

Conversions In Acts

The First Great Entrance

(Ac 2:41)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the different “Conversions In Acts.”
 - a. Last week we looked at the introductory material for this series.
 - i. I mentioned we would look at...
 1. What led to the conversions?
 - a. Was there anything that got the conversation going?
 2. What was said to the non-Christians?
 - a. Was there any specific doctrine mentioned?
 3. What was the mentality of the new convert?
 - a. Was there anything surprising after their conversion in their attitude or actions?
 - b. This week we are going to look at “The Three Thousand.”
 - i. **Ac 2:41** “So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”¹
 3. Acts 2 is considered by many to be the “hub” of the Bible.
 - a. This is because everything from Gn 3 through Ac 1 looked forward to his great event and everything from Ac 3 through Rv 22 reverted back to that great event.
 - i. The event being the establishment of the church.
 4. Let us now focus on this monumental occasion and let us learn some great lessons therein.

I. What Led To The Conversions?

- A. Some much needed background information
 1. Jesus talked to the apostles before He ascended about the Holy Spirit and His role relationship with the apostles.
 - i. Jesus told the apostles to “wait” for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. **Ac 1:4-5** “And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
 - ii. Jesus told the apostles His expectations after the baptism.
 - a. **Ac 1:7-8** “He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.””

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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2. The apostles received what Jesus promised.
 - i. They received the baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - a. **Ac 2:1-4** “When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
- B. The crowd comes to hear what is going on
 1. Many have suggested that the “sound” heard was the might wind.
 - i. **Ac 2:2** “And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a might rushing wind...”
 - a. It very well could be this sound as far as the Greek is concerned but it most assuredly is not limited to that sound and rather I would suggest that it was a different sound.
 2. It seems clear to me that the sound the people are referring to is that of the preaching of twelve different men.
 - i. **Ac 2:4** “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
 - a. “On the other hand, however, φωνή seems to point decisively to the human voice (see its use, 1 Co 14:7-10).” (from The Pulpit Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)
 - b. “The meaning seems to be that the excited “other tongues” of verse 4 were so loud that the noise drew the crowd together.” (Robertson, A. T. (1933). Word Pictures in the New Testament (Ac 2:6). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.)
- C. Thus...
 1. What lead to the conversions...was there anything that got the conversation going...yes it was the apostles preaching the Word.

II. What Was Said To The Non-Christians?

- A. The apostles preached what the Holy Spirit gave them utterance
 1. Jesus told the twelve that the Holy Spirit would teach them.
 - i. He would teach them “all things” and help them remember what Jesus taught them.
 - a. **Jn 14:26** “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”
 - ii. He would teach how to convict the world of sin, righteousness, & judgment.
 - a. **Jn 16:7-8** “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment”

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2. This is exactly what happens in this first gospel sermon.
 - i. Peter preaches to the lost through the utterance of the Holy Spirit and convicts their sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- B. Peter convicts the Jews
 1. Before Peter convicts the Jews of their sin he establishes a common ground and understanding.
 - i. This is important on so many levels.
 - a. We so often are so concerned with letting people understand the true plan of salvation God established that we sometimes lose focus on “why” that plan “should” be obeyed.
 - ii. Peter makes what he is about to say concerning their sin personal for them.
 - a. He points to something they were well aware of, Jesus’ life and miracles.
 1. **Ac 2:22** “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, **as you yourselves know**” (emphasis mine)
 2. Peter then goes on to convict sin.
 - i. To convict sin means to show man the enormity of his fallen state and the tragedy this state brings.
 - a. Peter, through preaching, establishes that the Jews sin had led them to a fallen lawless state which led them to crucifying the Messiah.
 1. **Ac 2:23** “this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”
 2. **Ac 2:36** “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
 - ii. This conviction of sin had a response from the people.
 - a. The Jews asked...
 1. **Ac 2:37** “Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?””
 3. Peter responded by convicting righteousness.
 - i. To convict righteousness means to “revealing the mystery of how a man may acquire a righteousness not his own...” (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)
 - a. Peter explains how they can have their sins removed and how they can get out of this sinful state and into a “new” righteous state.
 1. **Ac 2:38, 40** “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.””

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- ii. This conviction of righteousness had a response from the people.
 - a. **Ac 2:41** “So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”
- C. Thus...
 - 1. What was said to the non-Christian...was there any specific doctrine mentioned...yes Peter preached the doctrine of obedience to the gospel.

III. What Was The Mentality Of The New Convert?

- A. After the 3000 obeyed the gospel we are told of their mentality
 - 1. They became devoted to four things at first.
 - i. **Ac 2:42** “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”
 - 2. Let’s look at each of these for things individually.
 - i. The apostles teaching
 - a. This means they devoted themselves to maturing in God’s Word.
 - 1. The reason why most young Christians today do not stay faithful to God is because they do not devote themselves to maturing properly.
 - i. Immaturity leads to one easily falling away as soon as tribulation or persecution arrives.
 - a. **Mt 13:5-6, 20-21** “Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away...20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.”
 - ii. Immaturity leads to one be unfruitful because of the cares of the world.
 - a. **Mt 13:7, 22** “Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them...22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.”
 - b. This maturing in God’s Word is seen in their daily meeting to learn.
 - 1. **Ac 2:46** “And day by day, attending the temple together...”

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- ii. The fellowship
 - a. This means they devoted themselves to maturing in their relationship to each other.
 - 1. This devotion to each other had a requirement which was unity in the apostles teaching.
 - i. **I Jn 1:3** “that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”
 - b. This devotion to each other in fellowship led to a maturing between each other and the continuous building of that relationship.
 - 1. **Ac 2:44-47** “And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”
- iii. The Lord’s Supper/breaking of bread
 - a. This means they devoted themselves to maturing in their weekly remembrance of Christ’s broken body, death, and resurrection.
 - 1. This maturing only happens when one devotes themselves to partaking of the supper in a worthy manner i.e. grasping the significance and pattern established by God.
 - i. **I Co 11:23-26** “For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”
 - b. This devotion to maturing in the breaking of bread is seen in the fact that it is mentioned as a priority.
 - 1. **Ac 2:42** “And they devoted themselves...to the breaking of bread...”

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iv. The prayers

- a. This means they devoted themselves in maturing in their relationship with God.
 1. Maturing in prayer life means drawing closer to God with an understanding of having a continual communication with God.
 - i. **I Th 5:17** “pray without ceasing”
 2. This isn't a miraculous communication where one “hears” God speak to them literally.
 - i. That type of communication has ceased.
 - a. **I Co 13:9-10; Ja 1:25; II Pt 1:3**
 3. This is a biblical communication with God where we draw closer to Him through our pray to Him and our reliance on Him.
 - i. **He 7:25** “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”
- b. The maturing in the convert's prayer life is seen in their worship to God.
 1. **Ac 2:47** “praising God and having favor with all the people.”

B. Thus...

1. What was the mentality of the new converts...was there anything surprising after their conversion in their attitude or actions...absolutely, they began striving for maturity in all the ways they should have been doing before they became Christians.
 - i. In the doctrine, the fellowship, the Lord's Supper, and the prayer life.

IV. How Does Knowing This Help Us Help Others?

- A. Knowing this helps us understand what will lead to people obeying the gospel
 1. It is teaching and preaching to the lost.
 - i. We cannot sit back and expect others to come to us we are to go out to them.
 - a. **Mk 16:15; Mt 28:19**
- B. Knowing this helps us understand what needs to be said in order for the lost to be saved
 1. First we must make sure people understand why God's plan of salvation is so important.
 - i. Jesus was tortured, murdered, and then resurrected.
 - a. **Mt 27:27-28:6**
 2. Second they must understand they are partakers in that crucifixion since they are still lost in their sins.
 - i. When one has not obeyed the gospel they are defiant against God and the sacrifice Jesus made.
 - a. **II Th 1:8** “

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3. Finally they must understand they can be saved.
 - i. If they obey the gospel they can have their sins washed away and be made a new creature i.e. creation.
 - a. **Ro 6:3-5; II Co 5:17**
- C. Knowing this helps us understand what to expect from new converts
 1. We should see a devotion to the doctrine, fellowship, focus on Christ, and prayer.
 - i. That means our focus as mature Christians should be on the young's development in this areas.
 - a. Here far too many "mature" Christians have fallen short.
 2. We must make it our personal goal and responsibility to take each young Christian aside that is not doing this a teach them.
 - i. **Ti 2:1-2, 6**

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren the "First Great Entrance" into the kingdom of God is of such importance that we cannot forget nor neglect the principles taught therein.
 - a. Let each of us strive to take these things and use them to further the gospel with our family, friends, and our community.
2. Question: Are you living up to the expectations set by the early church members?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**