



## CHAPTER TWO

# PREACH UP A STORM

## PETER

### Acts chapters 2-4

The Apostle Peter has probably been the greatest influence on our modern Evangelical approach to communicating the gospel. Acts 2 being the very first biblical example, after the ascension of Jesus, that the Holy Spirit, through the pen of Luke, has recorded. It is likely that God was, at this point, laying an important foundation as to how the Gospel should be conveyed.

Acts 2:1-13 records the Holy Spirit descending upon a gathering of worshippers who began to speak in previously unlearned languages. Various nationalities visiting Jerusalem heard Galileans speaking languages of Asia, Egypt, Rome, Mesopotamia, etc. Some were in awe, but others thought they were drunk. The Apostle Peter steps into this situation to communicate the gospel.

## Read **Acts 2v14-41**

### **Acts 2v14&15**

Here Peter seems to identify himself with the people he is communicating to by saying “fellow Jews”. He may also be using a little humour as an ice breaker when he states; “These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!” Peter could have been inferring that he wouldn’t put it past some of these people to get drunk on occasions, but they hadn’t had time; it was still too early in the morning! This comment possibly resulted in some laughter as portrayed in the movie “Acts: The Visual Bible.”

1. When sharing the gospel, why is it important to identify with the people you are talking to and how can humour be of use?

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### **Acts 2v16-21**

After identifying with his audience, Peter quotes from the Old Testament scripture. Many of those who had come to Jerusalem were seeking spiritual truth and already had respect for the Old Testament.

2. Why is it important to use Scripture in the presentation of the Gospel?

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3. Have you memorised any verses to help you impart the good news about Jesus? If you have, share them with your Bible study group.

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**Acts 2v22-24**

4. What aspects of the Gospel does the preacher concentrate upon in the preceding verses?

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**Acts 2v31-33**

Here Peter draws attention to the work of the Holy Spirit.

5. What place does the Spirit of God play in the conversion process?

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### **Acts 2v37-39**

Clearly the evangelist does not consider it enough for the crowd to simply accept what he is sharing and mentally acknowledge it as true. Rather he wants the individuals of the crowd to personally respond.

6. How does the evangelist tell them they must respond if they are to become Christians?

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### **Acts 2v40-41**

7. How rapidly after hearing the good news of Jesus does the preceding passage indicate that the new believers were baptised?

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Read **Acts 3v1-26**

In the communication of the gospel Peter not only preaches, but also demonstrates God's power.

8. How does Peter use the healing of a cripple as a platform to express the Gospel?

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9. Have you ever offered to pray for a non-believer who needs healing or some other form of answered prayer? What happened? Share your story or one you have heard.

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Acts 4:1-22 presents the account that Peter and John were briefly imprisoned because of preaching the good news about Jesus and demonstrating God's power.

After their release from prison Peter and John, along with a gathering of other believers, join together for a time of corporate prayer.

Read **Acts 4v23-31**

10. What did they ask God to do? (**Acts 4v29, 30**)

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11. How would you describe the believers' actions after the prayer meeting? (**Acts 4v31**)

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12. Why is prayer an essential part of being an effective communicator of the gospel?

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In chapters 2-4 of Acts we observe three effective principles that the apostle Peter utilised as an evangelist. Preaching, Power and Prayer.

Now is a great time to have some corporate prayer. Ask God to help you to share the good news about Jesus as clearly as Peter did. Seek an opportunity this week to pray for a non-believer, in person, who is sick or emotionally troubled and trust God to reveal his power to that person in answer to prayer.