ACTS 16:

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced**, believing in God** with all his house.

*Before the law believing God was when God spoke to you gave you instruction or a command or believing was accepting circumstances that happened to be of God direction.*

GENESIS 12:

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

*Lot was a little different I cannot find where the Lord every spoke to lot directly only through an angel when he was taken out of Sodom. Perhaps he believed God had called Abram and, in that way, believed.*

GENESIS 12:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

*I long to be a 100% Christian but cannot be assured that I am. Christians in their walk with God produce different fruit as far as spiritual.*

MATTHEW 13

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

*Rewards in eternity are given according to your works.*

I CORINTHIANS 3

8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

*Lot’s deliverance was at least partially if not completely because of Abraham.*

GENESIS 19

29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

II PETER 2

6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the **filthy conversation** of the wicked:

Filthy: 766 aselgeia {as-elg'-i-a} unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness insolence

Conversation: 391 anastrophe {an-as-trof-ay'} manner of life, conduct, behaviour

*Abraham did not make a decision but took what was left*

*Notice about lot. He made his own decisions instead of allowing God to make them.*

GENESIS 13

8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

*Most decision at least any of mine that I made by own reasoning cause me harm instead of good. The decisions that I believe the Lord directed never look good or better in my eyes but always proved to be what I needed*

GENESIS 19:

15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

*Lot did not listen to the angels but rather tarried until the angels forced him out of Sodom and after that again he made a wrong decision.*

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:

Again, Lot thought he had a better idea then the angels.

19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

*God allows our thought to prevail but the end show His direction is always right.*

GENESIS 19

30 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.

*I’ve got a little off track, but my point God way of leading was by directly speaking or by circumstance same with Joseph by dreams and Jacob and his brothers by circumstances.*

GENESIS 45:

4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

*After that God give them a law through Moses.*

EXODUS 24:

12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

GALATIANS 3:

19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

*The only way law is kept is by the punishment for disobedience and often that did not stop people from sinning.*

*Faith is the only way to please God.*

HEBREWS 11

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

*This is what God has given us to believe.*

HEBREWS 1

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

ACTS 1:

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

MARK 16

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and **confirming** the word with signs following. Amen..

Confirming: 950 bebaioo {beb-ah-yo'-o} to make firm, establish, confirm, make sure

GALATIANS 3:

15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be **confirmed**, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

Confirmed: 2964 kuroo {koo-ro'-o} to make valid; to confirm publicly or solemnly, to ratify:

HEBREWS 2

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed** unto us by them that heard him;

4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Confirming: 950 bebaioo {beb-ah-yo'-o} to make firm, establish, confirm, make sure

*We all Jew, Gentile, Hebrew all start the same in sin*.

GALATIANS 3:

22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

*Satan’s purpose is keeping people away from faith, so he uses a law as one way and he has others.*

GALATIANS 3:

1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

*Error is either taking from the Word or adding to the Word and even keeping the Word as written but adding a false interpretation to it also make it void to the person making the error and accepting the error however it comes.*

2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

6 Even as **Abraham believed God**, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

*This is one way to be curse.*

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

*I have spoken about how tithes and any scripture that people are taught to keep will put people under law and as Paul teaches also a curse.*

*The LORD when give the law also gave what is called the ten commandments. Which even keeping those by your own ability is putting yourselves under law we must not in our self try to keep commandments but the Lord has promised to write them in our heart.*

HEBREWS 10:

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

18 Now where remission of these is, there **is no more offering for sin.**

ROMANS 8:

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

*This is the second*

GALATIANS 1

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

accursed. 331 anathema {an-ath'-em-ah} A person or thing doomed to destruction.

I PETER 2:

14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

*Once a person is cursed unless they can repent and fully accept Christ there is no hope.*

HEBREWS 6

8 But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

*We are born as children of wrath which means we appointed to suffer vengeance of God.*

EPHESIANS 2

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

I THESSALONIANS 1:

10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

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**TRUE FAITH**

When the Lord is pleased to bring a person to Christ in faith, He takes away his despair but not his sorrow over sin. True faith gives a person pardon but does not make him presumptuous. True faith gives a person rest and assurance in Christ but does not allow him to be indifferent and leave off being watchful and dedicated to spiritual growth. True faith gives a person strength, knowledge, and a good hope; but it never promotes pride nor al­lows him to boast. True faith brings a person to live for God but at the same time makes him more attentive to his earthly relationships and duties. He becomes a more loving, caring, generous husband, wife, parent, brother, sis­ter, and neighbor.

When Paul said to the Roman church, "*Your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world*" (Rom. 8:8), it is certain he referred to their labor of love and works of faith; for true faith can only he revealed to others by the FRUIT OF FAITH. One cannot see our hearts, but they can see and hear what comes FROM our hearts and hands **Henry T. Mahan**

***“No man cometh to the Father but by Me****”* **(John 14:6)**

By these words the Lord teaches us that there is only one way to approach God. We come only in Christ’s name!  When we come in Christ’s name, we are asking the Father to receive us for Christ’s sake.  We are asking for the Father to receive us as if it were Christ Himself coming, and not us.  We plead only His name!  But it means more than that.  The Lord did not say, “No man cometh to the Father but through me,” although that would be a true statement.  He said, “*No man cometh to the Father but by Me*.”  It is only as Christ Himself brings me to the Father that I can come to the Father.  It is not so much me coming with Him, but Him coming with me.  It is only as He comes into the Father’s presence, and brings those He represents with Him, that they can come into the Father’s presence.  How true are the words of our Lord, “*No man cometh to the Father but by Me.*”  **Pastor Todd Nibert**

**Christ Our Only Hope of Security and Comfort**

So obvious to the believer in the Lord Jesus is the presence of the old man within and therefore his own doubts concerning his sincerity to Christ, that he finds himself continually flying back to Christ Jesus, his only Hope of security, assurance and comfort. While the natural man finds false peace in his own works of self-righteousness, the vessel of God‘s mercy is given faith to believe the word of the Lord, *“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that come to Me I will in no wise cast out”* (John 6:37). **Pastor Marvin Stalnaker**

**BAPTISM**

*“Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be* ***baptized?*** *And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”* **Acts 8:35-37**

Baptism is for everyone who believes the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Philip asked the eunuch one question when he requested to be baptized. “*If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.”* He answered, “*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”* You know the rest of the story, Philip baptized the eunuch and “*he went on his way rejoicing.”*

Baptism is for believers, it is their public confession of faith in Him.

Peter says it is an “*answer of a good conscience toward God*” (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism is identification with the Lord in His appointed and sacrificial death (Acts 2:23), in His appointed burial (1 Cor. 15:3-5) and in His appointed resurrection from the dead (Matt. 16:21). We only believe the gospel by the Lord’s appointed power and grace (Acts 13:48; Eph. 1:19-20; 1 Thes. 5:9).

Believers are not baptized to be saved; they are baptized because they have been saved by the Lord’s grace (Eph. 2:8-9).

Believers are not baptized to put away our sin, they are baptized because Christ has already put away their sin by His sacrifice unto death (Heb. 9:26).

Believers are not baptized to be regenerated or sanctified, they are baptized because they have already been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and made new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:1-4).

Believing the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is a powerful miracle of the Lord’s mighty and sovereign grace (2 Tim. 1:9). Those who are brought to Christ in saving faith are not ashamed to own, submit and identify with Him, His gospel and His people (Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:12). It is always the believer’s delight and joy to obey the Lord in believer’s baptism. While it is not essential to salvation, it is essential to our obedience to the Lord who commanded every believer to be baptized (Mark 16:16).