

TEXT- Acts 8:26-39

INTRO – Salvation does not come to everyone in the same way or time. The when where how and why depends on temperament, environment, religious training and way of living.

In preparation for a meeting in a large city, famed evangelist Billy Sunday wrote a letter to the mayor in which he asked for the name of individuals he knew who had a spiritual problem and needed help and prayer. How surprised the evangelist was when he received from the mayor a city directory.

Mat 18:3 *Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

Acts records 7 accounts of conversion. Each one is unique. Though the details of each person coming to Christ is varied, the means of salvation is the same. There is just one way to salvation. There is only one gospel. There will be different backgrounds, associations, and circumstances that lead up to a person's conversion. Also, there will be many differences as to the changes that follow. In very case there was a change.

The early Baptists would not accept someone into membership unless they exhibited a change at conversion.

There were thousands saved at Pentecost and beyond, however there are seven accounts of personal salvation decisions. The conversions in the books of Acts were each unique:

6-men 1-woman 6-moral 1-questionable 3-quiet 5-seeking
4-emotional 2-not emotional 0-At Temple

- Chapter 8 Ethiopian Eunuch -Seeking
- Chapter 9 Apostle Paul – Not seeking
- Chapter 10 Cornelious House – Seeking, Italian, devout, gave alms, in prayer often, he feared God, He had a good reputation, visited by an angel, He influenced his family and friends, he was seeking
- Chapter 13:4 The Deputy – Seeking, In Cyprus and saw the power of Paul to bring blindness to Elymus the sorcerer.
- Chapter 16:14 Lydia – Seeking, Seller of purple, worshipped God, the Lord opened her heart, she was baptized and her family.
- Chapter 16:25 The Philippian Jailor – Not seeking
- Chapter 19 12 Disciples at Ephesus – Seeking, disciples of John, baptized by John, baptized again after believing on Jesus.

When a person is truly saved a change occurs. No one is saved based on a change, but a change happens because of one's salvation.

I. The Holy Spirit Enters a person's Life at Conversion

The Bible teaches us that the moment a person believes he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16 *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

John 3:8 *The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 6:19 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

John 14:16-17 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

II. The Holy Spirit Does Several Things In The Life Of A New Believer

- Convicts of sin and a person's lost condition

John 16:8 *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

Acts 2:37 *Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*

- Guides a new believer

Romans 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

John 16:13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

- Gives him power to live the Christian life

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

- Gives him a new nature

Colossians 3:10 *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

- Fills a surrendered Christian

Ephesians 5:18 *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

- Bears witness that we are the children of God

Romans 8:16 *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

- Creates a new desire for God

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

- **Enables us to understand the Bible**

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

- **Intercedes in our prayer life**

Romans 8:26-27 *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

III. Without the Holy Spirit We are Just Like Every Other Person

John 15:5 *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

Romans 8:9 *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

Without the Holy Spirit we are like:

- **Ships without sails**
- **Clouds without rain**
- **Engines without fuel**
- **Lamps without oil**
- **Banks without money**
- **Leaves but no fruit**

John 3:5-6 *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

CONCL - A blind man once stood on a corner at a busy intersection reading aloud Acts 4 from a portion of a Braille Bible. A gentleman on his way home stopped at the edge of the crowd that had gathered to listen. At that very moment, the sightless man lost his place. While trying to find it, he kept repeating the last three words he had just read: "No other name... No other name... No other name..." Many smiled, but the inquisitive bystander went away impressed. He had been searching for inner peace and therefore was ready to be influenced by a few words spoken "in season." He had heard the verse before, but that one phrase haunted him. Before morning he surrendered to the Holy Spirit's

wooing and accepted the Savior. "I see it all now," he cried. "I've been trying to be saved by my own works and prayers. But Jesus alone can help me. He is my mediator. There is no other name whereby I must be saved." Thus, a blind man's witness, given in a stumbling manner, was used to lead a seeking soul to Christ.