

The Call

The Truth About Salvation

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma



Book 1 - Chapter 01 – Study 02

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

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Dear Reader,

If you have completed the previous study, then you have already been challenged to examine your beliefs about salvation. Perhaps some questions were raised. Perhaps some assumptions were tested. Perhaps you discovered that there is a difference between what is commonly taught and what is actually written in Scripture. If so, then you are exactly where you need to be.

The purpose of this study is not to attack churches, denominations, pastors, or traditions. It is not to win arguments or prove people wrong.

Its purpose is much more important.

It is to answer a simple question:

What does God actually require of a person who desires salvation?

Many people assume they already know the answer. Some have been told that belief alone is enough. Others trust in a prayer they once prayed, a religious experience they once had, or a tradition they have followed for years.

But when the people in Scripture heard the gospel, they did not ask what their denomination believed.

They asked:

"What shall we do?"

As you read, I encourage you to approach this study with the same humility and sincerity.

Do not accept anything simply because it is written here.

Open your Bible.

Read every passage.

Examine every claim.

Test everything against the Word of God.

If these things are true, then they deserve your obedience.

If they are not, then they should be rejected.

My prayer is that you will not merely seek answers, but that you will seek truth, regardless of where that truth may lead.

May the Lord guide you as you continue your journey through His Word.

John
Servant of Christ
Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

The Gospel of Christ

In the previous study we examined what God requires for salvation.

But salvation is not the end of the journey.

It is the beginning.

Once a person responds to the Gospel, God does not leave them to walk alone.

He gives them His Spirit.

This study examines what the Holy Spirit does for those who belong to Christ.

If you die today, will you enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

Are you following the plan of salvation and faith which was once delivered unto the Saints?

In other words, are you following the Apostle's doctrine, or are you following a common plan of salvation, which is a manmade doctrine?

Is your doctrine of salvation the right one?

Have you verified with the Holy scriptures the salvation plan your pastor is preaching?

How sure are you, that you have not been deceived and have accepted a counterfeit salvation plan? In other words, are you doing what God requires to receive salvation?

The true gospel is not being preached today, which is a huge reason why we have an enormous number of false expectations and very little obedience, which all leads to false salvations.

The most common plan of salvation is that we are saved the moment we believe or have faith.

Sometimes the sinner's prayer is also required.

You might have heard also that baptism is not necessary for salvation, that it is only an outward expression of our faith.

One common salvation plan is when, some preacher comes talks to a person about Christ and how sinful we all are. That we must all repent of our sinful actions in our lives. He would finally get to a point where he would ask them “do you repent, do you want to be saved?” and if they answer, “Yes, I want to be saved, I believe”, then, the preacher all excited will say, “praise the Lord, you believe and are now a child of God, pray this prayer with me and thou shall be saved!”

This can become confusing or overwhelming, because there are so many different doctrines and beliefs in this matter!

Why do some pastors tell you to put your head down and close your eyes when they are asking if there is anyone that would like to accept Christ? Is it shameful to accept Christ in your life, therefore, no one should be looking?

Why do others require baptism as proof of being saved? Or good works? Or tithing for that matter!

The reason there is so much confusion is because many have replaced the gospel of Christ with a gospel of comfort. They promise heaven without repentance, salvation without obedience, and faith without action. But the apostles never preached that kind of gospel. They preached repentance, baptism in the name of Christ for the remission of sins and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. That was and still is the plan of salvation delivered to the saints.

The modern church often teaches a partial gospel that requires no death to self and no obedience to God’s commands. It teaches people to say a prayer rather than to be born again. Yet Scripture makes it clear that faith without works is dead, and that salvation requires both belief and obedience. Those who truly follow Christ must enter through the narrow gate, not the wide one created by human tradition.

The true gospel calls for repentance, water baptism in the name of the Son of God, and a life led by the Holy Spirit. Anything less is

not the gospel of Christ, but a counterfeit message designed to keep people comfortable while still lost. Salvation is not found in repeating words but in obeying truth. The gospel that saves is the same one preached by Peter, Paul, and every apostle of the early church. It has not changed, and it never will.

But is this all biblical?

If any of that sounds familiar to you, then stop for a moment and consider what the Scriptures actually say.

We are not asking you to accept our words.

We are asking you to examine the Word of God for yourself.

We are NOT asking you to believe what we are about to show you!

We are just asking for you to listen, read and then verify whether we bring biblical truth or not. Just like the Bereans, that received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so! Acts 17:10-11

Jude 1:3 (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.

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.

If Jude tells us to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, then an important question must be asked:
Are we following that faith today?

I have 3 questions for you, before we dive into the scriptures to find out if that common plan of salvation is biblical or not!

1. Has your Pastor ever told you that, we all need to go through a conversion process in order to receive salvation?

2. Have you ever heard that without conversion, you will NOT enter into the Kingdom of Heaven?

3. Did you know that Simon Peter was NOT saved the moment he believed or had faith?

Neither was he already saved by the time Christ was crucified!

He was still not even saved by the time Christ went to heaven which was 40 days after the resurrection!

Now, there has been, there is now and there will always be a counterfeit plan of salvation!

So, we need to be careful and make sure we are following the true Gospel of Christ!

That we are also always verifying and making sure that we are in fact on the road to salvation!

The Bible is full of warnings about false teachers and false gospels.

Paul told the Galatians, "If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:9). That is how serious this is. There is only one true gospel, the same one preached by the apostles. Every other message, no matter how emotional or popular, leads people away from truth.

The faith that was once delivered to the saints was not a suggestion. It was a command to obey the words of Christ, repent from sin, be baptized in His name, and receive the Holy Spirit. That is the pattern every true believer follows in the book of Acts. Any gospel that changes this pattern is not the gospel of Christ but the invention of men.

The call to contend for the faith means to fight for truth with conviction, to reject compromise, and to hold fast to the doctrine that came from the mouth of the apostles. The Spirit of God always leads people back to that foundation, never away from it. If the message you are hearing makes salvation easier than what Scripture teaches, it is not from God.

When it comes to Peter and what he believed, the gospel tells us that Peter not only believed Christ was the Christ, it tells us that Peter knew for a fact that Christ was the Christ!

Matt 16:13-17 (KJV) When Christ came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14...15...16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Christ answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Biblical fact check #1

Peter believed! But was he truly saved?

When it comes to Peter's faith, the gospel tells us that Peter was also lacking faith!

Remember when Peter tried to walk on water? Matt 14:28-31 (KJV) And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Christ. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Christ stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Biblical fact check #2 Peter was lacking faith!

Listen to what Christ told Peter about his failing faith and conversion. Luke 22:31-32 (KJV) And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift

you as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

(Peter's faith was still failing and he was NOT converted yet!)

Here is the (continuation) and proof that this was before the crucifixion!

33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

So, until the moment leading to Christ's crucifixion, peter was lacking faith, was not converted yet, and had denied Christ 3 times!

Here is where Christ tells us that conversion is a Necessary step to salvation!

Mat 18:3 (KJV) And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Except ye be converted, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven!

Biblical fact check #3 If you are NOT converted, you will NOT enter into the Kingdom of Heaven!

So far, we have also proven that by the time of the crucifixion, Peter still had not completed his conversion, and no conversion means not entering the Kingdom of Heaven, which means NOT saved!

You see, Satan wants us to believe we are saved the moment we believe Many people have been taught that salvation occurs the moment a person believes.

But does Scripture actually teach that?

Peter's life gives us an opportunity to examine that question carefully. But when you truly go deep into the scriptures and specially see the story of peter's salvation, we can see that he went through a couple of different things before he received his salvation!

PETER HAD TO GO THROUGH A CONVERSION PROCESS!

Peter first saw Christ and believed John 1. Peter then confessed his sin Luke 5:1-11.

Finally, Peter later confessed Christ as Lord Mark 8:27–9:1.

During all this time, Peter was walking with Christ, learning from Christ and at the same time preaching and teaching, doing the works of the Lord, and even performing miracles.

But we know for a fact, that by the time of Christ crucifixion, Peter's faith was failing, He denied Christ 3 times, and he was not converted yet!

We already know that we need conversion, but did you notice in Luke 22, how Peter denied Christ? And what does Christ say about denying Him? Mat 10:33 (KJV) But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Biblical fact check #4 So, even though Peter had been walking with Christ for over 2 years; If Peter would have died at that moment, Peter would have gone to hell.

Because:

1. Peter was not converted yet! Mat 18:3 (KJV) Except ye be converted, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.
2. Christ would have denied Peter because Peter denied Christ 3 times! Mat 10:33 (KJV) But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Whether Peter's faith was perfected, and his conversion completed when he received the Holy Spirit in power in Acts 2, (Pentecost) or whether it was way later when he embraced the fullness of the gospel in Acts 10:11 Is NOT the point here! That is not what I am trying to point out!

The point & TRUTH is that no one is saved the moment they believe or have faith.

Take a moment and think about Peter's journey.

Peter believed.

Peter followed Christ.

Peter preached.

Peter performed miracles.

Peter publicly confessed that Christ was the Son of God.

Yet Christ still said, "When thou art converted."

If Peter still needed conversion after all these things, what does that tell us about our own salvation?

OK, still not convinced; How about this one?

Rom 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.

Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

We need to go through a conversion process and do a couple of things that God requires for our salvation!

Like believing, baptism, faith, repentance, confessing, etc.

The thief on the cross was saved directly by Christ Himself.

That was a unique situation because the One granting salvation was standing before him.

The comment most people will say is "the thief on the cross was not baptized, therefore baptism is not necessary for salvation!"

Luke 23:43 (KJV) And Christ said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, to day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

The biblical answer is simple.

The thief on the cross was saved directly by Christ Himself.

If the Son of God personally declares someone saved, no further argument is necessary.

However, the thief's situation was unique. He was not saved through the preaching of the apostles after Pentecost. He was saved directly by Christ before the New Testament pattern of conversion was fully revealed and preached to the world. For that reason, we should not build our doctrine of salvation upon a unique exception. Instead, we should examine the pattern Christ established through His apostles after His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. That pattern is what we find throughout the book of Acts.

Remember, this is NOT a full study!
This is only intended to help you see and understand that there is more to salvation than just believing!
That there is a conversion process that we need to go through!

Remember, each person is responsible for examining the Scriptures and responding to God's call for themselves. No pastor, teacher, friend, or family member can make that decision for you.

What I mean is that you are responsible for your own salvation and not someone who loves you or calls themselves a child of God!

Your Pastor could have the sincerest love and wishes to get you saved, but if his doctrine is wrong, then it becomes; the blind leading the blind to hell!

Our next step is to briefly talk about:

1. Proving that baptism is not only a commandment, but a necessary step towards salvation!
2. We will briefly touch on the subject of obedience!
3. We will talk about good works!
4. We will look at how all these elements fit together as part of God's plan of salvation.

Continuing with this brief eye opener; Christ said that for a person to be converted he needs to:

See, hear and understand with his heart: Mark 4:12 (KJV) That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear,

and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. Also found in Mat 13:15, Isa 6:10, John 12:40, Acts 28:27

And repent: Acts 3:19 (KJV) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Before continuing, ask yourself an honest question.

Have you truly repented of your sins?

Or have you simply acknowledged that sin exists?

There is a great difference between recognizing sin and turning away from it.

Some people are under the impression that repentance is a change of mind!

This is just like saying:

I know God hates my sin, and my sin keeps me separated from God, So I have changed my mind on being sinful today! We will see how I feel about it tomorrow!

Repentance is not JUST a change of mind!

The repentance (metanoia) called for throughout the Bible is a summons to a personal, absolute, and ultimate unconditional surrender to God as Sovereign. Though it includes sorrow and regret, it is more than that. ... In repenting, one makes a complete change of direction (180° turn) toward God.

True repentance is more than feeling sorry.

It is a decision to turn away from sin and submit to God.

A repentant person no longer makes peace with sin or excuses it. Instead, he fights against it, removes what causes it, and seeks God's help to overcome it.

Repentance is not a promise of perfection.

It is a change of direction.

At least we will try our best, by getting away from those things or people that may tempt us and even seeking council, accountability, and help!

Now let us speak about water baptism!

At this point, we have seen that salvation involves more than belief alone.

But what role does baptism play?

Is it simply a public declaration?

Or is it something God Himself requires as part of the conversion process?

Rather than relying on tradition or popular teaching, let us examine what Scripture actually says.

Is baptism an outward expression of an inward change? Is it a public declaration of how Christ changed your life? Supposedly being baptized only shows others that you have decided to follow Christ, and allows them to celebrate this decision with you, they quote (Acts 16:31-34).

Most preachers dare to say that baptism does not save a person; they say it's only a symbol and celebration of our faith and or salvation, and they quote (1 Peter 3:21).

1 Peter 3:21 (KJV), "The like figure whereunto even baptism does also now save us."

The Scripture plainly says that baptism "doth also now save us." Because of this, we should carefully examine what Peter meant rather than dismissing the statement or assuming it means something else.

This is all very similar to the situation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

God in Genesis 2:17 told Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, "For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." But Satan told Eve in Genesis 3:4, "Then the serpent said to the woman, you will not surely die." Satan only added the one word "not" to what God had said and completely changed the meaning of God's commandment!

That is exactly what men are doing to God's commands today. Who are you going to accept, the word of men or the Word of God?

We are told in Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

On the Day of Judgment, the Bible will still say that "baptism does ALSO now save us."

Baptism is in fact 1 Peter 3:21 "the answer of a good conscience towards God"

So, if we continue studying and searching the scriptures, we now must look at how or why having a good conscience!

Christ himself also tells us that we hold our faith in a pure conscience: 1 Tim 3:9 (KJV) Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

Our Conscience bears witness in the Holy Ghost. Rom 9:1 (KJV) I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

Our Conscience bears witness of the work we do. Rom 2:15 (KJV) Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

We should thank God whom we serve with a clear conscience 2 Tim 1:3 (KJV) I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day.

You see, this is all connected to water baptism!

1 Peter 3:21 (KJV) The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Christ Christ:

Are you starting to see the whole picture? Can you see now that there is more to salvation than by believing alone or by faith alone?

Baptism becomes the answer of a good conscience towards God, because the remission of our sins happens through baptism! Acts 2:38 (KJV) Then Peter said unto them, 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.

So, we receive two things during water baptism. We receive remission for our sins, and we receive the Holy Ghost (indwelling of the Holy Ghost).

Christ's sacrifice on the cross was for the remission of our sins. Mat 26:28. For sins that are past (not future) through the forbearance of God. (Not to be confused with forgiveness of sins). Rom 3:25.

Once remission of sins is given, God will not remember them anymore. Heb 10:17-18.

So, without remission of sins, there is NO salvation! But your bible will NOT say remission of sins, it will say, "forgiveness" which is different! We will talk about this later!

Remember? 1 Tim 3:9 (KJV) Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

Because of the above scriptures, now we must look into faith, and by doing this we can learn that we are NOT justified by faith alone: James 2:24 (KJV) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Also found in, James 2:17-18, James 2:20, James 2:26. In this verse we also come to the realization that we must do good works so we can be justified, and we are not talking about the works of the law!

Scripture tells us that we have good works, like works meet for repentance Acts 26:20, and the work of Faith 1 Thess 1:3 or even doing the work of an evangelist 2 Tim 4:5.

Now think about this verse: Luke 13:23-24 (KJV) Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

“Many will seek and shall not be able”.

This is mostly due to blindness and lack of Godly knowledge in the word of God.

It is due to lies and indoctrination. It is brought by Satan through unbiblical teachings by our family members, friends, pastors, ancestors, and their customs.

And we are at fault because we allow it, by not studying, questioning, and verifying those doctrines with the Holy Scriptures!

Many believers have never been encouraged to examine all of the passages concerning salvation together.

As a result, important elements such as repentance, conversion, baptism, obedience, perseverance, and the work of the Holy Spirit are often studied separately rather than as part of one complete picture.

The majority of Pastors are not following the Apostle’s doctrine, which was left for us to follow by Christ Himself through the Apostles.

Because of this, every believer must compare what they have been taught with the Scriptures.

The question is not whether a teaching is popular, ancient, or widely accepted.

The question is whether it agrees with the Word of God.

Christ Himself! They are just following a common salvation plan, which is not of the faith of Christ!

We must understand that God will give us His salvation AS LONG AS we are obedient!

Christ told us in Luke 4:4 (KJV) “man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”

But your bible does not tell you “But by every word of God “, or does it?

So, believing does save us; IF or AS LONG AS we repent, are baptized, receive remission of sins, convert, etc.

Scripture even shows us that some disciples (Not just believers) were baptized twice. A second time after Christ ascended to heaven.

Acts 19:2-6 (KJV) He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Christ. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Christ. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Another question some people may raise is. “Why was Christ baptized, if baptism is for the remission of sins. Christ had no sin to be forgiven. In other words, Christ had no need to receive remission of any sins!”

Christ's baptism was to show us how it must be done AND was done for the receiving of the Holy Ghost! Acts 2:38 (KJV) Then Peter said unto them, 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.

Look at what happened after Christ was baptized! Matthew 3:16 (KJV) And Christ, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: (He received the Holy Ghost!)

Remember the story of the disciples in Acts 19 when they were baptized for a second time? They received the Holy Ghost! So, for us as sinners, we must be baptized for the remission of our sins and for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost!

Salvation is a gift from God. But even though salvation is a gift from God, He has laid down certain conditions upon which he will give it. There is nothing that we can do to merit salvation. Whether it be believing in Christ, doing the works of God, or being baptized, we can never "earn our salvation". The only way we can show our faith in Christ is if we are willing to accept and obey what He says. But it is after all the requirements are met, that God has chosen to impart his wonderful grace of salvation to us as a willing believer.

Ok, so far so good. But what about good works?

Let us test these 2 theories:

1- A man says he believes, has faith, repented, and was even baptized. Oh, and prayed the prayer, yet the ONLY thing he lacks are good works. To sum it up, he does not do any works meet for repentance. His faith is questionable because of the lack of good works.

Consider these two examples carefully.

What would Scripture say about each person?

Would God be pleased with a faith that produces no obedience?

Would God overlook a life marked by rebellion and disobedience?

These questions help us understand the relationship between faith and works.

2- There is a man that denies professing God, is disobedient to God, is abominable (detestable) in the eyes of God and is not pure unto every good work. The question is will God give this man salvation if he continues being disobedient, abominable (detestable) to God and is not pure unto every good work of God?
YES, OR NO?

Both answers are NO. They are both the same person!

What happens if we do not do good works? Titus 1:16 (KJV)
They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

You see, Peter was doing lots of good works, (not to be confused with the works of the law) yet we have already established and biblically proven that even after walking with Christ for over two years, Peter was not yet “saved”.

And Paul the apostle believed, was converted, and repented on the Road to Damascus but was not yet “saved” because he had not received remission of sins nor the Holy Spirit by being baptized and was not yet doing the good works of God. Paul had been doing the works of the law.

Scriptures tells us that Paul was exceedingly worried about finishing his race until the day of his death! This was because, he wanted to make sure, he would make it into the kingdom of God.

So again, the only way we can show our Belief and faith in Christ is if we are willing to accept and obey EVERYTHING He says. But it is after all the requirements are met, that God has chosen to impart his wonderful grace of salvation to us as a willing believer.

Would you like to learn more? Because we can prove to you biblically that apart from Believing and faith, you also need to repent, confess Christ out loud, confess you are a sinner, have a good conscience, receive remission of your sins, be water baptized, do good works, and lastly make it to the end to receive salvation and enter the kingdom of heaven!

Everything God requires is part of your conversion!

So, lastly, but not least important!

How to Call Upon the Lord

Salvation according to the word of God.

John 3:5-7 (KJV) Christ answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Christ answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Christ said that we must be born again. So, when and how do we become born again?

There is nothing that we can do to merit salvation. Whether it be believing in Christ or being baptized, we can never "earn our salvation". But the only way we can show our faith in Christ is if we are willing to accept and obey what God says.

Many people have the erroneous idea that because they were born into a Christian home, they are automatically saved and sealed Christians. Our fathers and mothers may be the greatest born-again Christians in the world, but that doesn't make us also born-again Christians.

We cannot work our way to God, either. The Bible says that salvation comes "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit"

Titus 3:5-6 (KJV) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Christ our Saviour;

Those who believe they are saved by inheritance or have earned it through the works of the law, will find out the hard way, that when judgment comes God will reject them because they never knew Christ and therefore, Christ never knew them.

Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Reformation alone is NOT enough either. We can say, “We are going to change, be better,” or make our new year’s, mid years, end of year, or whatever resolutions. But it still won’t be enough, because in the sight of God “all our righteousness’s are like filthy rags”.

Isaiah 64:6 (KJV) But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Some people have changed on the outside to conform to certain social standards or behavior that is expected in churches or even with Christian friends and family, but deep inside they have never been changed. Their sins have not been washed away, have not been born again, and the Holy Spirit is not indwelling within them.

That is why Christ said it repeatedly in different scenarios, forms, and ways “we need changing inside,” and only the Holy Spirit is the only one that can truly help us accomplish that.

Matthew 23:23-28 (KJV) Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. 25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. 26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. 27 Woe unto

you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. 28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Change is real and necessary. For salvation we must repent and be fully aware that God's way is better than our way.

For Spiritual growth and maturity, we must allow the Holy Spirit to change us, as it is written:

Romans 12:2 (KJV) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

There is a mystery to the new birth. Christ said, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit". (John 3:8). But you can always see the result. Christ did not attempt to explain the new birth because our finite minds cannot understand the infinite.

Salvation brings us closer to God in many different levels. We start having a personal relationship with God and the understanding of His word gets easier and easier. We are given gifts, gifts that the Holy Spirit will impart in us, and we can use for the benefit of all. We will gain knowledge, wisdom, and even the gift of discernment. Some will receive other gifts, such as the gift of healings.

This personal relationship with God begins the moment we realize our need for Him, belief in Him and admit we are sinners, and in faith receive Christ as Savior. God, our heavenly Father, has always desired to be close to us, to have a relationship with us.

Before reading this final summary, stop and consider something. If God has clearly revealed the path to salvation in His Word, then our responsibility is not to improve it, simplify it, or explain it away.

Our responsibility is to obey it.

The question is not whether God's plan agrees with our traditions.

The question is whether our traditions agree with God's plan.

So, what does God require for us to do in order to receive His precious gift of salvation?

☐ **We need to believe:** Romans 13:11

☐ **We must believe the Gospel.** Mark 1:15

☐ **We must believe in the name of the only begotten son of God.** John 3:18 and Acts 8:37. Acts 8:37-38.

☐ **We must believe in the Father and the Son.** John 11:25, John 5:24, John 6:47, John 3:18, Acts 16:31 and John 3:15-16.

☐ **We must believe God the Father raised Christ from the dead.** Rom 10:9, 1 Thes 4:14.

☐ **We need to be converted:** Mat 18:3.

☐ **We will be converted if our faith does not fail.** Luke 22:31-32.

☐ **We need to recognize that we have sinned against God and broke His commands.** Romans 3:23

☐ **We need to repent: Are you truly repentant of your sinful life?** Acts 17:30, Acts 3:19, Acts 3:19, Acts 8:22, Luke 13:3

☐ **We need to have faith: As a mustard seed!,** James 2:17-18. Luke 22:31-32. Rev 14:12.

☐ **We must be obedient to God:** 1 John 2:3-6.

☐ **We need to confess Christ out loud: Do you want Him and can you call Him into your life?** Rom 10:9, Phil 2:11, Rom 10:10, Mat 3:6, Mark 1:5

☐ **We need to have good/clear conscience: Baptism is the answer to having a good conscience toward God.** 1 Pet 3:21, John 8:9, Act 24:16, 1 Tim 1:19, 2 Cor 4:2, Rom 9:1, Rom 2:15, 1 Tim 3:9.

☐ **We should thank God whom we serve with a clear conscience** 2 Tim 1:3, 1 Tim 1.

☐ **We need remission of sins: We must be baptized to receive the remission for our sins.** Acts 2:38, Mat 26:28, Rom 3:25, Heb 10:17-18.

- ☐ **We need to be water baptized: Unless you are allergic to water, then there is no reason to wait or skip this one, because, you will not be reborn again and the Holy Ghost will not indwell in you.** Mark 16:16, 1 Peter 3:21, Titus 3:5, John 3:5, Eph 4:5, Heb 10:22, Titus 3:5,
- ☐ **We are to baptize in the name of the Father, Son & of the Holy Ghost.** Matt 28:19, Acts 4:12, Acts 2:38.
- ☐ **We are baptized for the remission of our past sins.** Acts 2:38.
- ☐ **After water baptism we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.** Acts 2:38.

You say, “Surely, it cannot be that simple!” Yes, that simple. It is scriptural; it is God's plan. Believe in Christ, be baptized and receive Him as Savior today. Once you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior, He will start changing you, teaching you and molding you. He will start taking you away from the ways of death.

If you've never been saved, then now is the appointed time. Romans 8:34 (KJV) Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Just as you were born physically to your parents, so you will be born spiritually into the Family of God when you receive Christ and do everything, he requires for you to be saved!

Please understand that we are not saved because we pray a prayer; but because we believe upon the Lord Christ and follow thru with His requirements. It is certainly appropriate to ask the Lord in prayer to forgive and save us; but it is by believing that we get close to Him and by our faith which prompts us to pray, be baptized and even do good works.

If this study has raised questions, we encourage you to continue searching the Scriptures and speaking with mature believers who are committed to following the teachings of Christ and His apostles.

If you would like to discuss these things further, feel free to contact us.

For example, you will be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. So, what is the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost?

Another one is, that you need to be baptized not only for the remission of your sins, but also for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. The baptizer must also lay hands on you right after baptism.

Finally, the person performing the baptism, must have been called and ordained. Whether he was called and ordained directly by God, or by someone who was priorly called and ordained by God.

You see, anyone can dunk you in a tub, but only those who are truly called and ordained have God's authority and can baptize and have your sins remitted by God, through them.

John 20:23 (KJV) Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

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

Believers and Disciples Are Not the Same

Many claim to be believers, but far fewer become disciples.

Scripture shows that believing in Christ is only the beginning.

Discipleship is the life that follows belief.

1. Believers Accept the Truth; Disciples Live the Truth

In John 8:31–32, Christ said, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Believers hear the truth and agree with it. Disciples continue in it. Belief acknowledges Christ, but discipleship obeys Him. A believer may confess faith with words, but a disciple proves faith through obedience and endurance.

2. Believers Follow for Blessings; Disciples Follow Through Sacrifice

Many believed in Christ when He fed the multitudes, but they left when His words became hard (John 6:66). True disciples stayed. A believer seeks comfort and help, but a disciple gives up everything to follow. Christ said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

3. Believers Are Many; Disciples Are Few

In Acts 11:26, it says, "The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." Notice, it does not say the believers were called Christians, but the disciples. The name was given to those whose lives reflected Christ's teachings. A believer can remain unchanged, but a disciple cannot stay the same. The Word of God reshapes his heart, mind, and actions.

4. Believers Know About Christ; Disciples Know Christ Personally

A believer may know verses, attend church, and speak about faith. A disciple walks with God daily, obeys His Spirit, and bears fruit that proves genuine conversion. "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:8).

5. Belief Begins Salvation; Discipleship Confirms It

Believing opens the door, but following keeps you on the path. Salvation is not a single moment of belief but a lifelong walk of obedience. The book of Acts shows that those who believed were baptized, filled with the Spirit, and continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42). That is the pattern of discipleship.

Believers hear and agree. Disciples hear and obey.
Believers are spectators. Disciples are participants.
Believers speak of faith. Disciples live by faith.

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL DO FOR US AND IN US

God's Gift of the Spirit

God did not send His Spirit to remain idle in our lives. He sent Him to live in us, to help us, and to guide us into His plan.

“And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes” (Ezekiel 36:27).

Christ Himself promised: “It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you” (John 16:7).

The Holy Spirit is God's presence with us. He is not just a force or a feeling, but the living Spirit of God who works in every true believer.

The Spirit is both the power and the presence of God at work within those who belong to Him. He teaches, corrects, convicts, and strengthens. He opens our understanding of Scripture, helps us remember truth, and gives us the courage to obey it. Without the Spirit, no one can truly walk in righteousness or overcome sin. He is the breath of new life that keeps the believer connected to the Father.

The Holy Spirit transforms the heart from within. He breaks chains that human effort cannot break. He replaces fear with peace, confusion with clarity, and weakness with strength. He comforts the broken, exposes hidden sin, and leads the obedient into deeper holiness. The Spirit does not exist to entertain, but to purify and empower. His purpose is to make us holy, not merely emotional.

Through the Holy Spirit, we are made sons and daughters of God. He seals us for salvation and marks us as belonging to Christ. He gives gifts for service, fruit for character, and power for testimony. The Spirit's presence is not a privilege for a few, but a promise given to all who respond to God's call according to His Word. Where the Spirit dwells, there will be growth, truth, and transformation.

The Works of the Holy Spirit

1. He Draws the Unsaved to Christ

No one can come to Christ by themselves. The Spirit opens hearts and draws people to salvation.

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him” (John 6:44).

It is like a magnet pulling metal. The Spirit pulls our hearts toward Christ.

Without the Spirit’s drawing, no one would ever seek God. He breaks pride, softens hearts, and opens blind eyes so that truth can be received. Conviction is not cruelty; it is mercy reaching into darkness and calling the lost to repentance.

2. He Gives Wisdom, Teaches, and Reminds Us

The Spirit is the source of revelation and truth. He testifies of Christ and helps us remember His words.

“He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance” (John 14:26).

“He shall testify of me” (John 15:26).

“He will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13).

It is like having a faithful guide who knows the path and keeps us from wandering into danger.

The Spirit brings Scripture to life, giving insight that goes beyond what study alone can produce. He reminds believers of God’s words in moments of testing and confusion, guiding them away from deception and into complete truth. The gospel

then becomes part of our own story. We begin to live it, to feel it, and to see ourselves within it. The experiences recorded in the Bible come alive as we face similar struggles and victories, and those moments become our own as we grow into true children of God.

3. He Rebukes Sin

The Spirit does not ignore sin. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).

This is like a parent correcting a child to stop them from walking into a busy street. Rebuke is not to harm, but to protect. Conviction is the first sign of God's mercy at work. The Spirit exposes sin not to shame us, but to free us from it. Those who resist His conviction remain bound, but those who humble themselves find grace and restoration.

4. He Dwells Within Us

We are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). The Spirit does not just visit; He does not merely visit His people. He dwells within those who belong to Christ.

It is like having light inside a house. Once the Spirit comes in, darkness cannot rule there anymore.

The presence of the Spirit transforms the believer's heart into a dwelling place for God. His presence brings peace, guidance, and strength. Where the Spirit resides, sin loses its power and holiness begins to take root.

5. He Convicts, Leads, and Grants Repentance

The Spirit leads us to repentance, turning our hearts toward God. "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance" (Romans 2:4). "If God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (2 Timothy 2:25).

Like a compass pointing north, the Spirit points us back to God. Repentance is never produced by guilt alone; it is the Spirit who softens the heart and turns it back to the Father. He reveals sin, shows its consequences, and then offers the path to forgiveness. Every genuine conversion begins with the Spirit's call to repentance.

6. He Helps Us Pray

"The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought" (Romans 8:26).

When we do not know what to say, the Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. It is like a friend speaking on our behalf when we cannot find the right words.

The Spirit brings our prayers into alignment with the will of God. He translates our weakness into divine communication. When our strength fails or our words fall short, the Spirit intercedes faithfully, ensuring our prayers reach heaven's throne.

7. He Helps in Ministry and Comforts Us

The Spirit is our Helper and Comforter. He gives us fellowship, strength, and guidance in serving God.

“The communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

“If any fellowship of the Spirit” (Philippians 2:1).

Like oil in a lamp, He keeps the flame of ministry burning.

Without the Spirit, ministry becomes human effort. With the Spirit, it becomes power. He gives boldness to speak truth, endurance to stand under pressure, and comfort in every trial. The same Spirit who sends us into battle also stands beside us in it.

8. He Gives Life and Regenerates Us

The Spirit makes us alive to God. Without Him, we remain in the flesh.

“So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you... And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” (Romans 8:8–10)

“It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63)

The Spirit is like breath in the lungs. Without Him, there is no life. The Spirit does not repair the old nature; He creates a new one. This new life gives us power to resist sin and to walk in holiness. The same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead now gives life to our mortal bodies, enabling us to live as new creations.

9. He Anoints Us with Power

The Spirit empowers believers.

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...” (Acts 1:8)
It is like a lamp being lit in a dark place. The Spirit gives believers the power and boldness to shine Christ's light before the world. The Spirit's anointing is divine enablement. It is not human talent or emotion, but supernatural strength for spiritual warfare. He equips us to overcome temptation, to discern truth from deception, and to stand firm when the world opposes the truth.

10. He Intercedes for Us

“He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:27).

Even when no one else prays for us, the Spirit prays.

Every believer has an advocate within. The Spirit never tires, never forgets, and never fails to intercede. His prayers are perfect, for He knows the mind of God and the needs of the heart. This unseen intercession sustains us when we cannot stand on our own.

11. He Gives Spiritual Gifts

The Spirit equips the Church with gifts: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation (1 Corinthians 12:7-11).

It is like tools given to builders. Each believer receives what is needed to build up the Body of Christ.

These gifts are not for personal glory, but for service. Every gift is designed to strengthen the Church and reveal God's power. When believers use their gifts in unity and humility, the body of Christ grows in strength, truth, and love.

12. He Produces Spiritual Fruit

The Spirit grows fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Fruit is evidence of life. If the Spirit lives in us, His fruit will show in our actions.

The fruit of the Spirit is the visible proof that Christ lives within us. Gifts show power, but fruit shows character. The Spirit's work

is not only to empower, but to transform. True disciples are known not only by what they do, but by who they become through the Spirit's work in them.

The Call

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to every believer, but He will not force His way. We must receive Him, walk with Him, and obey His leading.

He draws us, teaches us, rebukes us, comforts us, and empowers us. He makes us alive and fills us with gifts and fruit so we can glorify God.

The question is: are you willing to let the Spirit work in you?

The Spirit will never take control of a heart that refuses to surrender. He does not dwell where sin is defended or where pride rules. He waits for those who are humble and willing to be led.

The measure of His power in your life depends on your obedience. The more you yield to Him, the more clearly His work becomes evident in your life. The more you resist Him, the more you hinder the work He desires to accomplish within you.

To walk in the Spirit means to trust His voice even when it convicts you, to follow His direction even when it costs you, and to rely on His strength instead of your own. He is not an occasional presence but a daily guide. When you listen, He leads. When you obey, He transforms. When you grieve Him, He withdraws His comfort until repentance restores fellowship again. The Spirit is calling every believer to deeper surrender. He wants to break chains, heal wounds, and produce lasting fruit that honors God. The question is not whether the Spirit is willing to work, but whether you are willing to let Him. Every believer must eventually decide who will lead their life: the desires of the flesh or the Spirit of God. One leads to death. The other leads to life. If you truly desire to live for God, the Holy Spirit is ready to lead you into a life that reflects the power, holiness, and love of the one who sent Him.

Final Consideration

You have now completed the studies contained within The Truth
About Salvation.

You have examined why mankind needs salvation, what God
requires of those who seek it, and what the Holy Spirit will do in
the life of those who belong to Christ.

The question now is no longer:

"What does God require?"

The Scriptures have already answered that question.

The question is:

"What will you do with what you have learned?"

Knowledge alone does not save.

Agreement alone does not save.

Even conviction alone does not save.

At some point, every person must decide whether they will obey
the Gospel or continue walking their own path.

If these studies have shown you that your understanding of
salvation has been incomplete, now is the time to get it right.

Do not assume there will always be another opportunity.

Do not delay what God is calling you to do today.

The people who heard the Gospel preached by the apostles did not wait months or years before responding. When they understood the truth, they acted upon it.

If you desire to obey the Gospel, repent of your sins, and be baptized according to the teachings of Christ and His apostles, we would be honored to help you.

If you have questions concerning salvation, baptism, the laying on of hands, or your next steps in Christ, please contact us.

We will gladly study the Scriptures with you and assist you in your walk toward Christ.

The time to seek the truth is now.

The time to obey the truth is now.

The time to get it right is now.