



Acts 2:37-41 “***Proclaim: Repentance and Faith***”

Intro:

Over the last two weeks we have been studying Peter's sermon at Pentecost as a model for Gospel proclamation. So far we have seen how Peter **(1.) Proclaimed from Scripture** and **(2.) Proclaimed Jesus Christ**. Now we will see how he **(3.) Proclaimed Repentance and Faith**. We must proclaim the Gospel from Scripture and focus on the person and work of Jesus Christ, but we must also remember that the Gospel demands a response. From start to finish salvation is a work of God and not something we earn through our works. *Yet the Gospel calls us to respond by repenting of our sin and placing our faith in Jesus Christ.* And it is crucial we remember this when proclaiming the Gospel.

V.37-41

“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.*” So **those who received his word** were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

- As they heard the Gospel, God granted them faith and they believed. We see this when Luke tells us that they were “*cut to the heart*” and later says “those who **RECEIVED** His Word...”. Yet true faith always produces repentance. Faith and repentance are inseparable; they are two sides of the same coin. Repentance is to turn from sin and Faith is to turn to Christ.

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

• **Turning**

Repentance is one of the most misunderstood words in Christianity. Repentance is not merely feeling sorry for your sins. It is not merely feeling guilty, emotional, or ashamed. Repentance is a turning. It is a God-given change of mind and heart, that leads to a change of direction **causing a person to turn from sin and turn to Christ**, (Isaiah 55:6-7; Ezekiel 18:30-31; Acts 3:19).

After hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed through the Word of God the crowd is confronted with a choice. They must either reject Christ or **turn** to Him. So when they ask Peter what to do, Peter's response to them is simple: repent. In other words, “turn from your sin and turn to Christ. And then we are given a beautiful picture of what repentance looks like.

HOW IS IT EVIDENCED?

1. **Hearing** (V.37)

Many times the first evidence of repentance is that a person begins to truly hear the Word of God. Not merely to hear it audibly, but to receive it, pay attention to it, and submit to it. These people were

no longer debating, mocking, or dismissing Peter's message. They were listening and responding. We see this when they ask, "Brothers, what shall we do?" True repentance produces a heart that is willing to hear God's Word and respond accordingly.

2. **Obedience** (V.41)

These believers did not just ask what they should do; but when Peter answered them, **they obeyed**. Peter called them to repent and be baptized, and Luke tells us that those who received his word were baptized. Baptism is the outward profession of the inward repentance and faith. Through baptism they publicly identified themselves with Jesus Christ and His people. True repentance is always evidenced by walking in obedience.

3. **Addition** (V.40-41)

After responding in faith and publicly identifying themselves with Christ through baptism, these believers were **ADDED** to the fellowship of God's people (V.41). This too is an evidence of repentance. Repentance does not merely turn us away from sin; it turns us toward Christ. The repentant person desires to be among God's people, worship with God's people, learn with God's people, and grow alongside God's people. Notice that Peter continues to exhort them in verse 40. God has not designed the Christian life to be lived in isolation. He has given us the church so that we may continually be encouraged, instructed, corrected, and shaped into the image of Christ.

Conclusion:

After confronting the crowd with their sin and calling them to repentance, Peter immediately points them to hope: "*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.*" (Acts 2:39). He invites them to turn from their sin and turn to Jesus and receive forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and reconciliation with God. This same promise is available to us today, to those who repent and believe in Him. Let us who have received it then, go out and proclaim it. ***Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20***

Memory Verse:

"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."

Acts 2:38 ESV

