

Turning Point

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In every person's life, there can be a turning point. Peter appealed, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." (Acts 3:19). Let's notice some examples of turning points in the New Testament.

1) **Jews in Acts 2.**

There was a turning point in the lives of about 3,000 when they heard the apostles speak the wonderful works of God. With hearts pricked through the preaching of men of God on this occasion they asked, "... what shall we do?" They were told, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:37-38). "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). Notice the turning point as it is now said, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in

prayers" (Acts 2:42). What a difference the Lord made in the lives of these people!

2) **The Samaritans and Simon.** Acts 8 marks a turning point with the people of Samaria as an evangelist named Philip came to their city and preached Christ. They had been deceived by Simon the sorcerer. They thought, "This man is the great power of God" (Acts 8:10). "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:12). There was a turning point in Simon's life as well as "Simon himself believed also: and...was baptized..." (Acts 8:13).

3) **Saul of Tarsus.** A journey to Damascus brought a turning point in Saul's life. The Lord appeared to him and he asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6). He could have been told,

"There is nothing you can do, Saul. You have been too bad. You are helpless and hopeless." Instead, the Lord said, "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (Acts 9:6). In the city Saul was told, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). This man who considered himself the chiefest of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15), and "...persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women" (Acts 22:4), "...arose, and was baptized....And straightway preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God" (Acts 9:18, 20). What a turning point as this persecutor became a gospel preacher!

4) **A Jailor.** Midnight brought a turning point in the life of a jailor in Philippi. He was moved to ask the greatest question ever asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" He was told,

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ...” “...they spake unto him the word of the Lord...” as “...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). “And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house” (Acts 16:30-34). What a turning point in the life of this man as an unbeliever became a believer!

5) The Thessalonians. A visit to the synagogue in Thessalonica marked a turning point when Paul “...went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and

risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. And some of them believed...” (Acts 17:2-4). This planted the church of Christ in Thessalonica and Paul’s first letter to this good church captures the turning point of the Thessalonians: “For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (1 Th. 1:9).

6) The Corinthians. Paul wrote the Corinthians, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but

ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:9-11). The turning point came when “... many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized” (Acts 18:8).

7) The Ephesians. What a change that took place in the lives of the Ephesians as they were once dead now alive, once lost now saved, once afar off now nigh, once without Christ now in Christ (Eph. 2). The turning point came when they obeyed the gospel. Acts 19:5 says, “When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

When we make our turn, may we never look back. Jesus said, “No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Lk. 9:62).

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