

***Hurt***

***Acts 2:16-38***

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The moving video of Hurt by Johnny was originally written and sung by a hard rock band nine inch nails! Johnny and NIN styles of music are

miles and miles apart! NIN is Young and Johnny is old! NIN is from an urban

settings-and Johnny Cash grew up as a rural sharecropper! They both made it

their song! Why? Because , the song Hurt is a universal expression the hurt we

have all caused ourselves, others and God! And that hurt is called Sin!!

Listen to a couple of the lines from the song: **I wear this crown of thorns**

**upon my liar's chair-full of broken thoughts-I cannot repair beneath the stains of time the feelings disappear you are someone else I am still right**

**here what have I become? my sweetest friend everyone I know goes away in the end and you could have it all my empire of dirt.**

Isn't that a great way to express humanity and it's struggle with sin! I think what

makes this video so powerful, is on a aged Johnny you see the visible effects of sin

and time! So whether you from a non-churched background like Nine Inch  
or a Christian Like Johnny and both sides instinctively know the best of life  
is an

empire of dirt! That we are all a bunch of liars with broken thoughts and  
deeds!

So inside we all know we need salvation: we are just not sure from what  
and who

is to save us.

I heard about a man who went forward in church to accept the Lord and he  
was

told to kneel at the altar and pray through for salvation. While he was  
praying an

usher came up and told him to fill out a card. As he was doing that another  
counselor came up and said "Watch for the light brother, when I was saved

I saw a

bright light."

Another counselor came up and said, "Hold on brother, hold on." Another  
counselor came up and said, "Let go, brother let go." And the man said that  
when

he was finished, between praying through and signing a card, and letting  
go and

holding on and watching for the light, he nearly went to hell.

Understanding how to respond to God's offer of eternal life can be confusing, especially to those who are new to a church. Christians do not do such a great job explaining to people how they can go about receiving the gift of eternal life. We make receiving salvation much more difficult than it really is. I would bet if you asked a dozen people at Elbert Christian Church three different answers, this is just one reason why we are trying to standardize our doctrinal message. I think one of the most important things any church can do is to make sure it broadcasts the plan of salvation from time to time.

There are many passages in the Bible we can turn to, to understand the plan of salvation. In fact, something all humans have a tendency to do, is if our religious tradition emphasizes baptism or belief we often leave out God-given faith responses to eternal life; such as repentance.

Today I want to look at Acts 2. This is the first sermon that was ever preached in

the church. The sermon was preached by the apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost

and some 3,000 people were saved. Where 3,000 people experienced an inner

revolution that literally changed the world! They went from a crown of thorns and

a empire of dirt to a crown of glory and an eternal empire!

Pentecost was a Jewish holiday, 50 days after Passover and thousands of Jews were

in Jerusalem celebrating this holiday that commemorated the giving of the ten

commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. Jesus had been crucified and then raised

from the grave and had appeared to the apostles and when he ascended into heaven

he told them to wait on the Holy Spirit. So they gathered in a room, when suddenly

the Holy Spirit came upon them with wind and tongues of fire and they all received the gift of the spirit and began to go out into the streets and speak the

gospel in foreign languages.

The Jews in the city were amazed at the apostles' uncanny ability to speak so many

languages that they accused them of being drunk. That is when Peter addressed the

crowd and assured them that weren't drunk but just filled with the spirit. Peter

goes on to give them a sermon about God's plan of salvation. Let's notice four

things about salvation Peter tells them.

**First, Peter tells them their Hurt- sin.**

*Acts 2:22, "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge, and you with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross."*

Peter tells them that they are responsible for Jesus' death. Their basic problem, he

says, is that their sin has cut them off from God. Their sin had nailed Jesus an

innocent man to the cross.

The Bible teaches clearly that inside every person is something that causes us to do

wicked things. A sin nature. We received that sinful nature from our relative

Adam who brought sin into the world. Now man is continuous in his evil deeds.

We aren't born with original sin as some teach, but we are born with a sin nature.

Adam introduced sin into the spiritual DNA of the human race and from that time

we've been sinning.

*Romans 5:12, "Therefore just as sin entered the world through one man Adam and so death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."*

What that means is that when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden they

passed along to their descendants, us, a propensity to sin. Eventually every person,

will, because of sin nature –sinful environment and the tempter choose to sin.

Every tiny little baby, born innocent will one day upon the age of accountability

choose to become a sinner.

If you don't believe we are born with a sin nature I have a place for you to volunteer-the vacation Bible School Preschool class. All the kids in VBS are well

behaved but if you don't supervise them they can get into all kinds of trouble.

Most parents know that they cannot leave a child alone and it's because a child

automatically gravitates toward wrong. No parent has to teach their child to

disobey that's something they do almost instinctively.

Secondly, Peter tells them their destiny: death. Peter tells them why sin is a big

problem. It leads to death. Peter talks to them about King David, their patriarch

and hero and how David was looking forward to the coming of the Messiah. Peter

says to them that David too was a sinner and because of his sin he died.

"Brothers,

I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried and his

tomb is here to this day." (Acts 2:29)

Peter equates sin with death. Peter is saying sin causes us all to wear a crown of

thorns! When Adam sinned in the Garden, God told him he would die.

God originally created his body to be perfect but when sin entered the world

Adam's body began to age and Genesis 5:5 says, "*Altogether, Adam lived 930*

*years, and then he died.*"

And we too like Adam are going to die because of our sin. And the ones we love all

go away, because of sin. Romans 8:13, "*If you live according to the sinful nature, you will die.*" And it is a reality of life, we all die because we all have

lived sinful lives. David Vaughn says, "The statistics on death are alarming. 1

out of 10 people die." Psalms 89:48 says, "*What person alive will not die? Who*

*can escape the grave?*"

Romans 6:23 says, "**The wages of sin is death.**" Now it's important to

understand that the Bible talks about two types of death that are the result of sin.

One type of death is the most obvious, physical death. Our bodies age and die.

The other death is more serious, spiritual death. Spiritual death is the separation of

our soul from God. Separation from God in the Bible is called hell. Hell, whether or

not we like to talk about it is a real place. Jesus talked about hell more than any

other person in the Bible.

Jesus described it as an eternal garbage dump that smoldered day and night. Peter

tells his audience that not only physical death but spiritual death (hell) is their

destiny because of sin.

*Peter next tells them their solution to man's universal hurt.*

Jesus Christ. In verse 31 he tells them "Seeing what was ahead, David spoke of the

resurrection of Christ, that he was not abandoned from the grave, nor did his body

decay. God has raised this Jesus to life and we are all witnesses of the fact.

Exalted

to the right hand of God he has received from the Father the promised

Holy Spirit

and has poured out what you now see and hear." Verse 36, "Therefore let all

Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord

and Christ."

Peter tells his audience that even though they are sinners, God sent his son Jesus to

pay for their sins and conquer death. That is why Peter talks about the resurrection. Because Jesus' resurrection gives hope that death can be conquered.

You see, when Jesus died on the cross, he paid for our sins. After he died on the

cross, he was buried in a tomb and three days later he rose again and appeared to

over 500 people over a 40 period. His sacrifice on the cross solved our sin problem.

His resurrection from the grave solved our death problem. His resurrection is the

antidote to man's universal hurt problem! In three days, from Good Friday to

Easter Sunday, Jesus solved man's two greatest hurts; sin and death.

Romans 5:21 says, "*Just as sin and death reigned through Adam so also grace might reign through the righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

*What Must we do to be saved from man's hurt?*

### *1. Trust in What Jesus Died for us*

How many remember the week after 9/11? Remember, How they believed two men

to be dead in the 9/11 bombings were found alive? An Associated Press article

read, "Two men listed for months as missing in the Sept. 11 attack on the World

Trade Center have been discovered alive in area hospitals. Last week in Oklahoma,

they initially reported five dead from a tornado, but later discovered three alive and

well. Also the miraculous incident of the plane crash in Libya, they assumed all

were dead but one young boy survived! These men and women were thought to be

dead but they were really alive.

When a Christian passes away, he or she is thought to be dead by the world. But

they really are not dead. They aren't even missing. In fact, they are more alive than

ever. One Christian woman whose husband had died received condolences from a

friend at the funeral.

"I'm sorry you lost your husband." And she said, "I haven't lost my husband, I

know exactly where he is." And every Christian who dies is really alive.

Even though our present bodies will die, our new bodies given to us by Christ, will

live forever in heaven. Christians have that hope. 1 Corinthians 15:42 reads, "*Our*

*earthly bodies, which die and decay will one day be made different and they will never die. Our bodies now disappoint us, but when they are raised, they will be full of glory.*"

Peter told this crowd that they needed Jesus to solve their sin and death problem. If

they trusted in Christ they would not die a spiritual death.

## 2. Confess

What Peter says in verse 36, implies what they confessed as they were later baptized, the statement that they were cut to the heart-implies they agreed and

would agree with the fact that *God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified*

*both Lord and Christ!*

Confession has been at the center of Man's response free gift of forgiveness and

eternal life! Today some say we need to say a sinners prayer-in the New

Testament you will find a sinners prayer anywhere. What you see in Paul's day it

was calling on the name of the Lord and it was very public confession of what you

were trusting in! Paul in Romans 10:9 says: That if thou confess with thy mouth

the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the

dead, thou shalt be saved!

As believers, we are called to witness that Jesus is Lord and Christ to unbelievers.

We are to be faithful to the truth. Making confession as a faith response to God's

free gift of eternal life gives us a witnessing opportunity as we are born into the

Kingdom of God!

This is why we believe baptism should be public-no self baptisms allowed!

This is why in the baptistery I ask those wanting to become Christians do you

believe Jesus is your Lord and Savior? Will you follow him all the rest of your life?

Answer by saying I believe in Jesus! I do this, because this is what the bible defines

as confession or calling on the name of the Lord!

Confession is a reminder that each of us needs to shout the good news Jesus

is alive-not just at our birth but every day we follow Christ! We will probably not

be as impressive or dramatic as Peter. But all God wants from us is a heart felt

confession that we love Jesus!

### ***3. Repent***

Someone once said that repentance involves three phases. The first is conviction.

Open admission that I've sinned, that I have been wrong; I won't make excuses

and try to cover up. The second is contrition. I am genuinely sorry for what I have

done. Usually contrition involves tears over your sin. You grieve what you have

done. You know your sin was serious. And you mourn over it. Chuck Swindol

says, "God loves the bent knee, the broken heart and the wet eye." The third stage

of repentance is change. Repentance means to change your mind about sin. It

means to change direction. If you say, "I was wrong, I'm sorry," but keep doing

the same old things you really have not experienced true repentance.

Repentance implies change.

To repent in the salvation process means the thief no longer steals, but earns

his living and gives to the needs of others. The sexually impure, find purity in

Christ and practice the Joys of sex within God given boundaries! The fighter and

brawler becomes a man of love and firm kindness! Repentance means sinners

become two legged memorials to God's love!

#### *4. Baptize into Jesus*

Peter also tells his audience they must be baptized. A lot of people have asked me

exactly what baptism is for. And I usually quote them verse 38 in Acts chapter 2.

Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins. Baptism is an outward expression of an inner

trust in Jesus Death Burial and resurrection for my sins. It symbolizes the washing away of sin. Bob Russell says, "When we sin we feel dirty. We feel like we

need a spiritual bath. Baptism provides this wonderful sense of cleansing and

renewal—we begin with a new slate; we have a new start."

In Acts 22 Saul of Tarsus encountered a man named Ananias who told Saul,

"What are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash away your sins." (Acts

22:16). I once Baptized an elderly woman; who after baptism told me I feel young

again! And most people who have undergone baptism tell me of a similar

experience. They feel light as a feather, like a burden has been lifted. And it has,

the burden of sin has been removed in baptism, through the blood of Christ. The

guilt of the past has been washed clean. What can wash away my sin, nothing but

the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

We baptize by immersion or dunking under water, because the hero of our

faith Jesus was baptized in this way. Listen to Matthew 3:16 As soon as Jesus was

**baptized**, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and

he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. The verse

stating he came up out of the water, is a way of stating he was dunked under water

when he was baptized!

When Peter gave the instructions to repent and be baptized, some 3,000 came

forward and were baptized that day. 3,000 people wanted to have their sins

washed away. They were tired of carrying the guilt and sin around. I imagine they

came running into the water that day. Now understand there is nothing magical

about the waters of baptism, but there is a miracle of a new life, a new beginning

when we trust in Christ expressed at baptism!

Conclusion: One of the most unusual hurts many men and women have experienced in verse 37 NIV says the audience response to Peters sermon, they

were cut to the heart-NLT says Pierced their heart-and KJV says pricked in their

heart. Conviction is certainly a whole lot of hurt! It is a hurt that when we feel

most have to get rid off-those who ignore the pain or make jokes are hardened so

that it makes them less sensitive to the truth of the gospel!

Have you been convicted this morning? Has the Holy Spirit stepped on your toes?

Has God hit upside the head with a two by four? Has Jesus gotten your attention?

Are you asking what must I do to be saved? It is the question we must all ask, it is

not enough to simply be sorry for the hurt we have caused others and God.  
We

must do an about face from walking in our selfish ways, to following God's  
grace!

But the most difficult step comes after our baptism and birth into the  
kingdom of

God –we must live like forgiven people! Has God spoken to your hurt  
today?

Does it hurt you that your sins put Jesus on the Cross? What must we do  
to be

Saved today? First Trust in what Jesus did for us-Second Confess Jesus is  
Lord-third Repent-fourth be baptized into Christ-five live forgiven-If you  
have a

hurt only Christ heals-He would heal you if you would only come now!