

The Conversion of Jews & Proselytes: Acts 2:1-47 by Rico Brown

There is a meaningful message we can obtain if our spiritual eyes are opened unto the Word of God. In the first part of our text, we see the action of an internal spirit, prior to now we had seen the spirit operate externally (from without), being temporary and exceptional. Now we see a spirit that is internal (John 7:37-39), permanent (Romans 8:9) and normal, in the sense that it is God's work in all who receive His Word (1 Corinthians 12:12). Joel had prophesied of this great and awesome day (Joel 2:28-32) when he stated the Spirit to be poured out on all flesh. When the Spirit of God is at work you will know it, and it's not to be confused with any man-made creation or trickery. In addition, the spirit has never jumped into any of us, we are guided by God's word and thereby ought to live in-line with the Spirit. The spirit is not a force that makes you do things; we make our own choices each and every day.

Just as they had proselytes then, we have some now who think they can just adopt the characteristics of Christianity without being full blood washed Christians. Know that John has already shed some light on these types (1 John 2:19). As in Acts 2:12-15, know that whenever you bring in something new, know you are going to have those who oppose it, but we must stand like men (1 Corinthians 16:13) and defend God's Word (Philippians 1:16-17) at whatever the costs. In keeping with Joel's prophecy, there was a revelation because all had something to say (Acts 2:17-18). This great power began with the apostles and then flowed from there. Some will pause here and say well if women could speak then what about now? Rest assured, the Word never contradicts itself (1 Timothy 2:12-14)

Know that Peter said salvation comes from calling, but as Christians we recognize and know that it's who you call on and the condition you are in when you call (Matthew 7:21). So that there was and is no confusion, Peter identified our Lord through the confirmation (2:23), resurrection (2:24-32), exaltation (2:33), ascension (2:34-35) and his true identity (2:36). In addition, the sermon brought about reality through five simple steps. ¹It was personal: it applied the way the audience treated Jesus to the way His Father treated him. ²It was analytical: as it called on a consideration of the evidence to consider Jesus' identity and resurrection. ³Next, it was biblical as it cited reference after reference to what had already been done in the Old Testament. ⁴Fourthly, it was simple, what you see is what you get, no advance degrees necessary to understand God's Word. ⁵Finally and most importantly, the sermon was helpful. In that it directed all of those seeking direction, on what to do in order to obtain salvation (Isaiah 34:16). When they heard the Word (Hebrews 4:12), it convicted them so quickly, they were ready to act. They desired to be liberated or set free from bondage, and Peter gave them a direct path for their desires. They had to stop, turn and go down in the water, to be raised up anew in God's kingdom. The same still holds true today if preachers would do what they did

in (verse 42), not the foolish teaching and wavering of today. When that is done, the Lord will take care of the adding (v.47), not us. Contrary to popular belief, know that the just still live according to Romans 1:17.