

Morristown Church of Christ

1408 East Andrew Johnson Hwy,
Morristown, TN 37814

Thank you for downloading this file from our website. We are excited about your interest in spiritual matters and in the Bible.

We offer many other Bible study resources. If you would like to hear about them, or would like to ask a question about this study or about any spiritual matter, please contact us at 423-586-8343, or write to us at the address listed above.

Please understand that we offer all our Bible study material absolutely free of charge. You will never receive any pleas for money on our part. Our only purpose is to help you better understand God's Word and discover His will for your life.

We are encouraged by your response. It is our prayer that you would make the study of God's Word a life long endeavor. Please let us know how we may be of further service to you.

In Christian Love,

Josh Allen, Preacher
Morristown Church of Christ

What must I do to be saved?

No more important question can be asked than, "What must I do to be saved?" Each of us will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and each of us is responsible for obeying the Lord. Salvation has two parts; God's part, and man's part. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God, because of His great love for mankind, has done his part in sending Christ to die for our sins. Paul calls this "grace," the gift of God. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Paul reminds us that we cannot save ourselves, and must rely on God "through faith." "Through faith" means that man must also do his part, because no one can benefit from a gift until it is received.

To find what man's part in the plan of salvation involves, one must go to the right place, the book of Acts, that explains the examples of conversion. There are eight specific accounts of conversion in Acts: the conversion of the Jews on Pentecost, chapter 2; the Samaritans, chapter 8; the Ethiopian eunuch, chapter 8; Saul of Tarsus, chapters 9 and 22; Cornelius, chapter 10; Lydia, chapter 16; the Philippian jailer, chapter 16; and the Corinthians, chapter 18. In each example, certain common actions, or steps of obedience, were taken by those who became Christians.

Upon hearing the pure gospel message, each believed in Jesus as the Son of God. Though belief is not explicitly stated each time, it is implied. The Jews at Pentecost, having heard the message, "were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Their question, "What shall we do?" showed that they believed the message, but realized that they needed to do more than have simple belief to obtain salvation. As James wrote, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:24). Following their confession of faith in Christ, Peter told the Jews at Pentecost, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). Thus we understand that repentance must accompany faith in Christ. One must also confess faith in Christ, as the Ethiopian did (Acts 8), because Christ will not confess us unless we are willing to confess Him. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33). Baptism is the only step toward salvation explicitly mentioned in every conversion account. Each of the accounts of conversion in Acts shows that baptism is necessary for obedience to Christ. Hearing the gospel message, believing in Christ, repenting of past sins, confessing Christ, and being baptized into Christ makes one a Christian, and brings salvation. Then one must serve the Lord faithfully.

- 1. Why is this such an important question?**
- 2. Why would we turn to the book of Acts to learn how to be saved?**
- 3. In reading through the eight accounts of conversion, what common patterns do you see in their conversions?**
- 4. Why is simple belief not sufficient to please God?**
- 5. Why is baptism the only step toward salvation that is mentioned in every conversion account in Acts?**