

## Instant Megachurch on Pentecost 2:37-41

### **Question: What shall we do? 37**

Peter's explanation deeply convicts these people they killed the Messiah, and their desperate question recalls Matt. 3:12, Lk. 3:3ff.

### **Answer: Repent and be baptized. 38-40**

Two commands for two gifts: repent and be baptized to receive . . .  
forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit

**\*repent:** lit. "change of mind," is for believers and unbelievers to do. It is a spiritual U-turn expressing a desire to get right w/God (entailing faith for the unbeliever). In Acts repentance and belief often appear close together (20:21, 26:18,20) and even overlap significantly in places (10:43,11:17,18); see in 2:38 and 2:44. Faith/belief is more common in John and the epistles. Unfortunately some see repentance as cleaning oneself up to be saved.

**\*be baptized:** believers' baptism occurs 19x in Acts, but only here is a command for baptism linked to gaining forgiveness. Actually a better translation = "All of you repent for forgiveness for all your sins, and each of you be baptized." See Lk. 24:46, Acts 3:19, 5:31, 10:43 where forgiveness is offered w/o mention of baptism. If one is looking for some type of baptismal pattern for us today in this transitional book it should be 10:43. I Cor. 1:17 shows Paul's view on baptism and the gospel. Baptism doesn't bring forgiveness, but don't water down its importance!

**\*Holy Spirit:** *promise of Spirit* (33,39) is offered here to Jews, later given to the Samaritans in 8:14,15, Gentiles in 10:44, some of John's disciples in 19:4-6. But note no "special effects" or tongues mentioned here or in 8:14,15. Again, regular patterns in Acts are elusive, and tongues as an early indication of Holy Spirit's initial presence in Acts is later limited to a gift just for some in I Cor. 12:30.

### **Response: Three thousand are saved. 41**

Around 3,000 respond to Peter's call to repentance, as Jesus indicated because of the Spirit's coming power/conviction, 1:8, Jn. 14:12, 16:8. This response continues as 5,000 "believed" in Peter's second sermon in 4:4.