The Call

The Truth About Salvation

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma

Book 1 - Chapter 01 – Study 01

Do You Even Care?

Revised June 07, 2026

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Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

Published by:
Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma

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Dear Reader,
Before you begin, I ask only one thing of you:
Read this study all the way through before deciding what you believe about it.
You may agree with everything you read. You may disagree with some of it. You may find that certain parts challenge beliefs you have held for years. That is perfectly fine.

The purpose of this study is not to win an argument, defend a denomination, or convince you to follow a particular church. Its purpose is much simpler.
It is an invitation to honestly examine what the Scriptures say about salvation.

Many people assume they already know the answer. Others place their trust in traditions, teachers, family beliefs, or personal experiences. Yet the question of salvation is too important to leave unexamined.

If there is even a possibility that what you have been taught is incomplete, would it not be worth taking the time to investigate it for yourself?

As you read, do not accept anything simply because it is written here. Open your Bible. Read the passages. Examine the evidence. Test everything against the Word of God.

If what is written is true, then it deserves your attention.
If it is not, then it should be rejected.
But either way, let Scripture be the final authority.

My prayer is that you will approach these pages with an open Bible, an honest heart, and a sincere desire to know the truth, wherever that truth may lead.
May God guide you as you begin.

John, Servant of Christ, Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry.

The Full Biblical Study.

Do you even care?

Let me ask you something simple. Do you even care about the truth? Do you care about your soul, and where it will spend eternity?
Most people never stop to think about it. They are too busy chasing money, fun, or the next distraction. But Christ warned us plainly: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:23-24). It is not that people do not seek. The problem is they seek in the wrong places. They follow the wrong teachings, traditions, and the opinions of men, instead of the Word of God. That is what leads people straight to destruction.
The truth is not hidden, but it is ignored. Many claim to love God while refusing to obey His Word. They listen to preachers who make them feel comfortable rather than convicted. They build their faith on emotion instead of Scripture. But comfort will not save a soul, and sincerity cannot erase rebellion. God's Word is truth, and only truth can set you free.

Every person must decide what they value more: temporary pleasure or eternal life. The crowd that once praised Christ was the same crowd that shouted for His crucifixion. People change, feelings fade, but truth remains. The narrow gate is open now, but one day it will close. You cannot enter by good intentions or religious tradition. Only obedience to the truth will lead to salvation.

The question remains: do you even care about the truth? If you truly care about your soul, then stop running from conviction. Stop trusting in what others told you and start proving everything by Scripture. Eternity is not a gamble you can afford to lose. The time to care is now, while mercy is still being offered and grace still calls your name.

The Word of God Is Our Guide
God gave us His Word for a reason. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Think about it. When a father warns his child not to touch fire, it is not to ruin the child's fun, it is to save them from being burned. That is exactly what the Bible does for us. It corrects, it warns, it teaches, because God loves us enough to keep us from destroying ourselves.
The real question is: are you willing to let God correct you?

The Bible is not just a book; it is the voice of God written for every generation. It does not change with culture or opinion. It speaks the same truth today that it did thousands of years ago. It is the light that exposes darkness, the mirror that reveals the heart, and the sword that cuts through deception. The Word does not bend to fit our lives; our lives must bend to fit the Word.

Many claim to believe in God but ignore His Word. They choose the parts that make them feel good and reject the parts that convict. But partial obedience is disobedience. The same Word that comforts also confronts. It demands surrender, not just agreement. To follow Christ is to submit to His Word completely.

If you truly want to know God, you must know His Word. It is through Scripture that He reveals His will, exposes sin, and shapes our hearts. The Spirit of God never leads anyone away from the Word of God. Every true believer learns to measure their thoughts, beliefs, and choices by Scripture alone. That is how you stay on the narrow path and walk in truth.

Why So Many Refuse God
At first, it may seem strange that so many people reject the very One who created them.
After all, most people want peace. Most people want purpose. Most people want hope.
Yet when God's truth confronts us, something happens.
Some people turn away because they love their sins more than they love the truth.
Others turn away because they have been disappointed by religion, hurt by churches, or misled by those who claimed to speak for God.
Still others sincerely believe they are following God, yet have never taken the time to examine whether what they believe actually agrees with Scripture.

The reasons may differ, but the result is often the same. People continue walking their own path rather than seeking God's.

This is why every person must be willing to examine themselves honestly. Not according to tradition, family, culture, or personal opinion, but according to the Word of God. But Scripture says: "Ye are the temple of the living God" (2 Corinthians 6:16). If we are God's temple, how can we fill our lives with sin, lies, and idols, and still expect Him to dwell with us?

Many reject God not because they do not believe, but because they do not want to change. The problem is not ignorance; it is rebellion. Light exposes darkness, and people who love their sin avoid the light so they will not have to face their own condition. This is why Christ said that men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil.

Others reject God because they have built their lives around comfort, reputation, or pleasure. They fear losing control, but what they do not realize is that sin already controls them. Every person serves something; either God or sin. There is no middle

ground. To refuse God is to choose bondage, even if it feels like freedom.

Tradition blinds many others. They follow religion but never seek truth. They repeat prayers but never repent. They attend church but never change. They confuse belonging to a system with belonging to God. Yet the Lord is not impressed by rituals or appearances. He looks for obedience from the heart. The question is not how long someone has been religious, but whether they have truly been born again.

God does not reject those who come to Him, but He will not dwell with those who cling to sin. The temple must be cleansed before His Spirit can fill it. He calls every person to repent, not to take away joy, but to give them real life. The cost of following Him may seem high, but the cost of rejecting Him is eternal.

Have You Examined Yourself?

Most people believe they are good people.
After all, they have never robbed a bank, never committed murder, and they try to do the right thing most of the time. When they compare themselves to others, they usually find someone worse and feel comfortable with where they stand.
But God does not compare us to other people.
He compares us to His holiness.
Think about your own life for a moment.
Have you ever told a lie, even a small one?
Have you ever known what was right and chosen something else?
Have you ever spoken in anger, held a grudge, or treated someone in a way you would not want to be treated?
Most of us do not have to think very long before the answer becomes obvious.
The problem is not just what Adam did in the garden thousands of years ago. The problem is that every one of us has followed the same path. We have all chosen our own way at one time or another. We have all ignored God when it was convenient. We have all fallen short of what He intended us to be.
That is why Scripture says:
"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
The hardest part is often admitting it.
A man who believes he is healthy rarely goes looking for a doctor.
In the same way, a person who believes they are already spiritually fine rarely looks for a Savior.
But the moment we honestly recognize our condition, everything changes.
We begin to understand why Christ came.
We begin to understand why the cross was necessary.
And we begin to understand that salvation is not something we earn. It is something we desperately need.

The good news is that God did not leave mankind in this condition.

Long before man understood how far he had fallen, God had already prepared the answer.
What appears to us as a story of failure was never outside of His knowledge or His plan.
To understand that plan, we must first understand something about God Himself.

God's Ways Are Higher
We must never forget: God is not like us. He does not think like us. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).
Imagine an ant trying to understand why humans build roads, houses, and cities. It cannot. In the same way, our small minds cannot fully grasp God's plans. But we can trust Him, because His ways are always greater than ours.

God sees the beginning and the end all at once. What looks confusing or painful to us is part of a greater design that we cannot yet see. When He delays, it is not neglect. When He says no, it is not cruelty. Every command, every trial, and every correction flows from His wisdom and love. Our part is not to question His authority but to trust His judgment.

Many people walk away from God because they cannot understand His ways. They demand answers instead of giving trust. But faith does not begin with understanding; it begins with surrender. The same God who created the universe has never made a mistake. His ways may not make sense to us, but they are always right.

The proud try to measure God by their own logic, but the humble learn to rest in His sovereignty. His thoughts are higher, His purpose deeper, and His mercy greater than anything the human mind can imagine. To follow God is to accept that He is wiser than we are and to walk by faith, not by sight.

But if God created mankind for fellowship with Him, an important question remains.
What happened?
Why is there so much suffering in the world?
Why do we experience fear, guilt, shame, pain, sickness, and death?

Why does every generation struggle with the same problems, no matter how advanced society becomes?
The answer is not found in human philosophy, politics, education, or religion.
The answer is found in the very beginning.
To understand salvation, we must first understand what was lost.
Only when we understand what happened in the garden can we fully appreciate what Christ accomplished at the cross.
The story begins with a perfect Creator, a perfect creation, and a single act of disobedience that changed the course of human history.

God's Perfect Creation

In the beginning, God created man in His image and gave him dominion over all the earth (Genesis 1:26-30). Everything God made was good. There was no death, no pain, no suffering, no struggle. God Himself looked upon His creation and said it was "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

Man and woman lived in innocence, walking with God in perfect fellowship. There was no fear, no guilt, and no shame. But God gave them one commandment: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17).

This was a test of love and obedience.

It is like when a father tells his child not to touch the hot stove. The warning is not to ruin the child's fun, but to protect the child from harm. In the same way, God's command was for Adam's good.

Before sin entered the world, Adam and Eve enjoyed what no human has fully known since. The presence of God was not hidden from them. They did not pray for His voice, they heard it walking in the garden. They did not search for peace, they lived inside it. Work was not a burden but a joy. Their labor produced life, not sweat or exhaustion. Every breath reminded them of the Creator who had breathed life into their bodies. Everything around them testified that they were deeply loved and carefully made.

God placed Adam and Eve in the garden not as prisoners, but as stewards. They were free to eat of every tree except one. The boundary was not to restrict them, but to teach them that even in a perfect world, man still depends on God. The command revealed the difference between creation and Creator. Adam could rule the earth, but he could not rule himself apart from God's Word. True authority always comes through submission to the One who gives it.

The Fall

Satan entered the garden in the form of a serpent and spoke to Eve (Genesis 3:1). He questioned God's Word: "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

This is how temptation always begins: by casting doubt on what God has clearly spoken. To question God's Word is to question God Himself.

Eve answered that they could eat of every tree except one. But she added something God never said: "neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Genesis 3:3). Already, confusion had entered.

Satan then told a bold lie: "Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:4). He deceived Eve into thinking God was withholding something good, saying, "Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5).

It is like a stranger whispering to a child, "Your parents do not want you to have candy because they want to keep something good from you." That is a lie meant to trick the child into disobeying. Eve believed the lie, ate the fruit, and gave to Adam, and he ate also.

With that act of disobedience, sin entered into the world.

The moment they sinned, everything changed. What had once been pure became corrupted. Innocence turned into guilt, and peace turned into fear. The presence of God, which once brought comfort, now brought shame. Adam and Eve hid from the very One who gave them life. Their eyes were opened, but not in the way they expected. They gained the knowledge of evil by becoming part of it.

This single act broke the perfect relationship between God and man. Sin brought death, not only to their bodies but to the spirit within them. The curse of sin began to touch all creation. The ground that once produced life easily would now bring forth thorns. Pain, suffering, and death entered into a world that had never known them before. Humanity's fellowship with God was broken, and the entire creation began to groan under the weight of sin.

But even in that moment of failure, God's mercy began to move. He did not abandon Adam and Eve. He called out to them, not in ignorance, but in love, asking, "Where art thou?" It was not the voice of a judge eager to condemn, but of a Father seeking to restore. From the very beginning, God was already preparing the way for redemption, a promise that one day the Seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent.

The Curse

Immediately, their innocence was gone. Their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked (Genesis 3:7). They hid from God because they were ashamed (Genesis 3:8-10). For the first time, fear replaced fellowship.

God confronted Adam, and Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent. No one took responsibility. This is the beginning of sin in every human heart: disobedience, blame, excuses, pride.

It is like when children get caught breaking a rule. One blames the other, the other blames something else, but neither admits the truth.

God pronounced judgment:

To the woman: sorrow in childbirth and submission to her husband (Genesis 3:16).

To the man: the ground cursed, work filled with sweat, thorns, and death (Genesis 3:17-19).

To both: banishment from the garden, separation from the tree of life (Genesis 3:23-24).

Paul explains it this way: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

Because of sin, death entered the world. All men die. All animals die. Even creation itself groans under the weight of sin (Romans 8:22).

And most of all, fellowship with God was broken. Man hid from God then, and man has been hiding from Him ever since.

The curse affected everything. What had once been effortless became painful. The soil that once brought forth fruit freely now resisted man's labor. Childbirth became a struggle of both pain and promise. Even the air of the world changed. Death began its slow work, and corruption entered every living thing. The beauty of creation still remained, but it now carried the mark of decay. Every shadow, every sickness, every tear traces back to that one moment in the garden.

Yet even in judgment, there was mercy. God clothed Adam and Eve with garments of skin, showing that sin required the shedding of blood. It was the first picture of sacrifice, a sign pointing

forward to the greater covering that only the Son of God would provide. God did not destroy them, though they deserved death. He drove them out of Eden so they would not eat from the tree of life and remain forever in their fallen state. Even in their exile, His purpose was to prepare the way for redemption.

The curse reveals both the justice and the love of God. Justice demands that sin be punished, but love provides a way back. From this point forward, the entire story of the Bible moves toward that single promise: that one day a Redeemer would come to break the curse, restore fellowship, and destroy the power of death forever.

The Effects of the Fall

The effects of that first sin are still with us today.
You can see them everywhere.
You see them in broken families, broken promises, broken hearts, and broken lives.
You see them in wars, violence, hatred, addiction, greed, and suffering.
But perhaps the clearest evidence is found when we look at ourselves.
Most people know there is something wrong with the world.
What many fail to realize is that something is wrong with us as well.
We know what is right, yet often choose what is wrong.
We make promises we fail to keep.
We hurt the people we love.
We carry guilt, regret, fear, and shame.
No matter how hard we try, we cannot seem to fix the problem completely.
That is because the problem is deeper than our actions.
It is a condition of the heart.
The world teaches that mankind simply needs more education, more money, better laws, or better opportunities.
Yet after thousands of years, the human condition remains the same.
The problem is not merely around us.
The problem is within us.
And if that is true, then the answer cannot come from man.
The answer must come from God.

The Answer

But God, in His love, provided a way back.

Because of Adam's sin, every one of us is born separated from God. We carry a spiritual emptiness that no money, no power, no relationship, and no pleasure can ever fill. People try to fill it with friends, with addictions, with achievements. But it never works. At the end of the day, the void remains.

It is like trying to fill a broken cup with water. No matter how much you pour in, it leaks out. Only God can repair the cup. Only He can fill the emptiness.

God showed His love by sending His only begotten Son to die for our sins. At the cross, Christ took the curse upon Himself. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Think about that for a moment.

Christ did not die for people who deserved saving.

He died for people who had rebelled against God.

He died for people who ignored Him, doubted Him, mocked Him, and rejected Him.

He died for people like Adam.

He died for people like you and me.

That is what makes the cross so remarkable.

God did not wait for humanity to become righteous before extending mercy. He reached toward us while we were still lost.

The cross is more than proof of God's justice.

It is proof of His love.

What was lost in the garden was reclaimed at the cross.

The fellowship that sin destroyed, Christ came to restore.

The curse that entered through Adam, Christ came to overcome.

The separation that stood between God and man, Christ came to remove.

Christ came to open our eyes, to turn us from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God (Acts 26:18). He came so we could walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8). He came so that we could be restored to fellowship with God.

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness” (John 12:46).
This is the answer: through Christ, the broken relationship is repaired, the curse is reversed, and eternal life is offered to all who believe, repent, and follow Him.
From the moment sin entered the world, God already had a plan of redemption. The promise of a Savior was not an afterthought but part of His purpose from the beginning. The sacrifice of animals in the Old Testament pointed forward to the perfect Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. The blood that once covered sin for a season would one day be replaced by the blood that removes it forever.
Through Christ, the power of sin and death was broken. He took the punishment we deserved, stood in our place, and opened the way for us to return to God. His resurrection proved that death was defeated and that new life is possible for all who believe.
Salvation is not just forgiveness of sin; it is the restoration of what was lost, the return of God’s presence to the human heart.
Through faith, we are made new, and the image of God that was marred in Adam begins to be restored in us through Christ.

The Call

So, I ask you: have you answered that call, or are you still hiding from God like Adam did?

Do not wait for tomorrow. Do not wait for your family or your friends. Right here, right now, you have the chance to step out of darkness and into the light.

Many people assume there will always be another opportunity.

Another day.

Another sermon.

Another study.

Another chance to make things right with God.

But Scripture never promises us tomorrow.

Every person who has ever stood before God unexpectedly once believed they had more time.

The question is not whether you intend to respond someday.

The question is whether you are willing to respond when God is calling you today.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1).

Christ is calling. Will you answer Him today?

This call is personal. It is not about joining a religion or following a tradition. It is about returning to the One who created you and is willing to receive you if you come in repentance and obedience. His mercy is open to all, but only those who respond to His call will experience the fullness of the life He offers. The same God who called to Adam in the garden, "Where are you?" is calling to you now. He does not call to condemn, but to restore those who are willing to turn back to Him.

Every person must make this decision for themselves. You cannot inherit salvation from your parents, your church, or your culture.

The door of grace stands open, but you must walk through it.

God has already done everything necessary through Christ.

The question is no longer what God has done.

The question is how you will respond.

Will you continue walking your own path, or will you finally surrender to the One who gave His life for you?

The choice is before you: to remain in darkness, or to come into the light; to continue running, or to finally surrender. His call is not just an invitation; it is the beginning of a new creation. Those who answer Him in faith will find forgiveness, peace, and a life that will never end.

The Final Message of this Study

By now, one thing should be clear.
The problem is not simply that the world is broken.
The problem is that we are broken.
Sin separated mankind from God, and no amount of good intentions, religious activity, or personal effort can repair that separation.
That is why Christ came.
He came to do what we could never do for ourselves.
But this raises an important question.
If Christ died for our sins, what does God require of us in response?
Is believing enough?
Is there more?
How did the apostles lead people into salvation when they preached the gospel?
The next study will examine the answer directly from Scripture.
Not from tradition.
Not from denominations.
Not from popular opinion.
But from the very teachings of Christ and His apostles.
Before continuing, ask yourself honestly:
Have I truly responded to God's call, or have I simply assumed that I have?
The answer may determine where you spend eternity.

The Promised Seed

From the very beginning, God gave hope. After Adam and Eve sinned, God spoke of a descendant who would come and destroy the works of Satan: "It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). This was the first prophecy of Christ, the Son of God, who would reverse the effects of Adam's sin.

God continued to give promises through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He promised that their seed would conquer enemies and bring blessing to all nations (Genesis 22:17-18). The Jewish people called this promised one the Messiah, the Savior.

The prophets foretold Him, the one who would bring people back into fellowship with God and restore a righteous and everlasting Kingdom.

From generation to generation, this promise became the hope of Israel. Every sacrifice, every altar, every festival pointed toward the coming Redeemer. The blood of animals could only cover sin for a time, but the blood of the Promised Seed would remove sin completely. The law, the prophets, and the covenant all looked forward to Him.

Isaiah declared that a virgin would conceive and bear a son, and His name would be called Immanuel, meaning "God with us." Micah foretold that He would be born in Bethlehem. Jeremiah spoke of a righteous Branch who would reign as King. Every prophecy, every shadow, every sign led to one truth: God Himself would come in the flesh to redeem His people.

This promise shows that even when man failed, God's purpose never changed. He would not leave the world under the power of the curse forever. The Seed of the woman would crush the serpent, sin would be conquered, and fellowship with God would be restored through the one true Messiah, Christ the Lord.

Who Christ Is

The gospel of John tells us: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). This Word became flesh as the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16). Christ was born fully man, yet fully God. He was tempted in every way as we are, yet He never sinned. He lived a perfect life of obedience to the Father.

It is like a lamb without blemish. Only a spotless sacrifice could be offered to God. Christ was that perfect lamb.

He is not a created being, but the Creator who stepped into His own creation. Through Him all things were made, and without Him nothing was made that exists (John 1:3). Though He took on flesh, He never ceased to be divine. He laid aside His glory to walk among men, not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

He revealed the heart of the Father through everything He said and did. When He healed the sick, He showed the compassion of God. When He forgave sin, He revealed God's mercy. When He rebuked hypocrisy, He showed God's holiness. In Him, the invisible God was made visible. To know Christ is to know the Father.

He came as a servant, yet He is King of kings. He humbled Himself to the cross, yet He will return in power and glory. Every word He spoke and every act He performed confirmed that He is the promised Seed, the only One able to save mankind from sin.

His Death and Resurrection

Christ gave His life willingly. He endured a painful death on the cross, fully submitting to the Father's will. He carried the weight of our sins upon Himself. At that moment, He became sin for us, bearing Adam's curse (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The Bible says: "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Death had no rightful claim over Christ, because He had never sinned. But He died in our place, paying the price for our sins.

Hebrews explains: "That through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14). By dying, Christ broke the power of sin and death.

And on the third day, God raised Him from the dead. Death could not hold Him. This resurrection opened the way of salvation for all who believe.

It is like a locked prison door that no man could open. Christ alone had the key, and by rising from the dead, He unlocked the door to eternal life. But the door must still be entered through faith and obedience.

The cross was not a tragedy; it was a victory. What looked like defeat was the moment sin was conquered. The blood that flowed from His hands and feet was the price of redemption, washing away the guilt of all who turn to Him. Through the cross, God's justice was satisfied, and His mercy was revealed. Every lash, every nail, every drop of blood carried purpose. Christ did not die because man overpowered Him; He died because love and sacrifice required it.

When He rose from the dead, the curse of death was shattered forever. The resurrection is the foundation of the believer's faith. Without it, there is no salvation, no forgiveness, no eternal life. Through His resurrection, Christ proved He is the Son of God with power, and He gave the Holy Spirit to all who would BE BAPTIZED in His name (Acts 2:38). The same power that raised Christ from the grave now gives life to all who belong to Him. Because He lives, we have hope. Because He overcame, we can overcome. The grave could not hold Him, and it will not hold those who are in Him. His death brought forgiveness, and His resurrection brought new life. The cross and the empty tomb

stand as the unshakable proof that God's plan of redemption is complete, and that through Christ alone, the curse of Adam can been broken.

Salvation Through Christ

No one else could have done this. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Only Christ, the perfect Son of God, could die for our sins and rise again. Romans 3:25-26 says: "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past… that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Christ." Through Christ's blood, forgiveness is offered. Through His resurrection, eternal life is made possible. But these are not automatic. They are conditional upon faith, repentance, baptism, and obedience to the gospel.

That is why Peter preached on the day of Pentecost: "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" (Acts 2:38).

This is God's way of showing His righteousness and His mercy. He remains just, and at the same time, He justifies all who believe and obey His Son.

Salvation is not a feeling or a moment of emotion; it is a covenant entered into by faith and sealed by obedience. Many claim to believe, but few surrender. True faith is proven by action. Repentance turns the heart away from sin, baptism buries the old life, and obedience proves that a person has truly been born again. Without obedience, there is no evidence of faith.

The blood of Christ does not cover those who continue to live in rebellion. It cleanses those who walk in the light and obey the truth. Salvation is not earned by works, but it is maintained by abiding in Him. The same grace that saves also teaches us to deny ungodliness and to live righteously in this present world.

Through this process, the sinner becomes a new creation. The past is forgiven, the heart is made clean, and the Spirit of God begins to dwell within. Salvation is the beginning of a transformed life, one that now belongs entirely to Christ. Those who have truly received Him no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died and rose again for them.

The Call

God is offering salvation through Christ. It is a gift of grace, not something you can earn. But it must be received. You must believe, repent, be baptized, and walk in obedience.

Christ Himself said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

So, the question is: will you respond as the disciples did in Acts 2:38, by repenting, being baptized in His name, and receiving the Holy Spirit? This is the way to enter into the life He offers.

Grace is not permission to continue in sin. It is the power to be set free from it. Many hear the gospel, but few truly respond. To believe is to surrender your will to His. To repent is to turn completely away from the old life. To be baptized is to bury the past and rise into a new life. To obey is to prove that your faith is real. Each step brings you closer to the heart of God and into true fellowship with Him.

The call of Christ is personal and urgent. He invites, but He will not force. He offers eternal life, but only to those who follow Him. The narrow way begins with obedience to His Word. The Holy Spirit then fills and empowers the believer to walk in righteousness. This is not a one-time decision, but a lifelong journey of faithfulness.

Now the choice is before you. Will you keep living for yourself, or will you surrender to the One who gave His life for you? The invitation stands. The door is open. God is ready to forgive, to cleanse, and to fill you with His Spirit. But only you can decide to answer His call.

Grace and Mercy

Hope Through Christ

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

Sin is anything that displeases God. Sin separates us from Him, because He is holy and perfect. The payment for sin is death, not just physical death, but spiritual death: eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23).

This death entered the world when Adam and Eve sinned (Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12, 14). Their sin opened a gap between mankind and God that no human effort can ever repair. We cannot fix it by being good people, having good morals, saving lives, or being very religious. Only God Himself can bridge that gap.

That bridge is Christ. The hope we have is not built on our goodness, but on His resurrection. When Christ rose from the dead, He proved that sin and death no longer have the final word. Through Him, the broken relationship between God and man can be restored. This is not an empty hope or wishful thinking, but a living hope that transforms the heart and changes how we live.

Grace and Mercy: Two Sides of the Same Coin

The Bible often uses the words grace and mercy together. They are like two sides of one coin:

- Grace gives us what we do not deserve.
- Mercy holds back what we do deserve.

Imagine a teacher who catches a student cheating on a test. Mercy is when the teacher does not fail the student, even though he deserves it. Grace is when the teacher not only forgives him but also gives him another chance and even helps him learn so he can pass.

That is how God deals with us.

Mercy spares us from judgment, and grace brings us into favor. Mercy removes the punishment, while grace gives the blessing. Together they reveal the character of God; just, yet

compassionate; holy, yet patient; firm against sin, yet willing to forgive the repentant. Without grace and mercy, no one could stand before Him.

Through Christ, both grace and mercy meet perfectly. At the cross, justice and love were joined. Sin was judged, yet sinners were offered forgiveness. This is why the resurrection brings hope; it proves that God's mercy is greater than our failure and His grace stronger than our sin. Hope through Christ means that no matter how far a person has fallen, there is a way back to life, if they are willing to repent and obey the truth.

Grace

Grace comes from the Greek word charis, meaning gift, favor, or kindness. It is God's unearned favor given to us. Grace pardons our sins when we repent and gives us the chance to live in a restored relationship with God.

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11).

Grace is always a gift to the unworthy. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ" (Romans 3:23-24).

The law, given by Moses, showed us how holy God is and how far we fall short. "The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good" (Romans 7:12). But the law also magnified our sin, showing us we cannot reach God's standard on our own (Romans 5:20). That is why grace came through Christ. "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Christ" (John 1:17).

Grace is stronger than sin. "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Romans 5:20).

There is also common grace, which God shows to all people in daily blessings like rain, food, and life itself. But there is also saving grace, which brings forgiveness and new life through Christ.

Grace does not ignore sin; it overcomes it. It teaches us to deny ungodliness and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Grace is not freedom to live as we please, but the power to live as we ought. It breaks the chains of sin and gives us strength to walk in obedience. Without grace, we could never be free.

When a person receives saving grace, they are not only forgiven, they are transformed. Grace changes the heart. It removes guilt, renews the mind, and restores fellowship with God. The same grace that saves us continues to work in us daily, shaping us into the image of Christ. It does not excuse failure, it empowers victory.

This is why grace is central to the gospel. The law exposes sin, but grace provides the cure. The law commands righteousness, but grace produces it. The law shows what man must do, but grace

shows what God has done. Every believer who walks faithfully with God does so because grace has made it possible.

Mercy

Mercy is God's compassion toward us even when we deserve judgment. Because of His mercy, He holds back the punishment we deserve. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4-5).

Mercy is deliverance from judgment. "O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth forever" (Psalm 136:26). According to the Bible, all have sinned (Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8). Because of sin, all deserve death and eternal judgment (Romans 6:23). If God gave us what we deserve, we would already be condemned forever (Revelation 20:12-15). Every breath we take is proof of His mercy.

Mercy is not weakness. It is the strength of God's love shown to guilty sinners.

Examples of God's Grace and Mercy

- Paul: once a persecutor of believers, yet shown grace to become an apostle (Acts 9).
- Peter: denied Christ, yet was restored and preached with power (John 21, Acts 2).
- Thomas: doubted, yet was shown mercy and sent to preach (John 20).
- Mary Magdalene: once possessed, yet given the gift of being the first to see the risen Christ (John 20:16).
- The thief on the cross: guilty and condemned, yet forgiven and promised paradise (Luke 23:43).

One of the clearest lessons of mercy is found in Jonah. Jonah disobeyed God, but God spared his life and gave him another chance. Jonah preached to Nineveh, the people repented, and God showed mercy by sparing the city (Jonah 3). Jonah grew angry, but God reminded him that mercy is part of His character (Jonah 4:11).

These stories remind us that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy. The same mercy that restored Paul, Peter, and Jonah is still available today. But it is only given to those who humble themselves and turn back to God. Mercy is not automatic; it

responds to repentance. The proud resist it, but the broken receive it. The moment a heart truly surrenders, mercy meets them there.

Mercy is the proof that God still cares for His creation. Every second chance, every warning, every call to repentance is mercy in action. When we understand mercy, we stop taking life for granted and begin to thank God for every breath. His mercy endures forever, but it is meant to lead us to obedience and transformation.

Grace and mercy are not excuses to continue in sin. They are calls to repentance and worship. "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" (Titus 3:5).

Because God has shown us grace and mercy, our response should be humility, gratitude, and obedience. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

It is like a guilty prisoner who is unexpectedly pardoned. His heart should not be proud or careless, but thankful and devoted to the one who set him free.

True repentance produces change. When a person truly understands what God has done, they cannot return to the same life of sin. The heart that was once rebellious becomes willing to obey. The mouth that once cursed now gives praise. The hands that once served sin now serve righteousness. Grace does not leave a person the same; it transforms them.

Our response to grace is daily surrender. Every day we choose whom we will serve. The mercy that forgave us also teaches us to forgive others. The grace that saved us teaches us to live righteously in every situation. This is how we show that salvation is real; by living out the change God has worked in us.

The proper response to God's mercy is worship, and the proper response to His grace is obedience. The more we understand what He has done, the more we desire to please Him. Our lives become living testimonies of His goodness, our obedience becomes our

worship, and our endurance becomes our gratitude. Grace and mercy were never meant to end with us; they are meant to shine through us, so that others may see God's character in the way we live.

You cannot earn God's grace. You cannot demand His mercy. Both are His gifts, offered freely in Christ. But you must receive them through faith, repentance, baptism, and obedience (Acts 2:38).

Christ has already paid the price. The question is: will you accept His grace and mercy today?

CONTINUE CAREFULLY

Before You Continue
If you have read this study carefully, then one thing should be clear:

Christ is the answer.

The question now is not whether salvation is needed.

The question is how salvation is received.

Many people assume they already know the answer. Yet throughout the book of Acts, whenever people heard the gospel, they immediately asked:
"
What shall we do?"

The next study examines that very question.

What did Christ command?

What did the apostles teach?

What did the first believers actually do when they sought salvation?

Do not stop here.
Open your Bible, continue to the next study, and examine the Scriptures for yourself.

Eternity is too important to leave unanswered.
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