

Turning the Darkness into Light (Part 6)
Christians need to Embrace the Promise of Life
(Acts 2:22 - 39)

Introduction: A little over 2,000 years ago history claims something happened that had never happened before or since. A man named Jesus from a place called Nazareth, who claimed to be God in the flesh was crucified and died. He was buried in a borrowed tomb. And three days later, He rose from the dead, never to die again!

On the Day of Pentecost, Simon Peter (one of Jesus followers) stood up before a crowd of Jews from around the world and in the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaimed this message and it literally changed the lives of 3,000 men that day. This same message has continue to echo down the halls of time and is as fresh today as it was 2,000 years ago when it was first delivered and it's still changing lives to this day!

The message Peter preached that day was God's perfect plan of Salvation and the promise of life to all who believe it and receive it.

In just a few verses, Peter was able, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to declare the message that can change the life of everyone who hears it and receives it.

Today, I would like to share this message with you once again.

I. The scope of God's perfect plan:

A. Many things in life are exclusive. Yet, when the God of the universe designed a plan of life giving salvation, He made it perfectly inclusive! (Lk 23; Jn 4; Lk 19; Mt. 18; Jn 19; Ac 9; Mk 5; Ac 16; and He will save you too!

B. The truth of this matter is that "*whosoever*" can be saved!"

1. The Bible expands on this theme in many places. (Rev. 22:17; Jn 3:16; Jn 6:37; Jn 7:37; Isa. 55:1).
2. These verses are sufficient to prove the case that God's plan of salvation is available to anyone who will receive it. (Rom. 3:23; Gal. 3:22; Rom. 3:10...Even you!)

II. The simplicity of God's perfect plan:

A. As Peter continued to preach, he promised that those who would simply "*call on the name of the Lord*" would be saved!

B. When Peter delivered his message, he stated that it was as simple as "*calling on the name of the Lord.*" (v 21) (Rom. 10:13; Joel 2:32).

1. **But, what does it mean to call on the Lord?** This refers to the call of faith. To be saved, a person must be aware of and acknowledge some very important things.
 - a. They must know that they are sinners and sin separates us from God - Rom. 3:23; Jn 6:44.
 - b. They must know that there is a price on sin - Rom. 6:23; Rom. 5:12.
 - c. They must know that Jesus paid that price for them by dying in their place on the cross - Rom. 5:6-8.
 - d. They must understand the truth of the gospel and they must be willing to confess that back to God - Rom. 10:9-10.
 - e. They must be willing to ask (or call upon) the Lord to save their soul - (Rom. 10:13) (Jn 3:1-18).
2. **This means we must turn from good works, from religion, from church membership** and we realize that salvation is by grace and faith alone, Eph. 2:8-9. (Other passages (Jn 6:47, Jn 5:24; Jn 6:40; 1 Jn 5:12.)

III. The substance of God's perfect plan:

A. Peter sums up the benefits of salvation in 3 words, "*shall be saved.*"

B. The word "saved" literally means to "*rescue from all harm and danger; to keep safe and sound; to deliver; to save.* (Jn 3:36; Rom. 5:9; Col. 2:13; Eph. 4:32; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Jn 10:28; Heb. 7:25.; Jn 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Cor. 5:17). 91 Jn 3:2; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Mt. 5:13-16). Jn 14:6

IV. The stimulus of God's perfect plan:

A. In the words of Peter, (vv 22-24)

B. My friends, this is the crux of the Gospel.

1. Its power lies in the fact that Jesus Christ shed His innocent blood to pay for guilty sinners and...
2. Then He arose from the dead to offer eternal life to all who will receive Him by faith.
3. That is the Gospel and that is the only thing that will save the human soul. That and nothing else, (Jn 14:6) (1 Cor. 1:18).

C. When these men heard these words They asked "What shall we do?" Peter answered – "Repent" (which means to change your mind). Call upon the Lord and be saved to new life in Christ!