

## HOW DOES A PERSON BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

How does a person become a Christian? Unfortunately, it depends on who you ask. One group says one thing while another says something totally different. One group says there is nothing you can do because Jesus already did it for you, while a different group says there are many things you can do. Some tell people to say the sinner's prayer, while others tell people to only repent. This leads us back to the question of how a person becomes a Christian.

If the Bible is the word of God, then the answer must be found therein. I must delete all preconceived ideas, thoughts and theologies and simply open God's word and allow it to speak. Some believe that God speaks to them with dreams, whisperings, revelations, etc. I believe God speaks through His inspired word (**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17**).

## CAN YOU HEAR HIS VOICE?

Three times the writer of Hebrews uses the following phrase, "*Today, if you will hear **HIS VOICE**, do not harden your hearts*" (**Hebrews 3:7, 3:15 and 4:7**). Whose voice? Who are we supposed to listen to? It is certain that there are numerous voices today in the world of Christendom speaking this and speaking that. Verse 7 tells us Who we should hear: "*Therefore, just as the **HOLY SPIRIT** says:*"

The Holy Spirit is speaking through God's inspired word. While talking to His apostles, Jesus said, "*However, when He, the **SPIRIT OF TRUTH**, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not **SPEAK** on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will **SPEAK**; and He will tell you things to come*" (**John 16:13**). "*And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and judgment*" (**John 16:8**).

- **Acts 8:29** – Then the **SPIRIT** said to Philip...
- **Acts 10:19** – While Peter thought about the vision, the **SPIRIT** said to him...
- **Acts 20:23** – The **HOLY SPIRIT** testifies in every city...
- **Acts 21:11** – Thus says the **HOLY SPIRIT**...
- **Acts 28:25:26** – The **HOLY SPIRIT** spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet saying...
- **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:13** – These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the **HOLY SPIRIT** teaches...
- **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:1** – Now the **SPIRIT** expressly says...
- **Hebrews 10:15** – But the **HOLY SPIRIT** also witnesses to us; for after He had said before ...

The Holy Spirit is speaking loud and clear through the word of God. He is calling us through the gospel of Jesus Christ (**2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:14**). Jesus said:

- **John 10:27** – "*My sheep **HEAR MY VOICE** and I know them and they follow Me.*"
- **John 18:37** – "*Everyone who is of the truth **HEARS MY VOICE.***"
- **Revelation 3:20** – "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone **HEARS MY VOICE** and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*"

If you want to know how to become a Christian, listen to what the Bible says. Jesus said, “My mother and My brothers are those who **HEAR the word of God and do it**” (Luke 8:21) and “blessed are those who **HEAR the word of God and keep it**” (Luke 11:28). He also said, “The seed is the **word of God**” (Luke 8:11). “Faith comes from **hearing, and hearing through the word of God**” (Romans 10:17).

## REVIEW

- The Holy Spirit speaks the truth through the word of God.
- Jesus speaks the truth through the word of God.
- We can hear the Holy Spirit/Jesus/God speaking if we have faith, because faith comes from hearing the word of God (**Romans 10:17**).
- If we want to know how to become a Christian and know God’s will for our lives, we must be Bible students.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15** – *Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth** (KJV).*
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15** – *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who **correctly handles the word of truth** (NIV).*
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15** – *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth** (NASV).*
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15** – *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth** (ESV).*

Paul made it clear that we are to study God’s word and rightly/accurately/correctly divide/handle the word of truth. Unfortunately, many never study the Bible and learn its valuable teachings. Some are under the idea that they cannot read/interpret the Scriptures and must have someone do it for them. **My friends, God gave the Bible to man.** If we could not study it for ourselves, Jesus would not have said, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (**John 8:31-32**).

## READ THE BIBLE

In the parable of the sower, the sower sows seed, which is the word of God (**Luke 8:11**). The sower sows the word of God on the hearts of men (**Mark 4:14**), but not all hearts accept it. “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (**Hebrews 4:12**). The word of God works in the hearts of believers. (**1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:13**) “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” **We are born again through the seed, which is the word of God.** (**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:22-25**) “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because ‘All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.’ Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.” James told us to receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save our souls (**James 1:21**).

Jesus said, “*It is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life*” (**John 6:63**). There are several names attributed to Christ throughout the New Testament, but this one calls Him the word of God. “*He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God*” (**Revelation 19:13**). God tells us to listen to Christ. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “*Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.*” While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him***” (**Matthew 17:4-5**). The writer of the book of Hebrews said, “*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds*” (**Hebrews 1:1-2**). **Listen to what the Bible says!**

## REVIEW

- Faith comes from hearing the word of God.
- The seed that is planted into hearts of men is the word of God.
- God tells us to hear/listen to Jesus.
- Jesus speaks through the Bible and He said His words are spirit and life.
- The word of God, called the seed, is able to save our souls.
- This is the word that is preached through the gospel.

## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word gospel means “Good News.”

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:1-4** – *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the **GOSPEL** which I preached to you, which you received and in which you stand, by which also you are **SAVED**, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.*

- Paul made it clear that he was not ashamed of the gospel (**Romans 1:16-17**), for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.
- God so loved us that He sent His Son (**John 3:16-17**), that the world through Him might be saved.
- He came to seek and save the lost (**Luke 19:10**).
- The only way a person can be saved/have salvation is in Christ (**Acts 4:12**).
- The only way to know about Jesus is to hear the good news (**Romans 10:17**).

## **GOD IS CALLING ALL PEOPLE TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.**

The Bible makes it clear God does not want **ANYONE** to be lost (**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:9**), but desires all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (**1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:4**). He calls us to salvation through the gospel of Jesus Christ:

- God calls us out of darkness (**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9**) into His own kingdom and glory (**1<sup>st</sup> Thess. 2:12**) **through the gospel** (**2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 2:14**).
- He calls us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus (**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:10**) to eternal life (**1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:12**) with a holy calling (**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:9**).
- We are called of Jesus Christ (**Romans 1:6**), called to be saints (**Romans 1:7**) and called to receive the promise of the eternal inheritance (**Hebrews 9:15**).
- We are called according to His purpose (**Romans 8:28**) and told to make our call and election sure (**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:10**).
- He who calls is faithful (**1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:24**) and Holy (**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:15**) and whom God calls He justifies (**Romans 8:30**).

## **GOD'S WONDERFUL GRACE IS REVEALED IN THE GOSPEL**

The creator of the universe, our Father in Heaven, is full of mercy and grace. Titus said, "*But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 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, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior*" (**Titus 3:4-5**). Paul said, "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast*" (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

Three words stand out from those two passages: **kindness, mercy and grace**. Those things were/are **FREELY** given to us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Both writers made it clear that salvation is not by works of righteousness or of ourselves. It begins with **GRACE** and **MERCY**. Because of His great love for us:

- We have the right to become children of God (**John 1:12-13**), who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, but of God.
- God has bestowed His love on us that we should be called children of God (**1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1**).
- Jesus came to gather together in one the children of God (**John 11:52**).
- We have the privilege of becoming children of God by being born again (**John 3:1-8**) because Jesus said "*unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*" and "*unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*"
- Fortunately for us the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men (**Titus 2:11-14**) because Jesus gave himself for us.

God is good! He allows us, sinful men and women, to be His children. There is only one way this great gift is possible: **JESUS CHRIST!**

## REVIEW

- We are saved by God's grace and mercy
- God/Jesus gave us the right to become children of God.
- We must be born again in order to be children of God.

## DO I HAVE TO DO ANYTHING/SOMETHING TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD/CHRISTIAN?

To answer this question, we must open the Bible and let it speak. After Jesus rose up from the grave, He appeared to over 500 brethren at once (**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:6**) during a period of forty days (**Acts 1:3**). During this time, He gave commandments to the apostles He had chosen (**Acts 1:1-3**). Then He said to them, *"Thus it is written and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you, but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high"* (**Luke 24:46-49**). The power that was going to come upon the apostles was the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

- Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem (**Luke 24:46-49**) for power from on high. He would be sending it shortly to the apostles.
- Jesus told the apostles that the Helper, the Spirit of truth would come upon them (**John 14:16-17**).
- The Helper/Holy Spirit would teach the apostles all things and bring to their remembrance all things that Jesus had said to them (**John 14:26**).
- The Helper/Holy Spirit would testify about Jesus (**John 15:26-27**) and the apostles would bear witness of Jesus.
- When the Holy Spirit came, He would convict the world of sin (**John 16:5-15**), guide the apostles into all truth, and glorify Jesus.
- Jesus then prayed for all those that would believe in Him through the preaching of the apostles (**John 17:20**).

Before Jesus went to heaven (**Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11**), He spoke to His apostles and said, *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen"* (**Matthew 28:18-20**) and He said to them, *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned"* (**Mark 16:15-16**).

## WHAT DID THE APOSTLES PREACH?

Jesus told His disciples that He would build His church (**Matthew 16:13-19**). The church began just as Jesus said it would (**Acts 2**) in Jerusalem at Pentecost. He had told Peter that He would have the keys to the kingdom of heaven (**Matthew 16:19**) and He had told His apostles to wait there in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high (**Luke 24:46-49**). The Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles (**Acts 2:1-4**) and they began to speak in languages that they had never studied (**Acts 2:5-13**).

Peter stood up with the other apostles (**Acts 2:14**) and began to tell the crowds the good news about Jesus Christ (**Acts 2:14-36**). Peter told the people, quoting from the prophet Joel, that “*whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved*” (**Acts 2:21**). He also told them that they had crucified Jesus whom God had made both Lord and Christ (**Acts 2:36**). When they heard that, the Bible says they were “**cut to the heart**” (**Acts 2:37**) and asked them “**WHAT SHALL WE DO?**”

Peter then told them what to do. He told the people to repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission/forgiveness of sins and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**). What he said next is astonishing!

- First, he said, “*For the promise is to you and to your children, and to ALL who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call*” (**Acts 2:39**). This passage tells us that God is calling us through the gospel of Jesus Christ and His promise is for ALL people.
- Next, it says “with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “*BE SAVED FROM THIS PERVERSE GENERATION*” (**Acts 2:40**). This passage tells us that we must be saved.

The same promise that Peter made to those people is for us because he said **THE PROMISE** is for you and your children, and to ALL who are afar off. And the same warning applies to us today as Peter still speaks through the word of God saying, “**BE SAVED!**” Here we have the first gospel sermon being preached on the day of Pentecost. The apostles were being led and directed by the Holy Spirit, so we know what they taught was truth.

Why did Peter not tell the people to believe in Jesus? They already believed in Him. Why did Peter not tell the people to say the sinner’s prayer of salvation? Because there is no such prayer of salvation found anywhere in the word of God. Instead Peter, being led by the Holy Spirit and teaching only what God directed him to teach, told the people to repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins. The text then says, “*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them*” (**Acts 2:41**).

These three thousand souls called on the name of the Lord for their salvation because Peter had told them that “*whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*” (**Acts 2:21**). The Bible says that the people were “*cut to the heart*” (**Acts 2:37**), which shows remorse/sorrow for their participation in crucifying Jesus. They were sorry for what they had done before Peter told them that they had to repent. To repent would mean that the sin in their lives would have to go. The text also tells us they gladly received his word and were baptized for remission of their sins. What is amazing is that this is a wonderful case of people hearing the word of God and doing what it said because Peter and the other apostles were being led by the Holy Spirit. They were only teaching what God directed them to teach.

In this text, do you hear the people complaining? Are they fighting with Peter about what he said to do? No. The Scriptures tell us they gladly received his word. Yet today, people will fight tooth and nail with what the Bible teaches concerning calling on the name of the Lord. I find it amazing that various groups of so-called Christians today tell people there is nothing you can do in order to be saved, or they tell them you don’t have to do anything, or they say just believe in Jesus and you will be saved. They usually refer to Romans 10:9-10 for this. Yet, in this text, when the people asked what to do, Peter did not say there is nothing you can do, nor did he say just believe in Jesus and say this prayer. Instead, he told them what to do. In fact, the Bible is filled with people asking what to do:

- **Luke 3:10** – So the people asked him, saying, “*What shall we do then?*”
- **Luke 3:12** – Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “*Teacher, what shall we do?*”
- **Luke 3:14** – Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, “*And what shall we do?*”
- **Luke 10:25** – And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “*Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*”
- **Luke 10:28** – And He (Jesus) said to him, “*You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.*”

- **Acts 2:37** – “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”
- **Acts 9:6** – So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city and you will be told what you must do.”
- **Acts 16:30-32** – And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and all who were in his house.
- **Acts 22:10** – So I said, “What shall I do Lord?” And the Lord said to me, “Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.”

This makes it clear that there is something that we all must do in order to be saved. As stated earlier, it begins with the grace and mercy of God. He sent His one and only Son for all people. Those at Pentecost new Jesus well. They knew that they had participated in the murder of the innocent Christ. They wanted to make things right and asked Peter and the others, “What shall we do?” Peter told them what to do.

## REVIEW

- The church began on the day of Pentecost.
- The apostles were preaching Jesus.
- Peter told the people that they had crucified Jesus.
- And the people asked, “What shall we do?”
- Peter told them what to do.
- The same promise is for us today.
- Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

## WHAT SHALL WE DO TODAY?

We have to call on the name of the Lord (**Acts 2:21**) just as three thousand did on the day of Pentecost. We have to call on the name of the Lord (**Acts 22:16**) just as Paul did when Ananias told him what he had to do. We have to call on the name of the Lord (**Acts 8:9-13**) just as the men and women along with Simon the sorcerer did, just as the eunuch did (**Acts 8:35-39**), just as Lydia did (**Acts 16:14-15**), just as the jailer did (**Acts 16:30-34**), and just as Crispus and the Corinthians did (**Acts 18:8**).

Just as Peter had told the people to call upon the name of the Lord (**Acts 2:21**), Paul also tells us to call upon the name of the Lord (**Romans 10:9-13**). He said, “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be **saved**. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “**whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**”

## QUESTION?

- Peter told the people, quoting from the prophet Joel, that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall **BE SAVED**(**Acts 2:21**).
- Paul said whoever call on the name of the Lord will **BE SAVED** (**Romans 10:13**).
- But Jesus said he who believes and is baptized will **BE SAVED** (**Mark 16:16**).
- So which one is it?
- Actually, they mean the same thing!

Jesus told Paul to go into the city and he would be told what he must do (**Acts 9:6**). Jesus then sent Ananias to tell Paul what he must do. Many teach that Paul was converted right there when the Lord had appeared to him and there was nothing he could have done. But look at the passages below:

- **Acts 9:17-18** – *And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.*
- **Acts 22:12-16** – *Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the Law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there, came to me; and he stood and said to me, “Brother Saul, receive your sight.” And at that same hour I looked up at him. Then he said, “The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, **CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD.**”*

According to what Ananias told Paul, being baptized and washing away sins was a part of calling on the name of the Lord. This is the same thing Peter said (**Acts 2:38**). He told the people to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus had said the same thing also when He said he who believes and is baptized will be saved (**Mark 16:16**), because whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (**Romans 10:13**). This is what Jesus meant when He said, “*Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God*” (**John 3:5**).

There is another term found three times in the New Testament that is the same as calling on the name of the Lord. This phrase is unheard of today. Those who advocate the so called “*sinner’s prayer*” utilizing Romans 10:9-10, fail to read the entire chapter and hear what Paul said. Beginning in verse 14:

- How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
- And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?
- And how shall they hear without a preacher?
- And how shall they preach unless they are sent?
- As it is written: “*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things.*”
- But they have not all **OBEYED THE GOSPEL**, for Isaiah says, “*Lord, who has **BELIEVED** our report?*”
- So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.



Although the term “**obey the gospel**” is found three times in the Bible, many fail to connect it to becoming a Christian/calling on the name of the Lord. This is the same as becoming a child of God/believer. Paul made that point clear in the verse below by saying believing/obeying are same.

- **Romans 10:16** – But they have not all **obeyed the gospel**, for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?”
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:8** – in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not **obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:17** – For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not **obey the gospel** of God?

Anyone wanting to become a Christian/child of God must be born again, call upon the name of the Lord, and obey the gospel. The terms are synonymous. This is also the same thing that Paul and Silas told the jailer when he said, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household*” (**Acts 16:31**). Why did this man and his house get baptized? The answer is found here, “*Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and all who were in his house*” (**Acts 16:32**). When they spoke the word of the Lord, they told him about repentance and baptism, about being born of water and the Spirit, about calling on the name of the Lord. “*Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having BELIEVED in God with all his household*” (**Acts 16:34**).

## **THIS IS AMAZING!**

The same thing happened in Acts 8. “*Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him*” (**Acts 8:35**). Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “*See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?*” (**Acts 8:36**).

- What did Philip preach? Jesus.
- What was the first thing that the eunuch said? Here is water!
- Philip must have told eunuch about repentance and water baptism when he preached Jesus.
- Else why would the eunuch even talk about baptism?
- No doubt that Philip told the eunuch about being born again, being born of water and the Spirit.
- This would have been the same as telling this man to call upon the name of the Lord/obey the gospel.

I never cease to be amazed at those that tell people to say a prayer and your will be saved. But when Philip, being led by the Holy Spirit preached Jesus, he told this man to be buried in baptism (**Romans 6:3-5**). Listen to what the Bible says compared to what men teach today:

What the Bible says:

- He who believes and is baptized will be saved (**Mark 16:16**).
- Baptism SAVES (**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:21**).
- Repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins (**Acts 2:38**).
- Baptism is a part of calling on the name of the Lord (**Acts 22:16**).

- Baptism is pure faith in action (**Galatians 3:26-27; Colossians 2:12**)
- Unless we are born of water/the Spirit cannot enter heaven (**John 3:5**). This is baptism!

What man says:

- He who believes in Jesus and IS NOT baptized will be saved.
- Baptism does not save.
- Repent and accept Jesus as personal savior and you are saved.
- Calling on the Lord does not mean being baptized.
- Baptism is a work not needed to become a Christian.
- You don't have to be born of water/the Spirit to go to heaven, just believe in Christ.

## COMPLETE REVIEW

My friends, we are saved by God's wonderful grace and mercy (**Ephesians 2:8-10**). Salvation is a free gift that must be received (**John 3:16**). But before you can receive salvation that is only in Christ Jesus (**Acts 4:12**) you must:

### HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

- **Romans 10:17** – Faith comes from hearing the word of God.
- **Luke 11:28** – Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.
- **Luke 8:11** – The seed is the word of God.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:23** – We are born again through the incorruptible seed which is the word of God.
- **James 1:21** – The word of God is able to save your souls.

### BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

- **John 3:16** – God gave us His Son.
- **John 6:35** – Jesus said I am the bread of life. He who believes in me shall never thirst.
- **John 11:26** – Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?
- **Mark 16:16** – He who believes and is baptized will be saved.

### CONFESS CHRIST AS LORD

- **Romans 10:9-10** – Believe with your heart and confess with your mouth.

- **Matthew 10:32-33** – Whoever acknowledge Me before men, him will I acknowledge before my Father in heaven.
- **Luke 12:8-9** – Whoever confesses me before men, him the Son of Man will confess before the angels of God. He who denies me/ will be denied before the angels of God.

### REPENT OF YOUR SINS

- **Matthew 4:17** – Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- **Luke 13:3** – Unless you repent you will perish.
- **Romans 3:23** – All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- **Romans 6:23** – The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.
- **Acts 3:19** – Repent and be converted.

### BE BURIED WITH CHRIST IN BAPTISM

- **Mark 16:16** – He who believes and is baptized will be saved.
- **John 3:5** – Unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
- **Acts 2:38** – Repent and be baptized for remission of sins/you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- **Romans 6:3** – Baptism is a burial in water.
- **Galatians 3:26-27** – You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you were baptized INTO Christ have put on Christ.
- **Colossians 2:12** – Buried with Christ in waters of baptism/raised through faith by the operation/power of God.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:21** – Baptism now saves us.

Have you called on the name of the Lord (**Acts 2:21/Romans 10:13**)? And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord (**Acts 22:16**).

Remember, you must be born again. Don't let others take away the plans God has for you. You must obey the gospel and remain faithful to the Lord until death (**Revelation 2:10**). Have you obeyed the gospel (**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:17**)?