

# Think On This



## How Were They Converted? (Acts chapter 2)

An understanding of Acts chapter two would eliminate much of the error that now exists concerning conversion. To illustrate this point we will briefly consider the topic of salvation as presented in Acts 2:37-47.

**How were the people convicted in their heart?** Acts 2:37 states, **“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?’”** Let me call your attention to the fact that the individuals who were cut to the heart were not done so by some unseen and unexplainable means of the Holy Spirit, but rather they were cut to the heart as they heard the message from Peter and the other apostles. This demonstrates Romans 1:16 which states, **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”** Let us not forget the power of the word of God. (Hebrews 4:12) It is vital that an individual lay aside all preconceived ideas concerning salvation and be willing to receive and respond to the gospel message. (James 1:21-22)

**What was Peter’s response to their question?** After the people were convicted of their sins they asked, **“What shall we do?”** (Acts 2:37) Peter’s response is straight forward and easy to understand if one is not prejudiced by religious error. Peter states, **“ . . .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.”** (Acts 2:38) This answer is in harmony with the great commission. (Matthew 28:18-20) One washes away his or her sins in obedience to baptism. (Acts 22:16) One is raised to walk in newness of life as he or she is baptized. (Romans 6:3-4) It is at baptism that one puts on Christ. (Galatians 3:26-27)

**How did they respond to Peter’s answer?** The attitude and actions of those who were **“cut to the heart”** should serve as an example to all future generations the proper way to respond to the preaching of the gospel. We read, **“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”** (Acts 2:41-42) We also learn that those who were cut to the heart did not delay in their obedience. **“Then those who gladly received his word and were baptized . . .”**. (Acts 2:41) It should be noted that the individuals who responded favorably to the preaching of Peter and the other apostles did not lose interest after they had been baptized but rather continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine.

**Why such joy among those who obeyed?** The joy of those who became Christians on the day of Pentecost was not based upon any physical gain but rather their **new spiritual relationship in Christ** as they obeyed the gospel. (Acts 2:46-47) This is also seen in the conversion of the eunuch. (Acts 8:26-40, especially verse 39) Indeed, this joy among believers surely had an impact upon others at Jerusalem who had not yet rendered obedience to the gospel. (Acts 2:47) Remember, joy is exemplified by the life of a Christian, **“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.”** (Philippians 4:4)

**What will we do?** The lessons that can be learned as revealed in Acts chapter two include:

- \* The importance of **being receptive to the word of God** which is God’s power to save.
- \* The **personal action of repenting and being baptized** for the remission of our sins.
- \* The importance to **continue steadfastly** (give constant attention to) in the apostles’ doctrine.

**Remember, if we choose to apply these lessons, we too will have access to the joy that is only in Christ.**

