



THE LIGHT OF TRUTH

Studying the way, the truth, and the life...

How do we know the way?

Is there a real heaven? Where would I go?

There are tons of questions to ask oneself. Fortunately, ALL of the answers can be found in the Word of God.

In fact, Jesus told his disciples...

John 14:1-4 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

John 14:5 "Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goes; and how can we know the way?"

The Word of God is a "lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path." Before we know what the path is, we need to understand why that path exists and is necessary.

The Sin Issue

Explained in the book of Genesis, God created the world and man to be without sin. However, when Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge, which God told them not to, they sinned by disobeying God.

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."



We are all born into sin, but we are meant to come out of darkness and into glorious light. The Word of God provides a path to redemption by obeying the plan of salvation.

Jesus, the Solution

Jesus is God! In **Matt. 10:23**, the angel of the Lord declared “they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” The Bible goes on to say “the word was God” (**John 1:1**) and “the word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (**vs. 14**).

So, understanding that Jesus is God is a fundamental step in gaining salvation for Paul tells us in **Acts 16:31** to “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”

BELIEVING REQUIRES ACTION!

Luke 6:46 “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

Luke 6:49 “But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.



Jesus himself wondered why people were not doing what He instructed even though they believed in him and heard his voice. If **we believe** in God, we must obey his Word and **DO** what he says.

Step 1: Repentance

Mark 2:17 “They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

After we believe that Jesus is the Lord, he commissions us to repent of our sins in order to have eternal life just as He said in **Luke 13:3** “...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”



Repentance is a two-fold action. First, we ask God to forgive our sins. Secondly, we whole-heartedly decide to turn from those sins, and strive to live a life without committing sin. Although we might fall, "if we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins..." (1 John 1:9).

Step 2: Baptism

In **Mark 16:15-16**, Jesus instructed his people saying, "go ye... and preach the gospel to every creature. He that **believeth and is baptized** shall be saved..."

Seeing that Jesus specifically instructed us to not only believe, but also be baptized. How should one go about being baptized?

When Jesus walked the earth, he was the perfect example, and He himself was baptized and "went up straightway out of the water..." (**Matt. 3:16**).

Baptism comes from the root word "baptismo" meaning "to immerse, to make overwhelmed, place under, to bury." Therefore, one is placed completely underwater to be "buried" with Jesus Christ.

IMMERSED WITH HIS NAME

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and **be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost."



*Note that when people were baptized in the Bible, they were instructed to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. **Galatians 3:27** says, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Invoking the name of Jesus Christ is an essential part of baptism!

EXAMPLES OF BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE

Acts 8:16 "...they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Acts 10:48 "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord..."

Acts 19:5 "...they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

John 3:5 "Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."



We now know the process of being born of the water which is to be fully immersed in the name of Jesus. But also, we must look at what it means to be born of the Spirit which guides us to the third step.

Step 3: Receiving the Holy Ghost

After Jesus resurrected from the grave, Jesus told his people in **Luke 24:49** that He would send the promise of His Father as they stayed in Jerusalem. That promise was given first to 120 people in an upper room as we read in **Acts 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 all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were **filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:39 "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."

It is God's promise and desire to fill everyone with the Holy Ghost who believes and follows after him!

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY GHOST

Receiving the Holy Ghost is being baptized with the Spirit (**Acts 1:5**), an essential part of salvation. Moreover, Jesus said, "ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (**Acts 1:8**).



After repentance, water baptism, and receiving the Holy Ghost, it doesn't stop there! Through the Holy Ghost, Jesus gives us power to live a holy, consecrated life for Jesus (**Rom. 12:1**), live life to the fullest (**John 10:10**), and tell others about Jesus' plan of salvation (**Acts 1:8**).

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (**Prov. 119:105**). Let the Lord guide you throughout this journey of life starting today with the plan of salvation!

Key Scriptures

Heaven

John 14:1-4
Rev. 21:1-5
Matt. 7:21

Hell

Luke 16:19-28
Rev. 20:10-15
Rev. 1:18

Oneness

Eph. 4:5
Acts 4:12
Col 3:17
Isa. 9:6
Deut. 6:4
John 10:30
John 14:15-20

Repentance

Matt. 3:8
Matt. 4:17
Acts 3:19
2 Cor. 7:10

Water Baptism

1 Cor. 6:11
Rom. 6:3-4
Acts 22:16
Gal. 3:27
Matt. 28:19

Receiving the Holy Ghost

Matt. 3:11
Joel 2:28-29
Isa. 28:11
Eph. 1:13
John 7:38-39
Acts 8:12-17
Acts 10:44-46
Acts 19: 2, 4-6

