

# Uprising

Week of April 17

Before returning to heaven Jesus told His disciples: “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of His name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ You are witnesses of all these things. And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven” (Luke 24:46-49).

The disciples paid attention to what their resurrected Lord told them. When Christ returned to heaven and took His position of highest honor and authority (Acts 2:33, Hebrews 1:3) the apostles returned to Jerusalem and took their position of prayer. They began to seek God’s will and waited prayerfully and expectantly for the gift the Father had promised – the outpouring of His Holy Spirit. As a result, the Spirit came and the Church was birthed!

## Read Acts 2:41-47

Our Plain Truth states: “Submissive posturing trumps best practices.” The Jewish people in 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D. were determined to practice their religion, but their efforts had proved powerless in saving their souls. At Pentecost when Peter stood to preach with great courage and boldness (vv 14-36), God’s message to His people through Peter was clear and “Peter’s words pierced their hearts” (Acts 2:37).

1. According to Peter in Acts 2:38, what is the first posture we should take when our hearts are convicted by God’ eternal truth?

What happens in our heart as we turn from sin and turn to God?

How is being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ a posture of humility, and why is it important?

The Bible says, “Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all” (v41). The birth of the church was nothing short of incredible. Through Peter’s preaching God’s promised Holy Spirit miraculously and supernaturally ignited ordinary men and women and gave life to a movement that is still transforming the landscape of humanity today. People began gladly turning from their sins and receiving God’s message of truth. The Church is a work of God’s Holy Spirit not man’s effort, ideas, or calculation.

2. The Gospel message – Christ’s birth, death, and resurrection – offers this life-changing truth: all people can be forgiven of sin and saved from eternal separation from God. How is this life-changing truth impacting you today? What about for eternity, when your days on earth run out?

A posture of prayer and readiness positioned the apostles to receive power from on high. Jesus had told them to wait and pray. And that is what they did! Are we willing to wait on God, and while waiting, pray fervently and expectantly? If we are not willing to wait on God’s Spirit we will end up doing ministry and living life in our own strength, which is pitiful compared to heaven’s harness of power. The posture we take says everything about the desire of our heart. If we really love Jesus, we will seek to be filled with the Person and power of His indwelling presence.

3. “All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer” (v42). On a scale of 1–10 how do you rate in the following postures –

### TEACHING:

Devoting yourself to your pastor’s teaching each weekend?  
What about personal daily Bible Study and Life Group Lessons?  
Are you willing to teach others by leading/facilitating a Life Group?

### FELLOWSHIP:

Do you attend worship regularly? (How do you define regularly?)  
Are you part of a Life Group, Gospel coaching, or accountability group?  
Do you regularly share meals with other believers?

### PRAYER:

Do you pray? What does your prayer life look like on a daily basis?  
If someone were to transcribe your prayers, what would they consist of?  
Are you part of a prayer group that meets regularly?

The exercise above is not intended to make any of us feel guilty, but hopefully help us see that we need to synchronize our posture with our purpose. God calls us to live for Him in this world. If we have chosen to follow Christ we don’t belong to ourselves anymore. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

4. What other postures accompanied the early church according to Acts 2:43-47? List them in the space below:

# UPRISING

**Text: Acts 2:41-47**

## **The Plain Truth:**

Submissive \_\_\_\_\_ trumps best \_\_\_\_\_.

Six “practices” which follow a heart fully “postured” to receive:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_

### **One Year Bible Reading**

Apr. 17: Joshua 15:1-63, Luke 18:18-43, Psalm 86:1-17, Proverbs 13:9-10

Apr. 18: Joshua 16:1-18:28, Luke 19:1-27, Psalm 87:1-7, Proverbs 13:11

Apr. 19: Joshua 19:1-20:9, Luke 19:28-48, Psalm 88:1-18, Proverbs 13:12-14

Apr. 20: Joshua 21:1-22:20, Luke 20:1-26, Psalm 89:1-13, Proverbs 13:15-16

Apr. 21: Joshua 22:21-23:16, Luke 20:27-47, Psalm 89:14-37, Proverbs 13:17-19

Apr. 22: Joshua 24:1-33, Luke 21:1-28, Psalm 89:38-52, Proverbs 13:20-23

Apr. 23: Judges 1:1-2:9, Luke 21:29-22:13, Psalm 90:1-91:16, Proverbs 13:24-25

**April 16 & 17, 2016**