

INTRO

- When was the last time you did something for the first time?

READ

Acts 2:36-41

REFLECT & RESPOND

At the end of the first sermon in 30AD, Peter provides a beautiful and clear summary of what it means to be a Christian and what Jesus calls us to do in following him.

NEW CONVICTION

To start, a conviction in our mind, emotions, and will all play a vital role in coming to Jesus. We see this in vv36-37:

- **HEAD (belief):** “Know for certain Jesus is Lord & Messiah”
- **HEART (penitent):** “Cut to the heart”
- **HANDS (will):** “What must we do?”

Good News or Good News?

Ours is a reasonable faith based on facts and truth—it’s news. But, unless we are deeply moved by our own sin, guilt & need and God’s grace towards us, then the gospel isn’t really **good** news. God’s grace doesn’t come in response to a changed life; rather, a changed life comes in response to God’s grace.

Qu: In sharing the gospel with others, what’s our role and God’s role in bringing them to a place of new conviction about Jesus?

In response, Peter then tells them what to do: repent, and be baptized. Through repentance we receive the gift of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit.

REPENTANCE: New Direction

Repentance means to change your outlook on something such that it brings a new direction: a turning to Jesus. Repentance & faith is how we grow and so if we stop repenting we stop growing.

Qu: what does it mean to practice a lifestyle of repentance?

BAPTISM: New Life & Identity

Water baptism is an outward expression of an inner reality of our own death & resurrection through faith in Christ, and that we have been added to God’s new community, the Church. Baptism doesn’t save us, but it is an important sacrament signifying our conversion.

Baptism is also a public identification with Jesus in essence saying our new beginning in Jesus is the truest thing about us and reforms all other identities we have (gender, racial, cultural, national, vocational).

Qu: have you been water baptized? Tell us about your experience. (Or, is there a reason you haven’t been?)

(P.S. if someone wants to be baptized, you can use our next step card online)

NEW POWER (the Holy Spirit)

The gift of the Holy Spirit is for all who place their faith in Jesus. The Spirit is evident in our lives as he works:

- *on* us drawing us to Jesus
- *in* us making us more like Jesus
- *through* us bearing witness to Jesus

God the Holy Spirit is our personal experience of Jesus here on earth.

Qu: How have you seen/experienced the Holy Spirit at work on, in or through your life?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for greater personal conviction in following Jesus
- Pray for spiritual awakening and gospel opportunities for those around us