

## Building on the Foundation: The Door are Opened

Peter's sermon recorded in Acts 2 is the fulfillment of several promises Jesus made. It is in this sermon that the "rock" upon which Jesus said "I will build my church" was laid and the "keys of the kingdom" were given to Peter and the doors were opened.

*Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Mt 16:16-19*

The rock upon which the church was built was **Peter's confession** that Jesus was "the Christ the Son of the Living God" and this is also the words at the conclusion of this sermon.

*"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:36*

So the foundation has been laid and now many were knocking at the door.

*Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2:37*

They have admitted that Peter's words were right. They have manifested both their faith that Jesus is the Christ and offered an implied confession that Peter's words were true. Peter's answer completed the steps necessary to open the doors of the kingdom for the first time.

*Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38-39*

The doors are now opened and the keys that allow others to enter have been promised "to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off." We know the promise was to Israel and all the children of Israel. Who are those "afar off."

*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.** Eph 2:11-13*

So the doors are now opened and anyone who wishes to enter the kingdom can do so through the steps set forth by the Holy Spirit.

Hear	Rom. 10:17;
Believe	Jn. 8:24; Mk 16:15-16;
Repent	Acts 2:38;
Confess	Rom. 10:9-10; 1Tim. 6:12-13
Baptized	Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38, 10:48; Rom. 6:3-6; Col. 2:11-13; 1Pet. 3:21

Peter continued preaching many other words of testimony and exhortation. Quoting Old Testament passages (Isa 53; Ps 22; Ps 110; Zech 12:10-11 etc.) and "many infallible proofs" of the resurrection (Acts 1:3). He also exhorted them in with many other words to be saved from the wicked, corrupt and evil generation who had killed their Messiah and wanted His blood on their heads. He moved about 3000 souls. All those who gladly received his words were baptized.

*And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added {to them}. Acts 2:40-41*

{to them} is in brackets because it is supplied by the translators and was not actually written by Luke. The verse simply says 3000 souls were added. The Spirit answers this in Hebrews:

*But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. Heb 12:22-24*

When they were baptized they came to Mt Zion, the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem. This is the church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven which also included the spirits of just

men made perfect. It is this great group to which all who are baptized have been added.

Luke then gives a quick glimpse into the lives of those who obeyed the gospel. The continued steadfastly in what would become the commands concerning the worship in the church.

*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Acts 2:42*

The work of the apostles also continued as they performed "many wonders and signs" of which the healing of the lame man is only one example. It created a sense of awe and respect within those who were witnessing these things.

Another part of their lives centered on the needs of some at Jerusalem. Those who lived in Jerusalem had jobs, homes and an ordered life. But those who had traveled to Jerusalem for the Pentecost and obeyed the gospel did not. They needed to be cared for and the brethren rose to the task.

*44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. Acts 2:44-45*

*But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. 26 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. 27 It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. Rom 15:25-28*

Their life is summed up with being daily in the temple and eating from house to house. The gave praise to God and the people gave praise to them.

*So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people.*

*And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (Textus Receptus)*

*And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Westcott & Hort)*

Nestle gives the reading a {B} to show there is some question and doubt as to which of these two renderings is correct. Since it works out to the same thing, no one has spent a great deal of time on it.

### **Peter's Second Sermon**

The previous chapter ended with two important facts that have great bearing on what now occurs.

1 many wonders and signs were done through the apostles 2:42

2 continuing daily with one accord in the temple 2:46

This second recorded sermon flows out of these two facts. Luke doesn't even give a day. It was just one of the days and one of the miracles that was being performed. Luke gives the time of day as the 9<sup>th</sup> hour of the day which would be the 9<sup>th</sup> hour since sunrise(around 3:pm). Since the Passover is in March/April, Pentecost would be 50 days later in June/July. So it is a warm summer

afternoon. This hour of prayer corresponded with the evening sacrifice and brought many of the devout to the temple. This was the hour and the place where this great miracle took place. It was very common for those with grave infirmities to sit and beg from the devout and righteous. The door of the temple was one of those places and this man evidently was a common sight to these people. Even the Jewish leaders were aware of him. He is begging and Peter makes a special point to get his attention and lead him to know exactly where this miracle had come from.

