

**Core Four**  
**God's Four-Step Program**  
**Acts 2:36-42**                      **August 12, 2018**

**Acts 1:5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now

**Acts 19:4** And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus."

I. **The First Step is Conversation (36)** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

**Romans 10:14** How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

Paul is pointing out here that a clear presentation of the Gospel message always precedes true saving faith. Salvation comes to those who hear and believe!

**Romans 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

II. **The Second Step is Conviction (37)** Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

There is a question that is asked on a Religious survey has a question that ask, "In your personal

opinion what does it take for an individual to go to heaven?

**John MacArthur notes several popular opinions.**

1. **The Legalist:** Salvation comes through works-righteous system.
2. **The Moralist:** If a person's Good Deeds outweigh his bad Deeds according to God's Scales, he will then have eternal life.
3. **The Traditionalist:** Salvation based on racial heritage (Jews) or family heritage (Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, etc.)
4. **The Universalist:** Everyone goes to heaven because God Loves Everyone!
5. **The Ritualist:** Interprets **Acts 2:38** exclusively failing to see the truth in **Romans 10:10** For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

**1 Corinthians 1:17** For **Christ did not send me to baptize** but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

**1 Corinthians 1:14** I thank God that **I baptized none of you** except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

What a statement from Paul if Baptism is necessary for Salvation!

All of this begs the question “How is one saved?”

- **God Convicts** you that you are a sinner,
- **You Repent** and put your trust in Christ alone,
- **Christ Gives** you the gift of the Holy Spirit,
- Then as an act of obedience **You Follow** Christ in Baptism!

**III. The Third Step is Conversion (38-41a)** And Peter said to them, "**Repent and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness of your sins**, and you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**." <sup>39</sup> For the **promise** is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." <sup>41</sup> So those who **received his word** were baptized,

**Repent (metanoeo)** = Change one's mind for the better.

**Two words:**

**Meta** = To Change or to altar.

**Noieo** = Mind, Observe, Perceive, Think

In practical terms, it means to change from **NOT seeking** to do God's will **to seeking to do** God's will.

Then Paul says in verse 41 So those who **received his word** were baptized,

### **So when do we receive His Word?**

**1 Corinthians 12:13** For in **one Spirit** we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and all were made to **drink of one Spirit**.

How do we receive the Holy Spirit? We receive the Holy Spirit by simply receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior (John 3:5-16). **When do we receive the Holy Spirit?** The Holy Spirit becomes our permanent possession the moment we believe.

This takes place when one **Repents** of and **Confesses** his sin to God!

You are telling God that was and will always be right that you have sinned and fallen short of The Glory of God! **Romans 3:23**

**IV. The Forth Step is Continuation (41b-42)**  
and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And **they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.**

- **They were Devoted** to **Bible Study**
- **They were Devoted** to **Fellowship**
- **They were Devoted** to **The Lords Supper**
- **They were Devoted** to **Prayer**

**Praise Team Takes the Platform**