

**Title:** Water baptism is necessary!  
**Author:** Allen Dvorak  
**File name:** baptism.doc

It was an unusual day. First, the sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind filled the house. What appeared to be tongues of fire sat upon each the men inside the house. Those same men, the apostles of Jesus, began to speak in foreign languages, in languages which they did not know.

The news about the events taking place began to spread through the city of Jerusalem. Soon a crowd had gathered to see and hear what was going on, but they were confused. Were these men drunk? Among the Jews in the crowd were those who had come from many other places to observe religious feasts in Jerusalem. They were amazed that these men from Galilee were speaking in languages which they had not studied.

The twelve stood up and spoke to the crowd about what was happening. In essence, they said, "It's not drunkenness. This is what the prophet Joel predicted. The Holy Spirit would be poured out and those who received Him would prophesy." The apostles continued to speak to the crowd about Jesus.

They affirmed the truth of the resurrection of Jesus by noting Old Testament prophecy and giving their own eyewitness testimony. Jesus had been exalted to the right hand of God and was already reigning as Lord in heaven. No political correctness for these preachers! They stated plainly more than once that the Jewish nation had put the Son of God to death!

The message of the preachers on this day touched the hearts of the listeners. They asked, "What shall we do?" They believed that Jesus had been raised from the dead and was therefore the Son of God as He had claimed. Many people today would have told them that they didn't have to DO anything; they were ALREADY saved!

The apostle Peter, however, did not tell them that they were already saved, even though it was evident that they both believed and were aware of their sin in crucifying the Christ (as evidenced by their question to the apostles). He said that they needed to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins. About three thousand people did exactly that – they were baptized and the Lord added them to His church.

Many preachers are telling people today that they do not need to be baptized to be saved. Water baptism, it is said, is only a symbolic act which pictures our salvation at the point of faith. The Bible, on the other hand, says that baptism saves us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:21). How can baptism be unnecessary for salvation if it is "for the remission of sins"? The apostle Paul wrote that we are baptized into Christ and that, in so doing, we "put on Christ" (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:26-27).

If you want to read for yourself the story of that unusual day, the Day of Pentecost, it is recorded in Acts 2.