

What's Next

Week 1: What's Next After Salvation?

Main Text

Acts 2:37–42

Sermon Introduction

There are moments in life when everything changes in a single instant. A wedding changes a relationship in one sentence: *"I do."* A graduation changes a season in one walk across a stage. A birth changes a family in one cry from a newborn child.

Salvation changes eternity in one surrendered heart. But while salvation changes everything instantly, discipleship changes us progressively. The mistake many people make is believing that salvation is the end goal when salvation is actually the beginning. The cross is not the finish line—it is the doorway.

Jesus did not die merely to forgive you; He died to transform you. Many people know how to come to Christ, but fewer know what comes after coming to Christ. The crowd in Acts 2 had the same question many people still ask today:

"What happens now?"

After conviction... After surrender... After tears... After repentance...

What's next?

Acts 2:37:

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

That question becomes the foundation of Christian growth:

What shall we do now?

1. Salvation Produces Immediate Response

Peter had just preached Christ crucified, resurrected, exalted, and reigning.

The people were cut to the heart.

Conviction always demands movement.

Not emotion only. Not admiration only. Not agreement only.

Conviction without response hardens the heart.

Peter answered:

Acts 2:38

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...”

Repentance means:

- turning direction
- changing allegiance
- surrendering authority

Salvation is not adding Jesus to your life.

It is giving Jesus lordship over your life.

Emphasis:

A changed heart produces changed direction.

You cannot meet Christ and remain untouched.

2 Corinthians 5:17

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature...”

Old patterns may fight for space, but a new identity has been born.

2. Baptism Follows Belief

Peter immediately connects salvation with baptism.

Because inward grace should produce outward witness.

Baptism does not save, but baptism declares:

“I belong to Jesus now.”

It is burial language.

You go under saying: The old me is dead.

You rise saying: A new life has begun.

Romans 6:4

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death...”

The early church never separated conversion from commitment.

Today many want private Christianity.

But Jesus always called for public identification.

Illustration

A wedding ring does not create marriage—but it reveals covenant.

Baptism does not create salvation—but it reveals surrender.

3. Salvation Begins a Lifestyle of Devotion

Acts 2:42

“And they continued steadfastly...”

Emphasis: These is not a set of rule that the early church had to follow. It is what happens when the driving force of the sharing nature of the Holy Spirit is in a community of believers.

Notice: They did not merely begin.

They continued. The true evidence of salvation is not one emotional day. It is sustained devotion.

The early believers gave themselves to four things:

A. Apostles’ Doctrine

They learned truth.

Saved people need teaching.

You cannot grow without Scripture.

B. Fellowship

They stayed connected.

Isolation weakens spiritual growth.

Faith grows in community.

C. Breaking of Bread

They worshiped together.

Christ remained central.

D. Prayer

Prayer was not occasional—it was foundational.

1 Peter 2:2

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word...” Babies do not remain infants. Healthy life produces growth.

4. Salvation Leads to Mission

The church in Acts did not stop at gathering.
They became witnesses.

The same Spirit who saves also sends.
Some people think:
“I got saved, now I wait for heaven.”

But Jesus says:
There are people attached to your testimony.

Matthew 28:19–20
“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”
Saved people become sent people.

Some people are stuck because they had a moment with God but never moved into maturity.

You cried. You believed. You prayed.

But now:

Are you growing? Are you obeying? Are you rooted? Are you serving?
Because after salvation comes formation.

Closing

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