

Introduction

The purpose of this lesson is to examine several examples in the book of Acts in which people were converted, that is, became saved. Lots of different religious groups in our country will tell us lots of different ways in which a man is saved. It is much more important, even essential, that we examine what the Bible says as it is the word of God. Carefully examine each text and answer the questions which follow.

The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:14-41

Pentecost was 50 days after the resurrection of Christ. The reading takes place in Jerusalem and many of the people would have been witnesses to the teaching and death of Christ. Peter plainly teaches from the Old Covenant prophecies how the Messiah could be known. He concludes his sermon in verse 36 saying “let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ - this Jesus whom you crucified”.

What is meant when it says the hearers were “pierced to the heart” (Acts 2:37)?

The people asked “what shall we do” - realizing they had crucified the promised Messiah. How could they be forgiven? What did God want them to do?

How did Peter answer their question (Acts 2:38)?

What was the purpose of baptism (Acts 2:38)?

The Samaritans

Acts 8:5-13

A man named Philip (who was not an apostle) traveled to Samaria and began “preaching the word” (Acts 8:4) and “proclaiming Christ” (Acts 8:5).

Why did people listen to Philip (Acts 8:6-7)?

What was Philip preaching (Acts 8:12)?

Why were people being baptized - it is not mentioned as something Philip taught?

The Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8:26-40

Notice an angel directed Philip to a certain road where the Eunuch would be traveling. God made it possible for the Eunuch to meet with Philip (Acts 8:26-29).

Why did Philip need to speak to the Eunuch (Acts 8:30-35)?

What did Philip preach to him (Acts 8:35)?

Who brought up baptism and why (Acts 8:36)?

What did the Eunuch do in order to be saved? When did he start rejoicing? (Acts 8:36-39)

Saul

Acts 9:1-18 and Acts 22:6-16

The conversion of Saul is actually listed three times in Acts. Saul becomes the apostle Paul. He had been persecuting the church (Acts 8:1-3) which is what Jesus asked him about (Acts 9:4). Saul was told to go into Damascus and it will be told him what he must do (Acts 9:6).

What part did Ananias play in Saul's conversion (Acts 9:10-18; Acts 22:12-16)?

What was Saul told he must do (Acts 22:16)?

Was Saul saved because Jesus spoke to him on the road (Acts 9:3-4)? Was he saved because he fasted and prayed for three days (Acts 9:9,11)? Why or why not?

When and why did Saul break his fast (Acts 9:19)?

Cornelius

Acts 10:34-38

A unique event occurs in Acts 10. The first non-Jewish converts are made. The Gentiles had not previously heard the gospel. This is why Peter received the vision from God (Acts 10:9-16), and why he took brethren with him to Cornelius' house (Acts 10:23, 45). A great miracle occurred when the Gentiles began speaking in tongues, prior to their obedience to the gospel which amazed the Jews who came with Peter (Acts 10:44-45).

Where were these Gentiles saved because they could speak in tongues (Acts 10:47-48)?

What were they commanded to do (Acts 10:47-48)?

Lydia

Acts 16:13-15

Lydia was a Jew who worshipped God (Acts 16:13) who responded to the things Paul taught.

How did she respond?

When did she consider herself faithful?

The Jailer

Acts 16:25-34

The jailer came up to Paul and Silas after an earthquake unlocked all the prison doors and unfastened the chains which held the prisoners (Acts 16:26). His question is our question: "what must I do to be saved" (Acts 16:30).

What was he told (Acts 16:31-34)?

What connection is there in the text between belief (verse 31 and 34) with baptism (verse 33)?

The Corinthians

Acts 18:8

What did the Corinthians do to be saved?

Have you done what these people did in order to be saved? What saved men then is what saves men today.