



Summary

This powerful message takes us to the very birth of the church on the day of Pentecost, where we encounter a truth that both convicts and liberates. We discover that the gospel begins not with comfort, but with an honest confrontation of our guilt before God. Every time we deny Jesus entry into our lives, every time we reject His teachings or keep Him at arm's length, we participate in crucifying Him anew. This isn't meant to make us feel good about ourselves, but to awaken us to our desperate need for salvation. Yet here's the glorious reversal: the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead now dwells in those who are born again, guaranteeing our own resurrection. We see how Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, presents a brilliant apologetic using King David's own words to prove that the Messiah must be both David's son and David's Lord, a riddle only Jesus can solve. The message culminates in the beautiful reality that 3,000 souls were saved that first day, not through entertainment or tradition, but through the convicting power of God's Word. We're reminded that salvation comes to whoever calls on the name of the Lord, and that calling requires genuine repentance and a willingness to be born again through the Holy Spirit.





Points

- Title: The Power of Pentecost: The First Gospel Message and the Birth of the Church
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- Sermon Summary: This sermon examines Acts 2:22-47, focusing on Peter's first gospel message on the day of Pentecost and the birth of the church. The message emphasizes that salvation comes through recognizing our guilt in crucifying Christ—not just physically, but spiritually whenever we deny Him entry into our lives. Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, presents Jesus as the promised Messiah using scriptural evidence from David's Psalms. The sermon highlights that true gospel preaching begins with conviction of sin, proceeds to the good news of Christ's resurrection, and calls for repentance and baptism. The result was 3,000 souls saved on the first day of the church. The sermon concludes by outlining God's blueprint for the church found in Acts 2:42: continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers. This is presented as the timeless pattern for making disciples and spiritual maturity, contrasted with modern church trends that prioritize entertainment or dead religious tradition.
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- Key Points:
 - - Every time we deny Jesus entry into our lives, we participate in crucifying Him
 - - The Holy Spirit's role is to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment
 - - Jesus was delivered by God's determined purpose and foreknowledge, yet we are guilty of His death
 - - The gospel message must begin with an honest appraisal of where the listener stands with God
 - - Jesus willingly laid down His life and had the power to take it up again
 - - The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead will raise those who are born again
 - - David prophesied about the Messiah in Psalm 16 and Psalm 110, not speaking of himself
 - - The riddle of how David could call his descendant "Lord" is solved only in Jesus as both human and divine
 - - Repentance and baptism in Jesus' name leads to receiving the Holy Spirit
 - - On Pentecost, 3,000 were saved, contrasting with 3,000 who died when the Law was given
 - - God's plan for the church is found in Acts 2:42: apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers
 - - The church's mission is not just making converts but making disciples who can reproduce themselves
 - - God alone adds to the church those who are being saved, not human persuasion or entertainment
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- Scripture Reference:
 - - Acts 2:22-47 (primary passage)
 - - Joel 2:28-32 (quoted in Acts 2:21)
 - - Psalm 16:8-11 (quoted in Acts 2:25-28)
 - - Psalm 110:1 (quoted in Acts 2:34-35)
 - - John 14:7-11 (Jesus revealing the Father)
 - - John 16:8 (Holy Spirit convicting of sin)
 - - Romans 3:10, 21-23 (none righteous, all have sinned)
 - - Romans 8:11 (Spirit raises us from the dead)
 - - 1 Corinthians 15:21-23 (resurrection in Christ)
 - - 2 Peter 1:19-21 (Scripture inspired by Holy Spirit)
 - - Matthew 4:17 (Jesus' first message: repent)
 - - Matthew 22:41-46 (Jesus' question about David's Lord)
 - - Matthew 28:19-20 (Great Commission)
 - - 2 Samuel 7:12-16 (Nathan's prophecy to David)
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- Stories:
- - The Day of Pentecost narrative: the Holy Spirit descending with the sound of a rushing mighty wind and tongues of fire, enabling the 120 disciples to speak in the native languages of Jews gathered from around the world
- - The confrontation between Jesus and the Pharisees regarding whose son the Christ is (Matthew 22), where Jesus silences them with the logic of David calling his descendant "Lord"
- - The contrast between the giving of the Law (Exodus 32:28) where 3,000 died, and Pentecost where 3,000 were saved
- - The growth of the early church from 3,120 on day one to 100,000 Christians in Jerusalem by 70 AD according to extra-biblical history
- - Peter's personal transformation from a fisherman to a powerful preacher delivering the first gospel message with profound biblical insight





Scripture

Explicitly Mentioned References:

- Acts 2:21 - "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved"
- Acts 2:22-47 - Main text of the sermon
- Joel 2:28-32 (specifically v. 32) - Source of the quote in Acts 2:21
- John 16:8 - Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment
- John 14:7-11 - Philip asking Jesus to show them the Father
- Romans 3:10 - "There is none righteous, no not one"
- Romans 3:21-23 - Righteousness of God through faith; all have sinned
- Matthew 4:17 - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"
- John 10:17-18 - Jesus has power to lay down His life and take it again
- Revelation 13:8 - The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world
- Romans 8:11 - The Spirit who raised Jesus will give life to mortal bodies
- 1 Corinthians 15:21-23 - In Adam all die; in Christ all shall be made alive
- 2 Peter 1:19-21 - No prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation
- Psalm 16:8-11 - David's prophecy about the resurrection (quoted in Acts 2:25-28)
- 2 Samuel 7:12-16 - God's promise to David about his throne
- 1 Corinthians 15:4ff - Jesus appeared to over 500 people
- Matthew 22:41-46 - Jesus questions the Pharisees about David calling Messiah "Lord"
- Psalm 110:1 - "The Lord said to my Lord" (quoted in Acts 2:34-35)
- Exodus 32:28 - 3,000 died when the law was given
- Matthew 28:19-20 - The Great Commission

Alluded to References:

- John 3 - Being born again to see/enter the kingdom of heaven
- John 12:32 - "When I am lifted up, I will draw all peoples to myself"
- Acts 1:15 - Approximately 120 disciples gathered

Relevant Verses for Main Themes:

Theme: Conviction of Sin

- John 16:7-11 - The work of the Holy Spirit in conviction
- Hebrews 4:12 - The word of God is living and active

Theme: The Death and Resurrection of Christ

- Isaiah 53:5-6 - He was pierced for our transgressions
- 1 Peter 2:24 - He bore our sins in His body on the tree
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - Christ died for our sins and was raised



Theme: Salvation by Faith

- Ephesians 2:8-9 - Saved by grace through faith
- Romans 10:9-10 - Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart

Theme: Making Disciples

- 2 Timothy 2:2 - Entrust to faithful men who will teach others
- Colossians 1:28 - Present everyone mature in Christ

Theme: The Church's Foundation

- Matthew 16:18 - "I will build my church"
- Ephesians 2:20 - Built on the foundation of apostles and prophets





Quotes

Every time we deny or disallow the teachings of Christ in our lives, we put Jesus to death. Every time we deny Jesus entry into our lives, we commit such a grievous sin, only the death of Christ could possibly atone for it.

The gospel message always begins with an honest appraisal of where the listener stands with God. If we are going to be saved, we must first understand what we are being saved from, which is eternity in hell unless we repent.

While our sin caused his death, we did not kill him because unless he laid down his life willingly, he could not be killed by any man. Jesus did not remain dead because by his death, he had accomplished all he came to do.

Being born again is not just a more fanatical form of Christianity. The truth is, according to what God's word declares, being born again is the only way to be a Christian.

Jesus' church begins by making converts. It continues forever by making disciples. Making disciples means bringing people into spiritual maturity, bringing converts to the place where they become capable of reproducing themselves.

Any pastor who lacks God's vision for Jesus's church will flail all over the place, either jumping to follow the latest crowd gathering fad or allowing the church they lead to remain stalwart in its deadness of religious traditionalism.

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship in the breaking of bread and in prayers. Those are the four things that God desires that every church should be accomplishing by His power.

It is God who adds to his church not any man. He does so by continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, breaking bread, communion, sharing a meal together, fellowship, and prayers.





Discussion Questions

Peter quotes Joel 2:32 stating that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. What does it mean to truly call on the name of the Lord, and how does this differ from casual religious acknowledgment?

The sermon emphasizes that every time we deny Jesus entry into our lives, we participate in putting Him to death. In what specific areas of your life might you be resisting Christ's lordship, and what would repentance look like?

The Holy Spirit's role is to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. How do you distinguish between the Holy Spirit's conviction and feelings of guilt or shame from other sources?

Peter presents the paradox from Psalm 110 where David calls the Messiah Lord even though the Messiah is David's son. How does understanding Jesus as both fully God and fully man impact your relationship with Him?

The sermon states that 3,000 died when the Law was given at Sinai, but 3,000 were saved at Pentecost when grace was poured out. What does this contrast reveal about the difference between law and grace in God's redemptive plan?

Acts 2:42 outlines four essential practices for making disciples: apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers. How does your church or personal spiritual life measure up to these four priorities, and what needs adjustment?

The pastor emphasizes that being born again is not a fanatical form of Christianity but the only way to be a Christian. What misconceptions about being born again have you encountered, and how would you biblically address them?

The sermon warns against both entertainment-driven churches and dead religious traditionalism. How can a church maintain biblical faithfulness while remaining culturally relevant without compromising the gospel?

Peter's message was so convicting that the crowd interrupted him to ask what they should do. When was the last time you felt truly cut to the heart by God's Word, and how did you respond?

The sermon concludes by stating that God alone adds to His church, not human salesmanship or persuasion. How does this truth free pastors and believers from performance anxiety while still maintaining urgency in evangelism?



Small Group Guide: Acts 2:22-47 "The Birthday of the Church"

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your group time by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit.

ICEBREAKER

Question: Have you ever had a moment when something you'd read or heard many times suddenly became clear in a new way? What was that experience like?

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

- *Acts 2:22-47 (primary text)*
 - *Joel 2:28-32*
 - *Romans 3:10, 21-23*
 - *John 14:7-11*
 - *Matthew 22:41-46*
 - *Psalms 110:1*
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MAIN POINTS SUMMARY

1. *The Conviction of Sin - The Holy Spirit's first work is to convict the world of sin*
 2. *Our Participation in Christ's Death - Every time we deny Jesus entry into our lives, we participate in putting Him to death*
 3. *The Resurrection Power - Jesus couldn't be held by death, and neither can those in whom the Holy Spirit dwells*
 4. *The Call to Repentance - The appropriate response to the gospel is repentance and baptism*
 5. *The Church's Mission - Making disciples through the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer*
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Understanding the Message

- 1. Read Acts 2:22-24. How does Peter describe the Jewish people's role in Jesus' death? Why is it important that Peter doesn't soften this message?**
- 2. The sermon stated: "Every time we deny Jesus entry into our lives, we put Jesus to death." What does this mean practically? Can you think of examples from your own life?**
- 3. Read Acts 2:25-28 (quoting Psalm 16:8-11). For 1,000 years, people had read this psalm without understanding it referred to the Messiah. What does this teach us about the role of the Holy Spirit in understanding Scripture?**

Personal Reflection

- 4. The sermon emphasized that the gospel message isn't meant to make us "feel good about ourselves." How does this contrast with much of what we hear today? Why is conviction of sin necessary before we can receive good news?**
- 5. Peter presents the puzzle: "If David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" (Matthew 22:41-46). How does Jesus being both David's son and David's Lord demonstrate His divine nature? Why is this important?**
- 6. Read Acts 2:37. The crowd was "cut to the heart" and asked, "What shall we do?" Have you experienced this kind of conviction? What was your response?**

Application

- 7. Acts 2:42 outlines four essential activities of the church:**
 - The apostles' doctrine (Bible teaching)**
 - Fellowship**
 - Breaking of bread (communion/meals together)**
 - Prayers**
- 8. How is your church doing in each of these areas? How are you personally engaged in each?**
- 9. The sermon stated: "Jesus' church begins by making converts. It continues forever by making disciples." What's the difference between a convert and a disciple? Where are you in this journey?**
- 10. Read Acts 2:47. "The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." What is our responsibility in evangelism, and what is God's responsibility? How does understanding this distinction free us?**

Going Deeper



10. *The sermon mentioned that many churches either chase "crowd-gathering fads" or remain "stalwart in religious traditionalism." How can a church avoid both extremes while remaining faithful to Acts 2:42?*
 11. *Read Romans 8:11. How does the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead give you hope for your own resurrection? How should this truth affect the way you live today?*
 12. *The sermon emphasized using effective arguments to prove the gospel truth, saying "Be an effective copyist for God." What gospel presentations or explanations have been most helpful to you? How can you share these with others?*
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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ *The Holy Spirit convicts of sin - This is uncomfortable but necessary for salvation*
 - ✓ *We all participated in Christ's death - Our sin required His sacrifice; we have no room for pride*
 - ✓ *The resurrection proves our future hope - The same Spirit that raised Jesus will raise us*
 - ✓ *Repentance is the proper response - Not just feeling sorry, but turning to Christ*
 - ✓ *The church has a clear mission - Doctrine, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer make disciples*
 - ✓ *God adds to the church - Our job is faithfulness; salvation is God's work*
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PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

1. **Conviction Check:** *Spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you've been keeping Jesus at "arm's length." Confess and repent of these areas.*
2. **Share Your Story:** *Think of someone who needs to hear the gospel. Use the simple pattern from Acts 2: Jesus died for sin, rose from the dead, and whoever calls on His name will be saved. Share this with them.*
3. **Engage in Acts 2:42:** *If you're not already doing so, commit to:*
 - *Regular Bible study (join a class or start personal study)*
 - *Fellowship (invite someone for coffee or a meal)*



- *Breaking bread (participate in communion with reverence)*
 - *Prayer (establish or deepen a prayer practice)*
4. *Disciple Someone: Identify one person (perhaps a newer believer) and commit to meeting with them regularly to help them grow in faith.*
5. *Examine Your Church: Honestly evaluate whether your church is focused on making disciples according to Acts 2:42. If not, consider how you can be part of positive change or whether you need to find a church that is.*
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MEMORY VERSE

Acts 2:21

"And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

CLOSING REFLECTION

Silent Reflection (2-3 minutes):

- *Are you truly born again, or have you been keeping Jesus at a comfortable distance?*
- *If you died today, are you certain of your eternal destiny?*
- *What is one specific way you will respond to what you've learned today?*

Group Prayer:

- *Pray for anyone in the group who may need to place their faith in Christ*
 - *Pray for boldness to share the gospel with others*
 - *Pray that your church would be faithful to Acts 2:42*
 - *Pray for the Holy Spirit's power to convict, convert, and make disciples*
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LEADER'S NOTES

Be Prepared:

- *This sermon deals with heavy topics: sin, judgment, hell, and personal responsibility. Some may feel uncomfortable or defensive.*
- *Be ready to give an invitation for salvation if someone expresses interest in being born again.*
- *Have resources ready for new believers or those wanting to grow (Bible reading plans, discipleship materials, etc.).*



- *Don't shy away from the difficult truths, but deliver them with love and compassion.*
- *Remember: conviction is the Holy Spirit's work, not yours. Your job is to facilitate discussion and point people to Scripture.*

Potential Sensitive Issues:

- *Some may have come from churches that don't align with Acts 2:42 principles*
- *Questions about eternal security and assurance of salvation may arise*
- *The strong language about "putting Jesus to death" may trouble some*
- *Be prepared to discuss what being "born again" means practically*

"The gospel message always begins with an honest appraisal of where the listener stands with God. If we are going to be saved, we must first understand what we are being saved from."





Daily Devotional

5-Day Bible Reading Plan: The Gospel of Salvation

Day 1: The Universal Need for Salvation

Reading: Romans 3:10-26

Devotional: Paul's words echo Peter's Pentecost message: "There is none righteous, no not one." This uncomfortable truth confronts our tendency to compare ourselves favorably to others. We must first understand our guilt before God—our participation in rejecting Christ—before we can appreciate the good news. Every time we deny Jesus entry into areas of our lives, we symbolically crucify Him again. This isn't meant to discourage but to awaken us to our desperate need. The righteousness of God comes through faith in Jesus Christ "to all and on all who believe, for there is no difference." Today, honestly assess where you've kept Christ at arm's length. Acknowledge your need, for only then can you truly receive His grace.

Day 2: The Resurrection Power

Reading: Romans 8:9-17

Devotional: The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in believers, guaranteeing our resurrection. This isn't abstract theology—it's transformative reality. Death could not hold Jesus because He accomplished everything He came to do. When we're born again, that resurrection power lives within us. Being "in Christ" means death cannot hold us either. This challenges the cultural Christianity that keeps Jesus at a comfortable distance. You cannot be a Christian without being born again—it's not fanatical, it's foundational. The Spirit's presence is evidence of authentic faith. Today, examine whether the Holy Spirit truly lives in you or if you've settled for religious tradition without transformation. Genuine faith produces genuine change.

Day 3: Prophetic Fulfillment in Christ

Reading: Psalm 16:8-11; Acts 2:22-36

Devotional: For a thousand years, God's people read David's words without understanding he spoke of the Messiah. The Holy Spirit illuminates Scripture, revealing truths hidden in plain sight. David couldn't have been speaking of himself—his tomb remained visible proof of his mortality. He prophesied about Christ, who would not see corruption, whose soul would not remain in Hades. This reveals God's eternal plan: the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. Jesus is both David's son and David's Lord—a paradox only resolved in recognizing His divine nature. God's Word contains depths we've yet to discover. Approach Scripture



expectantly today, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ throughout its pages. Truth isn't new; it's eternal, waiting to be understood.

Day 4: The Call to Repentance

Reading: Acts 2:37-41; Matthew 4:12-17

Devotional: "What shall we do?" The crowd's question reveals hearts pierced by truth. Peter's answer was immediate and clear: "Repent." This was Jesus' first public message and remains the entry point to God's kingdom. Repentance isn't merely feeling sorry—it's turning completely from sin to Christ. Three thousand souls were saved that day, not through entertainment or religious tradition, but through the convicting power of God's Word delivered by the Holy Spirit. Notice they "gladly received" the word. Salvation brings joy, not burden. Today is the day of salvation—we have no promise of tomorrow. If you've been resisting Christ, stop putting Him to death in your life. Call upon His name. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Day 5: Life in the Early Church

Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Devotional: God's plan for His church is beautifully simple: continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers. This isn't about entertainment or tradition—it's about making disciples who can reproduce themselves spiritually. The early church didn't need gimmicks; they had the Holy Spirit and God's Word. The result? Daily additions to their number. Notice the Lord added to the church—not human charisma or marketing strategies. When churches follow this pattern, God produces the fruit. Evaluate your church involvement: Are you being discipled in God's Word? Are you in authentic fellowship? Do you share communion and prayer with believers? If your church isn't doing these things, find one that is. Spiritual maturity happens in community committed to God's simple, powerful plan.

