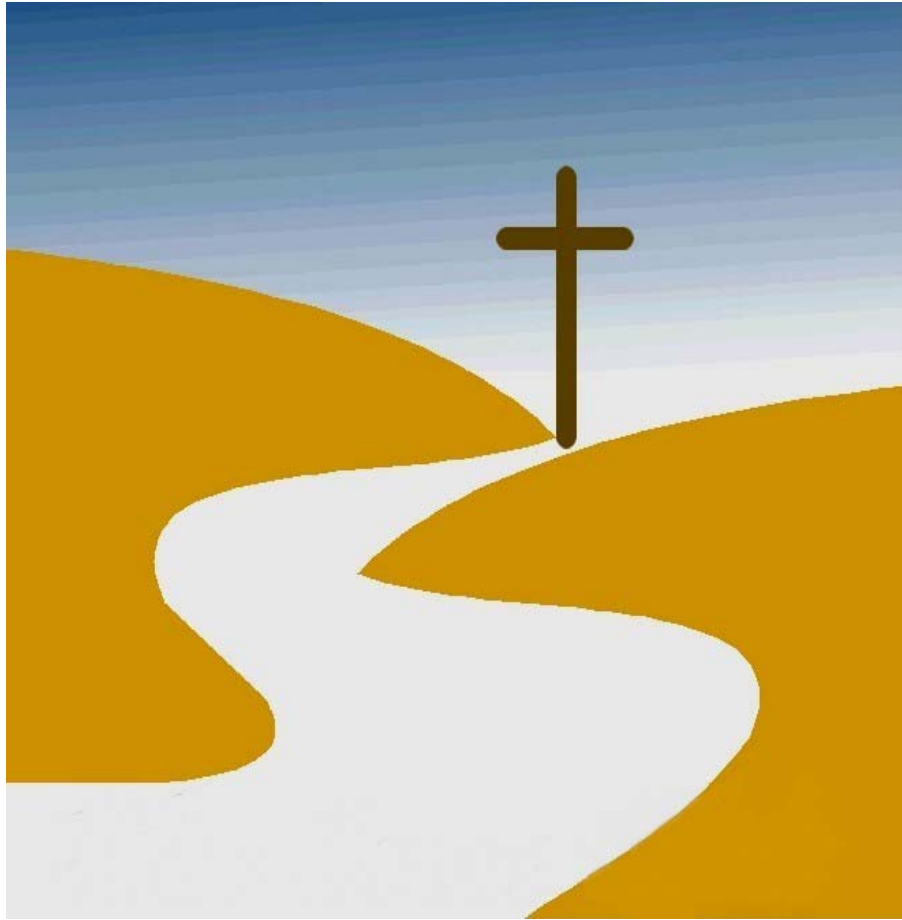


The Cross Road



Choosing The Path That Leads To Life

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The Cross Road Bible Study

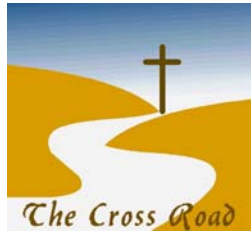


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The Cross Road

Choosing The Path That Leads To Life

It's not any coincidence that you are reading this Bible Study. You have been seeking for real meaning and purpose to life. If anyone has an answer to life it would be the one true living God who is the creator of all life. The Spirit of God has led you to this Bible Study called "The Cross Road". The Lord God has good intentions toward you and when you seek Him with all your heart then you will find Him.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

As we journey through life in search of answers we will face many decisions or crossroads. There will be decisions on what career path to take, what school to attend, what person do we marry, what are my beliefs... life is full of important crossroad decisions. The most important decision that we will make is about our relationship with the Creator of all life. Will we believe in Him, love Him, and seek Him with our whole heart? The Bible tells us that the day of the Lord is near and many are in the valley of decision.

Joel 3:14

"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

The path that leads to life will lead you to the creator and savior... Jesus Christ! This path leads to Calvary and to the very cross that Jesus died upon. It's at the foot of the cross we can find the Lord in all His mercy and goodness.

John 14:6

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Along this path called "The Cross Road" we will encounter milestone truths in which we must choose to accept and embrace if we are to journey closer to the Creator. Let's start our journey on this road that leads to life!



Milestone #1 - The Importance of Truth

Truth is an important part of our lives. Without truth there would be no trust in any person, place, or thing. Without truth, this world would be complete chaos. People of this day question whether there are any absolutes or truths to stand upon. For instance, people make vows of marriage and promises of faithfulness to each other only to be broken leaving one or both partners in confusion and disillusionment.

The high rate of divorce in the U.S. is just one of the factors in our society that fuels the idea of “no absolutes”. People will think... “If I can’t trust my marriage partner then what is there to trust and believe in?” This belief in “there are no absolutes” causes people not to trust in God. However, those that have trusted in God and in the Word of God (the Bible) will testify that He is FAITHFUL and TRUSTWORTHY.

The Word of God is the Truth:

- The Bible tells us that the Word of God is _____. (John 17:17)
- The words of Jesus shall not _____ . (Matt. 24:35)

The TRUTH from God’s Word will set us free from sin, guilt, and condemnation. The TRUTH of God’s Word will liberate us from beliefs and traditions that don’t have any Biblical foundation. In order to be a true disciple we MUST CONTINUE in His TRUTH.

When we have the opportunity to hear the Truth from the Word of God we should

- You will be set _____ if you know the truth. (John 8:32)
- To be a “disciple indeed of Jesus Christ” you must _____ in His Word. (John 8:31)
- The Word of God tells us to _____ the Truth and _____ it not. (Prov. 23:23)
- To “buy the truth and sell it not” means to believe, accept and embrace the “truth” without ever letting it go. If we are to know God it will be based on His Word which is the “truth” from the Bible. Man-made religious traditions or philosophies are not always true to the Bible. We can not find or approach God from man’s knowledge but only from God’s Truth.
- When you obey the Truth it will _____ your _____. (1 Peter 1:22)
- According to the scripture below, it is God’s will that all men should be saved and come to the _____ of the _____.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

- Those that do not love the TRUTH and do not believe the TRUTH, in the last days, shall believe a lie and shall be _____. (2 Thess. 2:9-12)

Milestone #1 Decisions:

- God's Word is the Truth. (True or False)
- God want us to be saved and come to the knowledge of His truth. (True or False)
- People who **do not obey** the truth will receive damnation. (True or False)
- Have you decided to follow and obey the truth? (Yes or No)



Milestone #2 – The Need of Salvation

Now that you have decided to follow and obey the Word of Truth let us continue our journey toward God. Remember that all along the "Cross Road" there are more "Truths" to embrace. Each time we hear "Truth" we are responsible for believing, embracing, and following what we have learned from God's Word.

Because God is the Creator, He alone, has the right to say what is right and what is wrong. Many people today believe that right and wrong is relative to their thinking and desires. Society wants to be able to say what is right and wrong. The Bible tells us that God's nature is just, righteous, and He has the authority to say what is right and wrong:

The nature of God is truth, justice, and righteous:

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

"... ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are _____: a God of truth and without _____, just and right is he."

Job 34:12 "God will not do _____, Neither will the Almighty pervert _____."

Isaiah 45:21 "...there is no God else besides me, a _____ God and a Saviour"

His precepts or principles will never change:

Psalms 111:7-8

7 The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are _____.

8 They stand fast for _____ and _____, and are done in truth and uprightness.

Because God's principles will never change we ought to submit ourselves to them.

Romans 13:1-2

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no _____ but of ____: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore _____ the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves _____."

According to the following verse sin is the _____ of the _____.

1 John 3:4

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

The Bible tells us that the "Law" in the Old Testament was our schoolmaster and would bring us or lead us to Christ.

Galatians 3:24

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

This Schoolmaster called the "Law" teaches us what sin was, how God felt about sin, and points us toward Christ. Below is a list of the "Ten Commandments" (the moral laws of God) that can be found in Exodus chapter 20:7-17.

Ten Commandments:

1. Have no other gods before the Lord God.
2. Do not make or worship any graven image (idols).
3. Do not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. Do not kill.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not bear false witness against anyone (in other words, do not lie).
10. Do not covet other people's possession (house, wife, servants, things, etc.)

Have you ever lied? Have you ever wanted something that belonged to another? Have you ever taken the Lord's name in vain (swearing using the Lord's name)? Have you ever dishonored your mother and father? Have you any other gods that you love more than the Lord Himself (This can be anything that has such a hold on us that we can't serve or love the Lord. Things such as: drugs, alcohol, gambling, promiscuous sex, riches, power, etc.)? Have you ever looked at or thought lustfully upon another person? Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:28 that any man that looks upon a woman with lust and desire to have her has already committed adultery in his heart.

Matthew 5:28

"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

The "Law" points out our sins and moral failure towards God. We all have sinned and deserve punishment for sin. In God's eyes all sin is the same and the wages of sin is death or eternal damnation. Sin is the work of the flesh (our human nature) and is shown by our thoughts and actions:

Galatians 5:19-21

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

This covers about every sin upon the face of the earth. We find that those who, willfully,

continue sinful behavior and who will not obey the gospel will be punished and will not inherit the kingdom of God. God's attitude toward sin will never change... sin must be punished.

God has given all of us the free will to choose sin (which leads to physical and spiritual death) or to choose righteousness (which leads to eternal life). We are all responsible for our choices and so we can not blame God for judging us to eternal damnation if we choose to do sin.

We can't blame God for decisions that we have made by our own free will. The Israelites in Joshua's day needed to make a decision... either serve evil or serve the Lord their God.

Joshua 24:15

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

We are at the same crossroad today... who will we serve?

The Word of God tells us of the great need of salvation for all mankind. We are all born in sin and guilty before a holy God.

- We are all born and conceived in _____. (Psalms 51:5)
- Our righteousness is as _____. (Isaiah 64:6)
- Does sin separate us from God? _____ (Isaiah 59:2)
- According to the judgment of God, those that commit sin are worthy of _____ (Rom. 1:24-32)
- What are the wages of sin? _____ (Romans 6:23)
- God will take flaming _____ on those that do not know God and who will not _____ the gospel. (2 Thess. 1:8-9)
- Lust brings _____ into our lives and when sin completes its work in us it brings forth _____. (James 1:13-15)

There is a universal need for all to be saved because we all have sinned. In God's view, we all deserve the penalty for sin, which is death. In the light of this truth, we should acknowledge that we are sinners and that we need cleansing from our sins.

Milestone #2 Decisions:

- Sin separates us from God. (True or False)
- All people have sinned against God. (True or False)
- God will punish the sinful man. (True or False)
- Do you need salvation from your sins? (Yes or No)



Milestone #3 – The Good News

Now that you freely admit the need of salvation in your life let's travel on to the "Good News". It's important that we understand that God loves us and does not want us to perish.

John 3:16

"For God so _____ the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not _____, but have _____ life."

God wants to forgive and pardon the unrighteous soul...

Isaiah 55:7

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will _____ pardon."

While we were still sinning Jesus Christ died for us taking our punishment upon himself. In other words, Jesus took everyone's place at the cross and took the punishment for everyone's sin.

Romans 5:8

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet _____, Christ died for us."

Christ's sacrifice appeased God's anger toward sin and, therefore, his shed blood made atonement (payment) for our sins.

- Who is the mediator between God and man? "the man _____" (1 Tim. 2:5)
- "God was in Christ, _____ the world unto _____" (2 Cor. 5:19)
- "Without the shedding of blood there is no _____" (Heb.9:22)
- We have redemption and forgiveness of sins through his _____. (Eph.1:7; Col. 1:14)
- Jesus has become the "_____ of eternal _____" (Heb. 5:9)
- Jesus was _____ for our transgressions and was _____ for our iniquities. (Isa. 53:5)

The "Good News" is that Jesus Christ can save us from our sins. Through His death, burial, and resurrection we have hope of eternal life. We must first believe that Jesus loves us, that he took our place on the cross, and that his shed blood made atonement for our sins. We must believe that at Calvary he took our sins upon himself in order to save us from our sins.

Milestone #3 Decisions:

- God really does love you. (True or False)
- God truly wants to pardon and forgive you. (True or False)
- Will you believe Jesus Christ paid the penalty of death for your sins? (Yes or No)



Milestone #4 – Faith and Obedience

The knowledge that Jesus Christ has paid the penalty of sin by the shedding of His own blood will lead us to faith and obedience. The Bible tells us in **John 3:16** that if we believe in Him we will not perish but have everlasting life. How do we believe on Him and how can we appropriate faith in Him?

To appropriate faith in Jesus means that we will begin to obey Him. If we truly believe on Jesus Christ then that “belief” or “faith” in Him will show itself through obedience. For instance, when the Samaritans believed the preaching of Phillip then they became obedient to baptism:

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.”

- When we believe we will make _____ with the mouth towards salvation. (Rom.10:9-10)
- If we truly believe “as the scripture has said” then we will receive the Holy _____. (John 7:37-39)
- If we truly believe then we will _____ the gospel. (Rom.10:16)

It is more than mental acknowledgement of thought because **true belief** requires **obedience**. Those who say they believe but don’t obey the gospel will not be saved...

Matthew 7:21

“Not _____ that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that _____ the _____ of my Father which is in heaven.”

Hebrews 5:9

“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal _____ unto all them that _____ him;”

Obedience to the gospel shows our faith and it is through faith that the grace of God is appropriated towards us. It’s impossible to have true faith without works that show our faith...

James 2:20

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that _____ without _____ is dead?

Ephesians 2:8

"For by _____ are ye saved through _____; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"

The gospel or good news of Jesus Christ is how He paid the debt of sin for us through His death, burial, and resurrection. We can now have forgiveness of sins and eternal life through Jesus Christ!

Colossians 1:21-22

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled, in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:"

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

There is only one way to be saved and that is through Jesus Christ. We are saved through faith in Him and in the blood that He shed for us. Without faith it is impossible to please God and we must have a desire to diligently seek Him.

Heb 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Milestone #4 Decisions:

- The death of Jesus Christ pays the penalty for our sins. (True or False)
- When we truly believe we will confess with our mouth Jesus Christ. (True or False)
- Those that do the will of the Father will enter into heaven. (True or False)
- True belief will cause us to have Faith in Jesus and Obey the gospel. (True or False)
- The "Good News" is that through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ we can have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. (True or False)
- Do you want to obey the gospel? (Yes or No)

The decision to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ will cause us to ask the question:

"How can I obey the gospel of Jesus Christ?"

The Jewish people on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:36-37**) had the same question. After Peter preached a stirring message and the Jewish people saw that they had crucified the Savior they asked Peter and the other Apostles... **"What shall we do?"**

The next few milestones will explain what we must do and how that we can obey the gospel of Jesus Christ through **repentance**, **water baptism**, and the **baptism of the Holy Spirit**.



Milestone #5 – Repentance

Repentance is important and necessary for true salvation. In Matthew chapter 4, after Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, the Bible tells us that from that time forward Jesus began to preach and teach repentance.

Matthew 4:17

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, _____: for the kingdom of _____ is at hand.”

- The very words of Jesus tell us to _____ or else we will _____. (Luke 13:3)
- Who did God command to repent? “all _____ to repent”. (Acts 17:30)
- God is not _____ concerning his promise but is not willing that any should _____ but that all should come to _____. (2 Peter 3:9)
- Godly _____ causes true repentance in our heart. (2Cor. 7:10)

Definitions of Repentance

Greek word for [repentance](#) in [2 Peter 3:9](#) is “metanoia”. Pronounced met-an'-oy-ah
Literal meaning is “compunction, regret, a change of heart”

Greek word for [repent](#) in [Matthew 4:17](#) is “Metanoeo”. Pronounced met-an-o-eh'-o
Literal meaning is “to think differently” or to “reconsider morally”

Greek word for [sorrow](#) in [2 Cor. 7:10](#) is “lupe”. Pronounced loo'-pay
Literal meaning is “sadness:”

In short, we find that repentance is...

- A turning away from sin and a heading toward God.
- A change of mind, heart, and direction.
- Feeling godly sorrow for sins and a desire to have forgiveness

[Repentance](#) is an [act of faith](#) which includes:

- a. Recognition ([acknowledgement](#)) of sin ([Psa. 32:5](#))
 - b. Contrition ([remorse](#)) for sin ([Psa. 51:17](#))
 - c. Confession ([declaration of guilt](#)) of sin ([Prov. 28:13](#))
 - d. Decision to forsake ([to quit or abandon](#)) sin ([Prov. 28:13](#))
- [Prov. 28:13](#) teaches that if we _____ and _____ our sin we shall have _____.
 - The Bible tells us that repentance is part of the _____ of our faith. ([Heb. 6:1](#))
 - Jesus told the apostles that _____ and _____ of sins should be _____ in His name among _____. ([Luke 24:45-47](#))

Milestone #5 Decisions:

- According to the Bible we need to repent in order to be saved. (True or False)
- True repentance is confessing our sins with heart-felt sorrow. (True or False)
- True repentance is a decision to forsake sin. (True or False)
- Repentance is the foundation of our faith in Jesus. (True or False)
- Do you want to repent of your sins? (Yes or No)



Milestone #6 – Water Baptism

When Jesus was teaching on the New Birth, He said that a person must be born again. Being born again is a spiritual experience that must occur in our life if we are to SEE or ENTER into the kingdom of God. (See John 3:1-5)

- Jesus tells Nicodemus that except a man is born again that he can not _____ the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)
- Nicodemus ask Jesus if a grown man could enter into his mother’s _____ and be born again. (John 3:4)
- Jesus responded by expounding to him how to be “born again” . He tells Nicodemus that except a man be born of _____ and of the _____ he cannot _____ into the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)
- Jesus told Nicodemus that which is born of flesh is _____; and that which is born of the Spirit is _____. (John 3:6)

In John 3:5,

The word **WATER** is referring to **Water Baptism**

The word **SPIRIT** is referring to the **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**.

Some people think that the **WATER** in this scripture is referring to the watery fluid from natural birth. This is not true because Jesus was not speaking about the natural birth. He was expounding on a spiritual issue of being “born again”. Everything Jesus said in John 3:1-8 was in the context of being “born again” (the spiritual issue) and not being naturally born.

It makes no sense at all for Jesus to be telling Nicodemus that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven he must be naturally born first because Nicodemus already was. That is why Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:6 that this wasn’t about the flesh (**natural birth**) but about the spirit (**spiritual birth**).

The real truth is that Jesus was talking about **WATER BAPTISM** which has **great spiritual significance!**

There is no other reference in the entire Bible that shows water being identified with natural birth. There are many references in the book of Acts where you see **WATER** and **SPIRIT** relating to **WATER BAPTISM** and **BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT**.

Water Baptism Represents Death and Burial

When we die to ourselves through repentance (a type of death) then we must be water baptized to bury the "old man" which is our "sinful nature". We bury (in water) the old life style (symbolically) and all the sins that we have committed are forgiven us and remitted from us.

- The Bible teaches us that we are _____ with Him in _____. (Col. 2:12)
- Baptism is symbolic of being _____ with Christ. (Rom. 6:4)
- If we have been planted together in the likeness of his _____ then we shall also be in the likeness of his _____. (Rom. 6:5)

We can conclude from Romans 6:1-5 that if we are not baptized in the likeness of his death we will not be raised up in the likeness of his resurrection. If we are not resurrected up into a new life then we are not saved.

Water Baptism is a MUST

- Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born of _____ and of the Spirit in order to enter into the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)
- Jesus gave the apostles the great commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel to everyone. He that believes and is _____ shall be saved. (Mark 16:15-16)
- Simon Peter _____ Cornelius and his whole house to be water baptized in the name of the Lord. (Acts 10:47-48)
- Jesus, Himself, was _____ in water by John the Baptist. It was to fulfill all _____ which was an example to us. (Matt. 3:13-16)
- When Peter preached, the people who heard him _____ received his word and were _____. (Acts 2:41)
- Water Baptism in this present generation or age will _____ us. (1 Pet. 3:21)
- Water Baptism is our answer of a _____ toward God. (1 Pet. 3:21)
- Peter told the Jewish people who heard him to Repent, and be _____ in the name of Jesus Christ for the _____ of sins. (Acts 2:38)
- Water Baptism is our spiritual _____ made without hands. (Col. 2:11-14)
- In the Old Testament, circumcision was essential and was a token of the _____ that God had with the Israelites. (Gen. 17:10-14)

Water Baptism should be by immersion:

The Greek word for Baptized is "baptizo"

Pronounced bap-tid'-zo

It's meaning is... to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet)

The New Testament church only practiced baptism by full immersion. The terms “went up straightway out of the water”, “down into the water”, “much water” shows that water baptism was by full immersion. (See also, Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, John 3:23, Acts 8:35-38)

Water Baptism should be performed in the name of Jesus

Matthew 28:19 tells us to baptize in the name (*singular*) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. We know that the singular name of “JESUS” is “THAT NAME” which is **OF** the Father, **AND OF** the Son, **AND OF** the Holy Ghost.

The Father’s name is Jesus:

- Jesus came in His _____ name. (John 5:43)
- Jesus said in a prayer to the Father...

John 17:6

“I have manifested _____ name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.”

What name was manifested to these men? It was the name of “Jesus” that was made known to the disciples. Jesus said it was “thy name” meaning it was the Father’s name. Jesus (which means “Jehovah - Savior”) is the saving name of the Father.

The Holy Ghost’s name is Jesus:

- The Holy Ghost will be sent in _____ name. (John 14:26)

The Son of God’s name is Jesus

- Mary was going to bring forth a son and His name shall be _____. (Matt. 1:21)

The name of “Jesus” is that **SINGULAR** name that is “of the Father”, and “of the Son”, and “of the Holy Ghost”.

The Apostle Peter obeyed Matthew 28:19 when he commanded the Jewish people to be baptized in that **SINGULAR** name of Jesus Christ in Acts 2:38. Peter was not in contradiction to Matthew 28:19 but rather he was obeying Christ’s command exactly.

The words spoken at the time of baptism should be in the name of “Jesus”. **Not one single person** in the New Testament was **water baptized** by using the titles **Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**.

However, there are many examples of people in the New Testament being **water baptized in the name of Jesus**. Let’s look at some more of these Biblical examples:

- They were baptized in the name of the _____. (Acts 8:12-16)
- Peter commanded them to be baptized in the _____.(Acts 10:48)
- When they heard this they were baptized in the name of the _____.(Acts 19:5)

The Apostle Paul found certain disciples in Ephesus that had been baptized by John the Baptist. John’s baptism was the baptism of repentance. Paul tells them that they should believe on Jesus

Christ. When these men heard this they were [re-baptized](#) in the name of the Lord Jesus. Baptizing in the name of Jesus was so important that Paul re-baptized these men. ([Acts 19:1-5](#))

Fact: The early church only practiced baptism in Jesus name.

All that we do should be in the name of the Lord:

Using the name of Jesus was very important to the apostles and the early church.

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the _____, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” **Colossians 3:17**

They cast out demons [in the name of Jesus](#), they healed the sick [in the name of Jesus](#), they preached [in the name of Jesus](#), and they prayed [in the name of Jesus](#). So It’s easy to see why the Apostles and the early church baptized people in water [in the name of Jesus](#).

We ought to follow their example and be obedient to water baptism in the name of Jesus.

The Bible tells us that a person _____ when he knows he should do something right but doesn't do it. ([James 4:17](#))

We have discovered through the Word of God that Water Baptism is essential for salvation because it remits the stain of sin, it places us in the body of Christ, and it is our spiritual circumcision before God. Water Baptism is our burial with Christ and is performed using the name of Jesus by complete immersion in water.

Milestone #6 Decisions:

- Water baptism should be practiced by full immersion in water. ([True or False](#))
- Biblical water baptism was always done in the name of Jesus. ([True or False](#))
- Water Baptism is essential in order to enter into the kingdom of God. ([True or False](#))
- Do you want to be obedient to the Word and be water baptized in His name? ([Yes or No](#))
(If yes, would you like to make arrangements for your baptism?)



Milestone #7 – Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a part of the New Testament Salvation and is not an optional experience. It is part of the new birth process that places us into the body of Christ. If we are not placed into the body of Christ then how can we say that we are saved?

The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit Is Essential:

- Jesus indicated that in order to [“enter the kingdom of God”](#) a person needed to be born of water and of the _____. ([John 3:5](#))

- By one _____ are we all _____ into one body. (1 Cor. 12:13)
- If any man have not the _____ of Christ, he is none of his. (Rom.8:9)
- We are sealed with that holy _____ of _____. (Eph. 1:13)

Promised To All Who Believe And Obey:

- If we believe on Jesus as the scripture has said we will have rivers of _____ _____ flow from our inner most being. (John 7:38)
- But this spake he of the _____, which they that believe on him should _____: for the _____ _____ was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:39)
- The Promise of the Father is the _____ _____. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 2:4)
- The Holy Ghost is given to those that have _____ him. (Acts 5:32)
- The Holy Ghost baptism is promised to _____, and to your _____, and to all that are _____ _____ even as many as the Lord our God _____ _____.(Acts 2:39)

Examples of the Holy Spirit baptism in the book of Acts:

The words “baptized, filled, received, poured out, and came on” are used to describe the same spiritual experience of this Holy Spirit baptism. At the beginning of the New Testament church, the **Holy Spirit** was “poured out” on **ALL** of those **in the Upper Room**. Let’s look at some examples of people receiving the Holy Ghost (**Holy Spirit**) and what they experienced:

- About how many were in the upper room waiting and praying? _____ (Acts 1:15)
- Those who continued in one accord were the 12 disciples including “... the _____, and _____ the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren”. (Acts 1:14)
- When the day of Pentecost arrived: a rushing mighty _____ filled all the _____. (Acts 2:2)
- They were _____ filled with the _____ _____, and began to speak with other _____, as the _____ gave them utterance. (Acts 2:4)
- While Peter was preaching to Cornelius and his household the _____ _____ fell on _____ of them. (Acts 10:44)
- How did Peter and the other believing Jewish men (that came with Peter) know that Cornelius and his household had been filled with the Holy Ghost?
“For they _____ them _____ with _____”. (Acts 10:45-46)

- Certain disciples in Ephesus When Paul laid hands upon them, the _____ _____ came on them; and they _____ with _____, and prophesied. (Acts 19:6)

Some will teach that the real evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not speaking with other tongues. Instead they will say that the real evidence is the Fruit of the Spirit. It is true, according to [Matthew 7:15](#), that we can identify the wolves from the sheep by their fruits but that is over a process of time. There is no Bible evidence that when people receive the Holy Spirit that others knew it [immediately](#) by the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit comes by growth and maturity in Christ. Growth and maturity always comes with time and experience. Therefore, the fruit of the Spirit can not be an [immediate](#) manifestation of the Holy Spirit baptism.

Several accounts in the Book of Acts teaches that there was an [immediate evidence](#) of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In these accounts the [evidence](#) was [speaking with other tongues](#). In other accounts in the Book of Acts there is indication of an unmentioned but [immediate evidence](#) that people had been baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Believing the Gospel and Receiving the Holy Spirit are separate experiences:

In [Acts 19:1-7](#), The Apostle Paul asked twelve disciples of John the Baptist if they had received the Holy Ghost [since they believed](#). It's possible to believe yet not have received the Holy Ghost. [Believing and receiving the Holy Spirit are two separate experiences!](#)

These disciples already believed on a coming messiah but acknowledged that they didn't know about the Holy Ghost. Paul told them on "[whom](#)" to believe and these disciples were re-baptized. These men were re-baptized upon hearing that Jesus was the Messiah. After the re-baptism the Apostle Paul laid hands on them and [these men received the baptism of the Holy Ghost as an experience separate from their initial belief](#).

Some will say that all you have to do is just believe on the Lord Jesus and you then have received the Holy Spirit. Let's look at another example of people believing and at a later time receiving the Holy Spirit:

- Who went down to the city of Samaria to preach? _____ (Acts 8:5)
- These people gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, _____ and _____ the miracles which he did. (Acts 8:6)
- They saw people delivered from unclean _____ and many taken with _____, and that were _____, were healed. (Acts 8:7)
- But when they _____ Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of _____ _____, they were _____ both men and women. (Acts 8:12)
- The Bible tells us that there was great _____ in that city. (Acts 8:8)

These Samaritans had believed the gospel preached by Phillip, been baptized, witnessed miracles, and had great joy but they still had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It wasn't until Peter and John came and laid hands on them that they received the Holy Spirit.

- When the apostles heard that Samaria had _____ the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John. (Acts 8:14, to receive or accept the Word is to believe the Word)
- When the Apostles came to Samaria they _____ for them, that they might _____ the _____. (Acts 8:15)
- They prayed for them because the Holy Ghost had not... “ _____ upon none of them: only they were _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 8:16)
- Peter and John laid their hands on them and they _____ the Holy Ghost after they already believed. (Acts 8:17)

Believing on the Lord Jesus will lead us to the born-again experience through [water](#) and [Spirit baptism](#). The will of God is to obey the Gospel. To obey the Gospel is to repent, be water baptized in Jesus name, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). There will be some believers that will say to the Lord... “open up to me so that I may enter into the kingdom of heaven”. But the Lord will say... “depart from me I never knew you”.

(Matt.7:21-23)

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Milestone #7 Decisions:

- We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit in order to be saved. (True or False)
- The Holy Spirit is for all who believe today. (True or False)
- Those who receive the Holy Spirit will speak in tongues. (True or False)
- Have you received the Holy Spirit with the Biblical evidence of tongues? (Yes or No)
- Do you want to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost? (Yes or No)
(If yes, let's pray right now and ask the Father to give us the baptism of His Spirit)



THE JOURNEY'S END:

The fact remains that on the day of Pentecost that three thousand souls were added to the church from one single message. Through the preaching of Peter the Jewish people were pricked in their hearts and cried out to Peter and the other Apostles:

“men and brethren, what must we do?”

It was at that time Peter preached the saving word of God, in which, the Bible records that three thousand souls were added to the church in one day. Being “added to the church” means that these people were [saved](#).

The saving word Peter preached that day was:

Acts 2:38

*“Then Peter said unto them, _____, and be _____ every one of you
in the name of _____ _____ for the remission of sins, and
ye shall receive the gift of the _____ _____.”*

There is only one message of salvation and we must all enter into the kingdom of God the same way. There will be no doubt of our salvation if we obey this same message that Peter preached to the Jewish people on the day of Pentecost!

We should experience the same new birth that the early church did in the book of Acts!

Some questions to consider:

- Does God expect you to obey His Word of Truth?
- Have you placed your faith in God by repenting of your sins?
- Have you placed your faith in God by being water baptized in Jesus name?
- Have you received the gift of the Holy Ghost since you believed?

If you have not asked God into your heart, now would be a good time. For the Bible says “**now is the day of salvation**”. Ask God to forgive of your sins... why not right now?

If you have not asked God to fill you with His Holy Spirit now would be a good time to ask Him. For the Bible tells us...

Luke 11:9-10

*And I say unto you, **Ask**, and it shall be given you; **seek**, and ye shall find; **knock**, and it shall be opened unto you. For **every one that asketh receiveth**; and **he that seeketh findeth**; and **to him that knocketh it shall be opened**.*

Luke 11:13

*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: **how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?***

It the Lord’s will to give us the gift of Eternal Life through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Why not enter into the kingdom of God by asking
Jesus Christ into your heart and follow His plan of salvation today?**

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(Reference: “**Essentials of the New Birth**”, David K. Bernard, Pentecostal Publishing House)