

“What must I do to be saved?”

The most important question anyone can ask is, “What must I do to be saved?”

One person will answer and say that the whole of the salvation experience is in belief. Another will say that repentance saves. Another still will say that you must repent and be baptized. Who is right?

The Word of God is right.

Indeed, it is to the scriptures that we must turn to find our means of salvation...

(From Acts 2) The day of Pentecost had come. In an upper room, 120 people were gathered together seeking God for gift of the Holy Ghost that had been promised to them. They received it. They began to speak in unknown languages as the Spirit gave the utterance. In excitement, they went out in to the street magnifying and worshipping God. Many Jews were there from other regions and countries, places where they had their own language for everyday life. When the outpouring was noised abroad, those from foreign places heard those that had been filled with the Spirit of God speaking in their home languages. Some mocked and said they were drunk. At this, Peter stood up and began to preach Jesus Christ. He preached who He was. He preached the promise they had just received. He preached that they had crucified Him. Under conviction, the people asked Peter, “What must we do?” Peter replied to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, for the

promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

“What must we do?” That was what the people asked Peter. Under conviction, they asked him what they had to do to be saved. He told them.

Time and again in the book of Acts, this plan is followed. Let us examine the mechanics a bit.

In repentance, a person turns from being a slave of the Enemy to being a servant of God (Romans 6:17). They die out to sin. They are not bound by sin to obey it (Romans 6:7). And yet, this is not salvation.

In baptism, a person is buried with Christ (Romans 6:3-4). Repentance is death, baptism is burial. Baptism is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Baptism washes sins away (Acts 22:16). So, when a person repents and is baptized in the name of Jesus, they are made free from sin and forgiven of their sins. They have a clean slate. However, this is not yet salvation because neither repentance or baptism give life to the soul.

In being filled with the Spirit of God, the Holy Ghost, a person is resurrected from death. Their soul is made alive (Romans 8:11).

Repentance, baptism in Jesus’ name, and being filled with the Holy Ghost models the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

That is what we must do to be saved.