

**“The Real Church Growth Movement”**

Acts 2:37-47

*Acts: The Unstoppable Gospel*

**I. The Response to the Gospel (vv. 37–41)**

Two signs of Spirit-empowered preaching:

- Conviction of sin – “they were pierced to the heart” (v. 37)
- Desire to change – “Brethren, what shall we do?” (v. 37)

Verse 38 – “Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

How does this verse align with the doctrine of justification by faith alone? Are we saved by repentance and baptism, or by faith alone?

Repentance:

- Repentance is an essential part of the gospel message, and it’s essential for salvation (Matthew 4:17; Luke 13:13).
- But repentance is not separate from faith; it’s a vital part of faith – like two sides of the same coin. They’re inseparable. You can’t turn toward God in faith without turning away from sin in repentance.
- Repentance is more than feeling sorry for something. It’s a change of mind that results in a change of behavior.

Baptism:

- Baptism does not save anyone (Ephesians 2:8-9; Luke 23:43). We are not saved by works, effort or any merit on our part.
- Baptism is the response of saving faith in a Christian’s life (Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32). It’s an outward symbol of an inward change that takes place at the moment of conversion. It’s a public declaration that we belong to Christ.

Verse 41 – “that day there were added about three thousand souls.”

F.F. Bruce: “Through the apostolic witness Jesus acquired more followers in one day than in the whole of his public ministry.”

**II. The Results of the Gospel (vv. 42–47)**

7 Characteristics of a Spirit-Filled Church

1. A Teaching Church (v. 42)
2. A Loving Church (v. 42)

3. A Praying Church (v. 42)
4. An Awe-Inspiring Church (v. 43)
5. A Generous Church (vv. 44-45)
6. A Joyful Church (v. 46-47)
7. A Growing Church (v. 47)

Each One Win One –

- Continue to update the Prayer Wall
- Let us know if you have the privilege of leading someone to Christ
- Email your stories, testimonies and praise reports to:  
*each-one-win-one@campusbiblechurch.com*

**FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:**

1. What are your impressions of the modern-day church growth movement? How does that compare with what you see in Acts 2:37-47?
2. How does verse 38 align with the doctrine of justification by faith alone? Are people saved by faith and repentance? Are they saved by baptism?
3. Which of the seven characteristics of a Spirit-filled church stood out to you the most, and why?
4. Which characteristics do you consider strengths at Campus Bible Church? Which do you consider areas of weakness and need for growth?
5. Pray for our church to be healthy and Spirit-filled like the early church in Jerusalem.