

The Miracle At Pentecost

Acts 2:14-41

The supernatural and miraculous! (14 & 41)

Is this the same Peter, who just prior to Jesus' crucifixion, denied Him three times? Are these the same apostles who fled the scene when Jesus was arrested? And are some of these who were saved, the very same ones who cried out before Pilate, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Don't call what took place on this day incredible. It is much greater than that. It's supernatural and miraculous! It only happens by the presence and power of the Divine Person who has _____, the Holy Spirit.

And now, because of the Spirit's arrival, reversing his public denial of Jesus, Peter boldly stands up in front of this large crowd, and declares in their hearing that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah of Israel, the Sovereign Lord, whom they crucified. And by the time he's finished, 3,000 people change their address. Transferred from the kingdom of darkness that inspired their Messiah's murder, to the kingdom of Yahweh's Son in whom they now have redemption! That's more than incredible. That's miraculous! The cowards of Good Friday become the courageous heralds of Pentecost. And the Messiah _____ become Messiah believers and followers!

Last Sunday, we saw that on the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to the 120, accompanied by three signs: "A sound *like* a mighty rushing wind," symbolic of the Spirit's power. "Tongues *as of* fire," symbolic of the Spirit's presence. The 120 speaking in the "languages" of the multitude, "as the Spirit gave them utterance," symbolic of the Spirit's filling. So it's the Holy Spirit who has captured the full attention of the multitude, which demands an answer to the question in **verse 12...**
Peter, flanked by the eleven, stands up to answer the question:

"What does this mean?"

1. This is what Joel _____ (14-21).

Beginning in **verse 16**, Peter explains that they, the multitude, are actually eye witnesses to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that was prophesied in **Joel 2:28-32**. **Verses 16-18**: That's what's happening here. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit marks *the beginning of the _____ days. The very beginning of the age to come* has arrived. And the New Covenant blessings of the Spirit are on the ground. "That's what you are witnessing," Peter declares. And the 120 were prophesying as the Spirit gave them utterance. And the thousands of devout Jews in the crowd understand. They've been taught since childhood that Joel 2 is Messianic—a prophecy of the future Messiah. And a light switch is flipped.

So the first half of the prophesy in verses **16-18** has just unfolded before them. The second half in **19-20** is future. It will occur at *the _____ of the last days*, on "the great and glorious day of the Lord" at the Messiah's second coming, when God fulfills His promises to Israel. And then this great invitation in Joel's prophesy of the Messiah: **Verse 21**. It's a Messianic prophesy, so "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord Jesus, the Messiah, will be saved!" So, "**what do these miraculous happenings mean?**" As prophesied in Joel, the Spirit has come, marking *the beginning of the last days*. And the devout Jews understand.

2. This is what God _____ (22-28).

Verse 22: Jesus' miraculous works performed in their presence was proof-positive that Jesus is the Messiah. He used His divine power as an endorsement from God to back up His claims. Many in the crowd saw it with their own eyes, and others heard it from reliable eye witnesses.

Verse 23: The crucifixion wasn't an accident. It was "according to the definite plan of God!" It was a divine necessity. For people to "call on the name of the Lord Jesus to be saved," *the Messiah had to _____*. So God executed His definite plan, through wicked people, who exercised their free will—it's a paradox, so don't try to reconcile it in your mind. "So God did it, and you did it, along with the Romans!" (**24**).

Then in **verses 25-28**, Peter quotes David's prophesy from **Psalms 16:8-11**. What did both David and Peter see in Psalm 16? They saw a reference to the resurrection of someone other than David, the Holy One of God, who will not see physical corruption of His body! And the lights are coming on. It's making sense: If Jesus is the Messiah, it's impossible for death to hold Him and for decay to overtake Him.

3. This is what David _____ (29-32).

Jesus' lead apostle is saying, "David's tomb that contains his decayed remains is with us to this day. But Jesus' tomb is empty! **See what David foresaw and spoke about:** the resurrection of the Christ. And **we are eye witnesses** that this Jesus God raised up!" They're _____ it, and no doubt they're saying to themselves, "What have we done?!"

4. This what the multitude was _____ (33-36).

Verse 33: This Jesus, if He's the Messiah, God *had* to raise Him from the dead. And He *had* to ascend to heaven and be exalted at the right hand of God. Otherwise He wouldn't have received the promise of the Holy Spirit, nor the authority to pour Him out in the multitude's presence.

Verses 34-35: Peter's point: In **Psalm 110:1**, Jesus, not David, is the One seated at the right hand of God the Father, exalted to His rightful divine position of honor and authority, and the _____ One who could pour out the Spirit, which the multitude is right now experiencing.

Then Peter closes his answer to "**what does this mean,**" by driving the nail all the way home in **verse 36**. It's all according to God's definite plan to save all who call upon the name of Jesus, "but you are not off the hook!" Peter makes a declaration: "House of Israel, Jesus is both your Lord and your Messiah!" And he makes an accusation: "This Jesus whom you crucified! You committed the greatest cosmic crime in history. Yes, Jesus is your Messiah, and yes, you killed Him!"

5. This is what the multitude _____ (37-41).

This last point is the application point. **Verses 37-39:** "Repent" *means to change your mind about* _____. Up to this point, they followed their Jewish leaders' lead in totally rejecting Him. "But now that you know He's your Messiah, turn away from rejecting Him and now trust in Him. Repent. Completely reverse the direction of your life."

"...and be baptized." Some take this to mean that one has to be baptized in water in order to be saved—that repentance *and* baptism are essential for salvation. It's called *baptismal regeneration*—it's baptism that makes you alive in Christ. The great problem with this

interpretation is that in many other places in the NT, forgiveness of sins is based on *faith alone*. For example, John 3:16; 3:36; Romans 4:1-17; Galatians 3:8-9; and Ephesians 2:8-9: "For we are saved by grace through faith" **period!** Repentant _____ is what saves us, forgives us, and causes the gift of the Spirit to come in to us. **(In addition, for study on your own:** In each of the following verses, *forgiveness* is promised *without baptism* to those who respond with repentant faith: Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; 10:43; 13:38; and 26:18).

Let me prove it once and for all. Turn to **Acts 10:44**. Peter is in Cornelius' house, a Roman centurion, and he's preaching the Gospel... **(44-48)**. *They all received the Holy Spirit _____ they were baptized.*

Also, back here in **Acts 2**, these Jews were very familiar with John the Baptist's baptism, where those who were sorry for their sins, first repented of their sins, *and then* as an outward _____ of their repentance, John baptized them. It's the same here. Peter tells them to repent *and express their commitment to Jesus through baptism*. The promise: If you *change your mind* about Jesus and *prove* you're committed to Him through baptism, *He will forgive you and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*. And the Jews got it. They didn't separate *the repentance* from *the sign of repentance* like we often do today. There wasn't this long period of time between *the repentance* and *the sign*.

Instead, they understood that in being baptized, *they were identifying themselves as followers of Jesus Christ*. How do you think the Jewish leaders and the rest of Israel will think about that? Of all people, *they had to be convinced before they were baptized!* **This is what the multitude must do to be forgiven.** *And their Spirit-induced response to Peter's Spirit-inspired message is awesome!* **Verses 40-41... That was their application.** They first *received* Peter's word about Jesus, and then they followed through with baptism, *the sign* of that reception.

What is our application from Peter's message?

1. **If you have never repented of rejecting Jesus, _____ your mind and direction by receiving Peter's word.**

2. If you have repented by turning to Jesus to be your Savior from your sins, but haven't been baptized _____ the fact, follow through quickly with the sign of your repentance.