

ONE  
HOUR  
BIBLE  
STUDY

# Into His Marvelous Light



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*The unfolding of  
your words gives  
light; it gives  
understanding ...*

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Psalm 119:130

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# In Preparation

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*The following Bible study was prepared to explain the plan of salvation in a simple, one-lesson condensed form with a teacher to guide discussion, or by self-study. If desired, it can be divided into two parts by taking a short break between each of two 30-minute sessions. A recommended place for a break is after the section “Into The Gospels.”*

*Each participating student should have a copy of the study along with a Bible (preferably the New International Version) and a pen or pencil. As each scripture is read, the student is asked to become involved, sometimes by completing a “fill-in-the-blank” or responding to a question. Additional comments and supplementary scripture references (designated throughout the text by small numerals in parenthesis) are provided on page 14 for further in-depth study at a later time.*

*May we also suggest that all participants take a moment to ask the Lord's help in understanding his Word, as King David once did when he prayed, “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.” May God bless you as we travel together “into His marvelous light.”*

*“That you may declare the praises of him  
who called you out of darkness into his  
wonderful light” — 1 Peter 2:9*

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# Introduction

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When walking out of a dark room into the sunshine, light can be blinding. As our eyes become accustomed to the light, we can see more clearly and enjoy the scenery that surrounds us. Likewise, when we look into the light of the Scriptures, the brightness of truth can sometimes hurt. However, as our spiritual eyesight becomes adjusted we can enjoy “walking in the light.”

This Bible study is designed to allow us to “walk” in the marvelous light of the Word of God. We will be journeying into the Scriptures by imagining we are back in the days of Jesus and the Apostles, listening to them teach and preach the plan of salvation. In order to do this, we will be careful to “correctly handle the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15) by concentrating on the highlights of the three main divisions of the New Testament in chronological order, including:

## 1. THE GOSPELS

Covering the words and works of Jesus Christ

## 2. THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Covering the actions and preaching of the Apostles

## 3. THE EPISTLES

Covering the letters written by the Apostles to the churches they started in the Book of Acts

We believe the Scriptures are divinely inspired and are of no private interpretation (2 Peter 1:20,21). Therefore, every effort has been made to present the pure Word of God without adding to it or taking away from its teachings (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5,6). It is not our intention to diminish any personal relationship you may have with our Lord. Neither do we desire to convince you of our own personal ideas or the creeds of any denomination. We simply desire to share the truth as it is written. Only by claiming the Bible as our sole authority can any of us be confident of our salvation, for it is the Word of God and not the traditions of men that will judge us all in the end.

*Let us read **2 Timothy 3:15,16** as we begin  
our journey into the Word of God...*

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# THE GOSPELS

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**John 1:1-5,14**

The \_\_\_\_\_, which was in the beginning, and was God, became flesh. Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God.

**John 1:11-13**

If we believe in Him and receive Him, Jesus gives us power to become the sons of \_\_\_\_\_ by a supernatural birth. He spoke further about this new birth one night to a ruler of the Jews...

**John 3:1-8**

The Lord told Nicodemus that everyone who wanted to see or enter the kingdom of God must be born again of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 3:16-21**

Jesus also told Nicodemus that whosoever \_\_\_\_\_ in Him shall have eternal life. Jesus mentioned two seemingly different requirements for salvation, one is being born again, the other is believing. Yet, this is not a contradiction. The next scripture explains how believing is related to experiencing the birth of the Spirit.

**John 7:38,39**

Here we discover that if we believe on Him we will receive his \_\_\_\_\_. We find that scriptural belief is more than just a change in the way we think. It also results in a scriptural experience. Faith motivates us to obey and obedience brings God's acceptance and blessing.

**John 12:35,36 & 42,43**

Today, just as in Jesus' day, many believe on Him. But, they will not \_\_\_\_\_ Him for fear of what others will do or say.

**John 12:44-48<sup>(1)</sup>**

In response to their fearfulness, Jesus warns that His \_\_\_\_\_ will judge us, so we must be careful not to reject it. Rather, we should believe and obey it...no matter what others say or do!



### John 17:17-20<sup>(2)</sup>

In Jesus' prayer for His disciples, just before His crucifixion, He said God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_. He also prayed for us; and all those who would believe on Him through the Apostles' word.

To find out what the Apostles' message was to be, let us read what Jesus told them to proclaim. The setting of the following great commission scripture in Luke 24:45-49<sup>(3)</sup> is just after the Lord's death, burial and resurrection, and just before His ascension into heaven:

"Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, 'This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'"

## Questions:

Did the Apostles preach the message Jesus commanded them to proclaim?

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How was the promise of the Father fulfilled?

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**Let us continue** our journey into the Word of God by seeing what was preached and what happened at Jerusalem...

# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

## Acts 1:3-5

As we enter the Book of Acts, we discover almost immediately that the promise of the Father is the baptism of the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Acts 2:1-17

When the Apostles were at Jerusalem, they, along with many others, were joyously filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other \_\_\_\_\_ as the Spirit gave them utterance, (the inspiration to speak). The amazed onlookers from many nations who heard them speaking with tongues asked, “What does this mean?” Then Peter explained the promised coming of the Spirit and went on to preach Christ and the original apostolic plan of salvation.

## Acts 2:36-39<sup>(4)</sup>

When the people who heard Peter’s words believed that Jesus Christ was their Lord and Savior, they were sorry for their sins and asked Peter and the Apostles what they should do. Peter replied by preaching the message Jesus commanded to be preached in Luke 24:45-49. In light of this, consider the three elements of the plan of salvation Peter preached in verse 38:

1. **Repentance**
2. **Remission of sins through baptism in Jesus’ name**
3. **Receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost**

### NOTICE

**Acts 2:38** is the fulfillment of the two “new birth” requirements Jesus mentioned in John 3:5 that were necessary to enter the kingdom of God!

**Water birth = baptism in the name of Jesus Christ!**

**Spirit birth = infilling of the Holy Ghost!**

*Now, let’s look at other examples of people being born again of water and the Spirit as the Word Jesus gave His apostles continued to be preached throughout the Book of Acts...*



### Philip preaching to the Samaritans in Acts 8...

Some people say when they experienced joy, or when they believed in Jesus, or when they were baptized, they were automatically filled with the Holy Spirit, but what does the Word say?

**Acts 8:5-8** Did they have great Joy? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

**Acts 8:12** Did they believe in Jesus Christ? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

**Acts 8:14-17<sup>(5)</sup>** Were they baptized in His name? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

Did they receive the Holy Ghost as a separate and distinct experience? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

### Peter preaching to the Gentiles in Acts 10...

Some people say being religious is enough, or that Spirit baptism evidenced by tongues was only for the Day of Pentecost. If the Bible says this is true, then it is true. But if the Word shows us through Cornelius' experience that this is not true...then it is not.

**Acts 10:1,2** Was Cornelius a religious man? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

**Acts 10:5,6<sup>(6)</sup>** Did God have more for him to do? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

**Acts 10:44-46** Did they receive the Holy Ghost and speak in tongues after the day of Pentecost? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

**Acts 10:47,48** Did they still have to be baptized in Jesus' name? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

### Paul preaching to John's disciples in Acts 19...

Many people who are believers have not even heard about the Holy Spirit that is promised to them. Also, some people say it is not necessary to be baptized or rebaptized. (If you were baptized by John the Baptist, would you think it would be necessary to be re-baptized using a different baptismal formula?) Others say it does not matter what is spoken when you are baptized. If the Bible indicates it does not matter, then it does not matter. But what if the Bible shows us it DOES matter?

**Acts 19:1,2**      They were believers, but had they heard of or received the Holy Ghost?      yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

**Acts 19:3-5<sup>(7)</sup>**      Did those baptized by John the Baptist have to be re-baptized in Jesus' name?      yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

**Acts 19:6**      Was receiving the Holy Ghost accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking with other tongues?      yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

### NOTICE

**We have found that the Apostles preached the following salvation message:**

- ... The life of Christ and His death, burial and resurrection
- ... Repentance toward God and belief in Jesus Christ as Savior
- ... Baptism in water by immersion in Jesus' Name
- ... Receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost (which was accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking with other tongues.)

***Now, let us read what the Apostles had to say about the message of salvation they proclaimed in the Book of Acts. We can do this by reading the Epistles (letters) they wrote to the converts.***

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# THE EPISTLES

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As we read the Epistles, we will notice how strongly the Apostles felt about the gospel (good news) of salvation. This is not because they were being judgmental. It is because they knew the Word Jesus had given them to proclaim was going to judge all men.

## **What Did Peter Say?**

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth...you have been born again...through the living and enduring word of God...and this is the word that was preached to you” (1 Peter 1:22-25).

*Obedience to God's Word purifies our souls!*

## **Peter Asked...**

“What will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17,18).

## **Paul Answered...**

“When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels, He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

*It is eternally important to obey the gospel!*

## **What Did Paul Say?**

“Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!” (Galatians 1:7-9).

*There is only one gospel!*

**What Did James Say?**

“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like” (James 1:21-24).

***The Word is able to save our souls!***

*James tells us that if we see something we need to do as we look into the “mirror of the word,” we should do it. **Let us now consider what we will do with what we have heard...***

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## Conclusion

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DO YOU BELIEVE the Word of God is true and will judge us?

DO YOU BELIEVE Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior?

DO YOU BELIEVE it is necessary to repent by determining to turn from sin and giving your life to God?

DO YOU BELIEVE water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is the biblical way to be baptized?

DO YOU BELIEVE the baptism of the Holy Ghost is for you today, and when you receive it you will speak in other tongues, just as they did in the Bible?

*If you believe these  
things, pray right now,  
asking God to allow  
you to experience all  
that He has for you!*

## Supplemental Scriptures

### (1) **Matthew 7:13-24**

God's warning regarding false prophets, and the importance of being a doer and not just a hearer of the Word.

### (2) **Matthew 16:15-19**

Peter was given the "keys of the kingdom" because of his revelation of who Jesus Christ was.

### (3) **Other "Great Commission" Scriptures**

In Matthew 28:18-20 the word "name" is singular in this command to baptize. The Apostles obeyed this command when they baptized only in the name of Jesus, and did not use the titles mentioned here. (See Acts 4:12). Mark 16:15-18 stresses the importance of water baptism and describes the signs that will follow believers.

### (4) **Matthew 16:15-19**

Peter, who was given the "keys of the kingdom," uses them to open the "kingdom door" by preaching the original apostolic message of salvation for the first time.

### (5) **Acts 8:35-39**

Philip must have mentioned baptism when he preached Jesus to the Ethiopian official because the Eunuch asked to be baptized in water. The Greek root word for "baptize" is *bapto* which literally means "to cover wholly with fluid, to dip." (See also Romans 6:3,4.)

### (6) **Acts 10:34-43**

Peter preached the life and lordship of Jesus Christ as well as His death, burial and resurrection.

### (7) **1 Peter 3:20,21**

According to Peter, baptism is an essential part of the plan of salvation.

***We encourage you to read through the  
Gospels, Acts and Epistles in detail...and  
continue to walk "into His marvelous light!"***



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# Notes

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## MINISTRY INFORMATION

### **An IHML Publication**

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