

# Answering the Objections to **BAPTISM AND SALVATION**

Anyone who dies without the proper water baptism  
will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.



**OBJECTION:** The thief on the cross...  
the thief lived and died before the gospel was given,  
before Christ's command to baptize (Luke 23:43;  
Acts 2:38)

**OBJECTION:** Spiritual baptism...  
True salvation requires both water and Spirit.  
You must be born of water and the Spirit to  
Enter the Kingdom (John 3:5; Acts 2:38)



**OBJECTION:** Christ didn't baptize...  
John 4:2 tells us Christ himself did not baptize,  
but his disciples did—by Christ's orders.  
Christ was baptized to show us the way  
(Matthew 3:14-15; John 4:2)

**OBJECTION:**  
What about death  
bed conversion...  
Divine truth is measured  
by God's Word alone, not  
exceptions, emotions, or  
'what if' scenarios. Judgment is in the  
hands of God—not man (Matthew 7:21)

**TRUTH:** There is **NO** salvation without baptism  
as God commands.

**Acts 2:38** (KJV) — Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the  
name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."

## BOOK 02 – CHAPTER 03 – STUDY 04

### Answering the Objections to Baptism and Salvation REFUTING CONTRADICTIONS TO:

**“Anyone who dies without the proper water baptism after reaching  
the age of accountability will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”**

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From: Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry Biblical Studies archive –  
Salvation 101 – A corrected doctrine. The Narrow Path of Obedience

## Refuting Common Contradictions to the Statement:

**“Anyone who dies without the proper water baptism after reaching the age of accountability will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”**

### PART 1: FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINES OF SALVATION

✗ **CONTRADICTION #1:** "The thief on the cross wasn't baptized, and he was saved."

✗ **Claim:** Christ told the thief, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." ([Luke 23:43](#)) proving baptism isn't necessary.

#### Biblical Refutation:

This event occurred **before Pentecost, before the New Covenant, and before Christ was glorified.** At that time: [scriptures](#)

- The new gospel had **not yet been preached.**
- The Holy Ghost had **not yet been given.**
- The command to be baptized **for the remission of sins** (Acts 2:38) had **not yet been established.** [Acts 2:38](#) – “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

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**John 4:2** – “(Though Christ himself baptized not, but his disciples.)”

**John 7:39** – “...for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Christ was not yet glorified.”

**Luke 5:24** – “...the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins...”

The thief was saved **directly by Christ Himself**, who alone has the power to forgive sins at His word. Christ is the only begotten Son of God, **He is not bound to the process He later gave to mankind**. When He declares someone saved, they are saved. Period.

But **we are not Christ**.

Since Pentecost, the gospel has been fully revealed, and **salvation now requires obedience to His command**:

**Acts 2:38** – “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

We cannot claim the thief's exception while **ignoring Christ's instruction**. Exceptions never invalidate commands. God expects obedience, not excuses.

❓ **Objection: “Why was Christ baptized if He had no sin to be forgiven?”**

Another common comment and question is: The thief did not get baptized and was a sinner and Christ got baptized and had no sin. That proves that baptism is not necessary for salvation. If baptism is truly necessary for the remission of sins, and Christ had no sin, why was He baptized if it was not just for an outward expression of faith?

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## Biblical Response:

Christ's baptism was not for the remission of sins, **for He had none**; but to fulfill righteousness and to **receive the Holy Ghost**, establishing the divine pattern for all who would follow Him.

**Acts 2:38** – "...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

**Christ did not need forgiveness**, not because He was unclean, but to **show us the order and example** we must follow. Plus **He did receive the Holy Ghost at baptism!**

**Luke 3:22 (KJV)** – "And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him..."

**Matthew 3:16 (KJV)** – "...and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him..."

**Mark 1:10 (KJV)** – "...the Spirit like a dove descending upon him..."

**John 1:32 (KJV)** – "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him."

This was no coincidence. **Through water baptism, Christ publicly received the Holy Ghost**. In doing so, He gave us a living demonstration of what would later be commanded:

**Once again. Acts 2:38** – Be baptized "for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

### **Apostles and the Holy Ghost - A Common Misunderstanding Corrected**

Even the apostles received the **indwelling of the Holy Ghost** *before* the Day of Pentecost, and **they received it without being baptized**. After Christ's ascension, they were led by the Spirit, not because they waited until Pentecost, but because **Christ Himself had already given it to them** before the gospel instructions of **Acts 2:38** were put into effect.

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This is similar to the thief on the cross. He did not need to be baptized to receive remission of sins because he received it **directly from Christ**. In the same way, **the apostles received the Holy Ghost directly from Christ before baptism** for the remission of sins was established.

**John 20:21-22 (KJV)** – “Then said Christ to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost.**”

This was the moment of impartation of the **indwelling** of the Holy Ghost. And they received it **without water baptism**, because Christ Himself imparted it unto them.

**Conclusion:** We must never base doctrine on **rare exceptions or pre-cross events**, especially when clear commands were later given. The thief on the cross was not under the New Covenant. He was saved directly by the authority of Christ *before* the gospel was preached, *before* the Holy Ghost was given, and *before* baptism for the remission of sins with the indwelling of the Holy Ghost was established.

**Christ now calls all men to obey His gospel, not interpret it through loopholes.**

**Hebrews 5:9 (KJV)** – “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”

No one today has the authority to bypass what was commanded in **Acts 2:38**. The pattern is clear:

**Believe. Repent. Be baptized. Receive the Holy Ghost. Live Holy. Endure to the end.**

This is the way. This is the gospel. And **there is no other.**

To use the thief as an excuse to skip baptism is to **ignore the full gospel message** that was preached by the apostles and sealed with the Holy Ghost. This is a dangerous misunderstanding. **Hebrews 2:3 (KJV):** “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...”

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✗ **CONTRADICTION #2:** "Christ didn't baptize, so baptism must not be required."

✗ **Claim:** [John 4:2](#) says Christ Himself did not baptize, implying it isn't important.

✓ **Biblical Refutation:**

It's true Christ did not personally baptize, but this does not lessen baptism's importance.

💡 **Clarification on Belief:** Belief is the first step in coming to salvation, but it is never shown alone to bring salvation. True faith always leads to obedience.

[John 3:36](#) – "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not [disobeys] the Son shall not see life..."

[James 2:17](#) – "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

[Romans 1:5](#) – "...for obedience to the faith among all nations for his name."

[Hebrews 5:9](#) – "He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

These verses show that belief alone is never presented as complete salvation. Instead, it must be followed by obedience, confession, repentance, baptism, and a life of enduring faith.

[John 4:2](#) – "(Though Christ himself baptized not, but his disciples.)"

[Matthew 28:19-20](#) – "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them..."

[Mark 16:16](#) – "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..."

[Luke 6:46](#) – "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

[John 17:17](#) – "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

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✖ **Conclusion:** Though He didn't baptize personally, Christ commanded it. Baptism remains essential under His New Covenant instructions. Many twist **John 3:16** and **Romans 10:9-10** to teach belief as the only step. But even those verses imply deeper action.

**Romas 13:11 (KJV)** And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for **now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.**

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## ☒ CONTRADICTION #3: "Water baptism is just a symbol."

☒ **Claim:** Many claim water baptism is only symbolic, a public demonstration, not necessary for salvation. Stating the following: "**Baptism also now save us**" does not mean that water baptism is essential to salvation, since it cannot wash away the filth of the flesh. Baptism shows the answer of a good conscious toward God. In other words, baptism is a conscious testimony to one's faith to the resurrection of Christ because it symbolizes our resurrection with Him.

### 1. Biblical Refutation:

Scripture consistently links water and cleansing of sin. It's never depicted as mere symbolism alone.

Water has always been used for purification of sins throughout Scripture; from the Old Covenant to the New. This pattern shows the consistent role of water as an instrument for spiritual cleansing.

#### Old Covenant purification:

**Numbers 19:7–9** – “for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin.”

**Exodus 30:20–21** – “they shall wash with water, that they die not.”

**Ezekiel 36:25–26** – “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean.”

### 2. **New Covenant also demands water for cleansing and entry into life**, not as a mere picture but as an instrument of grace:

#### a. **Remission of sins:**

**Acts 2:38** – "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins..."

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**b. Connection to new birth & justification:**

**Colossians 2:12:** “Buried with him in baptism... through the faith of the operation of God”

**Romans 6:3–4:** “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death? ... walk in newness of life”

**3. Baptism effects both justification and sanctification, it's more than symbolic:**

**a. Justification by grace through faith must be “worked out”**

**in baptism:** “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption ...” (**Romans 3:24**) coupled with “buried with him in baptism” shows baptism as the means by which we appropriate Christ’s redemptive work.

**b. Sanctification by the Spirit is tied to the “washing of water by the word”:** **Ephesians 5:26:** “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word”

**c. A good conscience is not granted by mere belief but through obedient baptism:**

**1 Peter 3:21:** “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us ... the answer of a good conscience toward God”

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4. **True obedience always accompanies genuine faith**, baptism is the action step of faith, not an optional add-on:

**James 2:22: "Faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect"**

**Hebrews 5:9: "Being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him"**

Also see B2-C03-S02- "Baptism God's Appointed Moment of Remission", where water baptism is tied directly to washing away sin, and the explanation of why it is not just symbolic.

**Conclusion: Water baptism is far more than a symbol**; it is the required biblical instrument God chose for the Remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**), Union with Christ's death & resurrection (**Rom 6:3-4**), Sanctification ("washing of water by the word") and A clear conscience before God (**1 Pet 3:21**)

Baptism is not only essential to salvation, it must also be done according to God's requirements. And one of the most important ones is that the person performing the baptism must be called and ordained by God or by someone who was directly ordained by God.

This matters because **only those who are called, sent and empowered by God carry the authority to remit sins through baptism**. As Christ said:

**John 20:21-23 (KJV)** – "Then said Christ to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you... **Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.**"

If the baptizer is not part of the chain of divine ordination, then they do **not** carry the biblical authority to remit sins, and **remission is the entire purpose of water baptism** (**Acts 2:38**).

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**Matthew 15:13-14** – “Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up... they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”

**Anyone baptized by someone not sent or ordained by God has not received true remission of sins, but only a powerless ritual. To treat baptism as merely symbolic is to reject the power of the cross itself, dismissing both the authority of Christ and the purpose for which He commanded baptism through His ordained messengers.**

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✗ **CONTRADICTION #4:** "The Spiritual baptism is what truly matters, not water."

✗ **Claim:** Some argue that receiving the Holy Ghost is all that matters and water baptism is optional.

**Refutation #1:**

Scripture never separates water and Spirit. Christ said:

**John 3:5 (KJV)** "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

- The apostles always practiced water baptism, even when the Spirit fell first ([Acts 10:44–48](#)).
- The Ethiopian eunuch was baptized immediately when water was found ([Acts 8:36–38](#)).
- Philip, who baptized him, was not a random believer, he was one of the seven ordained deacons under apostolic authority ([Acts 6:3–6](#)).

👉 This shows baptism was never left to chance or casual practice. Authority mattered.

**Refutation #2:**

This claim "The Spiritual baptism is what truly matters, not water." directly opposes the pattern given by Christ and followed by the apostles. **Scripture never separates spiritual baptism from water baptism as optional or interchangeable.** Rather, **both are essential components** of the one true baptism that places a believer into the body of Christ.

1. Water Baptism is **Commanded**, not Suggested.

**Matthew 28:19 (KJV)** – "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

**Mark 16:16 (KJV)** – "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..."

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These are not figurative instructions. The apostles did not replace water baptism with a “spiritual only” experience.

## 2. The Early Church Practiced Water Baptism Immediately

**Acts 10:44–48** – Cornelius and his household received the filling of the Holy Ghost before baptism, yet Peter still said: “[Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized...? And he commanded them to be baptized...](#)”

Even after the filling of the Holy Spirit, Peter emphasized water baptism as the rightful step of obedience and necessary part for salvation.

**Acts 8:36–38** – The Ethiopian eunuch said, “[See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?](#)” The Spirit led Philip to this encounter, yet water was still required.

## 3. B3-C02-S04- “Continuing in the Apostles’ Doctrine” confirms the pattern:

All believers in the book of Acts, whether Jewish or Gentile, were baptized in water in the name of Christ, **followed by the indwelling of the Holy Ghost**, not one without the other.

**Acts 2:38** – “[Repent, and be baptized... and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.](#)”

## 4. B2-C02-S04- “Grace and Mercy Within God’s Conditions”:

**Grace leads us into obedience, not away from it.**

**Titus 2:11–12** – “[...teaching us that, denying ungodliness... we should live soberly, righteously, and godly...](#)” **Rejecting baptism as unnecessary denies the very teaching grace provides.**

## 5. B3-C04-S02- “Sanctification Being Made Holy by the Word and the Spirit” and B3-C04-S03- “Justification Being Cleared Before God”: are both connected to cleansing through water:

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**Ephesians 5:26** – “...sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

**Romans 6:4** – “We are buried with him by baptism into death...”

**Water baptism is not symbolic; it is where the old man dies and sanctification begins.**

## **6. Baptism in water came first, then the indwelling of the Spirit.**

See also B2-C03-S03- “The Holy Ghost The Indwelling Gift of the New Covenant” for full breakdown of when and how the Spirit is given, and its connection to obedience and baptism.

### **Authority and Ordination**

Many today accept a “common salvation” that allows anyone to baptize, regardless of doctrine. But **B3-C02-S05- “Truth or Deceit Testing What You Believe”** warns us: not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” is recognized by Christ (**Matthew 7:21–23**). These are works of **lawlessness (ἀνομία)** unauthorized acts done without God’s authority.

- **Jude 1:3** tells us to contend for the faith once delivered, not to accept counterfeit versions of salvation.
- If a pastor or leader teaches a false salvation plan (faith alone, baptism as symbolic, sprinkling, etc.), then his baptism cannot remit sins because it is rooted in disobedience, not truth.

**Acts 19:1–5** proves this: Paul **re-baptized** those who had received baptism without apostolic authority. Their first baptism was powerless because it was not done correctly under the truth of the gospel.

This principle is consistent with God’s pattern from the Old Testament:

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- Only priests ordained by God could perform sacrifices and washings ([Exodus 30:20–21](#)). Unauthorized offerings (Nadab & Abihu, [Leviticus 10:1–2](#)) brought judgment.
- In the New Covenant, baptism is tied directly to remission of sins and must also be performed under divine authority.

### Conclusion: Conclusion:

Baptism is valid only when it is done in obedience to Acts 2:38, administered in both water and Spirit, and performed by one ordained within the apostolic chain of authority. Otherwise, it is lawlessness, a powerless ritual. As Christ warned: “*Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up*” ([Matthew 15:13](#)).

Scripture never allows Spirit baptism alone to replace water baptism. Both are required parts of the salvation process. To claim that only the “Spirit baptism” matters is to dismiss the clear, consistent commands of Christ and the apostolic pattern in Scripture. Water baptism is where:

- Sins are remitted ([Acts 2:38](#))
- The old man is buried ([Romans 6:4](#))
- A good conscience is obtained ([1 Peter 3:21](#))
- We obey Christ’s command ([Matthew 28:19](#))

For it is written: “*One Lord, one faith, one baptism*” ([Ephesians 4:5](#)) not two, not separate. The true baptism includes both water and Spirit, just as Christ taught in [John 3:5](#): “*Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*”

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## **Warning**

Many today have been baptized by leaders never ordained or rooted in false doctrines. B3-C02-S05- “Truth or Deceit Testing What You Believe” warns us of the **“common salvation”** a counterfeit plan that deceives many ([Jude 1:3–4](#)).

👉 If the baptizer was not ordained under the apostles’ doctrine, then the baptism may be void, leaving only a powerless ritual.

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☒ **CONTRADICTION #5:** "What about people who didn't have the chance to be baptized?"

☒ **Claim:** Surely God wouldn't condemn someone who believed but died before baptism?

☒ **Claim:** *"If someone truly believed but died before they could be baptized, God would surely save them anyway. He knows their heart."*

**Biblical Refutation:**

While God is indeed merciful and just, **we are not authorized to teach exceptions to the gospel** that were never declared by Christ or His apostles. The moment we begin building doctrines on "what if" scenarios, we step out of the fear of God and into the realm of man's opinions.

***Proverbs 14:12 (KJV)*** – "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

### **1. The Gospel Is a Command, Not a Suggestion**

***Acts 2:38 (KJV)*** – "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins..."

***Mark 16:16 (KJV)*** – "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..."

We are **commanded** to preach the full gospel, not a modified one based on emotional exceptions. Not everyone who *meant* to repent in the Bible was spared judgment.

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## 2. From B2-C02-S02- “Repentance A Complete Change of Direction”:

True repentance is a change that must produce action. Even desire without obedience is **not accepted**. Consider the warning in:

**Luke 13:3 (KJV)** – “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

Repentance without follow-through is still rebellion in God’s eyes.

## 3. From B2-C02-S03- “Faith That Leads to Salvation”:

**James 2:17 (KJV)** – “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

Believing in one’s heart but never obeying with action is not saving faith.

## 4. From B2-C02-S05- “Confessing Christ According to Scripture”:

Confession with your mouth out loud is a public declaration, but it is not the finish line. The apostles always followed confession with immediate baptism, as seen in **Acts 8, Acts 10, and Acts 16**.

## 5. From B2-C02-S04- “Grace and Mercy Within God’s Conditions”:

God’s mercy is real, but it is offered on His terms, not ours.

**Titus 2:11–12 (KJV)** – “The grace of God... hath appeared... teaching us... to live righteously...” Grace teaches us to obey, not to delay or make excuses.

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## 6. From B3-C04-S04- “Righteousness and Holiness Obedience That God Recognizes”:

**1 John 3:7 (KJV)** – “He that doeth righteousness is righteous...” Right intentions alone do not save. Obedience is the fruit of righteousness.

## 7. What if someone dies before baptism?

We do not judge souls, we judge doctrine.

**Deuteronomy 29:29 (KJV)** – “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us...”

We are only responsible for preaching what has been revealed. It is God’s alone to judge the unknown and unseen. But our job is to teach what was commanded: that baptism is for the remission of sins, and no one has the authority to skip it or preach otherwise.

Only Christ can judge exceptions, but we must preach what He commanded:

 **Conclusion:** Christ will judge those who couldn’t. But for all who can, obedience is required without delay.

See B2-C03-S05- “Examining Your Salvation According to Scripture” for deeper reflection on obedience and whether one is walking in true salvation.

It is dangerous to base salvation doctrine on hypothetical situations. Every account of salvation after the resurrection includes water baptism. The apostles made no exceptions, not for soldiers, jailers, royalty, or foreigners.

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**2 Thessalonians 1:8 (KJV)** – “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord **יהוָשׁוּעַ** Christ.”

If someone truly desires to obey but dies before doing so, God will judge righteously. But no teacher, preacher, or disciple has the right to teach that obedience can be delayed, avoided, or replaced by good intentions.

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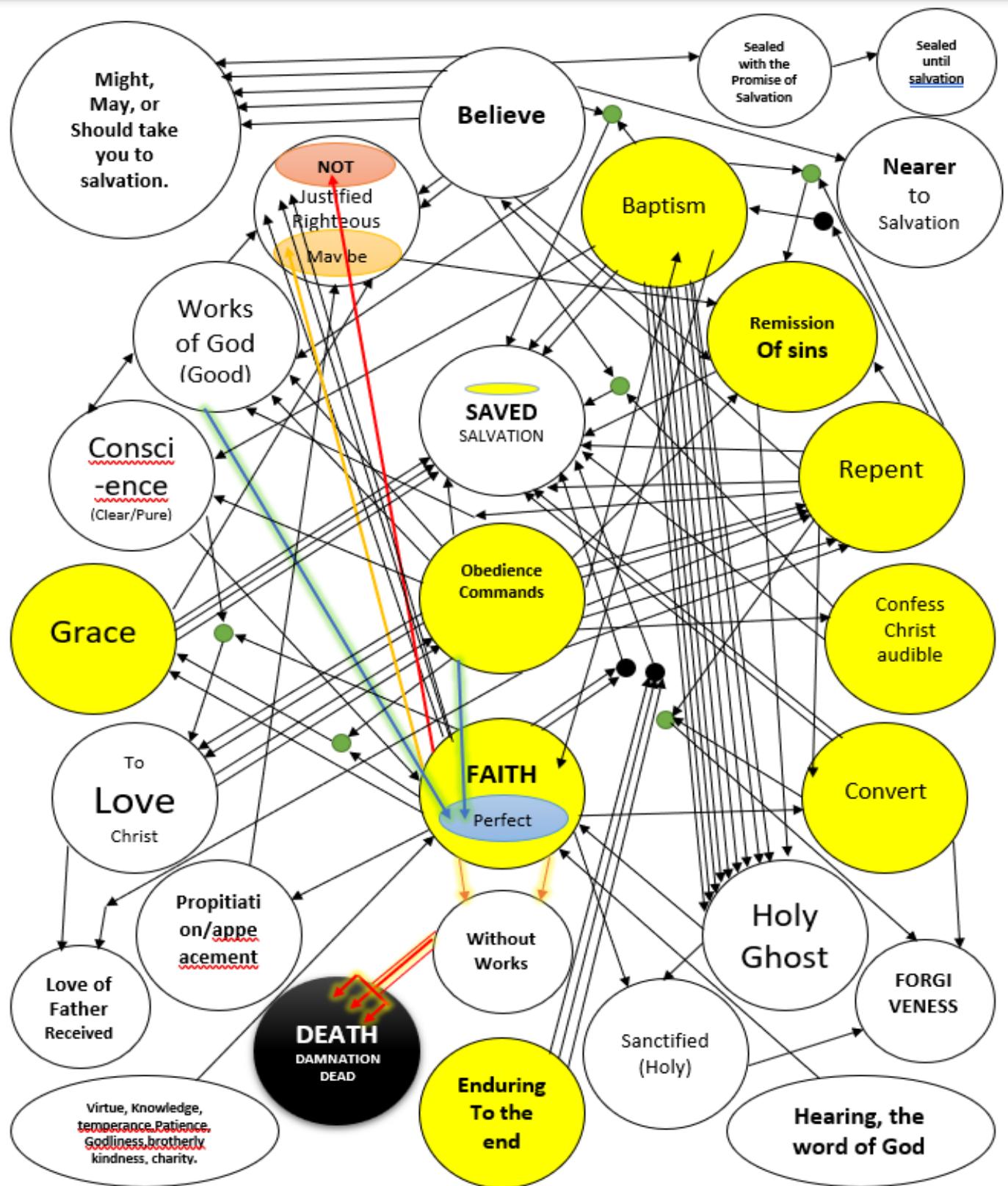


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## PART 2: SCRIPTURE-BASED MAP OF SALVATION



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## From: B2-C01-S04 – “The Full Biblical Pattern of Salvation”

Salvation is not a one-time emotional decision, but a clear **process of transformation** revealed through the teachings of Christ and His apostles. This map is not man-made, it is built directly from **Scripture**, as taught in all of Zion’s Roar Holy Ministry studies.

The intention of this study map, where the instructions are in **B2-C01-S03- “Tracing the Biblical Path to Salvation”**, is to follow the plan of salvation using biblical verses and breaking them down. Doing this will give us understanding on what God requires and how each condition connects one to another.

**2 Tim 2:15 (KJV)** – "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

[Followed by an extensive list of over 100 verses connecting concepts like belief, repentance, baptism, obedience, remission of sins, endurance, and the Holy Ghost. All relationships are presented in a cause-and-effect style, showing how each scriptural element leads toward salvation.]

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## PART 3: DOCTRINAL SUMMARY AND FINAL QUESTIONS

The gospel of salvation, as taught by Christ and His apostles, is not open to private interpretation or denominational rewriting. It is a **clear, ordered, and divinely revealed process**.

Each of the following doctrines is essential, none are optional, symbolic-only, or replaceable:

### 1. Faith

**Hebrews 11:6 – “Without faith it is impossible to please him...”**

Faith begins the journey, but as confirmed in B2-C02-S03- “Faith That Leads to Salvation”; faith alone is dead unless it produces obedience.

### 2. Repentance

**Acts 17:30 – “God... now commandeth all men every where to repent.”**

Repentance is the full surrender of one’s life and will. As B2-C02-S02- “Repentance A Complete Change of Direction” reveals, it must result in actual change, not empty remorse.

### 3. Confession of Christ

**Romans 10:10 – “...with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”**

B2-C02-S05- “Confessing Christ According to Scripture” explains that confession identifies the believer with Christ publicly, but it must be followed by obedient action.

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#### **4. Water Baptism**

**Acts 2:38** – “Repent, and be baptized... for the remission of sins...”

**Mark 16:16** – “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...”

The doctrine of baptism is not symbolic, it is essential. Baptism is the appointed means for remission, burial of the old man, and entrance into covenant with God.

#### **5. Receiving the Holy Spirit**

**Acts 5:32** – “...whom God hath given to them that obey him.”

It is not received by default. B2-C03-S03- “The Holy Ghost The Indwelling Gift of the New Covenant” teaches that the Holy Spirit is a seal upon those who submit to the full gospel, not partial belief.

#### **6. Righteousness, Sanctification, and Holiness**

**1 John 3:7** – “...he that doeth righteousness is righteous...”

**Hebrews 12:14** – “...without holiness, no man shall see the Lord.”

According to Studies 53, 51, and 54, these doctrines reveal that salvation is not a moment; it is a life. God expects transformation, not just forgiveness.

#### **7. Obedience to the Apostles' Doctrine**

**Acts 2:42** – “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine...”

B3-C02-S04- “Continuing in the Apostles' Doctrine” confirms that salvation must follow the blueprint given to the apostles, no deviation, no substitutes.

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## ❓ FINAL QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. **Have you been baptized by someone ordained and sent by God, or just anyone claiming authority?**

(See **Acts 19:1–5**: Paul re-baptized those who were baptized incorrectly.)

2. **Has your faith produced action, or have you stopped at belief alone?**

**James 2:17** – “...faith, if it hath not works, is dead...”

3. **Have you obeyed all the gospel steps, or only the parts you were taught?**

**Galatians 1:8** – “...if any... preach any other gospel... let him be accursed.”

4. **Are you continuing in sanctification and obedience daily?**

**Romans 6:4** – “...walk in newness of life.”

5. **Will you trust your eternal soul to tradition, assumption, or truth revealed in Scripture?**

**2 Thessalonians 2:10** – “...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

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## Final Conclusion

Baptism is valid only when it is done in **obedience to [Acts 2:38](#)**, administered in **both water and Spirit** as one complete birth, and performed by one **ordained within the apostolic chain of authority**. Anything less is lawlessness; a powerless ritual. As Christ warned: *"Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up"* ([Matthew 15:13](#)).

Scripture never allows Spirit baptism alone to replace water baptism. Both are required, joined together in the salvation process. To claim that only the Spirit matters is to dismiss the clear and consistent commands of Christ and the apostolic pattern:

- Sins are remitted at baptism ([Acts 2:38](#)).
- The old man is buried in baptism ([Romans 6:4](#)).
- A good conscience is obtained through baptism ([1 Peter 3:21](#)).
- We obey Christ's command in baptism ([Matthew 28:19](#)).

Ephesians 4:5 confirms this unity: *"One Lord, one faith, one baptism."* Not two, not separate, not optional. The true baptism is water **and** Spirit together, just as Christ declared in [John 3:5](#): *"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*

 Therefore, true baptism is not a symbol, not a choice, and not subject to man's traditions. It is the covenant act of obedience where sins are remitted, the old man is buried, the Spirit is received, and eternal life begins, but only when performed in truth and under divine authority.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

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**Warning:** Many today have been baptized by pastors or leaders who were never biblically ordained, and never taught the full truth about repentance, confession, remission of sins and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. If the full gospel wasn't preached, and if obedience to every requirement wasn't explained, **the person may have received a counterfeit baptism** just like **Jude 1:13** warns us.

**Jude 1:3-4 (KJV)** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. **4** For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord.

**Let us break this verse down.**

Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints.

The definition of **EARNESTLY** is with sincere and intense conviction; seriously.

The definition of **CONTEND** is to strive.

**So, this is what Jude is saying:**

It was needful to write to you of the common salvation and appeal to you that ye should, (leave that common salvation plan and) with sincere and intense conviction, strive for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints.

**That Common salvation is NOT of the true faith!**

**For baptism to fulfill its purpose, “the washing away of sins”, the person performing it must be authorized by God.** This is because **remission of sins is not just symbolic or automatic AND it requires God’s appointed vessel to administer it (John 20:23).**

If the baptizer was not taught, sent, or ordained under the authority of the apostles' doctrine, then it **violates the divine order of the New Covenant** and may result in no true remission.

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 **FINAL WARNING:**

***Hebrews 2:3 – “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...”***

This is not just about knowledge, it is about surrender. Every soul must weigh what they've been taught against **Scripture** and **the apostles' doctrine and make their choice.**

***Luke 14:26-28 (KJV)*** If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. **27** And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. **28** For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? **29** Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

***“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”***

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