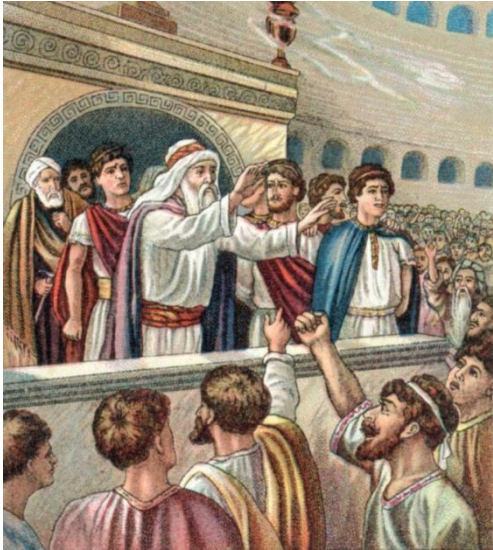


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 4



MEMBERS ARE ADDED TO THE CHURCH

Scripture Text: Acts 2:22-47

After being filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, Peter preached to the crowd without preparing a sermon. He declared Jesus to be approved of God, to be both Lord and Christ. He and the other disciples were witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection. Peter laid the guilt of Jesus' death upon them. He told them that it was this same Jesus Who had sent this outpouring of the Holy Spirit that they now saw and heard.

God's power caused respectful fear. They were convicted, and Peter told them to repent. Many were saved, and the Lord added the members to the church daily as they were saved. He let it be known that the promise is for all people.

MEMORY VERSE: *And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

—Acts 2:47b

DAILY READINGS:

- Mon.—**John 16:7-15** The office of the Spirit.
- Tue.—**1 Corinthians 12:1-11** The diversities of gifts.
- Wed.—**Isaiah 44:1-8** Spiritual refreshing.
- Thu.—**John 15:20-27** The Spirit of truth.
- Fri.—**Ephesians 6:10-18** Strength in the Lord.

Devotional Reading: **Joel 2:28-32** Promised seeing of Spirit.

Guilt Without Anger

Acts 2:22-23 **Ye men of Israel, hear . . . Jesus . . . a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs.** Without fear, Peter exalted Jesus. The miracles He did before them were evidence that He came from God. **Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God**—Jesus' death was in God's plan (**Luke 24:25-27**). Jesus gave Himself to be killed (**John 10:17-18**). However, this does not remove guilt from those who killed Him. **Ye . . . by wicked hands have crucified and slain.** Why did this not anger the crowd? They respected and feared God. The Holy Spirit caused conviction. Conviction overcame anger, and many repented. It was the Holy Spirit in Peter's words working upon their hearts. Conviction is the Spirit's work (**John 16:8**). If the church desires to see more heavy conviction, we must see more respectful fear shown to the presence of God's Spirit.

Life Conquered Death

Acts 2:24-35 **God hath raised up** Jesus to life. **It was not possible that he should be held of** death. God is the source of life. Jesus is life (**John 14:6**). He conquered death (**1 Corinthians 15:54-57**). David foretold Jesus' Resurrection (**Psalms 16:9-11**). Peter here refers to David's record of Christ's victory over death. God **exalted** Jesus. God gave Jesus the **promise of the Holy Ghost** for men, and then Jesus **shed forth this, which ye now see and hear**—the Holy Spirit.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 4

Three Thousand Members Added

Acts 2:36-42 Let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. He is both Lord—Master to obey, and Christ—Savior Who can save. God the Father gave Him this place. Peter accused the crowd of killing Jesus. **They were pricked in their heart**—convicted of sin. Why? Because they knew they were guilty. It did not anger them because the Holy Spirit brought conviction. It was the Holy Spirit working in Peter's words upon their hearts. **What shall we do?** How can we get rid of this guilt and be a follower of Jesus? Peter told them clearly. **Repent**—be sorry for and turn from your sins. **Be baptized . . . in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.** Water baptism is a symbol of the spiritual baptism into Christ (**Romans 6:3**), the washing by the blood of Christ. Only the blood of Christ takes away sin. Because our sins are washed away, we are baptized in water as a symbol of it. **Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**—the same as the disciples had just received. **For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all.** No one is shut out who meets the conditions. Great harm has been done to countless souls by the devil's story that God's blessings are not for them. He tries to close the door that God has opened to them. God does not withdraw a gift once given. The message here emphasizes that ALL may freely be filled with the Holy Spirit if they repent and forsake sin and consecrate completely to God.

They that gladly received his word—believed in Jesus and put belief into action, **were baptized** in water—a testimony to all others of their being saved from sin and taking their stand for Christ and His teachings. **There were added**—God added them. **Three thousand** were added to the membership of the Church of God. One cannot join the Church of God. Being born again is the only way into God's church. **They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine**—the teachings of Jesus (**Matthew 28:20**), **fellowship**—with the apostles, **in breaking of bread**—talking and thinking the things of Jesus. They wanted to know more. **In prayers**—they communed with God.

Fear Came

Acts 2:43-47 **Fear came**—the presence of God commanded honor and respect. We need more of this in our worship now. There is a great lack of respectful fear in the church in these days. **Wonders and signs were done by the apostles**—miracles were done as when Jesus was with them in body. **All that believed . . . had all things common**—shared everything, divided as each needed.

Fear came on the church because they felt the strength of God's working within them. Fear gripped the unsaved at the mighty power they saw working in the saints and in the miracles. Wherever saints follow God's plan, the world will have a fear and respect, even though at times it is mixed with hatred. **Continuing daily . . . in the temple**—a strong desire to worship. With **one accord**—in harmony, one spirit binding them in love. **Breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness**—salvation brings joy and gladness where once there was sadness. **Singleness of heart**—pure, undivided devotion, a new level in living for God. **Praising God**—praise springing from the joy and love that this new experience had put in their hearts. **And the Lord added to the church daily**—the Lord continued to add people to His church daily, **such as should be saved.** He did this by saving them from sin and giving them spiritual life.

JUST A THOUGHT

When God started His church, He set a standard for it to follow always.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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