

## **Pentecost Lesson 7 (March 9/10)**

### ***Pentecost and Peter's Sermon***



#### Read Acts 2:1–13

1. In God's sovereignty, there are a variety of experiences of being born again—some are gradual and some are immediate—on Pentecost the new births were quite dramatic. What do you remember about your own conversion?

2. From where does “the sound like the mighty rushing wind” come? How does this remind you of Jesus's words to Nicodemus in John 3?

3. Luke refers to a group of people who were all together in a house in verse 2:1. Luke describes a second large group of people in verse 2:5. Describe these two groups.

4. How would you feel if you were one of the Jewish visitors dwelling in Jerusalem and unexpectedly heard locals praising God in your native language?

5. This section ends in verse 2:13, with some who were mocking saying that these people must be drunk. How does Luke's observation summarize the hardness of fallen humanity's heart toward the things of God?

6. Read Revelation 7:9–10. How does the day of Pentecost point forward to life in the Kingdom of God? How we should live as we await the Messiah's kingdom in its fullness?

#### Read Acts 2:14–41

7. When you read Peter's speech, the first public proclamation of the gospel, does he even seem like the same guy we've been reading about in Luke? What is different about him?



8. Peter begins by lifting up his voice and calling all to pay close attention to his words, puts aside the accusation of drunkenness, and then launches into a long quote from the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28–32). Why might Peter begin this way?

9. Peter by means of Joel’s words concludes with “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Peter then finishes the Joel quote in verse 2:39 when he says that the promise of the Spirit is for “everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” Do you sense some tension between God’s sovereignty and a person’s responsibility?

10. Peter, again appealing for all to hear him well in verses 2:23–25, talks about the facts of Jesus’s life and crucifixion. What things strike you the most about these verses?

11. Peter says that Jesus was crucified according to “the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,” and also places the responsibility for the death of Christ upon those listening, those who “crucified and killed him [Jesus] by the hands of lawless men.” Is there some tension here too? How do we resolve this?

12. Peter’s sermon encompasses the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How do you see the members of the Trinity working together? Why is it important to understand how the Trinity works together for salvation?

13. Peter preaches with confidence and clarity regarding God’s plan of salvation fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. In what ways could your faith in Jesus gain from greater clarity and confidence?

14. Those who responded to Peter’s evangelistic call to faith are described as being “cut to the heart” in verse 2:37. Have you ever had an experience of being “cut to the heart” while hearing the gospel proclaimed?

15. Peter tells those who have been cut to the heart that they must repent and be baptized, but does not mention faith or trust in Christ. How are repentance and faith leading to salvation like two sides of the same coin?