

The Truth about Salvation

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

(Acts 2:38)



repent



be baptized in the name of Jesus



receive the Holy Ghost

The Bible says in II Timothy 2:15 that we are to: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” And Jesus said: “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **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.**” (John 8:31-32, KJV)

It is our responsibility to study the word of God and seek after His counsel in regards to what He laid out in His Word concerning the plan of salvation.

The Bible says that: “**...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...**” (Romans 3:23) and “**... the wages of sin is death...**” (Romans 6:23)

That is why there was a need of Savior... the Deliverer, who would “**... save his people from their sins.**” (Matthew 1:21)

Jesus himself said to Nicodemus the ruler of the Jews who came to speak with Jesus by night: “**... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**” (John 3:3) On that statement Nicodemus answered: “...

How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?” (John 3:4)

“Jesus 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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**” (John 3:5-7)

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

(Acts 2:37-39)

There are 3 main points outlined by Jesus:

1. To inherit the kingdom of God a man must be born again
2. There has to be a birth of water
3. There has to be a birth of the Spirit

To His own disciples Jesus said about the Spirit that they will receive: "...**Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**" (John 14:17)

In the Book of Mark chapter 16 (verses 15-18) it is recorded that just before Jesus was received up into heaven he said to the eleven disciples as they sat at meat: "...**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.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

These all that Jesus had been teaching was confirmed again when on the Day of Pentecost 120 disciples of Jesus received a gift of the Holy Ghost as it is recorded in the Book of Acts chapter 2:

"1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all **filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**" (Acts 2:1-4)

Right after that experience apostle Peter (the same Peter unto whom Jesus said in Matthew 16:19: "**And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...**") rose up and preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified. He proclaimed the same message as Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3 and later to the eleven disciples in Mark 16. A beautiful message of salvation was preached by Peter on that day of Pentecost:

"36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, *what shall we do?*

38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save yourselves from this untoward generation.**" (Acts 2:36-40)

And Bible records that "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41)

Let us step aside from the Book of Acts and get the understanding of the word "to be baptized" as it was mentioned above in Acts 2:38 and Acts 2:41. New Testament was written in Greek language and than later was translated into other languages. So we are to look at the Greek word "baptized" to get the meaning of it.

Greek word *baptizo* (βαπτίζω) means “**immerse, dip, submerge**”. It comes from the Greek root word "**bapto**" (βάπτω) which means to "cover wholly with a fluid" (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries). Just as Paul said to the church in Rome in the Book of Romans chapter 6 verses 3-7:



"3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism into death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

6 Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.**

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin."

But you cannot bury any one when he is still alive. So ***we cannot be buried by baptism*** until we go through **repentance** (dying out to sin by turning our back on it).

In more details **REPENTANCE** means:

1) recognizing by the convicting power of God that you are a sinner as Paul said: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one;" Romans 3:10 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23 and "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



2) feeling sorry for your sins (because Bible says that "... godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation..." II Corinthians 7:10);

3) confessing your sins to God and asking Him to forgive you;

4) die out to sin by turning your back on it.

So the first step of salvation is **repentance** and then comes **baptism** and receiving of the **Holy Ghost**.



Now let us go back to the Book of Acts and follow the scriptural pattern of the message of salvation as spoken by Jesus and then His disciples. The revival that broke out on the Day of Pentecost as mentioned above was just a beginning. The Word of the Lord began to spread abroad and the revival began to touch other places.

Thus Philip came to the city of Samaria and "... preached Christ unto them." (Acts 8:5)
"And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.
For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And **there was great joy in that city.**" (Acts 8:6-8)

Miracles were done, unclean spirit were cast out and there was a great joy in the city. But it was not enough. Because:

"12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they **were baptized, both men and women.**
14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:
15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)
17 Then laid they their hands on them, and **they received the Holy Ghost.**" (Acts 8:12, 14-17)

Let us go further now to the man of Caesarea by the name Cornelius. Bible speaks about him as being "...devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway." (Acts 10:2) But it was not sufficient for his salvation he had to be born again of the water and of the Spirit and recorded in Acts chapter 10:

"3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.
4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.
5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:
6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do." (Acts 10:3-6)

So when Peter came to Cornelius' home and preached to them the remission of sins through the name of Jesus Christ the Holy Ghost fell on those who heard the word:
"44 While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.**
45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.
46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And **he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord**. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days." (Acts 10:44-48)

Paul himself (after his conversion) was very bold to preach this message of salvation as spoken by Jesus and confirmed again by His disciples. Below is the record presented to us in Acts chapter 19 where Paul found certain disciples and brought unto them this saving message:

"1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 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.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 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 Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they **were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**" (Acts 19:1-6)

The Bible mentions in the Book of Acts chapter 4 verse 12 that:

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for **there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**”

It says we must be saved and there is only One saving Name.. that is the name of Jesus! When Paul was talking about His conversion he said that Ananias was sent by the Lord and he said: " And now why tarriest thou? arise, and **be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**" (Acts 22:16)

In the Book of Luke 24:47 it says:

“**And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name** among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Book of I Corinthians 6:11 records:

“And such were some of you: but **ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus**, and by the Spirit of our God.”

We can be washed only by the **Name of Jesus** because there is no other name that has a power to save!

May the Lord Jesus through the power of His Word enlightens you to make a step forward and obey the only saving message given unto men to escape the eternal damnation. Because it is written that:

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead also.**" (James 2:26)