

SHINE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 1



The Message We Preach

Scripture reading Acts 2:22-24

“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”

These are amazing words spoken by the Apostle Peter immediately after the Holy Spirit of God was poured out on all flesh. Peter explained that this was a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. He then gave the Gospel and the Holy Spirit convicted men they are sinners. Peter explained that Jesus of Nazareth was God. Jesus died to pay the penalty of their sin, was buried, and rose from the dead because death had no power over Him. He was and is God in human flesh. Since He died, rose again, showing victory over death is possible, we can have eternal life if we put our faith and trust in Him. Peter, controlled by the Holy Spirit of God, preached the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is our message. This is the message that God wants every believer to proclaim. It is a message of victory, overcoming, and power. God wants you to proclaim this. Just as He empowered Peter to preach, He will empower you to share this truth with your friends, loved ones, and everyday people you meet.

The more you are convinced of this victorious truth, the more you will share it with others. You will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 2



The Victory in Death

Scripture reading Acts 2:25-28

“For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.”

In this passage, Peter is quoting David, who in prophetic language is revealed the spirit and heart attitude of the Lord Jesus Christ while He was dying on the cross. In this short passage of Scripture, we see the key to living in victory even in moments of despair. Jesus went through more than any man will ever endure. He died a horrific death. This passage reveals that even on the cross in His greatest agony, Jesus was victorious. How?

1. He had the right focus. *“I foresaw the Lord always before my face... thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance”* (Acts 2:25, 28).
2. He had the right hand. *“For he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved”* (Acts 2:25, 28). Your life will be stable if you continually hold the hand of Jesus Christ.
3. He had a right heart. *“Therefore did my heart rejoice”* (Acts 2:26). There must be a determination in your heart to rejoice no matter what your circumstances.
4. He had the right tongue. *“And my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope”* (Acts 2:26). On the cross, He prayed for the forgiveness of others. He assured His mother of His comfort. He showed care for others. He cried to the Father and expressed His trust in Him.
5. He had the right promise. *“Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption”* (Acts 2:27). He claimed God’s promise of deliverance.

When you have the right focus, hand, heart, tongue and promise then you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 3



Speaking Freely

Scripture reading Acts 2:29-32

“Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; he seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.”

Today, people speak freely about many things: the legal use of marijuana and its great medicinal benefits; alternative lifestyles and being normal behavior; socialism and communism and their being acceptable and preferred forms of government; and false religions being true. In the open market of these ideas, it is absolutely essential that you and I speak freely.

We have been given the privilege in our country to have the freedom of speech. This freedom was given to us to freely share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Not everyone will agree with what we preach and teach, but it is absolutely necessary that we freely give what God has freely given to us. The truth is that through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our sins can be forgiven, and we can know we are going to heaven. Speak freely to your family, neighbors, and coworkers because you have the greatest news on earth, the news of eternal life freely given from our Savior, Jesus Christ. When you learn to speak freely, you, as a believer, will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 4



You're On the Winning Side

Scripture reading Acts 2:33-36

“Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

As Peter was preaching, he once again quoted King David. *“The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”* (Psalm 110:1). This verse is quoted fewer than five times in the New Testament. After Jesus suffered and died on the cross, He rose from the dead. Jesus, God’s Son, was in submission to God the Father so that not even death could keep him from having victory. He ascended to our Father in heaven, and Jesus sat down at the right hand of God in obedience to God the Father. Since that time, the Father has worked through the Holy Spirit to make the enemies of God the footstool of Christ. Jesus Christ is the winner eternally and He is on your side. As a child of God, nothing can touch you. Nothing can come your way unless your heavenly Father permits it. Satan will try to discourage you and convince you that there is no way out of the dilemma you face. When you walk in obedience to your heavenly Father, you cannot help but win.

I want to encourage you today, to keep believing Jesus. Keep obeying the Father. Live your life as a servant. The God Who made Jesus both Lord and Christ will lift you up in victory and you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 5



What Shall We Do?

Scripture reading Acts 2:37-38

“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? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for [because of] the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

When the first New Testament converts were reminded that their pride and rejection of Christ caused the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible says, “[T]hey were pricked in their heart.” They did not know what to do. They cried out to Peter, “[W]hat shall we do?”

Peter gave a three phased answer:

1. Repent. The word *repent* means change your mind. In order to be used of God, you must change your mind about who you are and who Jesus is. You must put your faith and trust in Jesus alone for salvation.
2. Be baptized. Baptism does not save us, but it does identify us with Jesus Christ and with His church. We get baptized because our sins have been remitted.
3. Surrender. We need to surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit and be His witnesses.

Every believer needs to allow the Word of God to change their mind. Every believer needs to be baptized into a local church. Every believer needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit so he can witness. Any believer will SHINE if they do these things.

SHINE Devotional

Week 7 – Lesson 6



The Promise Is for You

Scripture reading Acts 2:39-40

“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”

Did you know that the promise of being filled with (controlled by) the Holy Spirit of God is for you? I grew up going to church, but I did not realize that the promise that God made to the Apostles was a promise that I could claim for myself. This promise includes the fact that if I daily surrender to Him, He will use me to be a witness. The world desperately needs to see Christians who are controlled by the Holy Spirit of God. Often, they see people who claim the name of Jesus but are bitter, uncaring, and unloving. This brings disdain to the name of Christ and should never take place. The evidence that a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, is that they will be filled with the fruit of the Spirit: *“love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance”* (Galatians 5:22-23). Your life will demonstrate this fruit if you are surrendered to the control of His Holy Spirit. Not only will your life demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit but you will also have an opportunity to share the Gospel with others. Not everyone that you witness to will get saved. Jesus witnessed to people who did not get saved. The Apostle Paul witnessed to people, who did not get saved. The promise is that when you share Christ, His Spirit will convict them that what you say is true and many will trust Christ. Sadly, some will flatly reject this truth.

Today, I encourage you to allow yourself to be filled with His Spirit by surrendering to Him. This is God’s plan for spreading the Good News. When you are filled with controlled by His Spirit, you, as a believer, will SHINE.