

SAVING YOURSELF

Salvation is an individual affair. It is of paramount and divine importance. It is the single, most important undertaking you will ever engage in, in all of your life. You may do and achieve countless other things, but if you're not saved, you have failed miserably.

In the book of **Acts 2:37**, after the outpouring and manifestation of the Holy Ghost, the disciples were asked: "*Men and brethren what shall we do?*" It was Peter, the spokesman, who answered as follows...

Acts 2:38-41

38 Then Peter said unto them, *repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

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.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, save yourselves from this untoward (morally crooked, perverse, wayward, reprobate, froward) generation.

41 Then *they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

Peter gave the instruction, (on what should be done), for remission of sins AND for the receiving the Holy Ghost. It is a deed! Action must be taken... Repent AND be baptised! Baptism follows repentance to show that repentance was genuine.

An untoward generation is habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition. They are headstrong! They won't follow the instructions God gave through His disciple, Peter.

Philippians 2:12 *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. YOU must work it out!*

Jesus Christ came into the world because of sinners who needed saving. We were all borned in sin.

1 Timothy 1:15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.* The Bible further teaches, in...

Luke 19:10 *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

I don't know your life, but, I know God has been seeking our lives for a long time. He wants to save you! He wants to save you from your sins! He is coming after you as He did after Adam in **Genesis 3:9** "*And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?*"

In **Luke 5:32**, He said, "*I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*". **1 Timothy 2:3, 4** says, "*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".

2 Peter 3:9, tells us that, "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*".

Oh, if you could only repent, today! Your life will be so much different, but it is not for everyone.

John 6:37 *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

Revelation 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

2 Corinthians 4:3 *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

John 3:18 *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

You must believe and you must obey! Not simple believe only, but obedient faith will bring you into fellowship with God.

1 Corinthians 1:21 says, *“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe”*.

Thank God for preaching! Because, it is going to take the preaching of the true Word to save your soul.

For **Romans 10:17** says, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”*.

You should be there where you can hear the men of God preach the Word of God, *to save them that believe*. The Philippian jailer was told, in **Acts 16:31**, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”*.

It's not just simple, intellectual utterance, nor is it simple faith only, of itself and by itself, enough to qualify you to be saved.

I want to tell you that, *“faith without works is dead”*. (**James 2:20,26**). **Hebrews 11:6** says that, *“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”*. And, there's more to it than *“that He is”*, that He exists, *“and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”*. So you move from the immobile, inactive, to the active and the seeking and searching for God, because *“it is the goodness of the Lord”*. **Romans 2:4** asks the questions: *“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”* In fact, **Luke 11:9**, says, *“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”*. It's a promise that God will keep!

You must understand that, believe alone is not enough, because **Hebrews 5:9** said, *“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”* So, faith is not enough, because the devil also believes. **James 2:19** says, *“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble”*.

If faith is enough, then the devil can be restored: and the devil can be saved! But, I'm telling you that the devil cannot act on his faith! It is impossible for him to come to the altar and repent and be accepted and go through the baptismal pool and be baptised in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. God's redeemable power is not for the devil's sin. He could tarry from, and through all eternity, and never receive the Holy Ghost, because God's already predetermined... **Matthew 25:41**, says, *“...Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire (hell), prepared for the devil and his angels:”* And of course **Revelations 19:19** and **Revelations 20:10** comes into play, and *“the devil shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever”*. But that's the devil! That's not you! You CAN act on your faith! You can accept God's provided way. You can come and repent. You can come and be baptised. You can come and receive the Holy Ghost. In fact in **Matthew 7:21**, Jesus said, *“Not everyone 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”*. There is a perfect will of God: **Romans 12:2**, *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”*. It is the will of God, **2 Peter 2:9** *“that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”*. **Acts 17:30**, *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:”* Do you realise that it is a universal, divine decree, that the world over, every man, everywhere should repent and turn to God. I ask you: have you repented? Have you turned to God? Aren't you glad you have repented of all your sins?

Now, God will never judge you for being a sinner. He can't judge you, because sin was paid for at Calvary. And you're not a sinner, you are a rejecter. See? He judges you for rejecting salvation when it's been offered to you. John, when he saw Jesus, he said, "*Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.*" And all sin questions were settled at Calvary. You send yourself to hell by rejecting! The penalty of God's law, to reject His program, is death.

God's program is for you to save yourself? How? By adhering to Acts 2:38. You should be glad if you have repented of your sins and accepted God's provided way. Jesus said, in **Luke 33:3,5** "*I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.** I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish**". Acts 2:38 said, "*Repent and be baptised*".*

Acts 3:19 says, "***Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;***". Repentance, therefore is not conversion. It leads to conversion. It is before conversion. You are only converted after you have received the Holy Ghost by obeying God. Jesus Christ said to Peter, in **Luke 22:32** "*But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and **when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren***". You're born again when you receive the Holy Ghost. That's when you're converted. You might be in process of conversion, but you're not converted until it's completed and you're sealed into the Kingdom of God.

You must repent before you get anything from God. This is not only to the church, but in Revelations 2 & 3 the churches of Asia were told to repent. It's a standard a constant. **Titus 3:5** says, it's "***Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;***". **Ephesians 2:8** "***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God***": **Romans 1:6** speaks of the "***obedience to the faith***". **Romans 16:26** also speaks of "***the obedience of faith***". **Romans 6:17** "***But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you***". **1 Peter 1:22** "***Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:***" **Acts 5:29** *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.*** **Acts 5:32** speaks of "***the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him***". Those who acted on Acts 2:38. If the Bible says "*repent*", you repent. If the Bible says "*be baptised*", you said, take me to the water in the Name of Jesus Christ. When the Bible says "*you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*", you waited on the Holy Ghost. "*Tarry ye in Jerusalem*". **Luke 24:49** "***And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high***". Tarry means to wait. Wait! How long? Until! He didn't say when. He didn't put a date to it, but until! Until you are endued with power from on high. Why? Because the promise is unto you! **Acts 1:4** says, "***wait for the promise of the Father***".

I'm trying to tell you," save yourselves"! I would to God that I can save you! But, salvation is an individual affair. You, when you hear His voice, harden not your heart. **Hebrews 3:15** "***While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation***". **2 Corinthians 6:2** says that "***I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation***". There's some things you can put off, but there's other things you can never put off! You have no promise of tomorrow. **James 4:14** "***Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away***". In **1 Kings 2:2**, David says, "***I go the way of all the earth***". All has to die! **Hebrews 9:27** "***And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:***" Don't sit there and think that you not going to die. You don't have to be sick to die! You can just die, today, tonight, tomorrow! Get right with God!

Don't wait! Don't wait, dear reader! Don't wait until the door closes on you. Esau sought Him with tears afterwards. The Bible says, in **Hebrews 12:17** "***For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he (Esau) found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears***". It was a little too late for tears!

The single, most important commodity you possess, is your soul. **Matthew 16:26** *“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* **Luke 12:20** *“But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?”* It’s not how much money you have in the bank. It is not your earthly possessions. It is not the policies and other provisions you have made, *“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”* - **Matthew 6:20**.

Psalms 90:10 says, *“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away”*. **Ecclesiastes 3:20**, *“All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again”*.

No wonder Paul says, in **Philippians 1:21** *“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”*. He goes on to say, **2 Corinthians 5:8** *“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”*.

What must you do? *(1) Repent, and (2) be baptized (3) every one of you (4) in the Name of Jesus Christ (5) for the remission of sins, and (6) ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

WORKING OUT YOUR SALVATION IS UP TO YOU!

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