

## Sunday Morning Message

May 12, 2024

### *What's Next*

Topic – Soulwinning and Revival; Pentecost; the Early Church; Overview of Acts 2

Text – Acts 2:41 - 47

Congregational Reading – Acts 2:40 - 42

### **Introduction**

The main portion of Acts 2 tells the story of the miraculous conversion of at least 3000 souls on the Day of Pentecost. We have now dealt with this topic in two recent messages: the first one dealing with some of the general aspects of this wonderful day; and the second sermon focusing in more specifically on the real Power behind the salvation of all of those people, the Holy Spirit of God.

Today, we will deal with the last seven verses of the chapter, which will explain what happened to these new believers from the Church at Jerusalem after they trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. More importantly, we will see in this passage a pattern for participation in a New Testament, Baptist Church today. We will see “What’s Next” for the new believer. What does God expect from you once you have been saved? What does God want you to do? What does God want you to stop doing?

This message will also remind some of older believers about what God still expects from us. Often, when we get older in our salvation we tend to become less concerned about what God wants for our lives than we did when we first trusted Christ.

### **Illustrations from Scripture**

1 Jesus wrote a letter to the church at Ephesus, which was a good church; but notice what He said to them:

*"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." - (Revelation 2:4-5)*

2 In 2 Chronicles 26, we read about Uzziah, a good king who prospered if he sought the Lord; and God did many wonderful things through him; but, tragically,

later in the chapter but we read that he was struck down with leprosy because he became too big for his britches. The Scripture says, *"but when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction."* (2 Chronicles 26:16)

## Transition

So, this message will serve to educate the new believer about what God expects from his / her life; but it will also remind, and maybe even admonish us old timers about what God still wants us to do.

## What's Next after salvation?

### I. Completion of the Lord's Commands

*"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."* - (Acts 2:41)

The first thing that God expects you to do after your salvation is to be baptized:

*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* - (Matthew 28:19-20)

### **Baptism is for believers only.**

Philip said to the Ethiopian Eunuch, *"If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."* (Acts 8:37)

For the Ethiopian Eunuch to be baptized by Philip, he had to first give his profession of faith in Christ.

### **Baptism is by immersion only**

*"And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."* (Acts 8:38-39)

When you get baptized, you are not only obeying the Lord's command, but you are also following His example.

Not only are you following his example, but you are also picturing and identifying with His death, burial, and resurrection.

Baptism is a command – you do not have to be obedient to baptism to be saved, but God expects you to obey Him now that you belong to Him. If you are a new believer, you need to get baptized, publicly, and by immersion.

If you have been saved for a while, and have already been baptized, you need to keep obeying the Lord; just like you did years ago, perhaps, when He asked you to get baptized.

We need to gladly receive His word, and we also need to gladly do what He tells us to do in His word.

## II. Participation in the Lord's Church

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." - (Acts 2:42)

- 1 We study the Bible together.
- 2 We edify and build up each other.
- 3 We remember the Lord's Supper.
- 4 We pray for each other, and for the cause of Christ.
- 5 We praise the Lord together.

Notice verse 47 – “praising God”

I discovered something about praise from an Old Testament story in 2 Chronicles 20:21 – 22

When Judah was being attacked by the Moabites, and Ammonites, and some others, they were told by God that victory was coming; but even before the victory came, King Jehoshaphat and the people of God praised God:

*"And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten." (2 Chronicles 20:20-22)*

### III. Cooperation with the Lord's Community

*"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart," - (Acts 2:44-46)*

#### 1 There was communion

The early church was in one accord. They were together, with one focus.

*"12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch." (Acts 5:12)*

*"6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did." (Acts 8:6)*

*"2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." (Philippians 2:2)*

*"27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;" (Philippians 1:27)*

#### 2 There was communication

They met each other's needs.

*"6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things." (Galatians 6:6)*

*"14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction." (Philippians 4:14)*

*"18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;" (1 Timothy 6:18)*

*"16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." (Hebrews 13:16)*

#### 3 There was co-laboring

They worked together for the cause of Christ. The cause was greater than any preferences they may have had.

These new believers understood that their purpose for living was to glorify the Lord through the sharing of Christ with the lost world. The early church worked together to get the gospel out to people. They wanted more than anything to see people saved, baptized, taught the Bible, and trained to serve the Lord. Those should be our same goals today.

## **Conclusion**

Our church should have these same characteristics as this early church in Jerusalem.

Completion of the Lord's Commands – They were following all aspects of the Great Commission, which were preaching Christ, baptizing converts, and then teaching and training them to live for God and win others.

Participation in the Lord's Church – Find something to do for God within this local body of believers.

Cooperation with the Lord's Community – learn to work together with others within the church to help get the job the done.