

What You Need To Do To Be Saved

“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, **what shall we do?**” Then Peter said to them, “**Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [forgiveness] of sins;** and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

“And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “**Be saved from this perverse generation**”. Acts 2:37-38,40

Any person who believes in Jesus Christ’s death, burial and resurrection, must obey the commandment given by the Apostles to repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit .

Why Repent?

“I tell you, no; **but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**” Luke 13:3. Jesus said that everyone must repent or else they will perish because of their sins. Most people, in their eyes and the eyes of their friends, think they are good enough to enter heaven. However, in God’s eyes, every human being is a sinner, filthy and all his good deeds are dirty before God.

“**for all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23

“If God puts no trust in His saints, And the heavens are not pure in His sight, **how much less man, who is abominable and filthy, who drinks iniquity**

[sin] like water!” Job 15:13-18

“But we are all like an unclean thing, **and all our righteousness’s [good deeds] are like filthy rags;**”. No one should expect to be worthy to enter heaven because they are a good person, in God’s eyes all of us are dirty, and our good deeds are filthy rags. The same way any criminal may seem just to another criminal until he faces the judge and the law, so we also may seem good in the sinner’s eyes until we face God and his Word (BIBLE). Therefore, everyone has to repent, or else as Jesus said we will all perish.

How do you repent?

It is just like when a criminal pleads guilty before a judge, but the difference is instead of judgment we receive mercy. First, you need to acknowledge that you are a sinner and that you have broken God’ law, as God said in Jeremiah 3:13 “Only acknowledge your iniquity [sin], That you have transgressed against the Lord your God,”. Then you must confess your sins and forsake them, for God had said in Proverbs 28:13 “He who covers his sins will not prosper, **but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.**” God is merciful to anyone who repents, and he is ready to pardon any sin for it is written: “ For You, Lord, are **good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.**” Psalms 86:5. God has also said “... ‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘**I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.** Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?” DON’T EVER SAY, no matter what you have done, “God is happy if I die in my sins” or “HE WILL NOT FORGIVE ME”. Jesus said, “Likewise, I say to you, **there is joy in the presence of the an-**

gels of God over one sinner who repents.” God is waiting for you to come to repentance for it is written “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**” 1 Peter 3:9.

Why Be Baptised in Jesus Name?

Repentance only is not enough to receive forgiveness of sins as Peter said in Acts 2:38 “**Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [forgiveness] of sins**”.

Repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus are necessary for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus said in Mark 16:16 “**He who believes and is baptised will be saved;** but he who does not believe will be condemned”. We don’t get baptised in the name of Jesus to join an organisation but to be saved from our sins. Therefore, Apostle Paul was told “And now why are you waiting? Arise and **be baptised, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**’ Acts 22:16. Baptism was always performed in the Bible by immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ.

Why baptise in the name of Jesus Christ

Why do we have to be baptised in Jesus name ? why not in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost as stated in Matthew 28:19?

Firstly, No one in the Bible was baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. All baptism was done in the name of Jesus Christ, e.g. (3000 souls in Acts 2:41, the people of Samaria Acts 2:12-16, Cornelius and his house Acts 10:47-48, the people of Ephesus Acts 19:5 and Apostle Paul Acts 22:16)

Jesus gave the commandment to the eleven disciples

in Mathew 28:16-19, but the eleven disciples with Peter commanded us in Acts 2:38 to be baptised in Jesus name instead of in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Were the Apostles being disobedient to Jesus commandment? NO, it is simply because they understood the mystery of the single ‘name’ that Jesus told them to baptise in.

Jesus did not say baptise them in the ‘names’ but rather ‘name’ signifying a single name that is of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Now, Father, Son or Holy Ghost are not names but titles, however, there is a single name that bears all these three titles which is the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is called the everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6), he is the Son (Mathew 1:21), he is the Holy Ghost (2 Corinthians 3:17, John 14:26). That is why the apostles never baptised anyone in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, only in the name of Jesus Christ did they administer the water baptism.

Secondly, it is written, “Nor is there salvation in any other, **for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**” Acts 4:12 and “And whatever **you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Jesus himself said that “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 nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” This was therefore what the Apostle did on the day of Pentecost when Peter and the eleven disciples stood and said: “Repent, and let every one of you **be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [forgiveness] of sins** and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Thirdly, we put on Christ’s righteousness and nature when we are baptised in his name and therefore becoming his children, for it is written “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ**”.

Fourthly, we fulfil part of the born-again experience that is required to enter the Kingdom of God [Heaven]. Jesus said in John 3:5-6 “...Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” To be ‘born of Water’ is to be baptised in water in the name of Jesus Christ, to be ‘born of the Spirit’ is to be filled with the Holy Ghost. These two things are commanded in Acts 2:38.

So “...**why are you waiting? Arise and be baptised, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**” Acts 22:16

Why be filled with The Holy Spirit?

Once you have repented and been baptised in Jesus name for the forgiveness of your sins, you will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost as it is written in Acts 2:38. Firstly, the infilling Holy Spirit is necessary for the fulfilment of the born-again experience spoken by Jesus Christ in John 3:5 “Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘**You must be born again.**’ Therefore, if we want to enter God’s Kingdom [heaven], not only do we need to be baptised in the name of Jesus but also be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, it is written “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His**” Romans 8:9. Therefore if we want to be Christ’s we must be filled with the Holy Spirit or else we are not his, and Jesus is coming to take those that are his.

Thirdly we receive power to live in holiness, power over sin and death when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. For it is written, “**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” It is also written, “**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**”

Have you been filled with the Holy Ghost?

Conclusion

“ ... Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

What are you waiting for!! repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus, for the forgiveness of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is the only way of salvation according to the Holy Scriptures.