

Introduction

As we enter the fall of the year, we have some special holidays in front of us. Thanksgiving and Christmas are two holidays where family members drive, fly, and travel to visit their relatives. These are two very special holidays that most of us look forward to. In the Jewish culture, there were three times a year that the Jews were commanded to go to Jerusalem and appear before the Lord. These were special holidays for them, and they traveled together as families. Once in Jerusalem, they celebrated feasts. In Exodus 23, we are given the three times during the year that they made these trips: the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of the Harvest of First Fruits, and the Feast of the Ingathering. **There were three times a year Jews traveled to Jerusalem and celebrated feasts.**

(Ex 23:14-17) "Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to Me. {15} "You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed. {16} Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field. {17} Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD."

There were actually seven different feasts that were part of these three times that they were to travel to Jerusalem. The first occasion was the Feast of Weeks. It was made up of the Passover, celebrated on the 14th day of Nisan or Abib, the first month of the Jewish calendar. The second feast was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which was the day after the Passover, the 15th of Nisan. Then, two days later, on the 17th of Nisan, they celebrated the Feast of First Fruits. Of the three feasts, this was the most attended feast by the Jews. There would be hundreds of thousands of Jews from all over that would make the trip to celebrate these first three feasts.

Seven Feasts of Israel

1. Passover (Pesach) Nisan 14
2. Unleavened Bread (Chag Hamotzi) Nisan 15
3. First Fruits (Yom Habikkurim) Nisan 17
4. Pentecost (Shavu'ot) Sivan 6-7
5. Trumpets (Yom Teru'ah) Tishrei 1
6. Atonement (Yom Kippur) Tishrei 10
7. Tabernacles (Sukkot) Tishrei 15-21

The second trip they made was to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, which was on the 6th and 7th of Sivan. Pentecost is the Greek word and means 50. Pentecost was celebrated 50 days after the Passover. It is also known as the Shavuot, which means weeks. Pentecost was seven Sabbaths and one day after the first day of the Passover.

The last three feasts were celebrated during the third trip to Jerusalem. The Feast of Trumpets was held on the 1st of Tishrei. The Feast of Atonement, or Yom Kippur, was held on the 10th of Tishrei. Finally, the Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkot, was held from the 15th to the 21st of Tishrei.

In our text today, the first three feasts have already taken place. The Jews had gone to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits. Now, they have come back to Jerusalem

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for the Feast of Pentecost. There are Jews from all over Judea and Israel that are present. Pentecost is when Moses was thought to have received the Law from God. Many Jews celebrate Pentecost as the birth of Israel. Most theologians say that the birth of the church came at Pentecost. So, we have the birth of Israel and the birth of the church in the Feast of Pentecost.

Prophetically, Jesus was the Passover Lamb. He was the sacrifice to cleanse us from our sins. He was the Unleavened Bread. He was the Bread of Life, and He was without any sin or leaven. He is also the First Fruit. Paul tells us in Corinthians that Christ has been raised from the dead, and is the first fruits of those who are asleep. The first three Feasts of Israel have all been prophetically fulfilled.

(1 Cor 15:20-23) "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. {21} For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. {22} For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. {23} But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,"

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was the prophetic fulfillment of the fourth feast. The last three feasts have not been fulfilled. We are still waiting for the Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles. The Feast of Trumpets or Rosh Hashanah, signifies the beginning of a new year. When the trumpet or shophar is blown, it ushers in the Feast of Atonement, or Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is the day of Judgment.

While Karen and I were taking a walk a couple of weeks ago, a man called out to us from the balcony of the house. He recognized us as the pastors at EMVC, and he wanted to chat with us. His wife died a few months ago, and he was still grieving her death. He mentioned that he was wanting to hear the trumpets blowing, signifying that the Lord was coming back. He was lonely and hurting over the loss of his wife, and he was ready to leave earth and go on to heaven. He was referencing Paul's letter to the Thessalonians where he said, "for the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then, we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord."

(1 Thess 4:16-17) "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. {17} Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord."

For those of us who have received Christ, that will be a welcome sound. But, for those who have not received Christ, the sound of trumpets will not be a good day. It is Yom Kippur, the day of judgment. The trumpets usher in the day of judgment. In Revelations 8, we read about the different judgments that are ushered after the trumpets are sounded.

Our passage today is the response to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Jews from all over the world had made their way to Jerusalem. We saw in the text last week that there were people from Parthian, Mede, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Rome, Crete, Arabia. All of these people were in town for the Feast of Pentecost, and they were witnesses that the Holy Spirit had been poured out. They were all hearing people speak in tongues, not just any tongues, but in their own languages.

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(Acts 2:7-11) "They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? {8} And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? {9} Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, {10} Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, {11} Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God."

Some mocked the event, saying, "they are full of sweet wine." But others were amazed and perplexed, asking, "what does this mean?" After Peter gives them understanding of what it means, they asked a second question, "what shall we do?" Peter tells them to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. Luke records that there were three thousand souls that were saved that day. Peter's sermon has two main points. He answers these two questions.

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost

1. What does this mean?
2. What shall we do?

(Acts 2:12-13) "And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "**What does this mean?**" {13} But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine."

(Acts 2:37) "Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, **what shall we do?**"

All of you who lead Life Groups, teach a woman's Bible study, teach a Men's Bible study, teach in children's ministry, teach at Youth group, or teach a larger setting, those are two questions that all of us must answer. **We must endeavor to give people understanding**; that is called teaching. Secondly, **we must try to give people applications**, so that we are not merely hearers of the word, but doers of the word. Encouraging people to act on the Scriptures is called exhortation. In Paul's first letter to Timothy, he said, "until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, and teaching. Reading of Scripture brought awareness and reminded people of God's principles. Teaching brought understanding, and exhortation encouraged application. Donald and I try to follow these instructions. We normally read our text. We teach the passage, and we weave applications into the message, or give some at the end of the message. We usually provide a ministry time at the end for further responses and applications. This morning, I pray that you receive understanding, and find some applications for your own lives.

(1 Tim 4:13) "Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching."

Let's read our passage.

(Acts 2:14-16) "But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. {15} For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; {16} but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:"

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(Acts 2:17-21) "And it shall be in the last days, 'God says, 'That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; {18} even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy. {19} 'And I will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke. {20} "The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come. {21} 'And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

(Acts 2:22-24) "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— {23} this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. {24} But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."

(Acts 2:25-32) "For David says of Him, 'I saw the Lord always in my presence; for He is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken. {26} Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; moreover my flesh also will live in hope; {27} because You will not abandon My soul to Hades, nor allow Your holy One to undergo decay. {28} You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence. {29} Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. {30} And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, {31} he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. {32} "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses."

(Acts 2:33-36) "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. {34} "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, {35} UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'" {36} "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."

(Acts 2:37-40) "Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" {38} Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized 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 your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." {40} And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

(Acts 2:41) "So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

1. What Does This Mean?

The first question that was addressed was, "what does this mean?" Luke records that they were saying this to one another. Three thousand people got saved that day. We do not know how many people heard Peter, but there were thousands of people there. Peter did not get five thousands tweets on his twitter account. I think he received by the Holy Spirit a word of knowledge of the question.

Very often, in preparing messages, preachers must ask themselves and the Holy Spirit, "what questions will people have that need to be answered? What are the problems or difficulties in the passage that need to be explained? Good teachers and preachers will explain what it means.

In addition to explaining passages, people are looking for answers to life questions. I believe that pastors need to stay abreast of current events. People are looking for answers and guidance about the things that are going on. That is where we find ourselves in today's passage. There has been a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There are supernatural things going on. People are speaking in other tongues, and lots of people had questions about what it all meant. So, Peter begins with that question.

A. They are not drunk.

First, he tells them that they are not drunk. For him to say that, there must have been some manifestations that led people to believe they were drunk. A few years ago, we had a strong visitation of the Holy Spirit in one of our services. Karen was down on the floor for about forty-five minutes. There were others that went down, were crying, or having other manifestations. They were not drunk; they were simply filled with the Holy Spirit and had visible manifestations.

(Acts 2:14-16) "But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. {15} For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; {16} but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:"

One of the things that alcohol does is cause people to loosen up and lose their inhibitions. I think the crowd that day saw some freedom in people that day. David had that freedom as he was filled with the Holy Spirit and began dancing before the Lord. His wife, Michal, mocked him, but he did not care. The Holy Spirit had freed him up to dance. Have you been freed up by the Holy Spirit. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians that "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." These hundred and twenty people just got some liberty from the Holy Spirit and some interpreted it as being drunk.

(2 Cor 3:17) "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Another thing that drunk people do is sing bawdy ballads. These Christians may have begun singing, not bawdy songs, but songs of adoration and praise. There is a strong correlation between worship and being filled with the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5, Paul tells us not to be drunk with wine, but to be filled with the Holy Spirit. How are we to be filled with the Holy Spirit? We are to speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with our heart to the Lord. I believe that some were singing and making melody in their hearts to the Lord, and some interpreted that as being drunk. They were not drunk with wine and singing bawdy bar songs; they were filled with the Spirit, and singing songs of praise and adoration for the Lord Jesus Christ.

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(Eph 5:18-19) “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, {19} speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;”

In addition to singing, people party and have a good time. They laugh and are merry. One of the things that may have occurred is an outburst of laughter and joy. When Karen and I were part of the Cobb Vineyard in Georgia, I led the prayer ministry. We had a weekly prayer meeting, where we spent a couple of hours in praise and prayer. We flowed in and out of worship and intercession. Worship and intercession usher in the presence of the Holy Spirit. When I got home one evening after the prayer meeting, I was pretty full of the Holy Spirit. Karen and I began to laugh and laugh and laugh. We could not stop laughing. It was just a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. We do not know, but it could very well be that many of the people were laughing and full of the joy of the Lord, causing some to think that they were drunk.

Another manifestation is aggressiveness. Having spent several years in prison ministry, I can tell you that 95% of people incarcerated are there for drug or alcohol related charges. Many people get aggressive and violent. The first man that I led to the Lord was Steve Hampton. He was a great guy when sober, but a monster when he had a few beers in his system. He got violent, and it landed him in prison. But, people get bold and aggressive when they are filled with alcohol. I can imagine that there was a new Holy Spirit boldness that came upon the disciples. Some interpreted that boldness and aggressiveness as being drunk. They were not drunk with wine, but filled with the Holy Spirit. Notice in Acts 4 that after the church had prayed, the place was shaken and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Then, they began to speak the word of God with boldness. I think this is also what happened at Pentecost.

(Acts 4:31) “And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.”

Peter tells them that they are not drunk, as it is only the third hour, which means nine o'clock in the morning. It would not be normal for people to be drinking in the morning. There is another explanation to their behavior.

B. They are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Peter explains to the crowd that they were filled with the Holy Spirit. He then gives them a Scriptural understanding of what has happened. He quotes Joel 2, saying, “God says, ‘that I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy. And I will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below blood and fire, and vapor of smoke.’” He ends by saying, “and it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” He plants a seed that he will pick up later in his sermon. The main point is that this has been prophesied, and it is the fulfillment of that prophecy. These disciples had just been filled with the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 2:17-21) “And it shall be in the last days, ‘God says, ‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; {18} even on My bondslaves, both men and

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women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy. {19} 'And I will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke. {20} "The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come. {21} 'And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

C. Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah.

Next, Peter tells them that Jesus is the Messiah. He said that Jesus was attested to them by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in their midst. Jesus had gone throughout Israel preaching the gospel and performing signs and wonders. Blind people had received sight. Lepers had been healed. Paralytics had picked up their pallets and walked. Demoniacs had been set free and their minds put in order. Water had been turned to wine. There had been countless signs and wonders and miracles performed in their midst. God had attested to Jesus' Messiahship through these things, and the people knew of all of this. This was not a new revelation. There was no doubt about whether these things had happened. These were established facts.

(Acts 2:22) "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know"

D. This was a predetermined plan of God.

Next, Peter tells them that they had delivered Jesus over to be put to death. He tells them that this was a predetermined plan of God. He had foreknowledge of it. But, God did not just have a plan for Jesus to die for our sins. His plan including the resurrection. Peter says, "but God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power." Jesus appeared to more than five hundred people after His resurrection from the dead. Peter and most of the others had seen Jesus, and could attest of His resurrection. We saw in Acts 1 that one of the qualifications for the 12th apostle of the Lamb was that he witnessed Jesus' resurrection. They were now giving witness to that resurrection.

(Acts 2:23-24) "this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. {24} But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."

(Acts 1:22) "beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

Another manifestation of the Holy Spirit is to confess Jesus. These disciples got filled with the Holy Spirit and they were confessing Jesus. Why? Because John writes that "by this you know the Spirit of God; every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God." These people, including Peter, were not drunk with wine; they were confessing Jesus as Lord and Messiah.

(1 John 4:2) "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;"

E. David Prophesied of Jesus' Resurrection.

Peter also lets them know that the resurrection of Jesus had also been prophesied. This was important to the Jews. They held the writings of David as sacred. They held the writings of the prophets as sacred. When Peter quotes from Joel, it validates what they were seeing and hearing. When Peter quotes David in Psalm 16, it validates what they have just heard. David prophesied that God would not abandon the Messiah's soul to Hades, the place of the dead. God was not going to allow His holy One to undergo decay. The Messiah was going to be raised from the dead quickly before beginning to decay, which is exactly what happened. On the third day, Jesus was raised from the dead, and began appearing to the women, the apostles, and to hundreds of others.

(Acts 2:25-28) "For David says of Him, 'I saw the Lord always in my presence; for He is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken. {26} Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; moreover my flesh also will live in hope; {27} because You will not abandon My soul to Hades, nor allow Your holy One to undergo decay. {28} You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.'"

F. Peter declares that Jesus is Lord and Christ.

Finally, Peter tells them that Jesus is Lord and Christ. This time, Peter quotes David from Psalm 110, where he said, "the Lord said to my Lord."

(Acts 2:33-35) "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. {34} For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, {35} UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"

Peter had heard Jesus use the same passage with the Pharisees right before His arrest and crucifixion. In Luke 20, Jesus said to them, "how is it that they say the Christ is David's son? For David himself says in the book of Psalms, "the Lord said to my Lord, 'sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' Therefore David call Him 'Lord,' and how is He his son?" Peter is asserting Jesus' Lordship and that He is the Messiah through David's prophesies.

(Luke 20:41-44) "Then He said to them, "How is it that they say the Christ is David's son? {42} "For David himself says in the book of Psalms, 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, {43} UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'" {44} "Therefore David calls Him 'Lord,' and how is He his son?"

Peter concludes by saying, "let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified." He tells them the certainty of who Christ is, and he also lets them know of their own guilt; they had crucified the Lord and Messiah. They were guilty.

(Acts 2:36) "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."

2. What Shall We Do?

The Jews had been confronted with the gospel. Peter had told them that Jesus is the Lord and the Messiah. His miracles had attested to it. The Scriptures had prophesied of his death and resurrection. Luke records that they were pierced to the heart. The word of God does pierce hearts. My prayer on most Sundays is that the word would not be preached with persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." We want hearts to be pierced with the word of God. We want lives to be changed. Their hearts were pierced, and they responded by asking the second question, "brethren, what shall we do?" Again, I do not think that Peter saw his twitter account flooded with three thousand messages. I think he was given another word of knowledge by the Holy Spirit about what was going on in their hearts and minds.

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

(1 Cor 2:4-5) "and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, {5} so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God."

A. Repent and Be Baptized.

Peter responds to the question by saying, "repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

(Acts 2:38) "Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The Jews were very familiar with baptism and understood the meaning of it. Today, people do not understand the word, or the reason for baptism. First of all, baptism is a transliterated word. Instead of translating the word from Greek to English, the Bible translators made up an English word from the Greek word. **Baptize (baptismo) means to immerse or dip.** People would baptismo a piece of cloth in a tub of dye to color the fabric. They didn't sprinkle the dye on the cloth, they immersed the material into the tub of dye.

The principle of baptism was also understood by the Jews. John the Baptist preached a baptism of repentance. At that time, when Gentiles converted to Judaism, they would get baptized in the Jordan River, showing they were turning from their pagan ways to God. It was a public declaration of their faith. When John preached a baptism of repentance, Jewish people were being baptized. They understood that they needed to turn away from their sins and place their trust in God. When Peter said for people to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, it was the same message that John had preached. They needed to turn away from their sins, and place their faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

(Mark 1:4) "John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

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The Greek word for repentance is metaneo (Strong's G3340), **and it means to change one's mind, or to do an about-face.** An about face means that if you are marching one direction, you stop, turn around, and march the other direction. To repent means to realize that what you are doing is wrong, to change your mind, and to do an about face, to begin doing what is right.

The writer of Hebrews gave us six foundational teachings in chapter six. The first teaching is about repentance. He said, "let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God." The Jews were repenting from a following works, and were placing their faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Good works will not save you. Going to church will not save you. Giving money will not save you. The only thing that will save a person is placing their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. On the cross He paid for all of our sins, and declared, "it is finished." It was paid in full at the cross. We simply have to place our faith in Jesus and receive His forgiveness for our sins. That is what Peter was preaching.

(Heb 6:1) "Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,"

Peter goes on to tell them that this promise of salvation was for them, for their children, and for all who are far off. That promise was available to me and to you nearly two thousand years after Peter preached it. I am grateful that it is available for those who are far off. I am also grateful that the promise is available for my children. Peter says it is available to as many as the Lord will call to Himself. I believe that Jesus has paid for the sins of the whole world, not just ours. I believe that He desires that none should perish, but for all to come to repentance. I believe that the Lord is calling all men to Himself. The promise is available, but not everyone accepts and places their trust in Christ. That is why Peter kept testifying and exhorting them to "be saved from this perverse generation."

(Acts 2:39-40) "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." {40} And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

Many years ago, I use to do evangelistic golf outings. One of the churches that I served was in Virginia Beach. That group of churches went ultra reformed in their theology. At my last outing at that church, the Pastor took me aside and told me not to give an invitation to receive Christ. He said that we are not to try and persuade or exhort people to place their trust in Christ. Salvation is something that God does in our heart, and man merely responds. Church, I believe that God paid the price for our sins, all of our sins. I believe He commands us to go out and preach the gospel to all people. He is calling all people to repent. I believe that we are to do just what Peter did; **we are to keep solemnly testifying and exhorting people to place their trust in Christ.**

That is what Paul did with King Agrippa. He kept solemnly testifying and exhorting Festus and Agrippa to become Christians. Listen to how Agrippa replies to Paul. "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian." Paul was doing everything he could to lead Agrippa to the Lord. Paul replied, "I would wish to God, that whether in a short time or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains." Paul had God's heart; he wanted all to have a relationship with Christ.

(Acts 26:27-29) "King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do." {28} Agrippa

04 Peter's Sermon at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-40)

replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian." {29} And Paul said, "I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

B. Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Peter tells them that they will receive forgiveness for their sins, and they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Those are two wonderful promises. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity. The Holy Spirit is God. God comes inside of us and makes His dwelling in us. He speaks to us. He leads and directs us. He comforts us. He teaches us. He empowers us. He gives us boldness. He gives gifts to us. He bears His fruit in our lives. We have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control because He is in us. What a wonderful promise we have. When we place our trust in Jesus Christ, we receive forgiveness, eternal life, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 2:38) "Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

3. Conclusion

Luke records that those who received his word were baptized, and that day there were added about three thousand souls. Not everyone received Peter's sermon. We have to receive God's word for it to do us any good. It does not matter if that word is about salvation, faith, forgiveness, finances, healing, or any other subject, we must receive the word.

(Acts 2:41) "So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

This morning, the same invitation is available. The promise of salvation, forgiveness, and the gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all who are far off. It is available to all who will receive this word. If you have never placed your faith in Christ, let me encourage you with Peter's words, "be saved from this perverse generation." God does not grade on the curve. Our lives are never going to get into heaven because we are better than someone else. The Bible says that our sins have separated us from God. The only way we can be saved is to place our faith in Jesus Christ. If you have never received Christ, come forward. Receive Christ this morning. Receive His forgiveness and cleansing. Receive Him into your life. You will never regret that decision.

Some of you have received Christ, but you want a fresh filling of Holy Spirit. God wants to fill you. He tells us not to be drunk with wine, but to be filled with His Spirit. He wants a river to be flowing through you, not a trickle, but a river. If you want a fresh filling, let us pray with you.

Some want freedom in the Holy Spirit. You want freedom from fear. You want freedom from inhibitions. You want freedom and boldness from the Lord.

There may be others that know that they have not been obedient in areas of their lives. God is calling you to repent this morning. Repentance brings times of refreshing from the Lord. You need to do an about face this morning. Make up your mind that you are going to stop what you are doing, and change your ways. If that is you this morning, let me encourage you to tell someone. Let them bear that burden with you. Let them help you walk through those changes. Not all of our life changes

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happen at once; some of the habits in our lives take time to change. That is why we are to bear one another's burdens. Let this be the first day of the rest of your life. Make that decision today.

Let's pray.

Introduction (1 Cor 15:20-23, 1 Thess 4:16-17, Acts 2:7-13, 1 Tim 4:13, Acts 2:14-40)

- There were three times a year Jews traveled to Jerusalem and celebrated _____ . (Ex 23:14-17)
- We must endeavor to give people _____ .
- We must try to give people _____ .

Seven Feasts of Israel

1. Passover (Pesach) Nisan 14
2. Unleavened Bread (Chag Hamotzi) Nisan 15
3. First Fruits (Yom Habikkurim) Nisan 17
4. Pentecost (Shavu'ot) Sivan 6-7
5. Trumpets (Yom Teru'ah) Tishrei 1
6. Atonement (Yom Kippur) Tishrei 10
7. Tabernacles (Sukkot) Tishrei 15-21

1. What Does This Mean?

- A. They are not _____ . (Acts 2:14-16, 2 Cor 3:17, Eph 5:18-19, Acts 4:31)
- B. They are _____ with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:17-21)
- C. Peter declares that Jesus is the _____ . (Acts 2:22)
- D. This was a predetermined _____ of God. (Acts 2:23-24, Acts 1:22, 1 John 4:2)
- E. David Prophesied of Jesus' _____ . (Acts 2:25-28)
- F. Peter declares that Jesus is _____ and _____ . (Acts 2:33-35, Luke 20:41-44, Acts 2:36)

2. What Shall We Do? (Acts 2:37-40, 1 Cor 2:4-5)

- A. Repent and Be _____ . (Acts 2:38, Mark 1:4, Heb 6:1)
 - Baptize (Baptismo) means to _____ or dip.
 - Repent means to change one's _____ , or to do an _____ .
 - We are to keep solemnly _____ and _____ people to place their trust in Christ. (Acts 26:27-29)
- B. Receive the _____ of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)

3. Conclusion (Acts 2:41)

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