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## *Lesson 3: A Study of Salvation*

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There are some in Christianity who feel they have created an easier way to be born again or experience salvation. This new way takes less effort and requires less change.

Arthur Pink writes, “Do not suppose that God is glorified by going to the lost and telling them that they may be saved at this moment by simply ‘accepting Christ’ as their Savior, while they are wedded to their idols, and their hearts are still in love with sin. If I do so, I tell them a lie, pervert the gospel, and insult Christ.”

Salvation must be done the Bible way.

- I Peter 1:23 - Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

Every other opinion, idea, theory, or tradition will perish. The Word of God alone stands forever.

- Mark 13:31 - Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Therefore, we base our eternal salvation on the eternal Word.

When we talk about Salvation, we go to the Book of Acts. The Book of Acts is a pivotal book of scripture. It connects the Gospels and the Epistles. The Gospels end with Jesus ascending into heaven, and with the promise of the gift of His Spirit. The Epistles pick up as letters written to established churches. These letters provide instruction and inspiration to those who have already experienced salvation. For example, the Book of Romans is written to the church in Rome; the Book of Corinthians is written to the church in Corinth, etc. These are people that have already experienced salvation.

The key to studying salvation is to figure out what happened in the Book of Acts. Before the Book of Acts, people had not received this New Testament salvation; it was just a promise. This promise was the gift of the Holy Ghost. After the Book of Acts, we find churches that are made up of people who have received this New Testament salvation. The crucial component here is what happened in the Book of Acts.

On the Day of Pentecost, we see the prophecies from the Old Testament and the promises from Jesus come alive. One hundred and twenty believers gathered in an upper room, praying, and waiting.

- Acts 2:1-4 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

After this amazing event, Simon Peter preached a message about Jesus Christ to the crowd that had gathered.

- Acts 2:37-38 - 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."

**QUESTION: What gave Simon Peter the right to give the Plan of Salvation?**

- Matthew 16:19 - And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Some argue that they would rather listen to the words of Jesus than those of Simon Peter, but they are the same!

- Luke 24:47-49 - And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Here Jesus is using the phrase, "power from on high." He makes it more clear in Acts 1.

- Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that, the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The 3 elements of salvation from the word of Jesus are:

1. Repentance (asking for forgiveness for sins and turning from sins).
2. Baptism in the Name of Jesus for the remission of sin.
3. Receiving power, which is from the Holy Ghost.

Which is exactly what Simon Peter said on the Day of Pentecost when the crowd asked what they should do.

- Acts 2:37-38 - 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."

Let's go through each of these steps...

### **Repentance**

- Matthew 4:17 - From that time, Jesus began to preach, and to say, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- Luke 13:5 - I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
- Acts 3:19 - Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.
- Acts 17:30 - And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:
- II Corinthians 7:10 - For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

It is not only a commandment to repent, but it is God's will that everyone repents.

- II Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- Matthew 12:41 - The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

If the wicked city of Nineveh repented with a reluctant preacher named Jonah, how much more should we repent with Jesus instructing us?

### **Baptism in the Name of Jesus**

There are two questions that need to be answered: 1) Is baptism necessary? and 2) Does it matter how a person is baptized?

- Mark 16:16 - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

It appears that baptism is an essential and a necessary step.

We also go to the Word of God to find out how to be baptized. Baptism occurs when a person is fully immersed in water.

- John 3:23 - And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came and were baptized.

They came there to be baptized because there was much water.

- Acts 8:38 - And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

They both went down into the water.

- Romans 6:4 - 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.

When something is buried, it is completely covered.

The Greek word for Baptism is baptizo. It means to immerse, to dip or to plunge beneath the surface. In fact, use of the Greek word baptizo is used outside of the Bible some 175 times in ancient Greek literature, and it never deviates in its meaning of total and complete immersion.

Baptism must be in the Name of Jesus. When the Bible gives us 2, 3, 4, or more examples of something, we should take notice because harmony and a pattern are being established. There are **5** Baptisms in the Book of Acts.

**1)** Acts chapter 2 – The Holy Ghost fell on 120 believers just as Jesus promised. Many people gathered in Jerusalem that day and these Spirit-filled believers got the attention of a large crowd. Simon Peter starts preaching to them about Jesus Christ. They asked, “What do we need to do?”

- Acts 2:38 - 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.”
- Acts 2:41 - Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Three thousand people heard that sermon and were baptized in the Name of Jesus. In fact, these are the first recorded baptisms that occur in the New Testament, and they are in the Name of Jesus.

**2)** Acts chapter 8 - Phillip goes to Samaria, starts preaching the Name of Jesus and the people received his message.

- Acts 8:12 - 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.

They were baptized, and in verse (16) the Bible tells us how. They then send for Simon Peter and John to pray with these people to receive the Holy Ghost.

- Acts 8:16 - For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

This group of Samaritans were baptized in the precious Name of Jesus.

**3)** Acts chapter 10 – There was a man named Cornelius. He was a good man, but he was a Gentile. Gentiles were looked down upon by the Jews. However, God spoke to him and told him to send messengers to Joppa and ask for a man named Simon Peter. At the same time the Lord spoke to Simon Peter, revealing to him that the gospel is for the Gentiles as well.

Simon Peter went to Cornelius' house and began to preach and teach this New Testament salvation. Cornelius and his entire family believed and received the Holy Ghost. Then Simon Peter told them about being baptized in the Name of Jesus.

- Acts 10:47-48 - "Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?" So, he gave orders for them to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ.

This group of Gentiles were baptized in the precious Name of Jesus.

**4)** Acts chapter 19 – The Apostle Paul was travelling through Ephesus, and he found several believers and he asked them, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?" "No," they replied, "We haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then Paul asks, "How were you baptized?" and they replied, "The baptism of John."

If it doesn't matter how we are baptized, when Paul came across the disciples of John who had already been baptized, he would have been satisfied with their answer. But that isn't what he did; he preached to them about Jesus Christ.

- Acts 19:5 - When they heard this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Here we see people being re-baptized in the precious Name of Jesus. It was so important to Paul that people be baptized in the Name of Jesus that he re-baptized these disciples of John.

**5)** Acts chapter 22 – The Apostle Paul was giving his testimony to a large crowd in Jerusalem. He told them how he had hated and persecuted the church. He was walking on the Damascus Road when a bright light knocked him to the ground. Paul was blinded and had to be led into town. It was there a man by the name of Ananias came and prayed for him, and Paul received his sight. Ananias then told Paul about baptism in the Name of Jesus.

- Acts 22:16 (KJV) - What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the Name of the Lord.
- Acts 22:16 (Amplified) - And now, why do you delay? Rise and be baptized, and by calling upon His name, wash away your sins.

When the Apostle Paul was baptized, they called upon the Name of the Lord.

- Acts 2 – We see Jews being baptized in Jesus' Name.
- Acts 8 – We see Samaritans being baptized in Jesus' Name.
- Acts 10 – We see Gentiles being baptized in Jesus' Name.
- Acts 19 – We see Disciples of John being baptized in Jesus' Name.
- Acts 22 – We see an ex-Pharisee being baptized in Jesus' Name.

I think the Lord is making a clear statement. He does not care how we were raised or what our background is. We need to be baptized in the Name of Jesus!

- Acts 4:12 - Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

**QUESTION: What about Matthew 28:19?**

After resurrection, Jesus gathers His believers and gives them some instruction.

- Matthew 28:19 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Jesus uses the phrase, "in the Name" in the singular version. In fact, if we look at the parallel verse in Luke, it is recorded as follows:

- Luke 24:47 - And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Let's look deeper into Matthew 28:19 and the listing of the titles Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The name of the Father is Jesus.

- John 5:43 - I am come in my Father's name.

The name of the Son is Jesus.

- Matthew 1:21 - And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus.

The name of the Holy Ghost is Jesus.

- John 14:26 - But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things.

Immediately after Jesus gave these instructions, the disciples started baptizing in the Name of Jesus. They understood perfectly the command of the Lord. Nowhere in scripture do we see anyone being baptized in the titles Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

### **Receiving the Holy Ghost**

- Romans 8:9 - But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.

Having the Spirit seems vitally important. So much so, that the Bible says that without It, we are none of His.

- Romans 8:11 - But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.

The Spirit of God dwelling in us will give life to our mortal bodies.

The first time that people received the Holy Ghost is found in Acts chapter 2.

- Acts 2:1-4 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

There are some that say a person simply needs to believe they are saved to be saved, citing John 3:16:

- John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Certainly, someone must believe on the Lord to be saved. However, belief is more than just mental acknowledgement; it must produce action. Faith without works is dead.

- John 7:38-39 - He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive...

If you believe, you will receive.

- James 2:19 - Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Devils believe in God; certainly they aren't saved. Look at Paul's encounter with the disciples of John.

- Acts 19:4-6 - 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." When they heard this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied.

When Paul instructs them to believe on Him, they were baptized and received the Holy Ghost. Their belief caused a response. The scriptures are clear: Biblical salvation is repentance, baptism in Jesus' Name and receiving the Holy Ghost.

### **QUESTIONS?**