

## I. Know the Plan - 2 Peter 3:16-18, Acts 2:38 - Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Continued review from first session resuming at Current Positional Truth (page 113) through point 6 (page 113).

Thus, in the first century during the developmental stages of the new Christian faith, there had to be a way to communicate the doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit with its retroactive and current positional aspects.

Consequently, the ritual of water baptism was instituted in order to portray physically and visually what had taken place spiritually and invisibly.

Therefore, *baptizo* in Acts 2:38, refers to water baptism which was to be performed following one's faith in Christ in order to teach the principle of "newness of life."

Being immersed into the water portrayed one's sinful nature being identified with the Lord's deaths and burial.

Emergence from the water was symbolic of the privilege to enter into newness of life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Being immersed into the water also portrayed one's soul and human spirit being identified with the Lord's resurrection, ascension, and session.

Emergence from the water was symbolic of the imputation of eternal life and the guarantee of a resurrection body.

So, Acts 2:38 is a series of commands which challenge all unbelievers to change their minds about Jesus and, after having done so, for each one individually to be baptized by means of immersion into water.

**Acts 2:38 (Corrected Translation Version) - And Peter said to them, "All of you change your mind [respond positively to the *gnosis* you have acquired regarding Jesus], and let each one of you be baptized."**

The verb baptize is third person singular and thus recognizes that each person must individually change his mind about Jesus and each one must then individually engage in the required ritual of baptism.

The passive voice says that this is an act which will be performed upon them by an authorized agent, namely one of the apostles.

The aorist tense also indicates that it is to be performed only once.

The ritual is to be performed in the name of Jesus Christ thus indicating both retroactive and current positional truth are to be understood as the benefits received from the spiritual baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Then comes a very important word in this verse, it is the accusative of cause from the preposition: *eis* - "because."

This preposition does not indicate "purpose" but "cause." You are not baptized "for the purpose of forgiveness of sins," but "because your sins have been forgiven."

**Acts 2:38 (Corrected Translation Version) - And Peter said to them, "All of you change your mind [respond positively to the *gnosis* you have acquired regarding Jesus], and let each one of you be baptized because your sins have been forgiven."**

The next verb we will note is the future middle indicative of: *lambano* - "will receive."

Here's the situation: The Jews have asked Peter what they must do to rectify their misjudgment of the Person and character of Jesus of Nazareth. He tells them that they must change their minds and believe as truth the gnosis understanding they presently have about Jesus. To do so will result in their eternal salvation and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

We again have the second person plural as in the verb "*to repent*," or "*to change your mind*."

The sequence of thought assumes that all who have reached gnosis and who then respond positively will without question receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The verb to repent is a command which because of the aorist tense has the permanent result of eternal salvation.

If that change of thought occurs then it follows automatically that all who believe will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The gift of the Holy Spirit refers to the just inaugurated phenomenon of indwelling.