

# G R O W

## Get focused, Read, Observation, Worship

### Repent and be Baptized – Acts 2:38

I was once offered some barbeque at a church potluck from the older gentleman who made it. He was quite proud of his BBQ and when I tried to add sauce to it, he smacked my hand to prevent me. His BBQ was perfect and didn't need anything added to it, at least in his opinion. But it was a bit jarring for me; I like sauce on my bbq and I've grown accustomed to having my food in my way. But we must be careful to not carry this mindset into faith. God doesn't come to us on our terms; we come to Him on His terms. And most fundamental to knowing God is the call to repent and baptized.

### GET FOCUSED

Time with God warrants our focus. Many have increasing difficulty focusing on anything, but it's a must if we want to grow in faith. So spend a few moments to silence any distractions and to focus your heart and mind on what God wants to speak to you.

### READ

If we want to grow our faith, we must read God's Word. The Bible is God's revelation. revealing who God is and what He wants from us. Grab your Bible and read Acts 2:38 and surrounding verses.

### OBSERVATION (COMB through the text)

In addition to reading our main passage, read the verses around it to understand the **context**. In Acts 2, Peter is preaching to a large crowd. Peter takes the opportunity to preach the Gospel, how Jesus is the Christ and the fulfillment of God's salvation plan. Some in the crowd are convicted by the message, knowing they need to respond, so they ask what to do. And Peter's response to that question is our focus: repent and be baptized. An important question and an important answer that we must understand.

Next, we want to **observe** the key words and phrases in verse 38. What stands out to you? Some key words and phrases are: repent, baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgiveness, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

To help understand the **meaning** of these words and phrases, invest in a good study Bible or utilize online tools like netbible.org.

**Repent** means to rethink your life. It implies a change of life, a new way of living. We must recognize that we have sinned against God and we have not obeyed Him, and we must turn away from that way of living and realign ourselves with Him.

**Baptism** is a ritual of consecration, where someone is immersed in water as a symbol of dying to the past or one way of life and rising out of the water to a new way of life or purpose. The name with which you were baptized defined that consecrated purpose. Jesus' disciples are baptized in His name, consecrating our lives to Him.

**Forgiveness** means to be released from penalty and guilt. When we repent and surrender our lives to Jesus, we are released from the penalty of our sin. Jesus bore the penalty of sin in His death for those that repent and believe in Him (Romans 3:24-25).

**Gift of Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the One Triune God. The Holy Spirit indwells believers to lead them in truth and empower them for God's work (Jn 14:17, Jn 16:13, Acts 1:8)

So, what's the **bottom-line**, how would you sum all this up? **To know the forgiveness of sin and new life, we must repent and give our lives to Jesus.**

## WORSHIP

So, how will we live this out, what does it mean for our lives? **Worship** is so much more than songs; it is honoring God with our lives. Repentance is both the start and way of life for Christians. We continually confess our sin and re-orient ourselves to God's ways. We should regularly ask the Lord to point out sin and repent of it. It's important to know that when you repent and give your life to Christ, you have the forgiveness of sin. Sinning as a Christian no longer condemns you (Rom. 8:1), but it does affect your relationship with God (Eph 4:30), so continual repentance helps maintain a healthy relationship with God. And it helps you stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit's work in your life (Gal. 5:16ff).