

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 23 (June 4-10, 2017)

The Holy Spirit has turned the Apostle Peter from a coward to a powerful preacher. This week, we will continue to follow the adventures of Peter and his role in the new church.

**Sunday**, June 4 (read Acts 2:36-37)

*“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:36)*

The presence of the Holy Spirit can transform the most unlikely person into a giant for God. Do you want an example? Peter’s powerful sermon comes from the mouth of the same man who denied Jesus to a servant girl; but now, he boldly confronts the Jewish listeners (v. 36). Instead of getting furious, the people come under deep conviction and ask (v. 37), “Brothers, what shall we do?” We will look at the correct answer in tomorrow’s devotion, but I want to point out what Peter does not say. He doesn’t say to turn over a new leaf or to join the local church or to quit smoking, cussing, drinking, running around and acting ugly. All of these are based on **your** performance. God wants you to know that He has provided salvation to anyone who will follow His simple plan, as we will see tomorrow.

**Monday**, June 5 (read Acts 2:38-39)

*“This promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:39)*

Salvation occurs after you realize that you are a sinner (Romans 3:23) and that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). On your own, you can’t bridge the gap between God’s holiness and your sinfulness; therefore, Peter gives all seekers the correct answer to their question when he says, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (v. 38). Those who publicly express a willingness to repent and change their lives are baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and receive the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth. Printed above (v. 39) is a promise that many miss! This promise is for you and **your children**, including those who may be far off from God at the present time. Have enough faith to ask God to go to your children and call them into His kingdom. Glory to His name!

**Tuesday**, June 6 (read Acts 2:40-47)

*They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)*

As the battle between two completely different worldviews rages on, it is time for you to “save yourselves from this corrupt generation” (v. 40). The Bible has the answers, but it seems that most would rather follow the politically correct teachings of the world. Peter has 3000 converts with his first Spirit-filled sermon (v. 41), so the Church is born. The four ingredients of their worship service are just as vital today as they were then: Bible study, fellowship among believers, communion and prayer (v. 42). The combination of these activities will lead to miracles, unity, cheerful giving, praise, joy and growth (v. 43-47). My question is not, “does your church do these things?” My question is, “Are **you** devoted to these things?” If so, you will grow in your faith and others will be drawn to Jesus through your life.

**Wednesday, June 7** (read Acts 3:1-10)

*Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." (Acts 3:6)*

Now that they are Spirit-filled, Peter and John walk together and pray together (v. 1) without the competition that plagued their relationship earlier. When this type of unity exists, miracles take place. There will always be those outside the church begging for money. Our cash won't help them very long, particularly if they have an addiction, but a relationship with Jesus will last forever. Like Peter, we must be an example to them (v. 4), take them by the hand (v. 7), and introduce them to Jesus (v. 6). Then you will soon see them in church walking and jumping and praising God (v. 8). Others will be filled with wonder and amazement as they talk about what the person used to be before Christ saved his soul (v. 9-10). You and your church will experience the joy of the Lord as you worship together.

**Thursday, June 8** (read Acts 3:11-16)

*"You killed the author of life, but God raised Him from the dead. We are witnesses of this." (Acts 3:15)*

The miraculous healing of the lame beggar opens the door for Peter's second sermon. However, don't miss the warning that it is easy for our new converts to hold onto us instead of Jesus (v. 11). Peter quickly gives all the glory for this miracle to God as he connects the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to the Living Lord whom they crucified (v. 12-15). When you, like Peter, witness for the Lord, connect with your listeners to make sure that you build a bridge from where they currently are to where God wants them to be through Jesus. Always emphasize the resurrection of the Lord (v. 15) and give all the glory to Him for the healings, physical or spiritual that take place (v. 16). You too will experience His power!

**Friday, June 9** (read Acts 3:17-23)

*"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that you sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that He may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus." (Acts 3:19-20)*

In previous devotions, I have written about the difference between "oops" sins and willful sins. Peter places this sin in the "oops" category (v. 17), so they are covered by the following prayer from the cross (Luke 23:34a): Jesus said, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." He then gives them a second version of Acts 2:38, although this time he emphasizes the **return of Jesus** in addition to repentance, trust in God, and the joyous times of knowing that they are forgiven (v. 19-21). Again, by quoting Moses, he connects his new message with their Old Testament past (v. 22-23). This one-time coward has now become a dynamic witness for the Lord, because the Spirit of God now lives in him.

**Saturday, June 10** (read Acts 3:24-26)

*"Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days." (Acts 3:24)*

My prayer for my readers and listeners is that they might clearly see the red line of the blood of Jesus running throughout the entire Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Those who read and study only the latter are missing a tremendous blessing. Peter makes sure that these Jews understand the connection between the old covenant made to their forefathers and the new covenant now being offered to them (v. 24-25). The Jews are the recipients of God's first steps in saving the world (v. 26). Later, led by the Apostle Paul, His Word will go out to the Gentiles. We will see further events in Peter's life in next week's devotions.