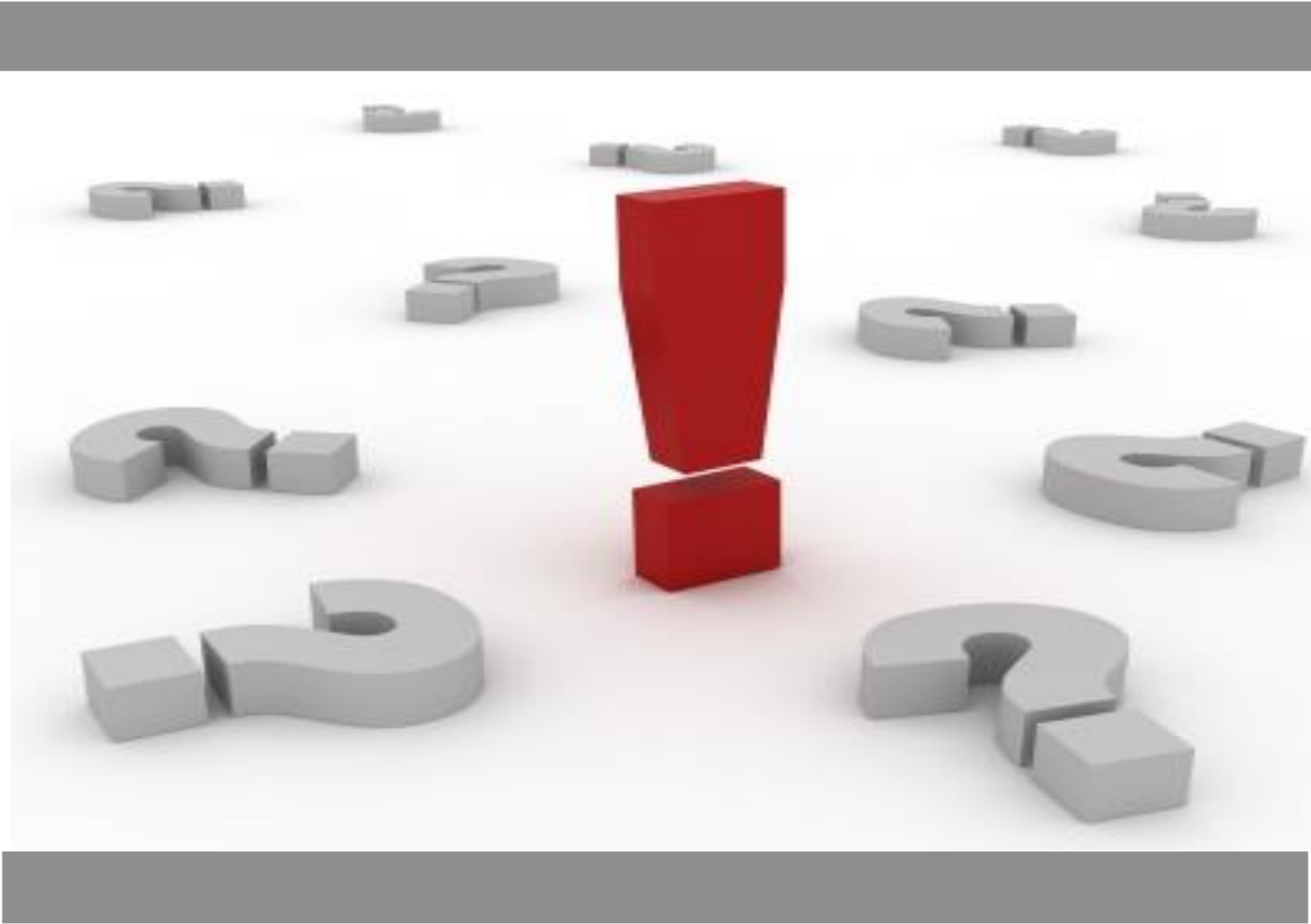


# Answers To Life's Most Essential Questions

Lesson 6: What Must I Do To Be Saved?



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

# Answers To Life's Most Essential Questions

## Lesson 6: What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Learn what God requires you to do in order to be saved from your sins and have eternal life in Heaven

**Watch the free video or listen to the audio of this study @ [www.godsaidso.com/dgw49](http://www.godsaidso.com/dgw49)**

### Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW49

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

**Copyright:** Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God's glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

**Scripture quotations:** Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers

**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

**FIND MORE FROM THE DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES @  
[WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM](http://WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM)**

## Answers To Life's Most Essential Questions

# Lesson 6: What Must I Do To Be Saved?

The previous two lessons in this series have focused on our need for and opportunity to have salvation. In lesson four, we focused on sin, discovering that we have all sinned against God. As a result, we all deserve to be punished in the eternal fires of Hell. Then, in lesson five, we saw that God loved us enough to provide the only sacrifice that could possibly remove the sin from our lives. His name is Jesus Christ. Again, Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

As we seek the answers to life's most essential questions, we must seek the right answer to the question: “What must I do to be saved?” Is there anything God has required of me to be in Christ Jesus and access His gift of salvation? Is there anything God has required of me to be forgiven of my sins? And, if there is, what is it?

It's like the ground between you and God has been broken because of sin – and there is no way for you to get back to God. But, Jesus Christ has provided the bridge (picture the cross as the bridge). Now, you must consider what (if anything) God requires you to do to cross the bridge so as to be reconciled with God and have your sins forgiven. This is the question some people asked in Acts 2:37 whenever they realized they had sinned. They asked, “Brothers, what should we do?”

As we consider the essential nature of this question, we must recognize that many people and churches answer this question differently. Some say that all you must do is believe in Jesus. Some say that you must say a “Sinner's Prayer” to ask Jesus into your heart. Some say that God has done everything for you; so, there's nothing you must do to be saved. Some say that God has preselected those who will be saved and those who will be lost; so, you cannot do anything to affect your salvation. There are many different teachings about salvation (too many to list here). Yet, we must not be interested in what *people* and *churches* say you must do to be saved. Instead, we should only be interested in what God says we must do to be saved from our sins. *This* is the only thing that matters, since God's word will judge us on the Last Day! Therefore, in this sixth lesson, we will seek the answer to the question, “What must I do to be saved?”

## ***Is There Anything You Must Do?***

---

Since you have sinned and deserve to be punished, the first thing you must consider is whether there is anything you must do for salvation or if God has done it all for you. For, there are some who would tell you that God has done everything necessary for you to be saved. They claim that there are no works required for your salvation, only faith. But, is this Biblically true?

### **It is impossible to earn salvation**

Certainly, there is nothing that you can do to *earn* (or, *deserve*) your salvation after you have sinned – as we discussed in lesson four. Remember that the “wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Everlasting spiritual death in Hell is what you *deserve* for your sin. You simply cannot *do* anything to take away the sin you have committed – by yourself!

Ephesians 2:8-10 demonstrates that there is nothing you can do to earn salvation. It says, “For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not

from yourselves; it is God's gift – not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.”

As we discussed in lesson five, Christ has provided the avenue for your salvation. Again, Romans 6:23 says that “the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Still, the question is: Has God placed any requirements on you in order to be saved? Has He instructed you to *do* anything to be saved? Since eternal life is “in Christ Jesus,” what is necessary in order to enter a right relationship with Jesus?

### **God has required obedience**

Consider this: Jesus Christ died for everyone; but, everyone will *not* be saved. In fact, Jesus taught that most people will be lost (see Matthew 7:13-14). Clearly, there is something God has required of you in order to be saved – or else everyone would be saved through Jesus!

Consider the example of a birthday gift. Let's suppose someone sends you a \$20 check in the mail for your birthday. It is a free gift. You did not earn it. However, in order to receive that gift, there are some things that must be done. You must go to the mailbox, get the envelope out of the mailbox, open the envelope, take the card out of the envelope, take the check out of the card, sign the check, take the check to the bank, and cash the check. Then (and only then), you will have your free gift. It is still a free gift. You still did not do anything to earn it. Yet, there were required steps to receive the gift.

The same is true concerning salvation. You do not deserve salvation. Yet, God (through His love, grace, and mercy) has provided Jesus Christ as the sacrifice for sin and given you the gift of salvation. However, He has also commanded you to do certain things in order to access the gift of salvation (which we will discuss in this lesson). But, even though you must obey His commandments, you do not nullify His grace or earn your salvation!

You see, there is a difference between works of *merit* (by which you try to earn your salvation) and works of *obedience* (by which you obey the conditions God has put on your salvation)!

Whenever you do what God commands, you are *not* attempting to earn your salvation. Instead, you are simply doing whatever God has required, recognizing that you are saved by His grace! For, even when you do these things, you are still undeserving of salvation (see Luke 17:7-10). Still, God does require works of obedience in order for you to be saved. For instance, James 2:24 says, “You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”

In addition, consider what Jesus taught about people who claim to believe in and follow Him in Matthew 7:21-23: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?’ Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!’” Clearly, just believing in Jesus and calling Him “Lord” is not enough to be saved. Instead, God requires obedience!

### **An example of faithful obedience**

There are many examples of obedience in the Bible. Consider Noah. Hebrews 11:7 says, “By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear, built an ark to deliver his family. By faith he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”

God determined to destroy people from the earth because of their sinfulness (see Genesis 6:5-7). Yet, among all the wickedness, Noah found grace (favor) in God's eyes (Genesis 6:8). So, God told Noah about the destruction that was going to be brought on the earth and a way to be saved from it. He gave Noah detailed instructions about how to build an ark that would carry him and his family safely through the flood. Therefore, Noah was faced with a choice: Obey God and be saved or disobey God and die. Noah chose to trust in God enough to obey His instructions and build the ark.

This is the same basic decision you are faced with. You are living in a sinful world that God will destroy one day (as seen in 2 Peter 3:10). God has

given you the opportunity to be saved (through Jesus Christ). However, like Noah, you must trust in God so much that you obey Him in whatever He says!

Just think: What if Noah would have believed God's promise about the flood and the way to be saved from it, but did not *do* anything (i.e. if he did not build the ark)? What if Noah would have built the ark out of pine instead of gopher wood (as God commanded)? What if Noah had built the ark a little smaller or a little larger than God specified? What if Noah would have built the ark with five levels instead of with the three God had instructed? Would Noah have been saved if he had changed any of God's instructions? Would he be considered a great example of faith if he had not obeyed God in all these things? I believe that we must conclude the answer to these questions is clearly, "No!"

Likewise, God has given you specific instructions about how you can be saved. However, if you change any of these instructions, you put your soul in jeopardy! So, what has God told you that you must do in order to be saved? Let's examine.

---

## ***Hear God's Word***

The first step God has required you to take across the "bridge" that leads to salvation is to hear His word. For, it is impossible for you to please God without hearing His word. Let's consider.

### **Hearing God's word is essential for salvation**

Romans chapter 10 demonstrates the necessity of hearing God's word. Verse 13 says, "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'" Then, verses 14 and 15 show the role of hearing God's word in this salvation. "How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.'" Verse 17 then adds, "So faith comes from

what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ."

Hearing the word of God (the message about salvation through Jesus Christ in the New Testament Scriptures) should lead you to saving faith. You will not develop saving faith by hearing the teachings or opinions of people. Instead, it is only developed through hearing God's word! Therefore, you need to study God's word every day so that you can know what God wants you to know (see Acts 17:10-12).

### **What you must hear**

It is only by studying God's word that you can understand what God has done for you and what God has instructed you to do to be saved! Although God does not require you to have a full knowledge of everything He says in the Bible before you can be saved, He does require you to know some basic things. For instance, think about some of the fundamental things we have been discussing in this series. You must know about God, that you have a soul that survives physical death, that the Bible is the word of God, that you have sinned and separated yourself from God, and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died to save you and rose from the dead. Then, you must hear about what God requires you to do to be saved (as we are studying in this lesson) and how He wants you to commit your life to Him.

Think about it. If you don't hear what God has done for you so that you can be saved or what He has commanded you to do to be saved, how can you be saved? The simple fact is that you won't be! For example, Acts 18:8 says, "...Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized." Certainly, they would not have been able to take the required steps without first hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them!

---

## ***Believe In Jesus***

The second step God has required you to take across the "bridge" that leads to salvation is to believe in Jesus Christ. For, it is impossible for you to please God without believing in Christ. Let's consider.

## **Belief is essential for salvation**

Jesus said, “Therefore I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am he, you will die in your sins.” (John 8:24). You must be mentally convinced Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to earth, lived as a man, died the horrible death on the cross, was buried in the tomb, and rose from the dead – so that you can be saved from your sins! And, to be mentally convinced of these things also requires that you be fully convinced that God is real and that the Bible is the word of God.

Other passages that teach the essential nature of belief for salvation include Mark 16:16 and Romans 10:9-10. Mark 16:16 says, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” Romans 10:9-10 says, “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.” Although we will focus on confession and baptism later in this lesson from these same passages, recognize that they also require belief in Jesus.

## **You are not saved by faith only**

While belief (faith) is essential for salvation, it is *not* the only thing essential for salvation. However, it is important to recognize that the Bible speaks of faith in a couple different ways. Sometimes, the Bible speaks of belief (or, faith) in the sense of being mentally convinced something is true (i.e. that Jesus Christ is the Son of God). But, many times, the Bible speaks of a more comprehensive belief (or, faith) that couples a mental conviction with obedience. This is real, saving faith.

Hebrews chapter 11 shows several pictures of this comprehensive faith. First, it begins by defining faith as “the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen” (verse 1). So, faith is all the evidence you need to live in full obedience to God. Verse 6 then adds, “Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

Real, saving faith begins with the mental conviction that certain things are true – but it does not end there! I encourage you to read Hebrews 11 and notice all the examples of active and obedient faith (not merely mental conviction). For instance, the faith of Abel caused him to offer an acceptable sacrifice. The faith of Noah caused him to prepare an ark. The faith of Abraham caused him to obey God’s command to offer his only son upon an altar. And, so it goes throughout the chapter. Faith leads to action, which results in pleasing God!

Yet, many religious organizations teach that being mentally convinced that Jesus Christ is the Son of God is the *only* requirement for salvation. However, we are *not* interested in various “church doctrines.” Rather, we are concerned with what God teaches!

James 2:14-26 clearly teaches against this idea of “faith only.” It says, “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed,’ but you don’t give them what the body needs, what good is it? In the same way faith, if it doesn’t have works, is dead by itself. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works. You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe – and they shudder.

“Senseless person! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless? Wasn’t Abraham our father justified by works in offering Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was active together with his works, and by works, faith was made complete, and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend.

“You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. In the same way, wasn’t Rahab the prostitute also justified by works in receiving the messengers and sending them out by a different route? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”

## Repent

---

The third step God has required you to take across the “bridge” that leads to salvation is to repent of your sins. For, it is impossible for you to please God without repenting of your sins. Let’s consider.

### Repentance is essential for salvation

Jesus clearly stated the necessity of repentance in Luke 13:3. He said, “No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well.” Note that He also repeated this in verse 5. Then, in response to the question, “Brothers, what should we do” (as we saw earlier in Acts 2:37), Peter identified two things in Acts 2:38. He said, “Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” While we will discuss baptism a bit later, notice that repentance is clearly required “for the forgiveness of your sins.” Therefore, you cannot be forgiven without repenting of your sins!

Acts 17:30-31 then answers the question of who must repent. It says, “Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has set a day when he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he has appointed. He has provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” Quite simply, God has commanded that “all people everywhere” must repent! So, you cannot please God without repenting of your sins.

### Learning true repentance

While you should now recognize that repentance is essential for salvation, you must also learn what true repentance is. First, the Bible teaches that “godly grief produces repentance” (2 Corinthians 7:10). That is, whenever you recognize what your sins have done to your relationship with God, you should mourn over your sins and want to undo the sins you have committed.

Then, repentance requires you to think about your past sins, hating that you have done such wicked things. And, you must determine to live for God in

the future. Therefore, repentance takes place in the mind by acknowledging your past sins and determining to put those sins off from your life. In repentance, you are imitating Christ’s death. You are not dying physically or being physically crucified; but, you are putting the old person of sin to death! In putting the old person of sin to death, you are also making way for the new person who is patterned after God’s holiness (read Colossians 3:1-17)!

You should have the same attitude Paul had, as described in Galatians 2:20. He said, “I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” So, when you repent, you are determining to give your life *entirely* to Jesus Christ rather than continue living for your own desires!

## Confess Christ

---

The fourth step God has required you to take across the “bridge” that leads to salvation is to confess Jesus Christ. For, it is impossible for you to please God without confessing Christ. Let’s consider.

### Confession is essential for salvation.

Jesus said, “Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge me before others, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny him before my Father in heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33). Although the confession Jesus is discussing here is *not* a one-time confession, it does illustrate how God expects people to confess Jesus Christ during their earthly lives in order to be saved.

Romans 10:9-10 also specifically commands that a confession be made in order to be saved. Again, the passage says, “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.”

## What you must confess

This confession is *not* a confession of your sins or that you are a sinner (as many churches teach). Rather, this is a confession that acknowledges your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, your dependence on Him for salvation, and your commitment to make Him Lord of your life. Again, the confession in Romans 10:9 was that “Jesus is Lord.”

The Ethiopian man in Acts chapter 8 provides a good example of such a confession. Since some of the Greek manuscripts do not contain his confession, some Bible translations only put his confession as a footnote. Still, the confession is found in some manuscripts and is in perfect harmony with what we have already studied. Prior to being baptized, he simply confessed, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37). In the same way, you must confess Jesus Christ before you are baptized.

## ***Be Baptized***

---

The fifth step God has required you to take across the “bridge” that leads to salvation is to be baptized. For, it is impossible for you to please God without being baptized. Let’s consider.

### **Baptism is essential for salvation**

While most religious organizations do *not* teach that baptism is necessary (required) for salvation, the Bible teaches that it is! Please consider each of the following passages for yourself. Do not allow any preconceived ideas or other religious teaching to hinder your understanding of what God says.

In Mark 16:16, Jesus clearly couples belief and baptism with salvation. He said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” Ask yourself the question, “Who does Jesus say will be saved?” Clearly, it is the one who believes and is baptized. However, simply failing to believe will lead to your eternal condemnation.

In Acts 2:38, Peter responds to the question his audience had asked (“Brothers, what should we do?,” see verse 37) by stating that both repentance and baptism are necessary in order to have sins forgiven. “Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” Ask yourself, “Can I be saved without having my sins forgiven?” If not, what does Peter say must be done in order to have your sins forgiven? He clearly says that repentance and baptism are necessary.

In Acts 22:16, Saul (later named Paul) was told to be baptized and that this would accomplish the washing away of his sins. “And now, why are you delaying? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.” Again, ask yourself, “Can I be saved without having my sins washed away?” According to the things we studied in lesson four, the answer is clearly, “No!” Since you cannot be saved while you are still in your sins, you must have them “washed away” (forgiven). And, God clearly says that baptism is necessary for that to happen! Also, God says that baptism is involved in “calling on the name of the Lord” (which is said to be necessary for salvation in Romans 10:13).

In Galatians 3:27, Paul says that you are baptized into Christ. “For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.” Why is it important to be “in Christ”? Romans 6:23 and 2 Timothy 2:10 both show that salvation is located “in Christ.” Furthermore, Ephesians 1:3 says that all spiritual blessings are located “in Christ.” Ephesians 1:7 says that this includes the forgiveness of sins. Now, you must recognize that Galatians 3:27 says baptism is what puts you in Christ – where salvation is! So, how can you be saved without being baptized into Christ? You simply cannot be! You are not “in Christ” until you are “baptized into Christ”!

In 1 Peter 3:20-21, Peter says that baptism saves you (just as Noah and his family were saved by water): “who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared. In it a few – that is, eight people – were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you (not as the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge [or,



appeal] of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” Did you catch that? Peter said that baptism “now saves you.” Don’t let anyone tell you that baptism does *not* save you!

Very simply, everyone who is in need of what baptism does must be baptized. Those who are not in need of what baptism does do not need to be baptized! For example, infants do not need to be baptized because infants do not have sin in their lives. But, everyone who has sinned must be baptized according to the teachings of God’s word. For, baptism is necessary in order for the sinner to be saved, to be forgiven, and to come into Jesus Christ!

According to Romans 6:3-4, baptism stands between the old person of sin and the new person of righteousness. It says, “Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.” So, you cannot start your new life for Christ until you have buried the old person of sin in the waters of baptism!

Then, let me also state that it is essential for you to be baptized for the right reasons. For, it may be that you have been baptized in the past, but not for the reasons the Bible teaches. Maybe you were baptized as a baby. Maybe you were baptized *after* you thought you were already saved (as many churches teach). But, if you were not baptized to be saved, to be forgiven, and to enter a right relationship with Jesus Christ, you were not really obedient to God’s command and need to be baptized correctly, for the right reasons!

### **Baptism is an immersion in water**

“Baptism” is practiced in different ways in churches today. Some immerse. Some sprinkle or pour water over the head of the individual. But, what is the truth? The Greek word for “baptism” actually means to immerse or overwhelm. So, it requires completely covering the person with water.

Then, not only is this the meaning of the word “baptism,” but it is also the action the Bible shows us about baptism in the New Testament. For example,

whenever Jesus was baptized in Matthew 3:16, the Scriptures say that He came “up immediately from the water,” implying He had been down in the water. Similarly, Acts 8:38-39 shows a man going down into and coming up from the water for his baptism. It says, “So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any longer but went on his way rejoicing.”

Then, we have already seen that the language in Romans 6:3-4 concerning baptism is that it is a “burial.” Certainly, a burial is a complete covering – not a sprinkling or pouring! So, only immersion is acceptable to accomplish God’s command known as “baptism.” The practices of sprinkling or pouring water over someone’s head simply do not fulfill God’s command to be baptized (immersed)! Therefore, if you have not been fully immersed in water for the right reasons, you must do so in order to be saved!

---

## ***Remain Faithful***

After being obedient to the things God has commanded (as we have discussed), you are now a child of God (a Christian)! You can rejoice because you have been forgiven of your sins and are in a saved condition! You have now gained access to all the spiritual blessings that are in Christ Jesus! You have been added to the church of Christ – the body of the saved (as we’ll discuss in lesson seven). But, you must also continue to be obedient to God throughout your life. For, it is impossible for you to please God without remaining faithful to God. Let’s consider.

### **Faithfulness is essential for salvation**

Your life as a Christian must look different than the life you lived prior to becoming a Christian. Remember, you repented of all your past sins. Now, you must act on that repentance and actually live for God rather than sin! Romans 6:3-4 called this walking “in newness of life.” More will be said about

this in lesson eight, when we study what God requires of you as a Christian.

You are expected to live a life of faithful obedience that is fully committed to God. This is your responsibility throughout the remainder of your life – until death (even if it means dying for the Lord’s cause). Consider what Jesus told some Christians who were about to be persecuted for following Him in Revelation 2:10: “Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will experience affliction for ten days. Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Notice that the only way they would be saved is if they remained faithful to Christ!

So, in order to remain a faithful follower (disciple) of Jesus Christ, you must always give Him control of your life. Let His will be done in your life rather than your own. Keep His commandments. Deny yourself. Endure hardships for Him. Put Him first. Don’t deny Him. Learn from Him. Grow in His service. And, follow Him wherever He leads you through the pages of the New Testament.

#### *How Christians can be forgiven of sin*

You must live properly in the sight of God because it is possible to sin after becoming a Christian and lose your salvation. Galatians 5:4 clearly teaches this. When Paul wrote to some who had previously become Christians and had went back into sin, he told them, “You who are trying to be justified by the law are alienated from Christ; you have fallen from grace.”

Anytime you violate the law Jesus has given in the New Testament, you fail to put Him first and sin against God. When you do this, you must return to Christ so that you can be forgiven of your sins. One such person who had sinned against God after becoming a disciple was told, “Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, your heart’s intent may be forgiven” (Acts 8:22). And, 1 John 1:9 instructs, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” So, returning to Jesus involves repenting of your sin, confessing your sin to God, and asking Him to forgive you. When you do this, He will forgive you!

## **Conclusion**

---

God has told you exactly what you must do in order to be saved from your sins. If you have not obeyed His instructions, you are not saved – and should obey Him immediately! So, what should you take from this study? (1) A knowledge that God has required you to *do* something to be saved and a proper understanding of obedience. (2) An understanding of what you must do to be saved (hear God’s word, believe in Jesus Christ, repent of your sins, confess Christ, and be immersed in water for the forgiveness of your sins). (3) An understanding that you must live a life of faithful obedience *after* you have become a Christian and how you can be forgiven when you fall back into sin. While we could discuss more, I hope that this lesson has helped you understand what you must do to be saved!

## **Study Questions**

---

Why is it essential to know the answer to this question?

### **1. Is There Anything You Must Do?**

Can you earn your salvation after you have sinned?

Has God required you to do anything to be saved?

How is Noah a good example of obedience?

### **2. Hear God’s Word**

Is hearing God's word essential for salvation?

Is faithfulness essential for salvation?

What must you hear?

How can you be forgiven of your sins after becoming a Christian?

### **3. Believe In Jesus**

Is believing in Jesus essential for salvation?

Are you saved by faith only?

### **4. Repent**

Is repentance essential for salvation?

What is repentance?

### **5. Confess Christ**

Is confession essential for salvation?

What must you confess?

### **6. Be Baptized**

Is baptism essential for salvation?

What is baptism?

### **7. Remain Faithful**