

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 7TH–8TH, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

THE ROCK (ACTS 2:14–21)

IT IS ONLY 9:00 AM

After the infilling of the Holy Spirit (vs. 1–4), the crowd that overheard the disciples speaking in tongues needed an explanation.

- Peter's address was **rational** and **spiritual**. Jews didn't break fast until 10:00 am during festivals, so drunkenness was far-fetched. He also reminds them of Joel's prophecy.

WHEN PETER BECAME THE ROCK

As Peter launches into a lesson on Joel 2, he sounds more like a pastor and leader than the immature disciple from the Gospels.

- Here we see **the power of the Holy Spirit in an individual**—not just in miracles and gifts but in **the dramatic change God does in those willing to submit!**

THE POWER THAT JESUS OFFERS

Joel spoke of the Holy Spirit 800 years before Jesus was born, but it would be through faith in Christ that we receive the Spirit of God.

- God not only **saves** anyone who "calls on the name of the Lord," He empowers them to **prophecy** (speak God's truth/message), "**dream dreams**," and have **visions**.

A FINE LINE TO WALK

Dreams occur while asleep. Visions occur when awake. Many Christians take scripture about these things in bizarre directions.

- God works through dreams and visions, but we are to **test these against the Bible and make sure our "dreams and visions" glorify God and not us.**

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

The outpouring of the HS marked the end of the beginning. Jesus is the starting point, but **after we receive His Spirit, a new chapter begins.**

- One may also notice a lot of eschatology. Acts 2:19–20 refers to the earthly and cosmic disruptions mentioned in Revelation (seals, trumpets, bowls).

THE FULFILLMENT (ACTS 2:22–36)

"A MAN ATTESTED TO YOU BY GOD"

After explaining that Joel's prophecy has come to pass, Peter explains the vessel by which the Spirit of God came to mankind.

- The Jews had the prophecies of the OT to help identify the Savior, but Jesus also came with truth and "miracles, wonders, and signs."

GOD'S PLAN AND OUR EVIL

Peter says Jesus was "delivered up according to God's...plan," but they "used lawless people to...kill Him." This brings up **the balance of God's predetermined plan and our free will.**

- It seems Peter was telling them Jesus had to die, but **they didn't have to be complicit in the evil that killed Him.**

"NOT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BE HELD BY DEATH"

Peter goes back to the OT again (Psalm 16) to further clarify that Jesus is the prophesied Savior. Though there was much evidence, the resurrection was the ultimate piece.

- Peter was assembling the puzzle for those who cared to see it. Jesus was foretold, and He "reveals the paths of life."

THE BLOODLINE OF DAVID

Matthew 1 shows us the bloodline of David to Jesus. This is important because it fulfills prophecy, connects Jesus to the Jews, and proves Jesus has royal/eternal authority.

- Peter tells us that David was not just a king but a prophet who foretold of the coming of the Savior/King.

THE REALIZATION WE NEED JESUS

Peter then gets right to it: "let all...know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

- We must all realize **Jesus is Lord over creation—the Savior and only hope for humanity—and it is because of our evil that He had to be crucified and resurrect.**

THE RESPONSE (ACTS 2:37–41)

"BROTHERS, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?"

The crowd that heard Peter's sermon was "pierced to the heart," and they asked possibly the most important question in Scripture.

- **When presented with truth, we must be willing to be humble and submit to it. Then, we are to seek the proper steps to live out the truth.**

SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD (ACTS 2:38)

Peter quickly replies with simple instructions: "**Repent and be baptized**, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**"

- After **belief**, we must **turn from sin**, be **obedient in baptism**, **humbly receive the Holy Spirit**, and **walk with Jesus.**

FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS IT!

Here we see the beginning of the gospel going out to all the world. Remember, Peter is speaking to people from 15 nations/groups.

- **Salvation, the HS, and a relationship with God are promises offered to anyone willing to follow Jesus, regardless of color, gender, nationality, or past mistakes.**

"BE SAVED FROM THIS CORRUPT GENERATION!"

Peter echoes Jesus from Matthew 12:41. Every generation has corruption, but this is referring to people who **refuse to hear truth because they have been corrupted by their desires and inflated senses of self.**

- **We are called to come out of a culture that worships self.**

THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

"So those who accepted [Peter's] message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them."

- **The Church** is those who **recognize they need to be saved, willingly receive God's gift**, and then **obey His message and commands.**

THE RESULTS (ACTS 2:42–47)

THINGS WE ARE TO BE DEVOTED TO

V. 42 says that the Church was "devoted" to the "apostles' teaching" (**Scripture**), the "breaking of bread" (**communion and community**), and public and private "**prayer.**"

- It is simple: **Christians are to gather** (Hebrews 10:25) to **worship, learn the Word, pray, and commune with each other.**

DEDICATION YIELDS MIRACULOUS RESULTS

Because of their faithfulness, the Christians were "filled with awe, and many wonders...were being performed through the apostles."

- Signs occur to draw people to Jesus. We are not to idolize signs (Matthew 12:39) but to **live in and be in awe of the transformative power of the Spirit in our daily lives.**

SOLD THEIR POSSESSIONS?

The early Church practiced communal goods-sharing, but it didn't last long because the community grew so rapidly.

- Christian sacrifice isn't an economic model but a means to create **hearts that are content with having enough and willing to sacrifice for those who don't have enough.**

AN ATTITUDE AND HEART POSTURE

Peter says they were faithful in "meeting together in the temple," loved each other, were hospitable, and lived with "joyful and sincere hearts" as they "enjoy[ed] favor."

- **If we are consistent, loving, and sincere with Jesus, church, and people, our hearts change and we enjoy God's "favor."**

AND THE KINGDOM GROWS

We are commanded to be witnesses to the truth and our testimony. When we are living in relationship with Jesus, we are capable of impacting others (full vs. just possessing).

- **God will equip us, give us the words, and show us favor because He desires for everyone to be saved** (2 Peter 3:9).

TRANSFORMATIVE POWER

- The greatest evidence of the amazing transformation of Peter was not signs and wonders but the metamorphosis of his **character, courage, and heart.**
- **Any person who invests in a relationship with Jesus will see amazing change in how they think, act, and live!**

FIRST, WE MUST RECOGNIZE OUR DEPRAVITY

- To experience transformation, we must first recognize that **we are flawed and in need of restoration and change.**
- **It all begins with humility.** In a culture that glorifies and worships self, **we must be humble enough to realize our place and our need for supernatural help.**
- We've been told that "we're perfect just the way we are," to "follow our hearts," and that we don't have to put effort into faith or demonstrate salvation through works.
- **True Believers realize we are powerless to fix ourselves and that no one can truly encounter Jesus and remain unchanged.**

THE TRUTH DEMANDS A RESPONSE

- The invitation of salvation and restoration is offered to anyone who is willing to **humble themselves, listen, and submit to the truth.**
- We are told how to respond to the truth of who Jesus is: **repent, be baptized, receive the Holy Spirit, and walk with Jesus daily.**

NOT JUST FOR US

- Salvation is adoption into the family of God. In Jesus and through His church, we experience **sincerity, joy, love, fulfillment, community, favor, and peace.**
- **And though everyone will not accept His or our invitation, we are to diligently love others and share the truth with them.**