

What Should We Do

1. The last time I talked about what it means when the Holy Spirit pierces your heart
 - a. We learned...that the words of Peter...resulted in the Holy Spirit piercing the hearts of 3000 in Acts 2
 - b. We learned by their question to the apostles...that this piercing caused the people to realize they were not right with God
 - c. What they realized...is they missed Jesus...their Messiah...the Savior of the world...who ushered in the New covenant
 - d. After the Holy Spirit pierced their hearts...the most amazing thing happened...they asked Peter and the other apostles...what should we do
2. Acts 2:37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"
 - a. The question of what shall we do is not a new question...neither is the Holy Spirit piercing of the hearts of the people
3. Slide... The Bible is full of times when there is an awakening of man's spirit
 - a. Such a time happened during the ministry of John the Baptist...when He was paving the way of the Messiah
 - b. The Holy Spirit was guiding people to come into the wilderness to get baptized by a crazy man named John
 - c. What John was teaching was never taught before...baptism...it was new
 - d. And we will notice how John was not very nice...or pastoral

- e. John didn't tell them that their effort was good enough... "Well as long as you guys are trying to be better" "Well as long as you have faith"
 - f. Let's look at what John the Baptist said to the people who came to him...in how to get right with God
4. Luke 3:7-8, 7 When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, "You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee God's coming wrath? 8 Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones.
5. Slide... I think one of Satan's greatest deception...is to make mankind think...that they are safe from God's judgement
- a. Satan's future is to spend eternity in the lake of fire...and he wants to take as many people with him as possible
 - b. Each of us should consider...the words of John...
 - c. Prove by the way you live...that you have repented of your sins and turned to God
 - d. Can we honestly say that we have truly...repented...and turned from our sin...to walk with God...do our actions reflect this
 - e. Here is the question...that each of us must answer
 - f. Is the words of John right...or is the deception of Satan right...here is what is at stake

6. Luke 3:9 Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire."
 - a. This is a repeat of parts of last weeks lesson of the 4 soils
7. Luke 3:10 The crowds asked, "What should we do?" 11 John replied, "If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry." 12 Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13 He replied, "Collect no more taxes than the government requires." 14 "What should we do?" asked some soldiers. John replied, "Don't extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay."
 - a. Everything John mentioned...have to do repenting...which is motivated by the condition of their hearts
 - b. The sermon on the mount...given by Jesus...all have to do with the condition of our hearts...
 - c. How our actions...or our motivated is a result of the condition of our hearts
 - d. The 4 gospels are full of situations where Jesus is moved in compassion by the faith He sees in people hearts
 - e. I want to put our thoughts back into perspective...in Acts 2 only 3000 out of 1 million devout Jews...responded with this question...what should we do
8. Slide... Does our experiences with God...our Bible reading...our worship...our prayers...cause us to ask this question...Lord what should we do

9. Acts 2:37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"
- a. This is the question all of us should be asking...and nobody should be answering this question except Jesus...the HS...the Bible
 - b. I don't know what the Lord is saying to each one of us...right now...I have my hands full...just trying to respond to what Jesus is asking of me
 - c. I am trying to figure out my own heart's motivation for the questions I am asking Jesus...
 - d. People will say they don't know what to do
 - e. If you read the word of God honestly...then the Holy Spirit will move inside your heart...and it is up to you to decide whether or not to do it
 - f. Here is my point...are we even asking questions...is our time with Jesus causing us to ask questions about the condition of our heart
 - g. Have we become the Pharisee...who sees a sinner at the temple...
 - h. And prays the he is glad he is not like the sinner who is confessing his sin...and pouring out his heart to God
 - i. This man is so heartbroken about his sin...that he is unable to even look up to heaven
 - j. Are we stuck...with just being ok with our own security of salvation ...while our lives bear little fruit
 - k. Have we learned to block the voice of the Holy Spirit...who is convicting us...our sinful behavior

- l. Is our Bible reading causing us to look in the mirror...and see our own sin...and yet we desire to do little about it
- m. Realize these 3000 devout Jews were shouting crucify Jesus 50 days before this...they thought were safe with God...because they were Jews
- n. They were law keepers...feast attendees...synagogue attendees...and now... suddenly...they realize they are not right with God
- o. Because the Holy Spirit pierced their hearts...and now they somehow ...from somewhere have a new desire to get right with God
- p. And ask the question...what should we do...then comes the real question... can we do what God is asking us to do...do we even really want to do it
- q. Will our hearts be changed...will we make the changes in our lives...and so others can see the change in our lives
- r. Don't miss what I am saying...all of these changes...must come from the changed heart...not by self will

10. Slide... Pastor Chuck Smith once said whatever you strive in your own strength to obtain, you must also strive in your own strength to maintain.

- a. No one can be bullied into true change...discovering the love of Jesus for each of us...is what will motivate us to change
- b. Only this is this change of heart...is the very power that will save us
- c. Only this very power of being loved by the Lord...will cause us to desire to love the things of God more than the things of the world

11. Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins, turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to show that you have received

forgiveness for your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39

This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God."

- a. There are three things to note about these 3000 converts to Christianity
- b. First thing we notice is the reaction to the crowd to Peter's sermon, meaning they were cut to the heart
- c. When is the last time you sat through a sermon that cut you to the heart
- d. This heart cutting sermon by Peter...caused them to ask the question what to do now...since they already mistakenly killed the Messiah
- e. Realize each of us...our sins...also killed the Messiah
- f. Jesus went to the cross...to die for our sins too...because He loved us...and wants more than anything...to forgive us
- g. So what are we going to do...with the love of Jesus...how is it going to affect our heart...will it cause us to desire to make changes in our lives
- h. The first thing Peter tells them to do...is to repent...meaning to change...which is now motivated by the change in their heart
- i. The second thing we notice is Peter tells them to be baptized...to put their faith into action...showing they...have a changed heart
- j. Baptism is not required for salvation...but the gifts of the Holy Spirit comes after salvation
- k. The third issue...the most important issue...is the result of the gospel

12. Acts 2:40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

- a. If there is any time that this statement is true...is today...with our crooked generation...
- b. Please look again at Peter's advice...save yourselves...by repenting...changing...by moving in faith...through baptism first

13. Slide...We are to mimic our own death and resurrection into a new creation by action

- a. Then through reading God's word...it should motivate us to make the necessary changes to our lives
- b. This generation today...is very crooked...where bad is good and good is bad...when the people are becoming lawless
- c. Many of us Christians are spending time trying to put logic to what evil people or even what the media are saying
- d. What we need to realize...is this is anti logic...anti right from wrong...it is anti God and anti Christ

14. 2 Tim 3:1-9, 1 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

- a. They will act religious...but reject the power that could make them Godly
- b. I personally believe the power they are lacking...is the responding to the same power that caused the people to **GO** see John the Baptist
- c. The power that caused them to see they were not right with God...and the power to desire to repent...or change
- d. This is the same power at work in Acts 2...the pierced heart wants to get right with God...
- e. Paul describes the last days to Timothy...our world looks like what Paul is describing...many of our churches today look like this also...lacking power
- f. I spend a lot of time last week...describing people who thought they were safe with God...only to find out they were not
- g. They were acting religious...but rejected the power that could make them godly
- h. It wasn't because they lacked the opportunity...but because they lacked the desire...their hearts were not changed
- i. They didn't want the true power of God...but the things of the world

15. 2 Tim 3:6 They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires. 7 (Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.)

- a. They are forever following new teachings...because they were never able to understand the truth

- b. Many people...men and women...are tricked everyday...into following new teachings...saying they are find the way they are...without any change
- c. This is denying the very power that can save them

16. 2 Tim 3:8 These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith. 9 But they won't get away with this for long. Someday everyone will recognize what fools they are, just as with Jannes and Jambres.

17. Slide... The Bible does not give us much information on who Jannes and Jambres are

- a. Their names of these two men appear only once in the entire Bible...in 2 Timothy 3:8
- b. In order to get the full understanding who these guys are...we need to look at some other Jewish historical books
- c. I will share what some of these books say about Jannes and Jabres
- d. Jewish tradition says that Jannes and Jambres were the two chief magicians who stood up against Moses and Aaron in Exodus 7
- e. Moses and Arron were confronting Pharaoh...trying get Pharaoh to let the Jewish people go
- f. In order to prove to Pharaoh they were sent by God...Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh it became a snake
- g. Then Pharaoh summoned sorcerers...or magicians named Jannes and Jambres...who also made their staff become a snake...by their secret arts
- h. But Aaron 's then staff swallowed up their staffs" (verses 10-12).

- i. Later, these same sorcerers duplicated the changing of water into blood (Exodus 7:22) and the production of frogs (8:7).
- j. However, the sorcerers were powerless to duplicate the other plagues (8:19).
- k. Here is my point...they looked Godly...but lacked the power to make them truly Godly...and are a type of anti Christ
- l. The names “Jannes” and “Jambres” also appear in the Talmud as well
- m. The Talmud is a commentary book...written by rabbis about the Bible
- n. According to one midrash...the two magicians left Egypt with the Israelites after the first Passover (see Exodus 12:38)
- o. These two guys were later instrumental in promoting the worship of the golden calf that Aaron made (Exodus 32)
- p. Another midrash identifies these “two servants” of Balaam...as Jannes and Jambres (Numbers 22:22).
- q. According to the midrash and other sources, Jannes and Jambres
- r. Continued to exert a wicked influences...on the people of Israel until the time of Phinehas (Numbers 25).
- s. These stories are interesting...but they should not be taken as equivalent to inspired Scripture
- t. The point being...is these guys...are the type of people who will be active in the last days...which we easily see their spirit at work today
- u. This kind of spirit is going to actively reject the truth of God...for a false truth...in the last days

18. Acts 2:41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.
- a. Here 3000 out over 1 million receive the truth from Peter
 - b. There are seven things to note as a result of the gospel.
 - c. First in verse 41 it resulted in salvation, second is the commitment to the Lord in four areas starting in verse 42.
19. Acts 2:42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.
- a. There was commitment in doctrine, teaching of the apostles, the fellowship and sharing
 - b. They also were committed to the breaking of bread and their commitment to prayer.
20. Acts 2:43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.
- a. The third issue of the result of the gospel is the reverent fear according to verse 43.
21. Acts 2:44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.
- a. The fourth issue as a result of the gospel is the generosity in verses 44-45.
22. Acts 2: 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—
- a. The fifth issue as a result of the gospel is simplicity as in verse 46.

23. Acts 2:47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.

And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

- a. The sixth issue is they were praising God together and having favor with all people.
- b. The seventh they resulted in growth.
- c. So it is the Lord who grows the church