

## CUT TO THE QUICK

### I. [Acts 2:22-40](#)

A. Today we read a portion of Peter's sermon on Pentecost. Pentecost was a Jewish festival celebrated on the fiftieth day after the Sabbath of Passover. At Jesus' behest, the disciples were waiting on the promised Holy Spirit. On the Sunday of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came like a rushing wind with tongues of fire, no small phenomenon to be sure. The disciples and followers, 120 of them, declared the mighty acts of God aloud in unknown languages and people gathered from multiple nations heard this in their native dialects. Some were amazed, others concluded they were drunk.

B. Acts 2:22-40 Peter preaches the Gospel under the power of the Holy Spirit...

1) **V22-23** *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know--this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men." (This is the sovereignty of God juxtaposed beside human responsibility... So who put Jesus on that cross? Jews conspired with Romans, according to the plan of God. But you know who else is guilty? You and me! Our sin put Him there!)*

2) **V24-36** *"God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it. For David says concerning Him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to Me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." 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, quoting David in Psalm 116:8-11 and Psalm 110:1, declares the Gospel with OT Scriptures.) (Quote by John Piper)*

3) **V37-40** *"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?" 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. 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." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." (This message is for pagan infidels--people fay off like all of us!)*

C. No matter how good things look for you now, one day, without Christ, they will dissolve into utter horror and despair. How terrible the words, *"I never knew you, depart from Me!"* No matter how bad things look for you right now, with Christ, at the end of the day when the Books are opened, glory will unfold into unspeakable joy and bliss. Like those in Jerusalem when Peter preached, these are sobering words you must contend with. You dare not dismiss them. Though there may be some who pass before Him who have never heard this Gospel, you will not be among them.

D. Many people don't like the terms, conversion, regeneration, born again, awakened from spiritual death; baptized in the Holy Spirit, made alive in Christ, but that's exactly what was taking place here among those cut to the quick. And it's been taking place for 2000 years to 'far off' people like us. The sobering thing is that churches can be filled with un-regenerated souls. (Read quote by Billy Graham, circa 1971...)

E. The question is has conversion happened to you? Could it be happening now? The Gospel words cut first deep but then they heal, and deliver, and power wash, and set free forevermore. Is there a still small voice calling you from death to life? Oh how I pray it is! And for those of you that have already experienced this, lift up your praise and thanksgiving to God! Could it be He wants to pour out His Spirit afresh upon you?

### II. [Communion](#)

\* When we take the Bread and Cup today, they recall the price of our regeneration. They remind us what Peter said in his sermon: *"This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it... This Jesus God raised up... Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified..."* The Bread and Cup remind us... So what about this Jesus? Turn the eyes of your heart upon Him now...

\* Pray and Serve Communion...

\* Benediction: Acts 2:41-47...

### Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

#### Acts 2:22-40 (ESV)

**22** Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know— **23** this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. **24** God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it. **25** For David says concerning Him, *"I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. 28 You have made known to Me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."* **29** Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, **31** he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. **32** This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. **33** Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. **34** For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, *"The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, 35 until I make your enemies your footstool."* **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. **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?" **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. **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." **40** And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."

#### Excerpt by Billy Graham

Jesus said, *"By their fruits you will know them"* (Matthew 7:20). The very fact that the fruit of the Spirit, such as love, joy, and peace (Galatians 5:22), does not characterize the average professing Christian indicates that they have never had a genuine experience with God. After preaching all over the world and observing the work of the church, I am convinced that there are great hordes of people loosely affiliated with the church for various reasons who have never experienced scriptural conversion. The distinguishing mark of Christ's disciples was that people could tell *"they had been with Jesus"* (Acts 4:13). Great sections of the church today have been rendered sterile and nonproductive because Christ's spark of divine light is not resident within them.

- *"Seven Needs: Challenge for A Floundering Church"* - Decision Magazine, July-August 2015; Originally written in 1971.

#### Quote by John Piper

"The Bible says He was raised not just after the blood-shedding, but by it. This means that what the death of Christ accomplished was so full and so perfect that the resurrection was the reward and vindication of Christ's achievement in death."

- John Piper, *The Passion of Jesus Christ*.

#### Acts 2:41-47 (ESV)

**41** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. **42** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **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.

### Film Clips & Other Links

Bear Grylls' Christian Faith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JliCiwF18xl>

ISIS Fighter Converts to Christianity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sukFZPOxc>

**Secret Thoughts Of An Unlikely Convert | Rosaria Butterfield and Russell Moore**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cc8wPOHksYs>

**Sinner Come Home - John Piper**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOWmAQucC-I>

**"No More" by Josh Wilson**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRriTBuTNzc>

**The Top Ten Testimonies of 2014 - Christianity Today (These are powerful!)**  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2014/december/top-10-testimonies-of-2014-christianity-today.html>

**Brit Hume on Planned Parenthood Scandal**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPT81sLu4MQ>

### **Bonus Stuff**

#### **Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon**

"The gospel is preached in the ears of all; it only comes with power to some. The power that is in the gospel does not lie in the eloquence of the preacher; otherwise men would be converters of souls. Nor does it lie in the preacher's learning; otherwise it would consist in the wisdom of men. We might preach till our tongues rotted, till we should exhaust our lungs and die, but never a soul would be converted unless there were mysterious power going with it--the Holy Ghost changing the will of man. O Sirs! We might as well preach to stone walls as to preach to humanity unless the Holy Ghost be with the Word, to give it power to convert the soul."

#### **Quote by John Bunyan**

"Conversion is not the smooth, easy-going process some men seem to think... It is wounding work, this breaking of the hearts, but without wounding there is no saving... Where there is grafting there will always be a cutting, the graft must be let in with a wound; to stick it onto the outside or to tie it on with a string would be of no use. Heart must be set to heart and back to back or there will be no sap from root to branch. And this, I say, must be done by a wound, by a cut."

#### **Quote by Cornelius Van Til**

"So, as we have our tea, I propose not only to operate on your heart so as to change your will, but also on your eyes so as to change your outlook. But wait a minute. No, I do not propose to operate at all. I myself cannot do anything of the sort. I am just mildly suggesting that you are perhaps dead, and perhaps blind, leaving you to think the matter over for yourself. If an operation is to be performed it must be performed by God Himself."

#### **Quote by John Piper**

"Minimizing the importance of transformed feelings makes Christian conversion less supernatural and less radical. It is humanly manageable to make decisions of the will for Christ. No supernatural power is required to pray prayers, sign cards, walk aisles, or even stop sleeping around. Those are good. They just don't prove that anything spiritual has happened. Christian conversion, on the other hand, is a supernatural, radical thing. The heart is changed. And the evidence of it is not just new decisions, but new affections, new feelings."

- John Piper, *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*.

#### **Quote by C.S. Lewis**

"Every story of conversion is a story of blessed defeat."

#### **Quote by John Newton**

"To see the law of Christ fulfilled and hear His pardoning voice,  
Transforms a slave into a child, and duty into choice."

#### **Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face;  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace.

- H. H. Lemmel. © Renewal 1950.