



EARLY CHURCH CONVERSIONS
IN THE BOOK OF ACTS



A STUDY ON BIBLICAL SALVATION:

- 1. REPENTANCE**
- 2. BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME**
- 3. RECEIVING THE HOLY GHOST**

The New Testament Plan of Salvation:

The apostle Peter preached that Jesus Christ was crucified for our sins. Those who heard him and believed asked the question, “What shall we do?” The leaders of most churches today would say, “just believe,” but Peter proceeded to tell them of God’s plan of salvation.

Acts 2:37-39 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38) Then Peter said unto them, **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.** 39) **For the promise is unto you**, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

 **Acts 2:38** clearly demonstrates three essential requirements of biblical salvation:

1. REPENTANCE

2. BAPTISM IN JESUS’ NAME

3. RECEIVING THE HOLY GHOST

 **Acts 2:38** also fulfills the words of Jesus Christ.

In **John 3:5** Jesus said, “**Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**”

We believe that the scriptures support the following conclusions:
1) that being born of the water means baptism in Jesus’ name and,
2) being born of the Spirit means receiving the Holy Ghost.

To be born of the water and of the Spirit is not an option. Without these experiences you cannot enter the kingdom of God.

STEP ONE: REPENTANCE —1) to change one’s mind, i.e. to repent. 2) to change one’s mind for [the] better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one’s past sins (Thayer).

 **Jesus preached the message of repentance.**

In **Luke 13:3** Jesus Christ declared, “I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**”

📖 **John the Baptist also preached the message of repentance.**

Matthew 3:2 And saying, **Repent** ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

STEP TWO: BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME

📖 **The early church always baptized in the name of Jesus.**

Acts 8:16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**)

Acts 10:48 And he **commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.** Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 19:5 When they heard *this*, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

STEP THREE: RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST

📖 **All believers received the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.**

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 8:17 Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 10:45-47 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was **poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.** 46) **For they heard them speak with tongues,** and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47) Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, **which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?**

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so *is* also the Holy Ghost, **whom God hath given to them that obey him.**

📖 **From the passages we just read, we can conclude that:**

- 1. The gift of the Holy Ghost was given as promised in response to the disciples' obedience.**
- 2. When they received the Holy Ghost, they ALL spoke with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. This is the sign of receiving the Holy Ghost.**

A Review of Acts 2:38 as the Plan of Salvation

1. Is repentance required for salvation? Yes!

Luke 13:3, 5

³ I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

⁵ I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. Is baptism required for salvation? Yes!

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

1 Peter 3:20-21

20) Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21) The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

3. Is receiving the Holy Ghost required for salvation? Yes!

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Jesus came “to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). He died for the sins of mankind. You are invited to a church that believes in the biblical plan of salvation. Obey Acts 2:38