

# Transformed – teen devotion – April 8, 2018

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When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

**Acts 2:37-41**

## **Bold**

My parents decided to take my family to the circus when I was about five years old. I was entranced by the animals, the trapeze artists, and the silly games and activities. But when the clowns came out, I tried to run away. There was something about them that scared me.

My brother played on this fear one year by dressing up as a clown for Halloween. He would pop up around random corners of our house. For many years, I shyly avoided any interactions with clowns at parades or fun family events because of my fear and lack of confidence.

Finally, my dad took me by the hand and showed me some clowns behind the scenes. I saw them putting on makeup, taking it off, and doing human things. The realization that clowns weren't what they seemed helped me overcome my fear of them. The encouragement and support of my dad made me stronger and bolder to face my fears.

Jesus' disciples had their fears as well. They saw Jesus arrested, scorned, mocked, and put to death on a cross. The disciples' sinful human nature made them susceptible to the devil's temptations of fear and doubt.

But after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to them as they hid behind the scenes. He showed them that he really was alive. He showed them (and us!) that all our enemies had been overcome. By the Holy Spirit's strength, the disciples were rescued from their fear and doubt. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on them, giving them the courage and boldness to go out into Jerusalem to preach and teach the saving news of Christ to others so they might repent, believe, and be saved.

The devil will always tempt us to hide away and to be afraid. But this Easter, see what Peter saw that made him bold to speak. Look behind the scenes and see that Jesus is victorious and reigning on his throne. Then by the Spirit, share Jesus with boldness and confidence.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, send your Spirit down on me. Through the Holy Spirit, help me to speak boldly and confidently your Word and your Son. Keep me in the saving truth of Christ now and always. Amen.

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