

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Acts 2 –

Last Wednesday we did the first thirteen verses of chapter two as we saw the Holy Spirit come upon the 120 people that were gathered in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost.

There was the sound of the rushing wind as well as the visual manifestation of what is appears to be a flickering flame that sat upon each of them.

And we saw that immediately, they began to praise God with foreign tongues, declaring the mighty works of God.

The people outside the room responded in two ways – some were amazed and wanted to know what was going on – and others began to mock the work of the Holy Spirit as they accused those in the upper room of being drunk.

This evening, we are going to see the continued work of the Holy Spirit – and it will be manifested by Peter's boldness in giving his sermon and the response of the people.

Let's pray...

[Act 2:14-47 NKJV] 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be

known to you, and heed my words. 15 "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is [only] **the third hour of the day.**

It had been about a month a half earlier that Peter had cowered before a servant girl as he denied Jesus Christ three times.

But, after receiving the empowering of the Holy Spirit – he has the boldness and the courage to stand before the multitude and explain to them what they just witnessed.

Remember – many of the people were amazed and they wanted to know what was going on –

So Peter is going to explain it to them using God's word.

It is important to note – that Peter is no longer speaking in tongues as he is addressing the multitude.

Remember – tongues are directed to God – not man.

So, before Peter begins to address their concerns and explain to them what this all means – he first addresses the mockers – those that were saying that they were all drunk with wine.

And he pretty much says, "It's 9:00 AM – Jewish custom says that Jews could not eat or drink before morning prayer time – that is 10:00 AM (especially on a feast day – remember it was Pentecost)

So guys, it is highly unlikely that the 120 people in the upper room are all drunk as you claim.”

16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

Peter – now begins to address those that wanted an explanation of what just occurred

–

And notice how he does it – with scripture.

He doesn't try to rely upon his own understanding -

He doesn't give his opinion.

He uses God's word.

For the past two weeks, I have been talking about the abuses of some of the spiritual gifts – especially when it comes to the speaking of tongues.

This is not based upon my opinion – this is based upon God's Word.

If we declare and believe that the bible is God's Word and the final authority, then the bible is what is used to measure the truthfulness or the authenticity of an experience.

The moment that we begin to validate experience based on emotion – we are in trouble. Because our mindset will be “I've experienced it – so it must be true”

The Mormon church – when the missionary's ride their bicycles to your front door — they ask you to believe them based on an experience, upon a "burning of the bosom" you're supposed to get from reading the Book of Mormon.

God wants us to judge the truth based His Word – not upon some experience or feeling.

So Peter begins his sermon by quoting the Prophet Joel (2:28-32).

I want to remind you that Peter didn't have a bible with him – he didn't drag out the scroll of the book of Joel and start reading from it.

He had the Word of God in his heart – he hung out with Jesus for three years (which shows us that if we have a relationship with Christ, we will be able to have a firm grasp of His word) – plus, now he had the help of the Holy Spirit to guide him.

17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and

awesome **day of the LORD**. 21 And it shall come to pass [That] **whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.**'

The book of Joel warns the kingdom of Judah of various judgments that were going to come upon them – and scattered in between those judgments, we find messages of hope – like the one that Peter quotes here.

In the last days – refers to the time period from the first time Jesus came to His Second Coming –

And the prophet Joel prophesized that during this time period, God was going to pour out His Spirit on all flesh.

This is what the bystanders that were amazed had just witnessed – the pouring out of the Spirit.

Now, Joel also prophesizes about events that will happen on the day of the Lord – that is the time period known as the Great Tribulation (The time from the rapture of the church until His triumphant return)

So - even though Peter is applying this prophecy to the day of Pentecost, he is not implying that this is a complete fulfillment, since the Luke doesn't tell us that the sun is being darkened, and the moon is turning to blood. Because we know that these events happens during the Tribulation Period at the opening of the sixth seal.

Peter never said, that what occurred the Day of Pentecost in the Upper room is a fulfillment of what Joel said – he simply said, this is what was spoken by Joel

I also had you make a note - **whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.**

Because Peter in using this passage from Joel – is saying that because of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the people, God has offered salvation in a way previously unknown.

Now, salvation is available for the gentile. (whoever)

In the Old Testament, if a gentile wanted to be saved, he/she had to convert to Judaism and then he/she had to abide by the Ten Commandments.

But now, salvation is offered by grace through faith.

To call upon the name of the Lord – to ask for help – to realize that you need a Savior - to put your faith and trust in Him.

Now, this seems like a perfect spot for Peter to end his sermon.

He has explained to them using scripture what has just occurred – he could have ended it with, “Now, call upon the Lord and you shall be saved”

But he didn't. Why?

Because he had not told them about the saving work of Jesus.

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- 23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

Again – notice the boldness of Peter.

His is not there to please the audience – he is there to provide them with the truth.

He reminds the people that they had seen Jesus' miracles.

Yet they still crucified Him.

Yes, God predetermined that Jesus was going to die on the cross.

God saw that our sin was causing separation between us and Him.

God knew that the only way to remedy the situation was to have the sin dealt with and paid for.

And the payment for sin is death.

And with one death, the death of God's only begotten Son, the death of God the Son, the debt we owed was paid for.

Even though it was God's plan for Jesus to be a sacrifice for our sins, the way it was done showed just how wicked our human hearts were.

24 "**whom God raised up**, having loosed the **pains** of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Question –

Who raised Jesus from the dead?

Did God the Father do it, Did Jesus raise Himself up or did the Holy Spirit do it?

Gal 1:1 – says **God the Father** raised Him up ([Gal 1:1 NKJV] 1 Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead),

John 10:18 – says that **Jesus raised Himself** ([Jhn 10:18 NKJV] 18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.")

[Jhn 2:19 NKJV] 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

Rom 8:11 – says that it was **the Holy Spirit** that raised Jesus - [Rom 8:11 NKJV] 11
But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit (1 Peter 3:18).

The answer – All of the Above

All three members of the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were involved in the resurrection of Jesus.

That is why in the scriptures, the resurrection is individually attributed to each one of them.

I had you make a note of the word pain –

Because the word that is used here for pain is one that would be used to describe the pain that a woman endures during childbirth.

So, Peter is using the example that when Jesus was in the tomb, he was like a child that was about to be born.

And in the same way that a woman cannot prevent herself from giving birth to a baby, death was incapable of keeping Jesus from resurrecting.

And what is the significance of the resurrection – it is proof that Jesus paid for our sins.

Now, Peter is going to move from Joel and is going to be quoting from the book of Psalms 16 -

25 "For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

In the Old Testament, I have mentioned that everyone went to Hades.

You had Abraham's bosom – the place for the righteous and then you had the place of torment.

So in Psalm 16 – David writes that he believes that God isn't going to leave him in Hades and also that God is not going to allow his body to decompose / see corruption.

So after reading the portion of Psalm 16 – Peter now expounds on it.

29 "Men [and] brethren, let [me] speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 "Therefore being

exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. 34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ' 36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Peter's message to the people – David was not speaking about himself when the Holy Spirit inspired him to write Psalm 16.

Because his bones (or what's left of them) are still in the tomb – therefore his body had seen corruption/decay.

David was speaking prophetically about the Messiah.

He was pointing to the resurrection of Jesus Christ – one of his descendants – who after His death, went down to Hades for a visit (therefore – no decay or corruption) and after His resurrection, He emptied out the paradise portion of Hades and led them to heaven.

The he goes on to add that Jesus has now ascended into heaven – but the outpouring of the Holy Spirit – which they have just seen is proof of that.

So what Peter is saying is – the Messiah which was promised throughout the Old Testament. He came, lived among us, He died and rose again –

Peter gave them the gospel -

37 Now when they heard [this], they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men [and] brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

How did they respond to the gospel message – they were cut to the heart. They were convicted.

Because conviction is the work of the Holy Spirit

[Jhn 16:7-8 NKJV] 7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

And they ask Peter what they should do and Peter responds – repent!!!

Church, we must remember that repentance is what coming to God is all about.

It's the turning of direction – turning to God.

Before they felt that Jesus was worthy of the cross – they wanted Jesus dead – now, they are supposed to embrace and put their trust in Him.

Yes, Jesus did all the work on the cross – He paid for our sins, but we must embrace Him.

Peter also tells them to get baptized –

There are some churches that teach that you must be baptized to be saved.

Some go to the point of saying that you must be baptized by THEM to be saved.

Some go even further that you can't even be baptized by THEM until they think you're worthy of being baptized.

Church, baptism is only an outward sign of what God has already done on the inside of you.

It is not a requirement for salvation – remember Peter earlier quoted Joel, whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

This phenomena of the Holy Spirit filling the disciples wasn't just for the disciples.

The Holy Spirit is for all who believe in Jesus.

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

Peter's sermon did not end after verse 39, the Holy Spirit only inspired Luke to provide the details up to verse 39 –

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added [to them].

So now we see the response to the conviction of the Holy Spirit after hearing the gospel.

3000 people were added to the church on the day of Pentecost.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The early church was far from perfect – but the early church does provide for us a good example.

They continued steadfastly in bible studies – the Word of God

They continued steadfastly in fellowship – fellowship is not only about pot lucks and going out to lunch with one another – fellowship is about sharing with one another.

That is what the word koinonia in the Greek implies.

Fellowship is that sense of sharing something in common, that sense of "inter-connectedness" where we all contribute to each other.

They also continued in the breaking of bread – they reminded themselves of the atoning work that Jesus Christ –

And also – they were a praying church.

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

People will take verse 44 out of context and will make an argument that it is the bible is in favor of communism or the forced sharing of wealth.

First of all, the early church was not forced to sell their possessions – they did it themselves.

Secondly, the reason that they shared in everything was that on the Day of Pentecost – there were many pilgrims in Jerusalem.

After hearing and being convicted by the Holy Spirit, many of these pilgrims stayed in Jerusalem – with no job and no homes. Therefore the other church members took care of them.

Keep in mind that over and over again in the scriptures we see Paul asking for financial help for the church in Jerusalem.

Again – the early church was not perfect.

If we continue to cling to the basics,

continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

the Lord will take care of growing His church.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

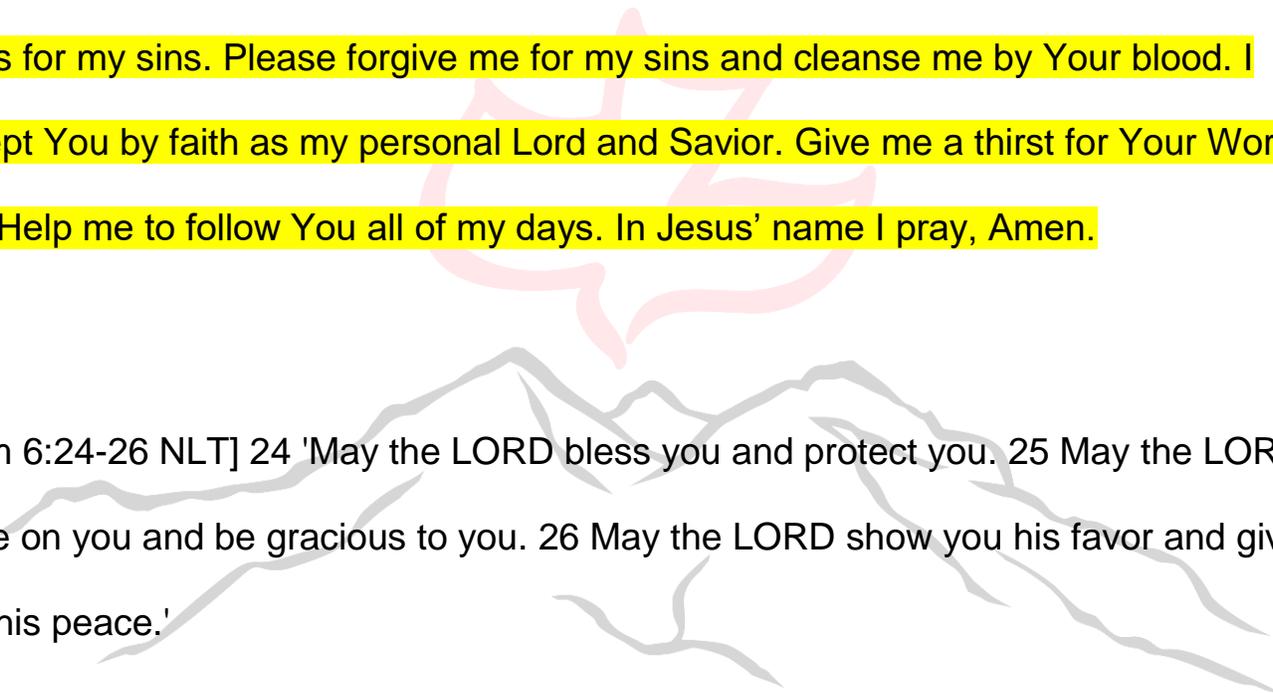
Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. 25 May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. 26 May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'



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