

How does God deal with us ...???

How does God produce fully devoted followers?

How does God make church members?

Shut a few doors:

- a) Not the way the world does
- b) Not the way we might prefer

End of Acts 2:

- 3000+ people dealt with, started following Jesus & added to the church
 - Who were not expecting this to happen
 - Who had lifestyles, traditions, perspectives → changed
 - Who went through a profound crisis
 - Who found a fullness they would never lose

The way He deals with us **AFTER** salvation **mirrors** the way He deals with us **IN** salvation.

Acts 2:22-23a

“Men of Israel, hear these words: **Jesus of Nazareth**, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did **through him** in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the **definite plan and foreknowledge** of God ...

1) God deals with us primarily and supremely in and through the revelation and re-revelation of **Jesus (on repeat).**

Acts 2:23-24

This **Jesus**, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, **you crucified** and killed by the hands of lawless men. God **raised him up**, loosing the pangs of death, because it was **not possible** for him to be held by it.

God **savingly and repeatedly** deals with us in the **dying and rising** of Jesus.

Acts 2:25-28

For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul **to Hades**, or let your Holy One

see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the **paths of life**; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

Acts 2:29-31

"Brothers, I may say to you with **confidence** about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the **resurrection of the Christ**, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.

{Bullet point comes up one at a time; not at the same time ... all on one slide}

The revelation of Jesus is **sovereignly arranged and **prophetically** declared to bring about a **relocation of confidence**.**

- **From something and in/onto Jesus Christ.**

Acts 2:32

This Jesus God **raised up**, and of that we all are **witnesses**. {= HISTORICAL}

Acts 2:33

Being therefore **exalted** at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the **Holy Spirit**, he has **poured out** this that you yourselves are **seeing and hearing**. {= SPIRITUAL}

The revelation of Jesus also occurs through the **worship, work & witness of **Spirit-filled** people (= the church).**

Moving toward a Total Revelation of Jesus Christ:

- **Old Testament Prophecy → Evidence that Jesus is coming**
- **Resurrection → Evidence that sin's penalty is paid for**
- **Spirit poured out → Evidence that Jesus is now enthroned ...**

Acts 2:34-35

For David **did not** ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, 35 until I make **your enemies** your footstool."

Acts 2:36

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him **both Lord and Christ**, this Jesus whom **you** crucified."

Acts 2:37

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**?"

→ **Not perfect clarity about Jesus but POWERFUL clarity about Him.**

2) God deals with us **thoroughly and comprehensively**.
(mentally; emotionally; volitionally)

God deals with us in a fundamental way (vs. incidental or superficial).

“The trouble with most of us is that we’d rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism.” {NVP}

What shall we do?

- *Looking in one direction*
- *Not going back*
- *No further plans of their own*

Acts 2:38

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.

3) God deals with us to bring about an **attachment, an identification, a real union** with Jesus Christ.

- **Exclusive**: out of AND into
- **Inclusion & Extensive**: implications and realities of Jesus are ours
- **Eternal & Irrevocable**: forever following Him!

Acts 2:39-41

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.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who **received** his word were **baptized**, and there were **added** that day about three thousand souls.

- **SURRENDER**
- **RE-COMMIT**
- **ALL IN @ Rock Bridge**
- **Questions?**