



MISSION CONTROL “The Greatest Question Ever Asked!” Part 2

Acts 2:37-41
June 21, 2015

The Response of the Unbeliever's

- ✓ **Conviction** Not Condemnation *Romans 8:1; Hebrews 4:12-13; Zachariah 12:10; 13:1*
- ✓ **Desperation** *Acts 22:10; 16:30*
- ✓ **Repentance**
A Change of Our Thinking That Changes the Core of Our Living *Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20; Romans 2:4*
- ✓ **Baptism**
It Is an Outward Expression of an Inward Change
Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Matthew 3:15–16
 - Symbolism, not Salvation
 - Believers, not Babies
 - It Was Immediate
 - It Was Immersion

The Response of God

- ✓ Granting Forgiveness *Ephesians 1:7; Psalm 103:12*
- ✓ Giving of the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Giving Assurance and Hope *Matthew 27:23-25*

The Response of Believers

- ✓ Keep Witnessing *Luke 24:27*

- ✓ Keep Having a Burden
- ✓ Keep Inviting Them Into the Fellowship of the Church

How Will We Respond?

- ✓ Would you realize and understand that the Lord will go to any length to say “This Message is for You?” Today, I plead with you to accept the greatest gift you could ever receive the Gift of Eternal Life? Would give Him your heart & life today? Jesus can bring the life change that you have been seeking. Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord. (the Boss of your life)
- ✓ Have you asked Christ into your heart but never made it public. Have you not been baptized? You can come & make that decision today public today. He was willing to humble Himself and be obedient, will you? We have baptism sets for the next several Sundays. Contact us and let us know that you are ready to follow through in obedience to the Lord’s command!
- ✓ Are you a part of a church family? If not, you need one! Is the Lord calling you to Petal FBC today? Why wait any longer? Step over the line and join us in reaching this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ!
- ✓ Believer – Are you at a place where you need to repent and turn back to the Lord? Remember, it’s God’s Kindness that leads us there – run to Him. Don’t stay in the condemnation any longer! He is waiting with open arms!
- ✓ Here we see it again – Our clear call to witness of the Gospel, to carry with us a deep burden for the lost and to the call to keep inviting others – Are you doing these things? If not, make a fresh commitment and ask the Lord to help us all be about these 3 things!

THE ACTS: MISSION CONTROL

“The Greatest Question”

Acts 2:37-41

June 14 & 21, 2015 AM Service

Here he finished the sermon, really hasn't finished his sermon, but here there was an interruption. He finishes in a minute.

But here he is interrupted and it is at this point that we see the reality of the response to the Holy Spirit

Fundamental Question by the responses of the activity of the Holy Spirit and it has been asked for ages, and even now in our day and time

What must I do to get in on God's eternity, what must I do to be saved?

To get into heaven, to inherit eternal life, etc.

The question is asked here by those hearing Peter's message on the day of Pentecost and is still being asked today

We know and understand that there are many who don't believe in the afterlife, or at best that we all are going to get there somehow, someway, all paths lead to there, etc.

As we share the gospel we heard people say these things, well I'm just living for the here and now, that doesn't really matter, it's a risk

I have staked my life, risked if you will, that Jesus is the only way to heaven, and if I come to the end and I am wrong, then all I have risked is living a good, moral life, raising my children to be moral people, and live by a different standard than that of the world, then I will not have lost

much, but if you are here today, and you have not trusted Christ or someone you know he says well it doesn't matter, I'm willing to take the risk, because it's huge, because if you're wrong, you have risked eternity!

Are you willing to risk that, and are you really that certain about where you will spend your eternity to risk your life?

I encourage you to consider that question this morning.

What if there is a heaven and hell, what if the Bible is true, and there is more to this world, then the question rings clear, what must I do to be saved?!

No moral absolutes, spiritual truth, it's relative to wherever we are, whatever works for you may not work for me, but that's ok

Not we believe though really,

ILLUS: Car, spend thousands of dollars read manual, how to start the car put in the key, and yet some say well I don't want to start my brand new car that way. Ridiculous isn't it?

Computer, same thing, turn the power button on, and can you imagine, well that's not the way I'm going operate the computer that way, may be right for you, but not for me. It's foolish

We really don't believe that and our world doesn't really either only really when it comes to moral and spiritual absolutes.

Is there really only one answer to this questions we are proposing this morning, and that is what must I do to be saved?

The Response of the Unbeliever's

Those in the crowd that day who had not acknowledged Jesus Christ as the Messiah, and the Bible tells us there were at least 3000 thousand that day, because 3000 ultimately responded to the message.

Think about the their response from the standpoint of unbelievers and there is little questions in my mind that there are some here today who have yet to make that same decision as those made here today.

Never trusted Christ, wondering about it, not sure today.

The Holy Spirit comes down and begins to move among them coupled with the Peter's preaching here we see their response.

✓ **Conviction** Not Condemnation *Romans 8:1; Hebrews 4:12-13; Zachariah 12:10; 13:1*

This is not something that you can bring upon yourself. It is not anything man can bring upon you, remember we are talking about the work and the activity of the Holy Spirit.

Here is the conviction that came upon their lives

They were cut to the heart, it means pierced, stunned, to smite

Taking a knife and stabbing into something

Impressed – horse leaving a hoof print in the dirt – a horse had run over their heart and left the huge indention!

That was their initial response of these individuals whom the Spirit of God begin to speak to when they heard these words and then begin to understand its application and that they were the ones responsible for rejecting the Messiah and even to putting him on a cruel cross.

This is a non-negotiable to a salvation experience

The Word says, “no man comes unless the Spirit draws him.”
That drawing involves the conviction of the guilt of sin
These men quite possibly were a part of the plot to kill Jesus, or
identified with the plan. We cannot identify with that part.
However, we just like they are guilty of the death of the Lord Jesus
Christ because of the sin that is and was in our lives and will be.
It wasn't about physically about being there, driving the actual nails
Conviction that I am responsible for putting Jesus Christ on the cross
The Bible is clear, for it says, “[For all have sinned and come short of the
glory of God.](#)”

Repentance begins in conviction not condemnation

**Albert Barnes – “false repentance dreads the consequences of sin, true
repentance dreads sin itself!”**

Conviction is timely and specific – condemnation is very general –
overall bad

Conviction – is a flashlight Condemnation – is like a wet blanket

Conviction is leaves us hoping in Christ condemnation leaves us
hopeless because we look to ourselves

Conviction leads us to repentance Condemnation leads us to worry

Conviction brings growth Condemnation brings guilt

Conviction we run to Jesus Condemnation we run from Jesus

Repentance is different than remorse (Remorse – feel really bad about
what we have done – sorry because you wronged God or because you
got caught?)

✓ **Desperation** [Acts 22:10; 16:30](#)

Here the cry, remember they interrupted his sermon!

Men and brothers, what shall we do?

Almost here the desperation in their voice, how do we fix this thing?

What are we to do with what we are hearing? How do we undo it?

There is that question here that every person must ask of Jesus, what
must I do? A cry of desperation. Paul and Philippian Jailer

[Matthew 5:3 “Blessed is the poor in spirit, poor bankrupt, poverty
stricken, without any resources whatsoever.](#) Jesus said that is the
beginning, that's where we have to start.

We come to a place where we realize that we have nothing to offer God,
you are in a situation that you can do nothing about.

That's where these people were. Filled with pride, done their own thing, eliminating the Messiah, had him taken out.

They were blown away at what they had done, how do we fix this thing, we have nothing else to put on the table, we have nothing else to offer.

That's your situation and mine today.

Matters not what you have, money, possessions, wealth, fame, fortune, etc.

You and I have nothing to bring to the table.

Only when we realize that can Jesus give us what we are looking for.

It will not come any other way.

An indictment of sin is necessary, without seeing our sin we will not see the need for a Savior.

✓ **Repentance**

Peter gives them the answer, the ultimate response to what they were hearing. Means to change the way of thinking in such a way that it leads to a change of action, change of purpose

Military term, about face

Same message of John the Baptist and the same of Jesus the Messiah
Repent the kingdom of heaven is at hand!

Going along, the Spirit of God brings conviction in your life, you realize that you have nothing to bring to the table, to turn yourself around to clean up your life, much less to get you into the kingdom of God.

It's all a God thing, changing our way of thinking Acknowledging the reality of our sin, and acknowledging Jesus Christ as God's Savior and our Lord, His Messiah.

It leads to a change of direction

Not that we are just sorry, or wish we hadn't done it, or wish we had not gotten caught, or here the information and think I need to do something about that sometime, repentance means there is change, action takes place in our lives.

True repentance is more than a fear of consequences, but one that hates sin for what it is, an affront to God.

Repentance is a non negotiable for salvation

Might want to hear that it's about some mysterious feeling, that Jesus just wants to meet you where you are and leave you where you are, to not

disturb your life in anyway, that's all about acknowledging some religion, or starting to go to church, or reading your Bible but it is not my friend, it is about repentance that must happen in everyone's life! No one will enter the kingdom of God without repenting of their sin, leading to a change of direction in life, and acknowledging Jesus as you Savior and Lord.

A Change of Our Thinking That Changes the Core of Our Living
[Luke 3:8](#); [Acts 26:20](#); [Romans 2:4](#)

Repentance unto salvation here in Acts – repent and turn to Jesus

There is also daily repentance as a Christ Follower

I repent in my heart because I am a Christian

How do you feel when you hear the word repentance?

[Romans 2:4](#) It is God's kindness that leads us to repentance – kind to reveal our sin to us – so we can receive that mercy and cleansing

Repentance like a shower after a hot sweaty day in the yard – that shower feels so good – sit down after supper

Kids – no shower needed! Adults do though – why we understand the need to be clean. So to with believers – immature runs from repentance and mature believers run to it!

✓ **Baptism**

It Is an Outward Expression of an Inward Change

[Romans 6:4](#); [Colossians 2:12](#); [Matthew 3:15–16](#)

This is the only one that it is not a non-negotiable.

If we are not careful we will attach this 4th response of believer's baptism, which again that word means to dip under to immerse, that ceremony of a person identifying publicly as a follower of Jesus Christ demonstrating the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It would be easy for us to begin to think that this is necessary for salvation. Preposition, *eis*, for often translated, but not here really meaning for the purpose of or on the occasion of

And indicates a process – and then

For – *eis* better translated because of or on account of – on the basis of, on the grounds of... Baptism is because of your repentance, not for repentance or forgiveness

That leaves us with a number of problems

Primary one is that it is inconsistent with the rest of Scripture.

If we had time, we see in Acts or outside of Acts

[Romans 10:9-10 & Acts 3:19](#)

Over and over again in Scripture repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are mentioned exclusive of this event of baptism.

Peter was not saying here that baptism was required for salvation.

He said conviction was, desperation was, and repentance was, but baptism is simply the response of the person who has accepted Jesus Christ to identify publicly what has happened privately in their lives.

What that meant and why it was so important

1. This does not minimize the importance of baptism

In fact, could go as far as to say, that the idea of an unbaptized believer is not entertained in the NT. The two go together, hand in hand.

Consequently if we refuse to be baptized, does not mean that we are not saved, it just means that we are living in disobedience. *The idea of an unbaptized believer in the New Testament isn't even addressed – there was no question!*

2. We need to understand the magnitude of what baptism meant to those 3000 Jewish believers on the day of Pentecost

That is the one act that would ultimately separate them from everything that they had stood for, everything they had believed in of the legalism of Judaism and the religion that they were practicing and tied to

Peter makes it difficult for them, it is public, everyone would know it, there would be no secret Christians here, it was out in the open.

Sometimes we make it so easy to come to Christ today, we often take all the barriers away.

This was a huge deal for a Jew – what Gentiles had to do to become Jewish – major humility here

Let's be clear this morning, the idea of being saved is simple, it is why Jesus said you must come as little child but it will cost you everything, and for these Jewish believers that was very real and in places around the world that is real as it could cost them their very life

For us, it is to give him our lives completely, to surrender everything over to Him once and for all, to allow Him to be the Lord of our lives, the boss if you will, to direct us and guide us, to allow Him to make the decisions in our lives, who will I date, who will I marry, will have

children, what job will have, where will I go to college, what will I do with my time, etc.

The problem today is for many people today salvation has become cheap! It really costs very little. What does you mean?

It is cheap because when people look at some of our lives, they see it cost us a Sunday morning or two, maybe a little more, and that is it!

Folks, when we surrendered our lives to Christ is cost Jesus everything and how dare I say that it will cost me little!

ILLUS: Believers in India and other places being baptized

- **Symbolism, not Salvation**

- **Believers, not Babies**

One that families made for the children – hoping to stop original sin – you can't - we have to deal with our sin, repent and make our own decision

- **It Was Immediate**

- **It Was Immersion**

The Response of God

✓ **Granting Forgiveness** *Ephesians 1:7; Psalm 103:12*

What a word for these people who stood before the apostle guilty of the death of the Messiah (and remember so did or do we) Peter turns right around and says, let me tell you how good God is, how loving he is.

You ask what must I do?

Here's the answer, repent of your sins, place your faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and let me tell what Jesus Christ's response to you will be. It will be forgiveness. A new start, wiping the slate of clean of what will keep us out of heaven, the only thing that will keep us out of heaven. Taking away of that will not be allowed to enter heaven, because God is holy and just and He cannot have anything to do with sin.

Jesus Christ, the one whom you crucified will forgive your sins!!

HUGE! There is no other religion or ideology, who would suggest a God who would give himself, His own life for the love of His people and then in the face of their rejection and crucifixion of His only Son, would turn around and say, you can be forgiven.

That's Jesus Christ response to you today. You can be forgiven today

✓ **Giving of the Holy Spirit**

Phenomenal, this what has been confusing them, all this work of the Holy Spirit, can't figure it out, by the way, you'll get in on this to, based on the repentance of your sin you'll get in on this to. God will give you His presence in your life, His promise, the Holy Spirit
You'll never be without the presence of God in your life from that day forward. We get all of the Holy Spirit – not in pieces and parts. We don't have to pray for more of the Holy Spirit. What we do is as we grow deeper in our faith we began to understand more about Him and His work in us and thus the prayer for us to be filled with Spirit daily means that we are yielding and our hearts and minds to His control and direction in our lives!

✓ **Giving Assurance and Hope**

Peter's word is a word of assurance and hope. God will give this to you but not only to you but for you and your children. This was huge – remember back to [Matthew 27:23-25](#) His blood be upon us and our children!

He said it in verse [2:21](#)

He will give you the assurance and hope that this his promise to you that He will do exactly what He promised

Remember we talked about the Holy Spirit being God's deposit in our lives, from [Ephesians](#), God's guarantee, God's down payment in our lives of heaven.

It is available to as many as the Lord our God will call

Peter was well aware that the work of salvation was the work of God and God alone

And it is for everyone too – they didn't quite understand this yet – but it is echoed here “[to as many as are far off](#)” talking about the Gentiles – you and me!

It is has His choosing, His beckon call, at His will not anything man can do, and we need to understand this about God all the way throughout the Bible, this salvation thing, this conviction thing is not something we can do, not our prerogative or privilege to try to bring conviction into people's lives.

Are you saying you believe that God chooses us, yes, it is clear God chooses us, yet what about free will, do you believe that yes, man has a

part to play in it, how do you reconcile them, you don't this side of heaven The NT writers did not try to so why should we?

God has to initiate the call upon our lives, but the Bible is clear whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, we have to respond to the Spirit's call on our lives.

Tension of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility

It is not our responsibility to make people be converted to be convicted, that the results are there, when we share Christ, that is the work of God.

If it not His work, it will not last, it's not real

We have too many tares among the wheat, too many people on our church roles that we cannot even find, some 15 million Southern Baptists and 2/3's of them we cannot even find.

It's not about being backslidden, it's because many people have prayed a prayer, run through a baptistry because we have brought conviction upon them and not the Holy Spirit and the refuse to respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

The Response of Believers

✓ **Keep Witnessing** [Luke 24:27](#)

Long winded preachers like this verse, he did not stop preaching here, kept up the appeal

We must continue to testify, to witness about the Lord Jesus Christ, to no grow weary, we pray many will be saved, but know that many will reject the message, but we keep on going with our witness.

Petal FBC – hear my heart – the Lord has done some great things here and we have seen almost 100 baptized in the past 3 years – but we must not rest on that! We must keep sharing the Gospel with our neighbors and friends, co-workers and fellow students, family and those we seek to minister to like in our outreach this summer! We can't grow content and lazy! We must keep witnessing

✓ **Keep Having a Burden**

Can you hear his passion is, pleading with him, much like a person pleading with someone that the bridge is out ahead, don't go that way.

Here Peter is saying be called out of this perverse generation, repent and be saved from this generation.

This was a powerful and prophetic word not only for the Jews listening

that day because in less than 40 years Jerusalem would be destroyed and the temple burned to the ground and the Jews scattered once again!

But that powerful and prophetic word is true today – be saved from this perverse generation – we are awaiting the ruling from the Supreme Court while our nation celebrates the courage of Bruce Jener! Hello! May I remind us of what courage looks like – men of God being who God called them to be and being the father's and husbands they need to be each and every day! (War Heroes, military, and police officers, fire fighters, paramedics, and the like!)

And let us not think it's just a generational thing either! Not about our generational pride, I'm a boomer, a buster, a millennial a war generation Regardless of the generation you are in, whether senior adults or children, there are many who are headed to hell, and need to be saved, be called out of it this awful and God-forsaken times!

It's about the grace of God delivering us from our generation

Sometimes our generation swells up with so much pride, that we want to be like it, be a part of it.

Peter's response was a response of broken-heartedness that understood that every generation is lost without Jesus Christ and people are called away from that, out of it, to be saved

He was consumed by it

✓ **Keep Inviting Them Into the Fellowship of the Church**

You know how these believers received them, they responded by receiving them into the fellowship of the believers, what would become the church. The new believers gladly received the word and the 120 Christ Followers gladly received them!

What a party it must have been – He Invites them to respond and they do. I am going to do this same thing this morning!!

Love when we clap and celebrate when new people come into the Kingdom and at their baptism!

We'll talk about that next week in full detail, but bottom line is that their response to God saved them, they are a part of the fellowship of the body of Christ.

Not my call on who is received into the family, it's God!

They made no distinction about race or gender, about rich or poor, educated or uneducated of who is accepted into the family of God!

OUR RESPONSE:

1. Be saved today, ask Christ into your life
2. Be baptized if you have not done so
3. Get connected to a church family
4. Don't lose your burden for the lost, let's be diligent in witnessing to others. Remember, the results are not up to