

# How to Be Saved

Probably the most important question you will ever ask is, "How can I be saved?" This question is another way of asking, "How do I please and glorify God?" To understand salvation, you have to really understand that God wants all people to come to know Him and live with Him forever. The following are the convictions we have about salvation:

- 1. God loves you and wants you to be saved.** You can know this from hearing and understanding the message of the good news of Jesus Christ. God loved the world so much that He sent His son, Jesus, to dwell on earth as a real human being. He allowed His son to be sacrificed for our sin. The perfection of Jesus replaces our state that is marred by sin. His perfect life and perfect sacrifice allow us to have a relationship with God in his righteousness and holiness. (See John 3:16, Ephesians 2:1-6)
- 2. Believe that Jesus Christ is God's son.** This belief must fill your heart to the point where you are outwardly and inwardly willing to let Jesus Christ's life and sacrifice cover your mind, body, and soul. This is a decision of trust in Jesus. (See John 20:31)
- 3. Stop making sinful choices.** The bible calls this process repentance. It is more than simply feeling sorry for the wrong things you have done. It is literally running from sin and toward God. Repentance leads to changing the path of your life and choices in a way that draws you closer to God, which allows Him to change things in your life. (See Acts 17:30)
- 4. Declare Jesus as Lord.** Confessing Christ as Lord is a way of life. This confession of your faith is done as a part of the plan for salvation, but it is also done throughout your daily life through your words and actions. (See Matthew 10:32)
- 5. Be immersed in water to wash away sins.** Baptism is the point where salvation becomes reality. It is through baptism that a person takes on the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Baptism is like saying to Christ, "I am ready for you to lead me and follow the direction you want me to go – without you I have no hope." We believe that when a person is ready to become a Christian, baptism should happen immediately. It is at the point of baptism that a person receives the Holy Spirit and fruit begins to grow that is cultivated through the Word and by the Spirit. (See Romans 6, Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16.)

Once a person is saved, the plan should be to **actively follow Jesus**. In other words, baptism is not the end of the process, it is only the beginning of Jesus transforming the life of the believer to faithfulness and holiness. We follow Jesus not to gain salvation, but because we have already been saved. Christians continually follow Christ's example by trying to live a life filled with love and the Holy Spirit. The desire of a Christian to be like Christ is actively displayed in their life.