



Change of Heart

Acts 2:36-39

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Objective Sentence: Everyone can experience a change of heart by coming to Christ and embracing three blessings that are given to us as we walk with Christ.

Introduction: Acts Chapter Two is the first public sermon preached by the Apostle Peter after Christ was crucified, after He was buried and after He rose from the dead on the third day. Just 50 days before this event occurred Christ was hanging on the cross.

*Peter's message to the thousands of people who had gathered because of the great miracle focuses on the fact that coming to Jesus, walking with Him, serving God—salvation is a heart changing experience—not just a heart knowledge experience (Jn. 3:1-3; 17:3; 1 Pet. 1:3-4). (Acts 2:36-37 says, “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah..³⁷ When the people heard this, they were **cut to the heart** and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”*

Pastor Dan: (Ro. 3:23; 6:23) The people in the crowd that day responsible for the death of Jesus were Jews—followers of God's law. They have traveled from all over the world to celebrate Passover, eat the Passover Meal, offer their sacrifices to God and pay their tithe at the temple. They were not pagan followers of other false gods. The sad reality was that they did recognize God and ended up killing Him. So from among these supposed followers of God **there were two types of sinners responsible for the death of the Messiah.** Those who stood with the Pharisees and spoke out against Christ; and those who knew that Christ was innocent yet remained silent, refusing to speak up for Him.

- I. **Purpose** (Acts 2:38-39 *Peter replied, “**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.³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call)*

- A. *Definition of Repentance:*** *The definition of the Greek word for repent (Meta-no-eo) means to change one's mind and purpose, as a result of knowledge) when it is used with the cognate noun meta-no-ia, it speaks of true repentance, which results in a change of mind and a change of purpose, which results in a change of life.)*
- 1. Lay Hold** (*Phil. 3:10-12* *That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,* ¹¹ *if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.* ¹² *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.*)
- a. William Barclay:* There are two great days in a person's life—the day we are born and the day we discover why.
 - b. Pastor Dan:* You are not an accident. I am a unique and special person—a miracle. What it took you guys nine months to do I did in about a month and a half. The date of my parent's marriage was 3-7-53. My birth date is 4-27-53. They tried to cover up for their mistake by making me a year older. I grew up feeling like a mistake.
 - c. Psalm 139:13-18* For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, ^[a] God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you
 - d. Matt. 16:24-26* Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul.
 - e. Victor Frankl:* Man's main concern is not to gain pleasure or to avoid pain but rather to see a meaning in his life
 - f. Fyodor Dostoyevsky:* The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for.
 - g. Ralph Waldo Emerson:* The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.
- II. Purity** (*Acts 2:38-39* *Peter replied, “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.* ³⁹ *The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith)*

A. *Matt. 5:8* *Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Full Life Study Bible: The pure in heart are those who have been delivered from sin's power by God's grace and now strive without deceit to please and glorify God and to be like him. They seek to have the same attitude of heart that God has—a love of righteousness and a hatred of evil. Their heart is in tune with the heart of God.*

1. Innocence (*1 Jn. 3:1-4* Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. ⁴ Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin)

a. *Pastor Dan:* The thing that I missed most and desired after I began to indulge in a life of sin and rebellion was innocence. While wrestling with bondages I often looked back and longed for the days when I did not need to smoke, drink, do drugs and fight sexual addiction. I wanted to be free and innocent like a child who has no knowledge of guilt and sin.

b. **Eph. 4:21-24 (NIV)** **Since** you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² **throw** off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

c. **2 Cor. 5:17** *If anyone be in Christ he or she is a new creation; old things have passed away all things have become new.*

d. *Pastor Dan Story:* That Outlaw (Frank Pierce and Grady Respress)

e. **Matt. 18:2-3 (NLT)** Jesus called a little child unto Himself and set him in the midst of them. Truly I say to you, that unless you put away your sin and become like a little child you will never enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

f. *Dwight Lyman Moody; 1837-1899:* Man is born with his face turned away from God. When he truly repents, he is turned right round toward God; he leaves his old life.

III. Power (**Acts 2:38-39** Peter replied, “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.** ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call)

A. *Rod Parsley:* *The baptism of the Holy Spirit will do for you what a phone booth did for Clark Kent—it will change you into a different human being.*

1. Be Filled (**Eph. 5:18 NLT** Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts)

a. **Acts 1:8** you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me^[a] in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth

- b. *Jim Cymbala:* Too much of our religious life is made up of programs and human ideas, talents and strategies.... What is missing today is something from heaven itself.
- c. *Pastor Dan:* There is greatness in you.
- d. **Eph. 3:20** Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all you ask or think according to the power that works in you.
- e. **Eph. 6:18 NLT** Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere
- f. **Jude 20** But you dear friends, build up yourselves in your most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit.
- g. **Phil. 2:13 NLT** For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him
- f. **Ps. 37:4** *Raymond Hollingwell:* Desire creates the power

Closing and Invitation: A Native American chief gathered the young men of his tribe and talked to them about the inner struggles of life. The wise chief said, "It is like we have two dogs fighting inside of us. There is a good dog who wants to do right and another dog who always wants to do wrong. Sometimes the good dog seems stronger and is winning the fight, but sometimes the bad dog is stronger and wrong is winning." "Who is going to win in the end?" a young man asked. The chief answered, "The one you feed."

Crandall Miller said, "What you feed grows and what you starve dies." Spiritual maturity takes place on purpose through continuous effort.