**The Beginning – 3,000 on Pentecost**

*Acts 2*

**Introduction**

1. Paul described the drastic change of all who are put in Christ by God – **Ephesians 2:1-7**
   1. This is a description of the conversion of the Ephesians.
   2. They were turned from one state to another. They were changed.
   3. This is necessary to be saved. (Can’t be saved in the state of **VV. 1-3**)
2. Peter commanded his audience to be converted – **Acts 3:19**
   1. Converted – *epistrephō* – "to turn about, turn towards" (Vine)
   2. The word paints a picture of one headed in the wrong direction, and already well along the way, who finds that such is the case, and corrects his course, turning from what is wrong to what is right.
   3. **Cf. James 5:19-20** – *epistrephō –* “turns him back” – one who is in sin, and turns back to God.
   4. NOTE: Peter’s words show that being converted is something the individual is charged to do themselves. It is not a passive matter which is entirely of the Lord’s doing.
3. How is one to be converted to Christ, thus saved?
   1. The HS has revealed the accounts of conversion for us to study in Acts.
   2. Looking at each case reveals details of conversion necessary to paint the whole picture of conversion.
   3. By observing what individuals did in the first century to be converted we can find what we must do ourselves.
   4. Also, we can find what the converts continued in after their conversion.
4. We start at the beginning – **cf. Acts 11:15**
5. The Beginning of Preaching Repentance and Remission of Sins
6. The Command
   1. **Luke 24:44-49** – After Christ’s resurrection He gave the great commission.
      1. With what authority? – “in His name” – by His authority. (**cf. Matthew 28:18; John 5:24-27** – authority from the Father to grant salvation; **Acts 4:12** – no salvation in any other)
      2. To whom? – “to all nations” – (**cf. Psalm 22:27-28** – speaking of the triumph of Christ after His gruesome death.) (**cf. Micah 4:1-5** – People from all nations would be a part of the peace afforded by God in the Messianic kingdom.)
      3. Where? – “beginning at Jerusalem” – (**cf. Micah 4:2** – such would take place beginning at Jerusalem.)
      4. How? – With the help of “the Promise of My Father” – **(cf. John 14:25-26; 15:26-27; 16:12-13** – while Jesus was leaving them, they would have the necessary help from the HS)
7. The Fulfillment
   1. **Acts 2:1** – The day of Pentecost.
      1. Also called the “feast of weeks.”
      2. To commemorate the giving of the Law of Moses.
      3. **Cf. Leviticus 23:15-16** – hence the name, Pentecost (fifty days after Passover).
      4. One of 3 feasts commanded by the Law for Jews to keep each year – in Jerusalem, the authorized place of worship.
   2. Location – Jerusalem – **Acts 2:5**
   3. People – Every nation under heaven – **Acts 2:5, 9-11** (NOTE: These were Jews, but by the wisdom of God they would return to their countries with God’s word, having been converted themselves.)
   4. Help – the Holy Spirit was given to the apostles as promised.
      1. **Acts 1:4-5, 8** – baptized w/ HS, receive Power when HS comes upon you – in Jerusalem.
      2. **Acts 2:1-4** – filled with HS, and spoke in tongues (Power).
         1. **(vv. 6-7, 12-13)** – amazed and perplexed because of the MIRACLE.
         2. **(vv. 14-21)** – Explanation of Peter. (Fulfilled prophecy of Joel 2 regarding the manifestation of the HS in Power, and deliverance given through the Lord – **v. 21**).
      3. What the HS would do – **cf. John 16:8-11**
         1. Convict of sin – **Acts 2:22-23** – you murdered Christ.
         2. Convict of righteousness – **Acts 2:24-33** – Christ ascended to the Father.
         3. Convict of judgment – **Acts 2:34-36** – Christ rules as the victorious judge.
      4. Repentance and remission of sins – **Acts 2:38** – must repent and be baptized in order to have such remission.
         1. **Matthew 28:19**
         2. **Mark 16:15-16**
8. The Beginning of Conversions to Christ
9. The Necessity
   1. **Matthew 18:2-4** – Jesus requires conversion to become as children to enter the kingdom.
      1. Humility – **cf. James 4:10** – required for lifting up in salvation. (**cf. Matthew 5:3-5** – poor in spirit, mourn, meek)
      2. Innocence – **Matthew 18:5** – necessary to have an absence of sin. (**cf. Matthew 5:8** – pure in heart)
      3. Infancy – one who enters the kingdom is a new life – c**f. John 3:3, 5** – born again of water and the Spirit. (Old must pass away, must be made new – **2 Corinthians 5:17**) (Converted – changed to something new.)
   2. **Acts 3:19** – Peter said conversion is something THEY must do. (God obviously plays a part, but conversion implies compliance with God’s wishes.)
10. The Action
    1. Hearing the message affected them **– Acts 2:37**
       1. This affected them in a negative way – sorrow was produced – but it was godly, and they wished to make things right.
       2. **Cf. Acts 7:51-54, 58** – Same phrase used in the NKJV translation, but different results. (Virtually the same message – you killed the messiah.)
       3. **Cf. 2 Corinthians 7:8-10** – The sorrow the gospel must produce which leads to salvation is godly sorrow to repentance.
    2. Peter preached to them repentance and remission of sins – **Acts 2:38**
       1. Goal – “remission of sins” – i.e. forgiveness of the sins they were convicted of.
       2. Requirement – repentance and baptism – **cf. Acts 3:19**
          1. Parallel of repentance and baptism to repentance and conversion – MUST BE BAPTIZED TO BE CONVERTED.
          2. Change – **cf. Romans 6:1-4** – new life in baptism – **vv. 12**-**14** – characterized by presenting bodies as instruments of righteousness to God. (But it started at baptism.)
          3. **Cf. Romans 8:2** – the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus must make us free from sin and death in order to be alive to righteousness.
    3. Response – **Acts 2:40-41** – they were baptized for the remission of their sins.
    4. Result – **Acts 2:38-41** – received remission of sins, given the gift of the HS, Saved.
       1. Gift of the Holy Spirit?
          1. Parallel – **Acts 2:33** – Jesus received the promise of the HS – **Acts 2:27, 29-32** – promised to be raised by the HS through David, and received that promise.
             1. HS is not the promise.
             2. The promise was being raised, and that promise was through the HS. (Inspired writing.)
          2. (**vv. 38-39**) – “For” – gar – assigning a reason; I.E. THE “PROMISE” OF V. 39 IS THE “GIFT” OF V. 38.
             1. To “as many as the Lord our God will call.”
             2. CONTINUES to this day – cannot be miraculous manifestation of the HS to all (**cf. 1 Corinthians 13:9-10** – that which is in part will be done away.).
          3. Promise the HS made through Joel – **Acts 2:21**
             1. The gift of the HS is the promise of the HS THAT WILL BE RECEIVED UPON REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM.
             2. THE GIFT RECEIVED BY ALL THE SAME IN REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM IS SALVATION.
11. The Beginning of the Lord’s Church
12. The Prophecy
    1. **Matthew 16:16-18** – Jesus said the truth of Peter’s confession concerning His deity and messiahship would be the foundation of His church.
       1. Not even the bars of hades could keep Jesus from establishing His church.
       2. I.e. the grave could not contain Jesus, thus thwarting His will in building His church.
    2. **Acts 2:27, 30-35 –** Peter preached Jesus’ resurrection and ascension to God’s right hand as Lord and Christ. (**cf. Romans 1:4** – in being raised, Peter’s confession was confirmed, thus, the foundation for the church to be built upon was certain.)
       1. **Acts 3:26** – had to be raised to be sent with blessings (through the preaching of the gospel).
       2. **Acts 5:31** – exalted to God’s right hand to be the Savior, and Prince (authority) to grant repentance and forgiveness.
13. The Fulfillment
    1. **Acts 2:41, 47** – As the Lord saved by His authority which He has sitting on the throne of God He added to His church, thus building it as He stated.
    2. To be added to the church is to be saved – those who comprise the church of Christ are the saved.
       1. **Ephesians 1:22-23** – the church is identified as the body of Christ.
       2. MUST GET INTO THE BODY TO BE SAVED – **1 Corinthians 12:12-14** – baptized into one body.
       3. **Cf. Galatians 3:26-29** – baptized into Christ.
       4. **Cf. Colossians 1:13-14** – delivered out of darkness (SIN) and conveyed into the kingdom (CHURCH).
14. The Continuation
    1. Daily – **Acts 2:47** – the church continued, and was added to on a daily basis.
    2. Functional – **Acts 2:42-45** – the church continued together in a unified body of peace under the direction of the apostles’ teaching.

**Conclusion**

1. The first case of conversion naturally reveals the beginnings.
2. Those first converted were preached the gospel of repentance and remission of sins.
3. Those first converted responded to the preaching by repenting and being baptized – i.e. repenting and being converted.
4. Those first converted were added to the one church built by the triumphant Christ.
5. Those first converted continued in the word by practicing its requirements.
6. We can be converted, and convert others in the same way – the only way.