



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High
Title: Paul's Farewell Speech,
Part 3
Lesson: 107

Text: Acts 20:21-24
Date: August 17, 2025

Six key responsibilities entrusted to elders:

1. To live a life worthy of imitation.

Acts 20:17–20 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them, “You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time,

A. To serve the Lord

19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

B. To preach God's Word

20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,

C. To _____ the lost

21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:14–16 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

“power of God for salvation”

Romans 9:3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,

21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

“solemnly testifying” - [DIAmartyromai]

The way Paul described his evangelism is important:

1. There is only one gospel.

“Jews and Greeks”

Acts 15:5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.”

11 “But we believe that we are saved through the **grace** of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”

2. There are only two necessary components to salvation.

21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Does baptism save? (Baptismal regeneration)

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ **FOR** the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The word “**for**” is used two different ways in Scripture.

1. “for the _____ of”

We are to be baptized **for the purpose of** forgiving our sins.

Example - Jesse James is wanted for the purpose of committing murder.

If we assert that verse 38 teaches water baptism is required for the forgiveness of sins, we encounter significant difficulties with other verses that come before and after it.

Acts 2:21 ‘And it shall be that everyone who **calls on the name of the Lord** will be saved.’

After Acts 2:38 there are 17 gospel presentations and not one of them mention water baptism.

Acts 2:21	Acts 9:42
Acts 2:44	Acts 10:43
Acts 3:19	Acts 10:44–47
Acts 4:4	Acts 11:14
Acts 4:32	Acts 11:21
Acts 8:12	Acts 15:7–9
Acts 8:13	Acts 16:30–31
Acts 8:34–38	Acts 22:16
Acts 8:37	

2. “as a _____ of”

We are to be baptized **as a result of** our sins having been forgiven.

Example - Jesse James is wanted as a result of having committed murder.

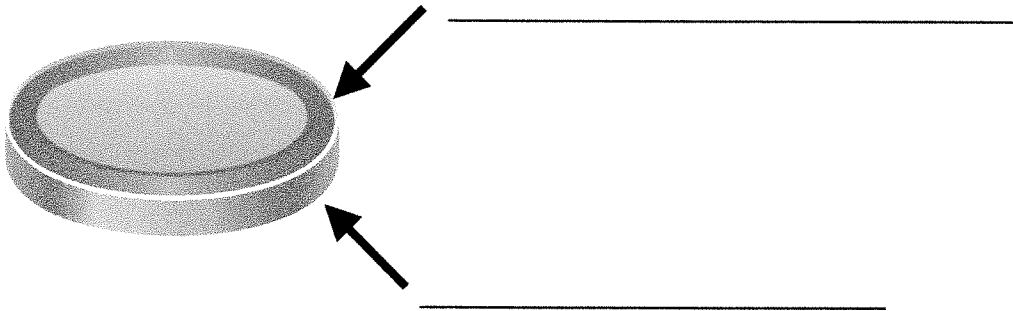
Acts 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

First the received his word then baptized.

21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of **repentance** toward God and **faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent** and **believe** in the gospel.”

SALVATION



Matthew 3:2 “**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Luke 24:46–47 and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that **repentance** for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; **and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

What is repentance?

Isaiah 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has **turned to his own way**; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

1 Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you **turned to God from idols** to serve a living and true God,

Acts 14:15 and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should **turn from these vain things to a living God**, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

John 16:8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

“convict” [elegchō] - Expose, to show one’s fault or to convince one of wrong.

The Holy Spirit’s job is to convict the world (sinners) of three realities:

1. He convicts of“ _____
2. He convicts of _____
3. The Spirit convicts of _____

**The Holy Spirit uses _____
to bring us to the desire to turn away from our sin
(repent) and to seek salvation by turning to Christ.**

Repentance must be granted by God:

Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:24–25; 2 Corinthians 7:8–10

21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and **faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ.

What is faith?

The church Fathers and Reformers referred to three kinds of faith:

1. _____ **the facts of the gospel - Notitia**

Nicodemus had intellectual knowledge of Jesus (Jn 3:2)

2. **Knowing and _____ with the facts of the gospel - Ascensus**

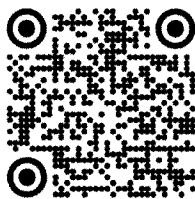
The demons believe and shudder (agree) (James 2;19)

3. **Knowing, agreeing, and _____ and then _____ on the facts of the gospel. - Fiducia**

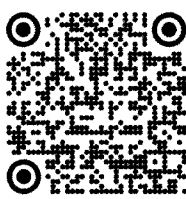
Abraham knew God's word, believed it and, acted on when when we went so sacrifice Isaac (Gen. 22:1-19)

Discussion Guide

1. Why does Paul emphasize both repentance toward God and faith in Jesus?
2. Why is repentance not works and how does it work with faith?
3. Paul says he is “bound by the Spirit” to go to Jerusalem, even though the outcome is uncertain. Have you ever sensed God calling you to something costly or risky?
4. Paul knew suffering awaited him. How does his attitude toward hardship challenge our view of being led by the Spirit?



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ANSWERS: evangelize, purpose, result, Repentance, Faith, sin, righteousness, judgment, conviction, Knowing, agreeing, trusting, acting