

The Bible: Salvation



What must one do to make heaven their home?

If you were to die today, would you be saved? This is the most important question one can ask, yet many never investigate it. The proper basis for an answer to this question is by knowing what the Word of God says.

In John 3:1-7, Jesus stated to Nicodemus he must be born again. In response, Nicodemus questioned how one could be born again. Jesus then broke it down into two components, being born of WATER & SPIRIT. We find these two requirements for making heaven our home plainly stated. What does Jesus mean by being born of water and spirit? Some equate the water to our natural birth, but if this was so, why didn't Jesus state to Nicodemus he was partially correct when asking about returning to the womb? The reason is Jesus wasn't speaking of a natural birth. In our natural birth we take on the sinful nature, Jesus was speaking of being born of God and a spiritual birth (John 1:12-13).

When we move on to the book of Acts, which records the actions of the Apostles, we find them waiting in an upper room in Jerusalem (Acts 1:1-14). Jesus told them to wait until they received the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2:1-4, the Apostles receive God's Spirit which causes onlookers to question this event. Peter begins to preach about the prophecy of Joel and God outpouring His Spirit in the last days. He concludes his sermon (Acts 2:36) by telling the onlookers they crucified their Messiah. In hearing this, they ask what they must do to be saved (Acts 2:37) as they were convicted of their actions. In response, Peter stated they needed to REPENT, be BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS and RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 2:38). What did Peter just tell them? He told them they should be born of water (baptized in Jesus name) and of spirit (receive the Holy Spirit).

In Acts 8 we find Philip preaching to the Samaritans. What we find was the message of salvation to the Samaritans aligns with what we found on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. The Samaritans were baptized in the name of Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17).

Next we find Cornelius (Acts 10:1-2) was a good man who feared God, had a strong prayer life and gave to the poor. However, God told him to call for Peter who would tell him what he needed to do (Acts 10:3-6). When Peter arrived and preached to Cornelius & his household we find them receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44-46) and being commanded to be baptized in the name of Jesus (Acts 10:47-48).

Lastly, Paul comes across some disciples of John the Baptist and enquires if they had received the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-2). Their answer is they know not of the Holy Spirit. This causes Paul to enquire of how they were baptized & it is explained they were baptized by John. Paul explains they were baptized with the baptism of repentance and need to be baptized in Jesus name. In obedience, the disciples of John were baptized in Jesus name (Acts 19:3-5). After they were baptized, Paul prayed with them and they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:6-7).

Summary: Jesus stated one must be born of WATER & SPIRIT to enter the Kingdom of God. The Apostles were obedient in preaching one must be BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS (Born of Water) and RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT (Born of Spirit).

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