

YOUR LIFE'S TURNING POINT

This was the day the Church was born and we celebrate this day as the day of the Holy Spirit, the Pentecostal day.

Introduction:

This is your life's turning point, for the day of Pentecost that we read in the book of Acts was the turning point in everybody's life — that's when the Church was born. It was nearly two months since Jesus' resurrection. The first turning point was the death of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection. About two months from that day, Jesus ascended to the heavens but there were no new converts. Nobody had accepted Christ and was saved. As the disciples had gathered and were waiting, suddenly the Holy Spirit came upon them like the rushing wind, filled them and cut through their hearts and people started to accept Christ. After the Holy Spirit came, a drastic change came into their lives. That was the major turning point where churches were born, apostles rose and the Word of God spread like fire to all the corners of the world.

When you read **Acts Chapter 2**, it speaks about two important persons. One is the Holy Spirit, who changed the lives and the other one is Peter, whose life was changed. The Holy Spirit came and changed lives and when their lives were changed, Peter rose and preached the first sermon (from the birth to the crucifixion — all the prophecies) ever given by an apostle. He was an uneducated man. People were saved and the Church was born. The touch of the Holy Spirit was the turning point for Peter. You can divide the life of Peter into two parts— one before the touch of the Holy Spirit and two, after the touch of the Holy Spirit. If you allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life, your life will also experience a turning point, a breakthrough!

For many years, we have been a part of the Church, we've been doing the work of the Lord, but there hasn't been any change in our lives. Let's take the life of Peter before the Holy Spirit touched him. He was unstable, impulsive, insecure, proud, had anger, one who ran away, one who denied Jesus. This was Peter's life. Though Jesus looked at him and said that he is the rock on which the Church will be built, Peter ran away.

Let's see what Peter did:

- Jesus walked on water and Peter said, "I will also walk on water."
- When Jesus said He will be crucified, he said, "No Lord, I will not allow that to happen."
- When Jesus made a prediction that Peter will deny Him thrice, he said, "No, I will stand for you." But he ran away.
- While Jesus prayed, others slept. Peter also slept.

- When Jesus was betrayed by Judas and was arrested, Peter took out his sword and cut the servant's ear.
- When the woman in the crowd identified Peter as one of Jesus' disciples, he denied and ran away.

Peter was always an impulsive person — he was daring but many a time, his acts were foolish. Many a time, he stood against God, and though he saw Jesus do miracles, though he was with Jesus as a disciple, though he was spending time in synagogues with Jesus, his life never changed. But Jesus knew that he would be touched by the Holy Spirit and his life will be completely different. Peter had a past, but the future that Jesus had for him had no connection to his past.

If you read **Acts 2:2–4**:

2 — Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 — They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 — All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

Till that time, Peter was baptized but not by the Holy Spirit. Now, the disciple becomes an apostle, a turning point comes in his life. The work of the Holy Spirit can bring in a drastic change in your life, in your children's lives, for generations. There will be a turning point if you allow the Holy Spirit to take control.

Acts 2:14

14 — Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

The man who ran away now stands in front of 3,000 people and starts to talk — the man who betrayed Jesus, the man who was not bold enough to say that he was with Jesus, but now, though Jesus was not around, stands along with the other 11 disciples, and starts to preach. The first sermon that was preached by the apostles.

What did the Holy Spirit do to him?

- The Holy Spirit made him speak with eloquence, the one who was uneducated.
- The Holy Spirit baptized him, the one who was not worthy.
- The Holy Spirit made him perform miracles, the one who relied on the flesh.

- The Holy Spirit made him preach powerful sermons, the one who said that he does not know Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit gave him the patience to undergo persecution, the one who cut the ear of the soldier.
- The Holy Spirit made him bring gentiles to conversion.
- The Holy Spirit made him write letters to the Church.

The book of Acts is all about Peter and Paul. First half is all about Peter and the second half is all about Paul. Five sermons had been preached by Peter. **Acts Chapter 10** again brings in a significance, as a lot of gentiles came and accepted Christ, for the first time, when Peter preached. There was a turning point in Peter's life after the Holy Spirit started working in his life.

If you are wondering that you don't have the talent, education, calling, you are not equipped, all you need is the Anointing and it can change your life. The day the Holy Spirit came upon Peter, it changed his life completely — the arrogant one became patient, the one who ran away started going through persecution. In **Acts Chapter 3**, he goes and heals a lame person and he was put in prison but he stood for Christ.

If you have been running because of your problems, your debts, or if you have been scared of people, it's time to stop running and stand, for the Holy Spirit is going to take control of your life. Encourage someone saying, this is the turning point of your life. This was the turning point of all the believers and the Church was born. Leave out the flesh and allow the Spirit to take control and you will change completely, for along with the Holy Spirit comes the gifts and fruits. It's not just an outward change but an inward change. The man who ran away started to stand. You will stand strong in our life.

What did the Holy Spirit do to Peter and others that made this particular change?

Three points to look into:

1. **The Spirit of the Lord Affected Their Minds**

Before being filled with the Holy Spirit, all had carnal minds. Everybody was thinking in their flesh. Their thoughts were all different and they were running in their own strength. But when the Spirit touched them, it affected their own minds.

Romans 8:6–7

6 — The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

7 — The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

To be carnally minded is death but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. The Spirit changes your carnal mind to a spiritual mind, where there is life and peace when you allow the Holy Spirit to work. There is a constant pressure; we are always in fear. But if you want a breakthrough in your life, you need a big shift in your mind. That's what the Word of God says in **Romans 12:1 and 2**— renewal of your mind. What the Spirit did on that day was the renewing of their minds— their thoughts changed, their attitudes changed, their beliefs changed. Everybody was changed because they allowed the Spirit to take control. Many a time, we say that the Lord is in control but actually, we are the ones who try to control the Lord. We don't give God full control. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit took complete control and they didn't know what was happening.

If you need a turning point in your life, you need to shift from the carnal mind (carnal mind is death) to the Spirit mind (which is life and peace). The carnal mind is not about lust alone, but it makes us do what the world wants us to do — it gives us the fear of the world, it always wants us to please others, it's all about possessions, it makes us take decisions in flesh, it does not allow us to listen to the Spirit. That's why the Spirit of the Lord touched their minds first.

2. The Spirit of the Lord Affected Their Hearts

Their hearts were affected for it needed purification.

Acts 15:8–9

8 — God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

9 — He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

When Peter spoke about gentiles being filled with the Spirit, he declared that their hearts were purified. Our hearts need to be pure and uncorrupted. When Peter spoke, their hearts were purified. We want to give only a part of our heart to the Lord and not the entire heart. We want to do what Jesus wants, we want to give Jesus control over our hearts but the entire heart is not occupied by Jesus. Our first love for God has disappeared; we have compartments for different things in our life. It cannot be compartmentalised. If you give your heart to Jesus, you need to give it completely. The Holy Spirit touched their hearts and they declared that their hearts were purified.

Story:

A pastor was ministering to a veteran, who was a soldier. He had lost both his legs in the war and was in a wheelchair. The pastor was talking to him about Jesus and was telling him what

the Lord expects from him, the commandments etc. The veteran was arguing saying, “this is too much and I don’t understand but do I need to follow all of this.” The pastor said “yes”. After a point of time, the veteran said, “Now I understand, for I used to obey the commands of the commander blindly though we did not understand. And we just need to obey what Jesus tells us.”

We only obey partially and not completely, we only want to listen to those words that convince us, we don’t want to listen to anything else that does not get along with our desires. Giving your heart, being touched by Jesus or giving the Spirit to control means that you obey completely and listen to God.

3. The Spirit of the Lord Affected Their Speech

There is a verse in the Bible that says there is life and death in the power of your tongue. Peter was an uneducated man who did not know literature, who did not know the history but when he starts to speak from the beginning to the end — all the prophecies, the happenings, how Jesus was betrayed and crucified, then the people’s heart was cut off as Peter spoke, for he spoke being filled with the Holy Spirit.

How are our words and speech? Our speech is always negative, words that don’t please God, sinful words, gossip, discourage people with our words, break people with our words. The most important thing for a turning point in your life is that your speech needs to be affected by the Spirit of God. You should speak from the Spirit and not from the flesh, for when you speak in Spirit, you speak power, faith, you declare and build people’s lives, and build your own lives as well. For many a time, our life is destroyed by what we speak. The Holy Spirit affected his speech and the disciple became an apostle. He preached his best sermons for it was controlled by the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit affected their hearts, their minds and their speech. There was a big difference in Peter’s life and that was the turning point in Peter’s life. If you allow the Spirit of the Lord, He will give you a turning point in your life. We may have been with Jesus, listening to His words and experiencing miracles, but now our lives must change and we should start doing miracles.

In **Acts Chapter 3**, Peter heals a lame man, he was put in prison and was beaten, he then comes out and is again put back in prison (**Acts 12**), he walks out of prison being delivered by the angel of the Lord. All of these can happen in our lives if you allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives — to have a turning point in our lives.

We want Jesus to fly our plane, we want Him to take us to the right destination, but we want Him to be the co-pilot. We want to be the pilot and fly and want Jesus to just sit next to us.

Make the spirit of the Lord to be the pilot and be the co-pilot along with Him. When we sit around, He flies and brings in the course correction.

Story:

A young woman was listening to an evangelist. He told her to give her whole heart and life to Christ. The young woman said, "No, if I give my whole life to Jesus, He will ask me to go to China as a missionary and I don't want to go to China." But the evangelist said, "Can I tell you a story and ask you a question?" And the woman said yes. He said, "If there is a bird which is shivering in the cold, injured and hungry, and if the bird flies to your window, will you take it in, crush and squeeze it and put it in more pain or will you feed the bird, dress its wounds and make it fly back to its destination?" The young woman said, "I will not strangle and bring pain to the bird. Rather I will make sure the bird is warm, is fed and will make sure to allow the bird to fly back to its destination." The evangelist said that's what Christ also wants to do to you. He wants to feel the warmth and fly to your destination. The young lady parted and met him again after two years. The evangelist asked her, "Have you given your life to Jesus. The woman said, "Yes, I have given my life to Jesus Christ". And he asked what you are doing now. She said, The Lord asked me to go as a missionary to China and I am a missionary."

Conclusion:

When we give our lives completely to the Holy Spirit's control, we will go in the way the Spirit leads us. He will direct us. We will be in the right location, at the right time with the right people when the Spirit intercedes in our life. Most of the time, we are in the wrong place with the wrong people at the wrong time because we made decisions with our carnal mind and were not led by the Spirit. But the Spirit of the Lord wants to bring a turning point in your life. Our lives will be turned like how Peter's life was turned. Amen!