

# **The Young Church**

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I. Introduction: Text: Acts 2:37-47.

II. To be cut to the heart is to be deeply convicted--the people came to understand that their savior was the one who they nailed to the cross.

A. The work of the Spirit is to make known that Jesus is Lord.

B. There is something one can do when one realizes that his life is out of harmony with the creator of the world.

III. Repent and be baptized in order to receive the promised Holy Spirit.

A. Repentance means to change one's mind and thinking.

B. Baptism is the outward declaration that symbolizes the change of mind one has gone through.

1. It is open identification with Christ.

2. Mode is not important--it is important as an indication of a new beginning.

3. Repentance is the important thing here.

C. Baptism is given to those who repent and receive Jesus.

1. This does not mean that everyone of every age is given the gift of tongues.

2. We do not really find God--God finds us.

3. A person has to respond to the call of God.

IV. The fundamentals of Christian growth after becoming a Christian.

A. Public baptism.

B. Devotion to the Apostles' teaching--the Scriptures.

C. Devotion to fellowship.

1. Fellowship is to hold things in common with one another.

2. Fellowship is the intended life of the body of Christ--the reason the church has been powerless is fragmentation.

3. Fellowship is an essential.

D. Communion.

1. This celebrates the source of Christian power--the death and resurrection of Christ.
2. It is in union with this that the church is enabled.

V. The effects of Peter's speech.

- A. Great fear because people say that God was at work.
- B. A manifestation of lives that baffled other people through the work of the Spirit.
- C. The church established a fund to help the needy.

**Application questions:**

1. What is baptism and why is it important for the believer?

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2. How has your church devoted itself to fellowship? In what ways might it improve in this area?

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3. Who do you know that lives a life that "baffles" others because of the work of the Spirit in him or her? How would you characterize their walk with God?

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