in that act.
 - i) I think at this point, they were convicted of more than that – sin in their lives in general.
 - j) And, as we said a moment ago, this was a huge deal for these folks.
 - k) I ran across an interesting quote this morning I share for your thoughts: Oswald Chambers.

Very few of us know anything about conviction of sin; we know the experience of being disturbed because of having done wrong things; but conviction of sin by the Holy Ghost blots out every relationship on earth and leaves one relationship only—“Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned.” When a man is convicted of sin in this way, he knows with every power of his conscience that God dare not forgive him; if God did forgive him, the man would have a stronger sense of justice than God. God does forgive, but it cost the rending of His heart in the death of Christ to enable Him to do so.

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest: Selections for the Year* (Grand Rapids, MI: Oswald Chambers Publications; Marshall Pickering, 1986).

- l) Last, and definitely not least, was the fact that Jesus was the much awaited Messiah.
 - m) It was different from their life long understanding of it but God’s plan was complete!
- 9) Then he says

and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- a) This must have been like going to buy a Volkswagen and being given a Cadillac instead!
- b) Getting a lot more than they bargained for.
- c) **This is the transformation part – the dying to flesh and being born of the Spirit – the life giving part of salvation.**

10) One thing that I think is definitely worth noting here is Peter's abilities.

- a) Not only speaking in tongues or in this single speaker's case being heard in various languages, but also, in his ability to put together the words that are this convicting.
- b) I am sure Peter knew the Scripture of the Old Testament reasonably well.
- c) However, in the overall, the Holy Spirit was obviously active in the speaking and translations but, also in the content of what Peter was saying which is exactly what Jesus had promised.

11) Peter continued his urging with many more words.

- a) I wish I knew what else Peter taught that day.
- b) What we do know is that he continued probably for as long as he could and the affect was probably way beyond their expectations.

12) Before we move on, lets talk about the number – 3000 – that's a LOT!!

Curiosity / Opinion question – Does it matter who baptizes you or who takes your confession?

13) The reason I asked the question was just looking at the number – 3000 – it would take a lot of time to baptize that many folks.

- a) If we assume only one minute for each, we are (just doing the arithmetic) we are looking at (3000 / 12) or just a little less than 4.2 hours.
- b) All that comes back to the fact that perhaps, the others of the 120 and even some of the ones who were baptized immediately began baptizing others and so on, and so on, and so on

14) Another curiosity type question would be, were the 12 and the 120 or so who were part of the group at Pentecost already baptized? By whom?

15) Obviously none of these answers really make a big difference to the outcome of the day – God was the one who added them to their number!

16) This must have been an exciting time for everyone.

- a) I can only imagine how Peter and the rest of the apostles must have felt at the end of the day.
- b) The conversations must have been fantastic – it has really begun – Jesus is truly alive and living among them in the truest sense of the word.

c) His promises are all true! ALL DOUBT and ANTICIPATION IS GONE!

- 1) Next, we see the initial results from that glorious day.
- 2) Luke let's no moss grow – he moves immediately forward with his next statements.

Acts 2:41–43 (NIV)

- 3) The apostles have over 3 years worth of learning and being with Jesus that they want to and are sharing with these new Christians.
- 4) The apostles must have shared very quickly Jesus' ideas and desires for prayer and praying in a new way.
- 5) And, of course, the institution of the Lord's Supper. So many and new things to learn and experience.
- 6) This is another of those times when I think I would really have liked to be there and hear the original teachings.
 - a) Some in this group may have heard Jesus speak, maybe even more than once.
 - b) But, there is a large transition that must be made from the traditions of the Old Testament Law and the fulfilled law of the new covenant.
 - c) To be sure, the old law, the parts that dictate morality and living as God wanted was still there, however, the traditions of sacrifice, special ceremonies and holidays were no longer required.
 - d) Just to be part of that teaching and transformation would have been a totally wonderful and unique experience.
- 7) From this excitement and, probably out of necessity, we see the next unique feature of this new fledgling congregation of believers. ...