

The Heart of the Church | Acts 2:37-41

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do? And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The Message

1. At the heart of the church is a message proclaimed
 - a. Corporately
 - i. The fruit of the resurrection of Jesus;
 - ii. Lives transformed;
 - b. Publicly
 - i. Making disciples; moving from the message to movement;
 - c. Personally
 - i. Maturing as a disciple; being sanctified; pursuit of holiness

The Effect

1. Hardened hearts
 - a. "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)
2. Repentance
 - a. "Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" (Romans 2:4)
3. Eyes to See

The Gifts

1. Forgiveness of Sins
2. The Holy Spirit

Benediction | 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.