

Salvation

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People being brought into relationship with God through Jesus is the centerpiece of Christian life and thought. This experience is called several things: Salvation, Reconciliation, Redemption, Justification, and being born again.

Salvation is a Holy Spirit enterprise, from start to finish, but there are several actors involved with it:

*“You shall receive power when the **Holy Spirit** comes on you, and **you** will be my witnesses.” Acts 1:8*

We are part of the working of salvation in others – partners with God. The parents of faith are the Word and the Spirit. We are administrators of the Word. When people encounter the Word, the Spirit can turn that into a soft heart that is drawn to faith.

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PETER’S first sermon on Pentecost is recorded in Acts 2.

From this sermon, we get a good picture of the dynamics of salvation.

1. People need to know they are sinners and in need of Christ before they reach out for him. This is the bad news.

Peter said, “you, with the help of wicked men put [Jesus] to death by nailing him to the cross.” Acts 2:23

“With many other words he warned them, and he pleaded with them.” Acts 2:40

2. People need to hear the Gospel/the good news.

“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” Acts 2:36

3. The Spirit stirs conviction of sin:

“When people heard this [the law], they were cut to the heart. . . . what should we do?” Acts 2:37

The Heart of Salvation:

“Peter replied, Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16

The Aftermath of Salvation:

“They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teachings and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . . They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47