

APOSTOLIC FAITH BIBLE STUDY
LESSON 2: Salvation According to the Word

This lesson deals with what the Bible has to say about the most important topic of all-our salvation. The following are some questions we will try to find biblical answers to in this lesson.

1. What does it take for a person to be saved?
 2. Is believing the only thing we must do to be saved?
 3. Are there actual examples of people “getting saved” in the New Testament?
 4. Is there more than one aspect to biblical salvation?
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1. Words of Jesus Concerning Salvation
 - a. Read Luke 19:10
 - i. Jesus Christ himself told us that the purpose of His coming to this earth was the salvation of man. Each person on earth is responsible to make sure His sacrifice was not in vain in that person’s life.
 - b. Read John 3:1-18
 - i. This is one of Jesus’ first references to salvation. Let’s look at it in detail. For one thing, we see that we absolutely must be born again of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God.
 - ii. In verses 15 and 16 we see that belief is also fundamental to our salvation. Please note that unless believing somehow incorporates being born again of water and the Spirit, we have a direct contradiction in the Word of God and the Bible does not contradict itself.
 2. The Great commission
 - a. The final instruction Jesus gave His apostles is known as the great commission, which is recorded in three of the four Gospels. Upon examination, five different aspects to the great commission are found. The first four are steps to salvation. The fifth is the result of receiving the “power from on high.”
 - i. Belief (mentioned once)
 - ii. Repentance (mentioned once)
 - iii. Baptism (mentioned three times, including Luke’s comments on “remission of sins,” which we will see later is referring to baptism)
 - iv. The promise of the Father/power from on high
 - v. Miracles and signs
 - b. Read Matthew 28:18-20
 - i. Jesus instructs His apostles to teach people to do the things He has commanded them. Notice that verse 19, He says to baptize in the name (singular) of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. So we see that we must use a name when baptizing. Father is not a name, Son is not a name, and Holy Ghost is not a name. These are only titles, or ways in which God is manifested. Then what is the name of which we are to be baptized? The name of Jesus!
 - c. Read Mark 16:15-20

- i. Here we find belief, baptism, and miraculous signs mentioned. Notice that one of the signs is speaking with tongues, or speaking in a language other than one's native tongue.
 - ii. Although some people say that speaking with tongues is of the devil, such an erroneous belief is not found in the Bible. In fact, Jesus Himself said that those who believe shall speak with new tongues. In 1 Corinthians 14:39, the apostle Paul said, "Forbid not to speak with tongues."
 - d. Read Luke 24:44-53
 - i. Jesus gave his apostles understanding, so we can be sure that when they said something they knew what they were talking about.
 - ii. Repentance and remission of sins are also listed here in Luke's recording of the great commission.
 - iii. We shall see later in this lesson that the "promise of my Father" refers to the gift of the Holy Ghost.
3. The Message on the Day of Pentecost
 - a. Read Acts 2:36-42
 - i. This is the very first message preached in the new church age to sinners in need of salvation. We see here Peter included repentance, baptism (notice a name is mentioned), and the receiving of the Holy Ghost.
 - ii. Although some say that the Holy Ghost was only for the apostles, that view is not biblical. Acts 2:39 states that the promise is for generations to follow.
 - iii. How are sins remitted? By baptism in Jesus' name. Notice that both a birth of water (baptism) and the Spirit (Holy Ghost) are mentioned in this passage.
 - iv. Now let's look at each of these aspects individually. The fact that the Bible stresses on aspect in one passage does not negate the other passages. Each aspect is indispensable to our salvation.
4. Belief
 - a. Read John 7:38-39
 - i. Jesus talks about believing and receiving the Holy Ghost. Here He adds that we must do it according to the Scriptures. He makes it clear that the "rivers of living water" of which He speaks refer to the Spirit, which is the Holy Ghost.
 - b. Read Romans 10:8-17
 - i. Some people say this particular passage of Scripture is the only one that really counts in the whole Bible and that none of the other passages really mean anything. Let's see what we can gather from a verse-by-verse examination.
 - c. Verse 8
 - i. Paul begins by quoting the Old Testament. He says that the word is in their mouths and hearts, which is the word of faith that the apostles preach.
 - d. Verses 9-10
 - i. The apostle Paul explains what part the heart and mouth play in salvation. A person believes with his heart and confesses with

his mouth unto (sometimes translated as “until”) salvation. He says that a person shall be saved when this is fulfilled, but he does not say a person is saved only by belief and confession.

- e. Verses 11-13
 - i. He goes back to the Old Testament and quotes more Scripture.
- f. Verses 14-15
 - i. Paul says that a person cannot call on or believe in the Lord Until he hears the gospel preached by a man sent of God.
- g. Verse 16
 - i. Paul ties “obeying the gospel” to “believing our report.” If we really believe, we will obey the gospel. When seen in its true light, this passage does not contradict the passages of Scripture we read about obeying what the apostles preached. Instead, it actually confirms them.
- h. Verse 17
 - i. Finally, he sums it all up by saying, “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Remember, Paul began in verse 8 by saying he was speaking of the word of faith that the apostles preach.
- i. Read Romans 1:16
 - i. Paul said that the gospel of Christ is “the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.” What do we believe? The gospel. If we want to be saved, we must believe the gospel.
- j. Read Mark 1:15
 - i. Again we see the importance of repentance and the necessity of believing. Believing what? The gospel. The above two verses go hand in hand with the one we read about believing on Jesus according to the Scriptures (John 7:38)
- k. Read Hebrews 11:6
 - i. This shows us that we must have faith to please God.
- l. Read James 2:17
 - i. We must have works along with our faith for it to be effective. (Read the rest of James 2 to get a fuller understanding of this truth.)
- m. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10
 - i. Notice in verse 8 how Paul ties in knowing God with obeying the gospel not just believing it.
 - ii. In verse 10 we see that what the apostles preached is the same thing that has to be believed in the last days when Jesus comes to be glorified with all those who believe the apostles’ testimony.
 - iii. We see from the above verses of Scripture that believing is indeed a necessary aspect of our salvation. The second aspect is repentance.

5. Repentance

- a. Read Matthew 3:1-2
 - i. The first thing John preached concerning Jesus was repentance.
- b. Read Luke 13:3
 - i. Jesus Himself preached repentance and stressed it very strongly.
- c. Read 2 Peter 3:9

- i. We find here, about thirty years after the death of our Lord, that repentance was still being preached. Peter shows us that to come to repentance is to avoid perishing; therefore, repentance is necessary to salvation.
- 6. Baptism
 - a. Read 1 Peter 3:20-21
 - i. In this passage Peter compares the saving of Noah and his family by water during the flood to our being saved by being baptized in water.
 - ii. According to Acts 2:38, we are to be baptized “for the remission of sins.” To have our sins remitted is to be released from the guilt or penalty of sin. Remission of our sins is possible because Jesus paid the penalty by His death on the cross.
 - b. Read Matthew 3:13-16
 - i. Some say, “I don’t need to be baptized.” But here we see that Jesus Christ Himself was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. Who are we to say that we do not need to be baptized if He, who was perfect, was baptized?
 - c. Read Acts 22:16
 - i. This verse records the instruction of Ananias to Saul of Tarsus. Saul became the apostle Paul, the man who wrote much of the New Testament.
 - ii. Here we also find that baptism washes away our sins.
 - d. Read Acts 4:10-12
 - i. Remember that in Matthew 28:19 we saw that we were to be baptized in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost? What was that name? Verse 12 states that the only name by which we can be saved is in the name of Jesus Christ.
 - e. Read Romans 6:3-5
 - i. This passage shows the actual role baptism plays in our salvation. It allows us access into His death and therefore into His resurrection. Notice that we will be raised in the likeness of His resurrection only if we have first been planted in the likeness of His death.
 - f. Read Galatians 3:27
 - i. Saying that we have “put on Christ” is another way of saying that we have taken on His name or have been joined to His family
 - ii. The verse of Scripture above show that baptism in Jesus’ name is essential to our salvation
- 7. Holy Ghost
 - a. Read Acts 1:4-8
 - i. This is another glimpse of the last earthly moments of Jesus Christ. He makes it evident that at this time they had not yet received it. He also points out that to receive the Holy Ghost is to receive power.
 - b. Read Acts 2:1-8
 - i. This passage records the initial out-pouring of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost. Notice that verse 4 records that they

began to speak with other tongues when they were filled with the Holy Ghost.

- c. Read Acts 2:14-18
 - i. Peter begins the first message of the new church age by quoting Joel 2:28. God had planned to pour out His Spirit even back in Joel's time, and what happened on the Day of Pentecost was the fulfillment of his prophecy.
- d. Read Isaiah 28:11
 - i. This is another Old Testament reference to the Holy Ghost.
- e. Read Ephesians 1:13
 - i. The believers in Ephesus received the Holy Spirit after hearing the truth of the gospel and believing it. This shows the connection between believing and receiving the Spirit.
- f. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19
 - i. True Christians must have the Holy Ghost dwelling in them.
- g. Read Romans 8:9-11
 - i. This passage shows how vital receiving the Holy Spirit is to our salvation. Verse 9 states that unless the Spirit of God dwells in a person, that person is none of His.
 - ii. Note: The terms "Holy Ghost, Holy Spirit," "Spirit of God," "Spirit of the Lord," and "Spirit of Christ" are synonymous terms that refer to one and the same Spirit(1Corinthians 12:13) (See Genesis 1:2; Matthew 3:11; Luke 11:13; Acts 1:5 Acts 2:4; Romans 8:9; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:8; 1 Peter 1:11)
- h. Examples
 - i. We have seen that belief, repentance, baptism, and gift of the Holy Ghost are all part of salvation. Now let's look at some places in the Bible where people actually experienced salvation for the first time to see if they followed these guidelines.
 - ii. The Samaritans
 - 1. Read Acts 8:6-17
 - 2. Notice that verses 6-8, people were healed, they received joy, and they had demons cast out; yet they had not received the Holy Ghost. People may say, "I have the joy of the Lord, so I must have the Holy Ghost." Or, "I was healed, so I must have the Holy Ghost." Or, "I received the Holy Ghost when I repented." However none of these things are identifying signs of the infilling of the Holy Ghost.
 - 3. Some people claim that people receive the Holy Ghost as soon as they believe; others as soon as they are baptized. But this Scripture passage shows that the Holy Ghost does not automatically come at either of these times. In verses 12-13, the people believed and were baptized. Yet they did not receive the Holy Ghost at that time.
 - 4. Healing, joy, deliverance, belief, and baptism are all separate and distinct experiences from receiving the Holy ghost

5. Note in verse 16 that the people had been baptized in the NAME of the Lord Jesus.
- i. Saul of Tarsus
 - i. Read Acts 9:17-18
 1. This passage relates the conversion of Saul, who was renamed Paul and became a great apostle. Notice that he was baptized and filled with the Holy ghost just like everyone else in the New Testament church. God is no respecter of persons. Everyone follows the same plan to be saved.
 2. Although these two verses do not specifically record that he spoke in tongues, we can be assured that he did so because in 1 Corinthians 14:18, the apostle Paul said, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all."
 - j. Cornelius
 - i. Read Acts 10:44-49
 1. Note that Cornelius was a just man who feared God (Acts 10:30); yet he did not have the Holy Ghost.
 2. The Holy Ghost fell on Cornelius and his household while Peter was preaching. How did Peter know they had received the Holy Ghost? Because he heard them speak with tongues(verse 46)
 3. After they had received the Holy Ghost, Peter commanded them to be baptized in the NAME of the Lord. We know that Jesus is the name of the Lord. (See Matthew 9:28; Acts 4:33; Acts 7:59; Acts 9:5; 2 Peter 1:11.)
 - k. The Philippian Jailer
 - i. Read Acts 16:30-33
 1. Here a jailer asked Paul and Silas what he had to do to be saved. His first step was to believe in Jesus Christ. In verse 33 we see that Paul baptized him that night, so Paul obviously taught him about baptism.
 - l. John the Baptist's Disciples
 - i. Read Acts 19:1-6
 1. The apostle Paul met some of John the Baptist's disciples in Ephesus. When he found that they had not heard about the Holy Ghost, he asked them how they had been baptized. When he found that they had been baptized by John the Baptist, and not in the name of Jesus, he reminded them that John the Baptist had told his converts that they were to believe on one who would come after him; that is, on Jesus Christ.
 2. After Paul had explained this, John's disciples accepted this deeper truth that was revealed to them and wanted to be rebaptized in the NAME of the Lord Jesus. After being baptized, they received the Holy Ghost when Paul prayed for them. Again, the sign that they had received the Holy Ghost was that they spoke with tongues.

Lesson 2 Worksheet

1. According to John 3, we must be born again of what two things to enter the kingdom of God?
 - a. Flesh and blood
 - b. Water and Spirit
 - c. Goodness and light
2. What is the only name in which people were baptized in the Bible?
 - a. Jesus
 - b. John the Baptist
 - c. Peter
3. Can we please God without faith
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. Faith is dead without
 - a. Good intentions
 - b. Knowledge
 - c. Works
5. God does not want us to perish. Instead, He wants us to come to what?
 - a. Knowledge
 - b. Repentance
 - c. Riches
6. What is the sign of receiving the Holy Ghost?
 - a. Being baptized
 - b. Speaking in tongues
 - c. believing