

Pricked in the Heart

The effect of St. Peter's address is recorded through the remaining part of this chapter. "When they heard this they were pricked in the heart;" that is, were stung with a lively sorrow and compunction; under the influence of which they anxiously inquire what they should do: and were exhorted by Peter to "repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins."

And for their greater encouragement he tells them, that the promise is in the first instance made to them, and to their children, agreeably to which our Lord, giving his disciples their commission, said, "Go ye rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel:" but at the same time instructs them in the design of the new religion, shewing that it was not to be confined exclusively to the Jews, but to extend "to all that are afar off," to distant heathen nations, "as many as God should call."

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, "save yourselves from this untoward generation," whose destruction is impending; the certain consequence of their unbelief and crimes.

Nor was his preaching vain; for "the same day were added unto them about three thousand souls:" a noble harvest in so short a time; and whose prime efficient cause was the operation of the Holy Ghost, so visibly and astonishingly displayed.

(Lectures on the Acts of the Apostles... by Richard Stack, Published by Edward Earle: Philadelphia... 1815, 39, e-book, Text and Paragraph Structure Modified)