

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 ἄφεσιν τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν) 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

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

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	G3588	the name	of Jesus
G907	G1538	G5216	G1909		G3686	G2424
Χριστοῦ	εἰς	ἄφεσιν	ἁμαρτιῶν	καὶ	λήψεσθε	τὴν
Christ	for	the remission	of sins	and	ye shall receive	G3588
G5547	G1519	G859	G266	G2532	G2983	
δωρεὰν	τοῦ	ἁγίου	πνεύματος			
the gift	G3588	of the Holy	Ghost			
G1431		G40	G4151			

Additional Cross-References

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.