

**Sermon Series: The Christian Reason for the Season**

**Sermon Title: The Gift That Keeps On Giving From God The Spirit**

**Sermon Text: Acts 2:37-39**

**Introduction:**

- I. The Holy Spirit is a **testifying** gift. V.37
- II. The Holy Spirit is a **transforming** gift. V.38a
- III. The Holy Spirit is a **telling** gift. V.38b
- IV. The Holy Spirit is a **transcending** gift. V.39

**I. The Holy Spirit is a **testifying** gift. V.37**

A. The testimony of the **servants**. (**John 15:26-27; John 16:7-13**)

B. The testimony of the **sinner**s.

Peter's audience came under deep conviction, because as a result of the servants of God testimony realized their guilt in the execution of Jesus, plus they were convinced by the Holy Spirit, as well as the passionate eyewitness testimony and his description of how the events surrounding Jesus death and resurrection fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about the promised Savior, King and Messiah.

This result of the testimony about Jesus Christ, by a Holy Spirit empowered messenger, as well as the working of the Holy Spirit, they were "cut to the heart" the Greek word "cut" means "pierced" or "stab" and this denotes something sudden and unexpected. In grief, remorse, and intense spiritual conviction, Peter's listeners were stunned by his indictment that they had rejected and killed the Messiah. The response was a question "What must we do?"

"I DESERVED TO BE Damned in hell, but God interfered!" [**Quote by Salvation Army Officer John Allen**]

**II. The Holy Spirit is a **transforming** gift. V.38a**

A. The transformed **sensitivity** is a result of the Holy Spirit.

Due to their new sensitivity to their sinfulness, repentance is the result. The turning from one's sin is required. This also can refer to a change of mind and purpose that turns an individual from sin to Jesus Christ. Such change involves much more than fearing the consequences of God's judgment. Genuine repentance knows the evil of sin must be forsaken and that the person and work of Jesus Christ must be totally and singularly embraced, this is the goal and result of true conversion manifested by the Holy Spirit. (**Acts 3:19; 5:31; 8:22; 11:18; 17:30; 20:21**) **Matthew 3:2** and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

B. The transformed **statement** is a result of the Holy Spirit.

The necessity of baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is highlighted. Baptism is not the means of salvation, but the result of salvation. Baptism is a public declaration of the confessing believer's repentance from sin and faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is to identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which leads to forgiveness of sins. They are making a statement by being baptized "Be baptized." This Greek word literally means "be dipped or immersed" in water. Peter was obeying the Great Commission from Matthew 28:19, being baptized in Jesus name is a statement of identity.

**Romans 6:3-4** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

**Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

C. The transformed **selection** is a result of the Holy Spirit.  
For the new believer, there was and is a crucial but costly selection to accept and make.  
(**Luke 14**)

D. The transformed **status** is a result of the Holy Spirit.

This might be better translated "because of the remission of sins." Baptism does not produce forgiveness and cleansing from sin.

**1 Peter 3:20-21** who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. **21** There is also an antitype which now saves us-- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

The reality of forgiveness proceeds the rite of baptism or act of baptism (**v.41**). It is the act of genuine repentance that brings forth God's forgiveness of sins

**Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace  
as a result of this the new believer was to be baptized.

"The Conversion of a Soul is the miracle of a moment, but the making of a saint is the task of a lifetime." [**Alan Redpath, The Making of a Man of God**]

### III. The Holy Spirit is a **telling gift**. V.38b

The Holy Spirit is given as a gift and seal of conversion, empowering the believer for living their life of faith in Jesus Christ. The Apostles had to wait until the day of Pentecost (**Acts 1:5, 8**), the Samaritans (**Acts 8:12-16**) and Gentiles (**Acts 10:44-48**). But since then all believers are baptized by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at the point of conversion. (**Romans 8:9; Acts 8:20**)

**1 Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

**Titus 3:5-6** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

### IV. The Holy Spirit is a **transcending gift**. V.39

A. The work of the Holy Spirit transcends the Jewish religion. V.39a

Jews repeatedly prophesied about the promise that the Father would send the Holy Spirit.

**Luke 11:13** "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

**John 7:39** But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

**John 14:16** "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

**John 14:26** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

**John 15:26** "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

B. The work of the Holy Spirit transcends Samaritan outcast. V.39b

C. The work of the Holy Spirit transcends Gentile pagans. V.39c

A key message of the Book of Acts is the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, extends not just to the people of Israel but also beyond them. The Gentiles were "far off" in two senses, they were geographically far removed from Israel, but even more significantly they were "far off" from the knowledge of the One true God and His Savior Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 2:11-13** Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh-- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- **12** that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans would share in the blessing of salvation, because the Lord our God will call many, to the Lord Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Ephesians 2:13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.