



Cases of Conversion: 3,000 at Pentecost

The book of Acts documents the activities of the apostles immediately following the ascension of Jesus Christ. Before the death of Jesus He promised to build His church in the future (Matthew 16:16-18).

After Christ's death, burial and resurrection the gospel was preached by the apostles and the church was established (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-48). In Acts 2, after Christ's death, the church is spoken of as being in existence (Acts 2:47).

Yet, how did people become members of this early church? What process did the first "three thousand souls" go through before they were "added to the church" (Acts 2:41, 47)? We may read about the examples of conversion in the book of Acts and see the process of conversion to Christ.

The first step required preaching. Peter preaches the first sermon by starting out with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:22-24). His life evidenced the power of God "by miracles, wonders and signs" (v. 22). His death was a brutal murder, but it was God's "determined purpose" that His blood be shed for our sins (v. 23, 1 Peter 2:24). His resurrection was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and the hope of New Testament Christians (vs. 24-35). The ultimate conclusion of this sermon was "that God has made this Jesus, ...both Lord and Christ" (v. 36).

The next step was the response of the audience. The evidence is powerful enough to believe in Jesus Christ, but what do we have to do to make things right with Him? The crowd asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (v. 37).

The last step is stated by Peter in verse 38, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Conversion to Christ requires repentance and baptism according to the apostle Peter. Only after meeting these conditions were those listening "added to the church." Have you heard, believed, confessed, repented and been baptized?

If not, will you do so and be added to the Lord's church?

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