

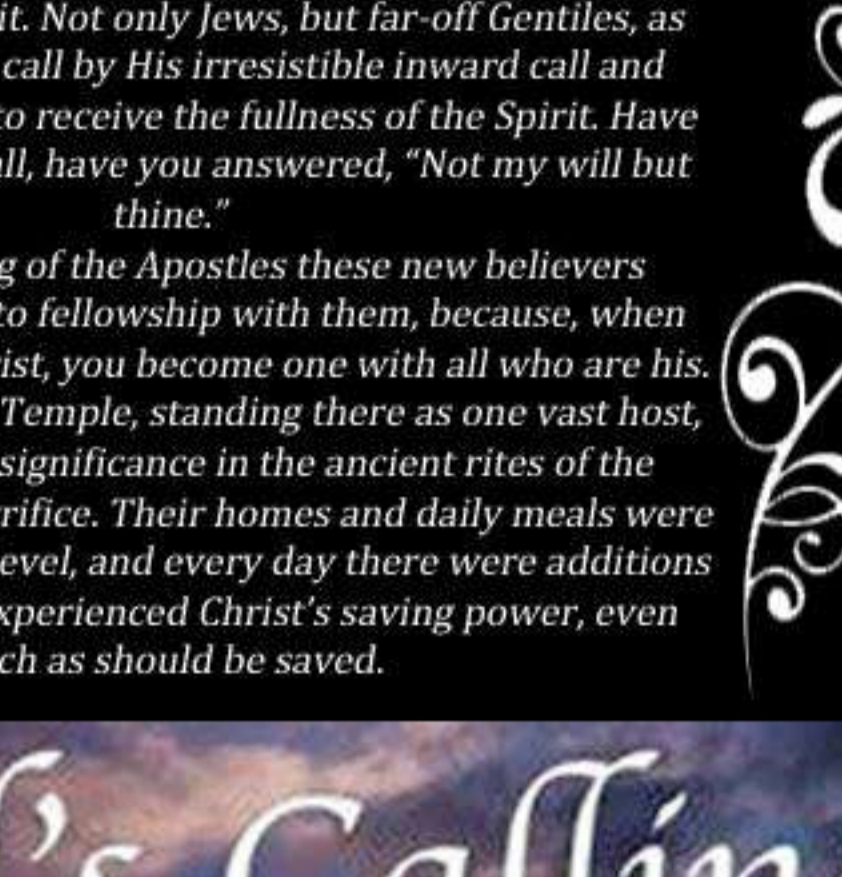
Dear God,

Please give me strength when I am weak,  
 love when I feel forsaken,  
 courage when I am afraid,  
 wisdom when I feel foolish,  
 comfort when I'm alone,  
 hope when I feel rejected  
 and peace when I am in turmoil.

**Strength**      **Courage**  
**Love**      **Comfort**  
**Wisdom**      **Hope**  
**Peace**

#179 A PROMISE FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

My son, keep thy father's commandment,  
 and forsake not the law of thy mother:  
**Proverbs 6:20**



Acts 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, and there were no exceptions in Peter's great appeal for repentance. Every one of you! he declared. "But I drove the nails into His hands." Every one of you! he insists. "But I pierced His side." Every one! says the Apostle again, but I was one of the soldiers that mocked him. "Every one of you must repent and seek forgiveness."

And from this diverse crowd arose the foundation of the invisible Church of God that spread across the face of the earth, fulfilling the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, to go and preach the gospel to every creature.

Notice that even those who had gone deep into sin are not required to serve a long period between forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Not only Jews, but far-off Gentiles, as many as God shall call by His irresistible inward call and grace, are welcome to receive the fullness of the Spirit. Have you received that call, have you answered, "Not my will but thine."

From the teaching of the Apostles these new believers stepped forward into fellowship with them, because, when you are joined to Christ, you become one with all who are his. They still met in the Temple, standing there as one vast host, and seeing a new significance in the ancient rites of the substitute animal sacrifice. Their homes and daily meals were also raised to a new level, and every day there were additions of those who had experienced Christ's saving power, even such as should be saved.

# God's Calling

## GOD'S IRRESISTIBLE CALL

even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

The promise is not to those who do not heed the gospel, nor to those who do not obey it, but it is to those to whom God in his gracious providence shall call. He has the power and right as the potter to remake the clay into a vessel of honour, and to pardon as he pleases. The promised offer of mercy is ample, full, and free, so that it is suited to all, and may be applied to all, and that there is no defect or lack in the provisions or promises, but God may extend it to whomsoever he pleases. He has spoken to you, and convicted you through his blessed Holy Spirit? Do not delay. He may not call again.

God is not limited in the provisions of his grace, and the plan is applicable to all mankind, for he has given a solemn charge to his church to go forth with the gospel.

We cannot but reflect with deep pain on the fact that, although these provisions have been made, even fully presented, and are applicable to all people, yet, many are called, but few are chosen. They have been extended to many people, and yet, so far only a portion of the human family. If the promise of life is to all, it is the duty of the church to continue sending to all people the message of mercy.

# Sufficient

## SUFFICIENT TO GIVE A GOOD GROUNDING

Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Peter didn't stand and say, "I am the head of the church, I will lead you into the way of salvation," No! he said in,

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

# JESUS CHRIST

## THE ROCK OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

1 Cor. 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; (Red sea)

1 Cor. 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Peter points the people to the Lord Jesus Christ, which is what the whole Bible does. It points to Christ, from Genesis to Revelation, and in between, as the Messiah, Saviour, and Prince of Peace.

1 Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

I am as one among you, I have been saved the same way as you, by looking to the sole head of the church of God, as in,

1 Cor. 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

When the Lord Jesus states that he is in subjection to God, so every person is subject to him who is the head of every man in his Church, Jesus Christ is very quietly stating that he is the Head of the invisible Church in Heaven, and on earth.

This discourse of Peter, though one of the longest in the New Testament, is but an outline. It contains, however, the substance of the plan of salvation, and is sufficient for the salvation of souls, as the results show, and is admirably arranged to attain its object.

Testify - Bear witness to. He bore witness to the promises of Christianity, to the truths pertaining to the danger of sinners if they do not respond to the call of the Holy Spirit, and to the wickedness respecting the character of that generation.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

## THE ENCOURAGEMENT THE PEOPLE RECEIVED

Exhort - He entreated them by scripture, arguments and promises, to demonstrate the need of repentance, and acceptance of the one and only Saviour from sin.

Save yourselves - This expression here denotes, preserve yourselves from the influence, opinions, and fate of this generation. It implies that they were to use diligence and effort to understand, meditate on, and to deliver themselves from the sinful influences of the world, and the deception of Devil.

God deals with people as free agents. He calls upon them to accept Christ by the understanding given them, and make effort to be saved. Unless they put their faith in Christ as their only Saviour, they will never be saved. When they are saved, they will ascribe to God the praise for having inclined them to seek him, and for the grace whereby they are saved.

To separate ourselves from wicked people is the only way to save ourselves from them, though we hereby expose ourselves to their rage and enmity, we shall only then save ourselves from them, as those that repent of sins, and give ourselves up to Jesus Christ. There was a need to evidence their sincerity by breaking off all worship with wicked people.

**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

James 4:7

## SUBMIT TO GOD, RESIST THE DEVIL

Psalm 119:115 Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

Depart from me, ye evil doers, is the language of one that is determined to keep the commandments of his God.

We must save ourselves from them, which denotes dread and holy fear of having worship with them, as we would save ourselves from an enemy that seeks to destroy us, or from a house infected with the plague.

This generation - This age or race of people, the Jews then living, they were to escape from. That generation was signally corrupt and wicked, who had crucified their Messiah, and they were, because their sins, soon to be destroyed, as in 70 A.D.

Mark 8:38 Whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

## THEY RECEIVED CHRIST, THEN BAPTIZED

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: The word rendered "gladly" means "freely, cheerfully, joyfully." It implies that they did it without compulsion, and with joy.

They who become Christians do it cheerfully, they do it rejoicing in the privilege of becoming reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, and the cleansing effect of the blood, the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and are prepared to give a public testimony to their salvation.

His word - The message which Peter had spoken respecting the pardon of sin through Jesus Christ, this word is now recorded in Holy Writ for us to believe, and obey.

Were baptized - That is, those who professed a readiness to embrace the offers of salvation. The narrative plainly implies that this was done right away, as their conversion was instantaneous. The demand on them was to yield themselves at once to God. And their profession of salvation was made, and the ordinance which sealed their profession administered without delay.

Those who didn't believe his word were not baptized, for it is probable that there were others assembled who were alarmed, even convicted, but who did not receive or accept the invitation. In all revivals there are many who become troubled, and who are anxious about their souls, but who refuse to embrace the gospel, and again become thoughtless, and the end is, they are cast into utter darkness.

# NOW

2Corinthians 6:2

## is the day of salvation

### THE BEST TIME, IS THE PRESENT TIME

2 Cor. 6:2 behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) And the same day - The discourse of Peter commenced about the ceremony of admitting them to the church and of baptizing them was evidently performed as quick as possible.

The mode in which this is done is not mentioned, but it is highly probable that that the three thousand persons were baptised using the many pools, and supplies of water in the midst of the city of Jerusalem.

It was a first great work of grace under the New Testament gospel. It was the model of all revivals of religion, and it was doubtless intended that this should be a specimen of the manner in which the ministers of religion should act in regard to admissions to the Christian church.

Those who profess their willingness to obey Jesus Christ, should not delay uniting with a gospel preaching church. If persons give evidence of piety, of true hatred of sin, and of attachment to the Lord Jesus, they should unite themselves to his people without delay.

and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. There were added, Souls or Persons, to the company of disciples, and to the followers of Christ.

This was the fruit of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, and this day's joy of being able to preach, and teach salvation through Jesus Christ, which is the central theme of the whole canon of scripture, and the result of this revival of true Christianity.

This was the first effusion of the Holy Spirit under the preaching of the gospel, which formed the nucleus of the invisible church of the living God, and it shows that great things are to be expected in the community, and that the gospel is suited to work a rapid and mighty change in the hearts and lives of people.

# FEAR OF THE LORD

26.

## A REVERENTIAL FEAR

Acts 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

There was great reverence or awe amongst the multitude who had just before derided them (Acts 2:13); but so striking and manifest was the power of God, that it silenced all commotions and produced a general reverence and awe.

The effect of a great work of God's grace always produces an unusual seriousness and solemnity in a community, even among those who are not converted. It restrains, subdues, and silences opposition.

Every soul - Every person or individual, not only on those who became Christians, but upon the multitudes who witnessed these things, and these happenings were suited to produce this fear, from the recent crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth, the wonders that attended that event, the events of the day of Pentecost, and the miracles performed by the apostles, were all suited to diffuse solemnity, deliberation, and anxiety through the community.

This is the need of every person, community, every nation, a reverential fear of offending God. Will you commence today, to pray the Lord of heaven and earth for a reviving of true, soul saving preaching and teaching? AMEN.

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If you have any questions please contact:

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