

Introduction:

Today we will continue looking at *the Birth of the Church*.

Things we will look at in this lesson:

The Pattern of Peter's Preaching: Peter's Message

The Pattern of Peter's Preaching: Peter's Message:

01. Why did Peter quote from Joel 2:28-32?

02. If the last days began with the first coming of Christ, when will they end?

Article 1)

Five areas in which God said He would treat everyone alike:

(1) God promised He would not favor one nation over another. He said He would pour out His Spirit on all flesh or people.

(2) God promised He would not favor men over women. He said He would pour out the Holy Spirit on both sons and daughters. (Acts 2:17-18) Both males and females would prophesy. Recall that there were women among the 120 who spoke in tongues.

(3) God promised He would not favor the old above the young. He said the young would see spiritual visions and the old would dream spiritual dreams.

(4) God promised He would not favor the rich over the poor. He promised to pour out His Spirit even on male and female slaves. Israel was once a nation of slaves that God delivered from Egypt. Now Israel was under Roman rule. But through Pentecost, both rich and poor become God's slaves or property. Jesus bought us at Calvary. At Pentecost, He takes full possession of believers.

Article 1) continued...

(5) God promised not to favor the early over the late. He blesses both the first to hear and the last. Acts 2:19–20 refers to signs that will take place at the end of the last days. But Acts 2:21 assures us that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In the years just before Jesus returns, conditions on earth will get worse. Because evil will increase, the love of most will grow cold (Matthew 24:12). The last days will be terrible days (2 Timothy 3:1–5). But even in the worst of times, God will help those who call on Him. Acts 2:39 says there is no time limit on receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift is for parents, their children, and those of every generation and race.

03. What was Peter's point in his message at Pentecost?

Article 2)

Four proofs of Jesus' claims:

(1) God approved Jesus through miracles, wonders, and signs (Acts 2:22). These are the three words used in the Bible for supernatural acts.

(2) God allowed Jesus to be crucified in Jerusalem (Acts 2:23). God had planned for Jesus to die, but this does not lessen the guilt of those who crucified Him.

(3) God raised Jesus from the dead (Acts 2:24–32). Peter quotes David in Psalm 16:8–11. David prophesied about the Messiah's resurrection. When Peter spoke, David was in his tomb in Jerusalem. Therefore, the people understood that David was not prophesying about himself. The Holy Spirit used this explanation and illustration to convict many.

(4) God exalted Jesus and gave Him the Spirit to pour out (Acts 2:33–36). Note the Trinity in Acts 2:33. The Father exalted the Son to sit at His right hand. This was the greatest place of power and honor. (In Christ, we are also seated at the right hand of God, Ephesians 2:6.) Then the Father gave the promise of the Spirit to the Son (John 16:7). Finally, the Son pours out the Spirit on us. The Father gave the promise, but Jesus is the One who baptizes us in the Spirit (John 1:33).

04. What did Peter do in Acts 2:25-35?

05. Why did Peter use the Old Testament to validate the Resurrection?

06. What happened to the crowd as Peter preached Christ's words?

07. What do those who repent choose?

08. How can we define baptism and what does it show?

Article 3)

Five places in Acts where Luke refers to the baptism in the Spirit as a gift:

(1) Jesus told the disciples to “wait for the gift my Father promised” (Acts 1:4-5).

(2) Peter told Jews they would receive “the gift of the Holy Spirit” after they repented and were baptized (Acts 2:38).

(3) Peter rebuked Simon the former sorcerer. Simon wanted to buy the ability to impart “the gift of God” to others (Acts 8:18–20). Peter taught him that God's gifts could not be bought or sold. They are free! Any believer who wants the gift of the baptism in the Spirit can have it.

(4) Peter was sure that “the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God” (Acts 10:45–46).

(5) Peter recalled that John baptized in water, but Jesus baptizes in the Holy Spirit. “God gave them [the Gentiles] the same gift as he gave us [the Jews]” (Acts 11:16–17).

09. Who is the baptism in the Holy Spirit for?

10. What did Peter urge his listeners to do?
