

God's Plan for You

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Intro_

[Matthew 7:7-8](#). There are countless sayings regarding opportunity. I found a few online that I would like to read to you:

"Opportunity is often missed because we are broadcasting when we should be tuning in."

"Even when opportunity knocks, a man still has to get up off his seat and open the door."

"Opportunity may knock only once, but temptation leans on the doorbell."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all mankind. In [Mark 16:15-16](#) Jesus commissioned the Apostles saying *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* Our Lord Jesus Christ died for the world that he may save it; that whosoever believed and was baptized would be saved. This is the greatest opportunity of all. And so, we may ask ourselves, how can we be saved? How do we become a Christian; what are the steps that need to be taken? Our loving Father shows us that He has a plan just for us.

Conversion

[Acts 8:26-40](#). In reading the conversion of the eunuch we are guided through the conversion process; and combined with other scripture in the Bible we know that there is a set pattern that every individual must follow in order to be saved. That "plan of salvation" is: Hearing the Word, Believing the Word, Repentance of our sins, the Confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and ultimately the Baptism for the forgiveness of our sins. Now, even though all the steps are not included in every example of conversion does not mean that they did not occur, nor that they are not necessary. Assuming this would lead us to speak or act on God's silence and would also be contrary to other examples in the Bible. We will examine examples for every step, confirming them with a direct commandment and/or an approved example.

Hearing

"And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me?" [Act 8:30-31](#). The first step in our path toward Christianity is hearing the word. This does not simply mean to hear, but to be taught. The eunuch was reading the prophecy of Jesus in Isaiah, but how was he supposed to understand of Jesus and His works unless he was taught. [Romans 10:14-17](#). It is the primary duty of the preachers to teach the word of God to the assembly. Yet in a general sense it is every Christian's duty to preach the gospel should they be asked; according to their abilities. In [Acts 18:5-8](#) we find another example of hearing leading to believing and ultimately to baptism.

Believing

[Acts 16:25-34](#). In this example we see the conversion of the Philippian jailer. The opportunity for the jailer comes with a little more than a knock but in the form of a great earthquake! The jailer stood in awe at the work of God and straightway wanted to be saved. The gospel is just as powerful; able to save! The jailer asks a critical question, *"what must I do to be saved?"*. Verse 32-33 tells us that the jailer believed after being taught by

Paul and Silas and was then baptized. Perhaps you too are looking for the answer to the same question; what must I do to be saved?

Repentance

[Acts 2:36-38](#). After hearing the word preached to them by Peter, many at the day of Pentecost were “pricked in their hearts”, meaning that they believed and understood. They understood that Jesus had died for their sins and that the life they were living was not according to His will. Repentance comes from the heart and from the conscience. After hearing the commandments and witnessing the worship service, are our hearts clean and your conscience free from sin? Repentance is necessary for the purging of our sins. [Acts 3:19](#).

Confession

Our original example in [Acts 8:37](#) gives one example of the public confession that is necessary for every believer to make. We see that the confession is the foundation of the Church in [Matthew 16:18](#). [Matthew 10:32](#). Our confession stems from believing the Word of God, the desire to cleanse ourselves and our desire to fulfill his will.

Baptism

Every one of our examples thus far has concluded with baptism. Baptism is the final step in the plan of salvation. Some religious sects believe that baptism is not necessary for salvation or they may believe in infant baptism. Through the examples that we have read we know that: Jesus commissioned the Apostles to baptize all nations, those who do not believe and are not baptized are condemned by God, and that baptism follows all other steps in the plan of salvation. There is no validity in these types of doctrines. Baptism is simply put, a rebirth. [John 3:1-7](#).

Conclusion_

Christianity is not a choice one should make lightly. [Luke 14:28-32](#). That being said, do not turn away from Christ for convenience’s sake as Felix [Acts 24:25](#). Remember, temptation leans on the doorbell and we can always make excuses for not giving ourselves over to Christ.

[Matthew 7:7-11](#). The questions that we have over salvation, over Christ’s love and our obligations to Him can all be found in the inspired word. The opportunity for us to partake in the Father’s good gifts is near, if we knock. God’s plan for you is this; confess the Lord Jesus Christ, be baptized today and receive His good gifts!