



Why do you believe what you believe?

CAN YOU EXPLAIN & DEFINE BIBLICALLY THE BELIEFS THAT YOU HOLD TO & LOCATE THEM IN THE BIBLE?

Date: _____

REPENTANCE & BAPTISM

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

G3341 **Metanoia** [ma tah noi yah]
a change of mind, as it appears to one who repents, of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done, “especially the change of mind of those who have begun to abhor their errors and misdeeds, and have determined to enter upon a better course of life, so that it embraces both a recognition of sin and sorrow for it”

ACCORDING TO DICTIONARY.COM

It is a deep sorrow, compunction, or contrition a past sin, wrongdoing, or the like

IT IS NOT SAYING A “SINNER’S PRAYER”

JESUS did not ask you to receive Him into your heart – nobody did this in the Bible.

This practice has **only been in the last 200 years** of church history.

JESUS did not ask you to **JUST BELIEVE in God** It that is all it took – then the demons are saved... remember **James 2:19**

“You believe that God is one; you do well [to believe that].”

The demons also believe [that], and shudder *and* bristle [in awe-filled terror—they have seen His wrath]!”

JESUS SAID...John 3:5

⁵ Jesus answered, "I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot [ever] enter the kingdom of God."

**IT IS ALL ABOUT SIN
SIN IS THE PROBLEM**

Can you be saved & **still live continually** in sin?
i.e. NOT REALLY REPENTING

If, in your mind, you think you have been saved from hell - then you may be living under a lie & think that continuing in sin is an option - But HELL is not the problem

**WHY DID JESUS COME...
MATTHEW 1:21**

She will give birth to a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus (The Lord is salvation), for He will save His people **from** their sins."

WHAT IS ETERNAL LIFE?

JOHN 17:3 Jesus said...

Now this is **eternal life**: that they may know You, the only true [supreme and sovereign] God, and [in the same manner know] Jesus [as the] Christ whom You have sent.

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It is **NOT**
Do you **believe in** God?
RATHER,
Do you **KNOW** God?

OUR PURPOSE | KNOWING HIM

YES IT MAY SEEM DAUNTING
& IT WILL TAKE A LIFETIME
BUT IMAGE HEAVEN

I asked this question: if someone has TRULY turned to God [Father, Son & Holy Spirit] what does their life look like or not look like?

God just kept directing me here
The Book of **1 John** is FULL of what a believer's life looks like if they truly KNOW Him. It is Scripture that is all related to the issue of sin.

1 JOHN 1: 5-6

"This is the message [of God's promised revelation] which we have heard from Him and now announce to you, that God is Light [He is holy, His message is truthful, He is perfect in righteousness], and in Him there is no darkness at all [no sin, no wickedness, no imperfection]. **6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness [of sin], we lie and do not practice the truth;**"

1 JOHN 2: 3-4

"And **this is how we know** [daily, by experience] **that we have come to know Him** [to understand Him and be more

deeply acquainted with Him]: if we habitually keep [focused on His precepts and obey] His commandments (teachings). ⁴Whoever says, “I have come to know Him,” but does not *habitually* keep [focused on His precepts and obey] His commandments (teachings), is a liar, and the truth [of the divine word] is not in him.”

1 JOHN 2: 15-16

“Do not love the world [of sin that opposes God and His precepts], nor the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the lust *and* sensual craving of the flesh and the lust *and* longing of the eyes and the boastful pride of life [pretentious confidence in one’s resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father, but are from the world.”

1 JOHN 3: 4-6

“Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness [ignoring God’s law by action or neglect or by tolerating wrongdoing—being unrestrained by His commands and His will]. ⁵You know that He appeared [in visible form as a man] in order to take away sins; and in Him there is [absolutely] no sin [for He has neither the sin nature nor has He committed sin or acts worthy of blame]. ⁶No one who abides in Him [who remains united in fellowship with Him—deliberately,

knowingly, and habitually] practices sin.
No one who *habitually* sins has seen
Him or known Him.”

1 JOHN 3: 8

“The one who practices sin [separating himself from God, and offending Him by acts of disobedience, indifference, or rebellion] is of the devil [and takes his inner character and moral values from him, not God]; for the devil has sinned and violated God’s law from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.”

1 JOHN 3: 9

“No one who is born of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, because God’s seed [His principle of life, the essence of His righteous character] remains [permanently] in him [who is born again—who is reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose]; and he [who is born again] cannot *habitually* [live a life characterized by] sin, because he is born of God *and* longs to please Him.”

1 John 5:1 says...

Everyone **who believes** [with a deep, abiding trust in the fact] that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) is born of God [that is, reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His

purpose], and everyone who loves the Father also loves the *child* born of Him.

DID YOU KNOW THAT GOD CAN STILL USE PEOPLE TO BRING HIM GLORY & THEY STILL NOT REALLY KNOW HIM

[YES] How do I know?

LET'S LOOK AT SCRIPTURE & A KEY EXAMPLE

- **IN LUKE 6: 12-16** – JESUS CHOOSES HIS DISCIPLES
- **IN LUKE 9:1** “Now Jesus **called together the twelve** [disciples] and **gave them [the right to exercise] power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.** ² Then **He sent them out** [on a brief journey] to preach the kingdom of God and to perform healing.”

JUDAS WAS ONE OF THE 12

- HE WAS A LIAR
- HE WAS A THIEF
- & HE WENT TO HELL

BUT GOD STILL USED HIM

BEING USED BY GOD IS NOT THE SIGN THAT EVERYTHING IS OK. IT IS A SIGN.

LOOK AT PEOPLE LIVES
ARE THEY LIVING HOLY LIVES?
OR, ARE THEY PRACTICING SIN?

**WHAT IS OUR CHRISTIAN
FOUNDATION?**

It's about what Jesus taught & how the
disciples lived it out [as documented in the
Book of Acts]. Acts is the S.O.P. for living
the NORMAL Christian life. They are our
role models.

IF JESUS HASN'T CHANGED....

HE IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY &
FOREVER, THEN WHAT WE READ ABOUT
IN THE BOOK OF ACTS IS THE SAME
TODAY

IF JESUS HASN'T CHANGED....

THEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS NOT
CHANGED. OUR LIVES TODAY SHOULD
LOOK LIKE THE PEOPLE IN THE BOOK OF
ACTS.

I'VE BEEN STUDYING ACTS & CHURCH
HISTORY - ASKING GOD HOW DID WE
GET FROM THERE TO WHERE WE ARE?
BECAUSE THE FOUNDATION THAT I READ
ABOUT ISN'T WHAT I SEE TODAY.

DOESN'T ANYBODY ELSE WONDER
WHEN & HOW IT SHIFTED FROM WHAT
WE READ IN THE BIBLE?

BASED ON JESUS'S COMMANDS
IN **MATTHEW 28:19-20**

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WHAT WAS PRACTICED &
WHAT WERE THEY OBEDIENT TO...
IN THE BOOK OF ACTS?

Shouldn't we be asking & clarifying exactly what Jesus taught them to observe & what He commanded them?

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ **teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of the age.”

JESUS SAID... **Matthew 4:17**

From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “**Repent** [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God’s purpose for your life], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

THIS IS THE VERY 1ST THING JESUS
TAUGHT AFTER BEING WATER BAPTIZED,
RECEIVING (DESCENDING OF) THE HOLY
SPIRIT & BEING IN THE WILDERNESS &
TEMPTED.

Jesus preached it... **Mark 1:14-15**

Revelation 3:3

³ So remember *and* take to heart the lessons you have received and heard. Keep *and* obey them, **and repent [change your sinful way of thinking, and demonstrate your repentance with new behavior that proves a conscious decision to turn away from sin].** So then, if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

He taught the 12 Apostles

Mark 6:12

¹² So they went out and preached that men should repent [that is, think differently, recognize sin, turn away from it, and live changed lives].

Read Matthew 10, Mark 6, Luke 9

He taught 70 others...Read Luke 10

REPENT FROM WHAT & WHY?

Believers in the Book of ACTS did something different... They were not trying to get **saved from HELL** - they were acknowledging & being saved **from their SIN** against a Holy & Righteous GOD (sin of course leads to hell)

What happened after Pentecost?

PETER SAID...

ACTS 2:37-38

And Peter said to them, "**Repent** [change your old way of thinking, turn from your sinful

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ways, **accept and follow** Jesus as the Messiah] and **be baptized**, each of you, **in the name of Jesus Christ** because of the forgiveness of your sins; and you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**.

The Apostles preached it...

Acts 3:19-20

¹⁹ So repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins] and return [to God—seek His purpose for your life], so that your sins may be wiped away [blotted out, completely erased], so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord [restoring you like a cool wind on a hot day]; ²⁰ and that He may send [to you] Jesus, the Christ, who has been appointed for you, *** This lead to 5,000 repenting ACTS 4:4

Paul preached it...

Acts 20:21

²¹ solemnly [and wholeheartedly] testifying to both Jews and Greeks, urging them to turn in repentance to God and [to have] faith in our Lord Jesus Christ [for salvation].

Paul testified to it....

Acts 26:20

²⁰ but I openly proclaimed first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent [change their inner self—their old way of thinking] and turn to God, **doing**

deeds *and* living lives which are consistent with repentance.

WHAT ABOUT WATER BAPTISM?

DOES IT LINE UP WITH JESUS?

JESUS WALKED IN OLD COVENANT TIMES (BEFORE THE CROSS)

OBVIOIUSLY, JOHN THE BAPTIST PERFORMED WATER BAPTISM FOR REPENTANCE & JESUS' BAPTISM IS RECORDED IN ALL 4 GOSPELS

See: Matt 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, Johm 1

BUT, JESUS DID PREACH IT?

MATTHEW 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

MARK 16:16

He who has believed [in Me] **and has been baptized** will be saved [from the penalty of God's wrath and judgment]; but he who has not believed will be condemned.

IS IT SPOKEN OF AFTER ACTS?

ROMANS 6:3-4

³ Or are you ignorant of the fact that **all of us who have been baptized into**

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Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ We have therefore **been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory *and* power of the Father, we too might walk *habitually* in newness of life** [abandoning our old ways]. [chapter](#)

GALATIANS 3:27

²⁷ For **all of you who were baptized into Christ [into a spiritual union with the Christ, the Anointed] have clothed yourselves with Christ** [that is, you have taken on His characteristics and values].

COLOSSIANS 2:11-12

¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, **but by the [spiritual] circumcision of Christ in the stripping off of the body of the flesh [the sinful carnal nature], ¹² having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him [to a new life]** through [your] faith in the working of God, [as displayed] when He raised Christ from the dead.

TITUS 3:5

⁵ He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we have done, but because of His own compassion *and* mercy, **by the cleansing of the new birth (spiritual transformation, regeneration) and renewing by the Holy Spirit,**

Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through **faith**. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of [your] works [nor your attempts to keep the Law], so that no one will [be able to] boast or take credit in any way [for his salvation].

It is truly by GRACE that it is *even available* to us & *accepting it does require faith* in who Jesus is & that GOD is real & NO – there is nothing that we did or can do to EARN it... it's a gift. BUT upon accepting the gift what are we to do?

OBEY WHAT JESUS COMMANDED

DID YOU READ **ANYWHERE** IN SCRIPTURE...

- THAT IT IS JUST AN OPTIONAL PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH OR WAS IT A **COMMAND TO ACT UPON?**

WHAT ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

DID JESUS RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

MATTHEW 3:16-17

“After Jesus was baptized, He came up immediately out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he (John) saw **the Spirit of God descending as a**

dove and lighting on Him (Jesus),¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased *and* delighted!"

MARK 1:10-11

"Immediately coming up out of the water, he (John) saw the heavens torn open, **and the Spirit like a dove descending on Him (Jesus);**¹¹ and a voice came out of heaven saying: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased *and* delighted!"

LUKE 3: 21-22

"Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, the [visible] heaven was opened,²² **and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove**, and a voice came from heaven, "You are My Son, My Beloved, in You I am well-pleased *and* delighted!"

JOHN 1:32-34

"John gave [further] evidence [testifying officially for the record, with validity and relevance], saying, "**I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.**"³³ I did not recognize Him [as the Messiah], but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this One is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'³⁴ I myself have [actually] seen [that happen], and my testimony is that this is the Son of God!"

John 3:6

⁶ That which is **born of the flesh is flesh** [the physical is merely physical], and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit**.

John 3:8

The wind blows where it wishes and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so it is **with everyone who is born of the Spirit.**"

When you read **Matthew 7:21-23**

- hasn't it made you pause?

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me on that day [when I judge them], **'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and driven out demons in Your name, and done many miracles in Your name?'** ²³ And then I will declare to them publicly, **'I never knew you; depart from Me [you are banished from My presence], you who act wickedly [disregarding My commands].'**

SOMETIMES OUR FOUNDATION
THAT WE "THINK WE KNOW"
CAN BE CHALLENGED.
BUT IF THE WORD OF GOD
IS OUR STARTING POINT.
AS WE STUDY, SOMETIMES,
WE HAVE TO "UNLEARN" THINGS THAT
WE THOUGHT TO BE TRUE.

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AGAIN, I ENCOURAGE YOU -
WRITE DOWN THE SCRIPTURE THAT I
PROVIDE. STUDY IT MORE, ASK THE HOLY
SPIRIT FOR REVELATION & TALK TO GOD
ABOUT WHERE YOU ARE STRUGGLING.
THEN, YOU WILL COME TO YOUR OWN
(HOPEFULLY BIBLICAL) CONCLUSION

USING THE BOOK OF ACTS
**ASK YOURSELF | WHAT HAVE WE BEEN
CALLED TO DO?**

ACTS 2:37-38 | WHAT ARE WE CALLED
TO DO?

- REPENTANCE (TOWARD GOD) ◀ 1
- ACCEPT & FOLLOW JESUS ◀ 2
- BE BAPTIZED INTO JESUS ◀ 3
- RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT ◀ 4

**THIS IS THE TRINITY |
THE GODHEAD**

**IS THIS CONSISTENT
THROUGHOUT ACTS?**

ACTS | EXAMPLES OF OBEDIENCE

**ACTS 2
THE 3000 THAT PETER SPOKE TO
◀ 1 ◀ 2 ◀ 3**

VERSE:40-43 ⁴⁰ And Peter solemnly
testified and continued to
admonish *and* urge them with many more
words, saying, Be saved from this
crooked *and* unjust generation!" ⁴¹ So
then, those who **accepted his message**

ACTS 8:35-38

Ethiopian Receives Jesus ◀ 1 ◀ 2 ◀ 3

³⁵ Then Philip spoke and beginning with this Scripture he preached Jesus to him [explaining that He is the promised Messiah and the source of salvation]. ³⁶ As they continued along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch exclaimed, "Look! Water! What forbids me from being baptized?" ³⁷[Philip said to him, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he replied, "I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] ³⁸ And he ordered that the chariot be stopped; and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

? ◀ 4

ACTS 9:3-5

Conversion of Saul ◀ 2

As he traveled he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him [displaying the glory and majesty of Christ]; ⁴ and he fell to the ground and heard a voice [from heaven] saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting *and* oppressing Me?" ⁵ **And Saul said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He answered, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,**

ACTS 9:9 ◀ 1

⁹ And he was unable to see for three days, and he neither ate nor drank.

ACTS 9:17-18

Conversion of Saul ◀ 4 ◀ 3

verse 17-18 So Ananias left and entered the house, and he laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came [to Damascus], has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit [in order to proclaim Christ to both Jews and Gentiles]." ¹⁸ Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized:

ACTS 10:44-46

Cornelius & Peter ◀ 1 ◀ 2 ◀ 4

Verse 44-46 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who were listening to the message [confirming God's acceptance of Gentiles]. ⁴⁵ All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them talking in [unknown] tongues (languages) and exalting *and* magnifying *and* praising God. Then Peter said,

ACTS 10:47-48 ◀ 3

Verse 47-48 "Can anyone refuse water for these people to be baptized, since they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?" ⁴⁸ And he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay there for a few days.

ACTS 19:1-2

Paul at Ephesus ◀ 1 ◀ 2

It happened that while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul went through the upper [inland] districts and came down to Ephesus, and found some disciples. ² He asked them, “**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed [in Jesus as the Christ]?**” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

ACTS 19:3-6 ◀ 3 ◀ 4

³ And he asked, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴ Paul said, “John performed a baptism of repentance, *continually* telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, [to confidently accept and joyfully believe] in Jesus [the Messiah and Savior].” ⁵ After hearing this, they were baptized [again, this time] in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they *began* speaking in [unknown] tongues (languages) and prophesying.

The Significance

HERE IS WHAT I FOUND INCREDIBLE IN MY RESEARCH REGARDING THESE ACCOUNTS

NEARLY EVERY TIME WATER BAPTISM WAS IMMEDIATE UPON REPENTANCE REGARDING THE 1, 2, 3, & 4— & ITS CONTINUED IMPORTANTANCE

THE ACCOUNT IN CHAPTER 8 WAS **5 YEARS** AFTER PENTECOST

THE ACCOUNT IN ACTS 10 WAS **10 YEARS** AFTER PENTECOST

THE ACCOUNT IN ACTS 19 WAS **25 YEARS** AFTER PENTECOST

SO IT WAS NOT JUST ABOUT “THE DAY” OF PENTECOST

HERE’S SOME MORE THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

WHAT IS BORN AGAIN?

John 1:12-13

But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God, *that is*, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name— ¹³ **who were born, not of blood [natural conception], nor of the will of the flesh [physical impulse], nor of the will of man [that of a natural father], but of God [that is, a divine and supernatural birth—they are born of God—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified].**

John 3:3

Jesus answered him, “I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, **unless a person is born again [reborn from above—**

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spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see and experience the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 4:31 also says. . .
So then, believers, **we [who are born again—reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose]** are not children of a slave woman [the natural], but of the free woman [the supernatural].

Philippians 3:3 says. . .
for **we [who are born-again have been reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, set apart for His purpose and]** are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory *and* take pride *and* exult in Christ Jesus and place no confidence [in what we have or who we are] in the flesh—

1 Peter 1:3 says. . .
Blessed [gratefully praised and adored] be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant *and* boundless mercy has **caused us to be born again [that is, to be reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose]** to an ever-living hope *and* confident assurance through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

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1 Peter 1:23 says...
for you have been born again [that is, reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] not of seed which is perishable but [from that which is] imperishable *and* immortal, *that is*, through the living and everlasting word of God.

IN RECAP... REPENTANCE

- IS recognizing that you have sinned against a Holy & Righteous God
- It IS necessary for entrance into the Kingdom of God
- It is associated with New Birth (born again)
- Occurs when we repent from our sins (stop doing them) & recognize that Jesus came to this Earth & that He died for our sins.
- It is receiving a NEW HEART

Paul after his 1st letter sent this 2

Corinthians 7:10

⁹ yet I am glad now, not because you were hurt *and* made sorry, but because **your sorrow led to repentance [and you turned back to God]; for you felt a grief such as God meant you to feel, so that you might not suffer loss in anything on our account.** ¹⁰ For [godly] sorrow that is in accord with *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, **leading to salvation;** but worldly sorrow [the hopeless sorrow of those who do not believe] produces death.

IF YOU CANNOT REMEMBER A
TIME OF EVER FEELING DEEP
SORROW FOR SINNING AGAINST
GOD YOU MAY NOT BE SAVED.

Whether it is you or people you know...
this is a verse to be thankful for...

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord does not delay [as though He were unable to act] *and* is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is [extraordinarily] patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

WE'VE BEEN COMMANDED TO
PREACH REPENTANCE...
WHY?

2 Timothy 2:24-26

²⁴ The servant of the Lord must not participate in quarrels, but must be kind to everyone [even-tempered, preserving peace, and he must be], skilled in teaching, patient *and* tolerant when wronged ²⁵ **He must correct those who are in opposition with courtesy and gentleness in the hope that God may grant that they will repent and be led to the knowledge of the truth [accurately understanding and welcoming it], ²⁶ and that they may come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.**

What About Baptism?

Because it is DEFINITELY more than just a “symbol”

- Water Baptism is a significant command that washes & cleanses us from our sin.
- It is a clear and intentional willingness to turn from your old way of life, severing connections with ungodliness.
- It is dying to your OLD self & leaving everything in the water & RISING UP a brand-new creation - a New Man with a New Nature
- Your new life should be lived in dedication to Christ, the Church & other believers.
- You are now under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- You now have a whole new Standard Operating Procedures to live life by.
- You are now a Disciple of Jesus - a follower, a student, a witness, salt & light to the world.

IF YOU REMEMBER THE DAY YOU WERE BAPTIZED BUT YOU ARE STILL STRUGGLING WITH SIN - MAY I SUGGEST THAT YOU SEEK THE REVELATION OF WHAT YOUR BAPTISM REALLY WAS

IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER THE DAY YOU WERE BAPTIZED OR EVEN WHY YOU GOT BAPTIZED - MAY I SUGGEST THAT YOU DO IT AGAIN - BUT THIS TIME WITH COMPLETE REVELATION & UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU ARE REPENTING OF YOUR SINS & LEAVING THE OLD YOU IN THE WATER.

WHEN YOU GET BAPTIZED IT IS FULL IMMERSION IN WATER & INTO JESUS CHRIST YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO TELL THE PERSON WHO IS BAPTIZING WHAT IT IS YOU ARE BEING CLEANSED OF

Over the last 3 lessons -I pray that you are beginning to grasp that Salvation is a journey. We have been called to

DILIGENCE

2 PETER 1:10

¹⁰ Therefore, believers, **be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you [be sure that your behavior reflects and confirms your relationship with God]; for by doing these things [actively developing these virtues], you will never**

stumble [in your spiritual growth and will live a life that leads others away from sin];

2 PETER 3:14

¹⁴ So, beloved, since you are looking forward to these things, **be diligent and make every effort to be found by Him [at His return] spotless and blameless, in peace** [that is, inwardly calm with a sense of spiritual well-being and confidence, having lived a life of obedience to Him].

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GOING DEEPER

This is about self-evaluation. This isn't about what you were "born into". This isn't about what your parents believe. This isn't even about what you have been taught from the pulpit. This is about what the Word of God says. That is the ONLY thing that truly matters.

Repentance | Have you EVER recognized that you were a sinner, sinning against a holy & righteous God? Have you EVER not only felt sorrow over who you have been, but you have been compelled & even empowered to not walk habitually in sin ever since then? Reflect: _____

Believing | Do you believe that Jesus IS the Son of God? Do you believe that Jesus willingly chose to lay aside His divinity and come to earth and lived a sinless life as a man? That He willingly gave up His life to meet ALL of the judicial requirements of atonement for ALL of mankind's sin? That He literally died and conquered death and was raised from the dead? That He truly spent 40 days on earth after His resurrection before ascending to heaven and is sitting at the right hand of the Father? Reflect: _____

Full Immersion Water Baptism | After studying Scripture do you believe that water baptism was a command to be obeyed and not a symbolic gesture & profession of faith? Were you sprinkled as a child [having no say in the significance of the decision]? Were you full immersion baptized but did it only to meet a requirement or because you were told it was the next step of your walk? Were you full immersion baptized, knowing that it was truly a heart desire? Did you understand that there is a spiritual significance to renouncing the old man? Did you understand that your dead body was dying with Christ and that you were leaving specific things in the water - never to be taken up again? Do you still struggle with the "old man"? Has there been ANY change in who you used to be? Or, are you still the same person - making excuses like "it's just who I am", "that's part of my DNA", "it's because of how I grew up"? Do you need to make a decision? Do you need a revelation of exactly what happened, or do you need to be re-baptized - not as a "rededication" but as a full on commitment to living a life [in] Christ? Reflect: _____

Receiving the Holy Spirit (epi) | In the following lessons you are going to learn about an aspect of relationship with the Holy Spirit that you probably have not been taught. It is FULLY Scriptural & you will get an opportunity to study it in-depth for yourself. What you are probably most familiar with is the teaching of Holy Spirit WITH you (para) and Holy Spirit IN you (en), but there is also Holy Spirit UPON you (epi). What has been your experience in understanding the role and relationship that you should have with Holy Spirit? Reflect: _____

Now that you have completed this lesson:

- *Briefly give a definition of your Biblical stance for your belief.*
- *Write down 3 specific places in Scripture that clearly states your understanding.*

As defined by the Bible, Repentance is _____

Scripture that supports this statement is:

As defined by the Bible, Water Baptism is _____

Scripture that supports this statement is:

NOTE: YOU MAY FIND THAT YOUR UNDERSTANDING WILL GO DEEPER AS YOU MOVE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING LESSONS. FEEL FREE TO REVAMP & ADD TO YOUR STATEMENTS AS YOU GROW SPIRITUALLY MATURE.