

# Acts 2:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

## Analysis

**Repent, and be baptized** (μετανοήσατε καὶ βαπτισθήτω)—Peter's Pentecost command links internal transformation with public confession. The aorist imperative 'repent' demands decisive turning from sin and unbelief, particularly rejection of Jesus (v.36). Baptism 'in the name of Jesus Christ' distinguished Christian initiation from John's baptism and Jewish ritual washing—it publicly identified believers with Christ's death and resurrection. **For the remission of sins** (εἰς ἀφεσιν τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν) connects to Joel's prophecy just quoted—the promised Spirit is now available through Israel's crucified Messiah. The 3,000 baptized that day formed the nucleus of the Jerusalem church.

## Historical Context

Peter's sermon convicted hearers of complicity in crucifying the Messiah (vv.23,36). His call to repentance required Jews to reverse their verdict on Jesus and embrace him as Lord and Christ. Baptism risked social ostracism from the Jewish community. This occurred during Pentecost feast, around 30 AD.

## Related Passages

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does baptism's public nature challenge cultural Christianity and private faith?
2. In what areas does genuine repentance require more than emotional regret?

## Interlinear Text

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Πέτρος δὲ ἔφη πρὸς αὐτούς Μετανοήσατε καὶ  
Peter Then said unto them Repent and  
G4074 G1161 G5346 G4314 G846 G3340 G2532

βαπτισθήτω ἕκαστος ὑμῶν ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ  
be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus  
G907 G1538 G5216 G1909 G3588 G3686 G2424

Χριστοῦ εἰς ἄφεσιν ἀμαρτιῶν καὶ λήψεσθε τὴν  
Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive G3588  
G5547 G1519 G859 G266 G2532 G2983

δωρεὰν τοῦ ἀγίου πνεύματος  
the gift of the Holy Ghost  
G1431 G3588 G40 G4151

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 22:16** (Sin): And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

**Mark 16:16** (Baptism): He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

**Acts 8:12** (Baptism): But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

**Luke 24:47** (Sin): And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

**Acts 10:48** (Baptism): And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

**1 Peter 3:21** (Baptism): The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

**Acts 3:19** (Sin): Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

**Romans 6:3** (Baptism): Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

**Acts 17:30** (Repentance): And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

**Matthew 4:17** (Repentance): From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.