



SEE MORE JESUS • [WANTTOSEEMORE.COM](http://WANTTOSEEMORE.COM)

## What Must I Do to Be Saved? — A KJV Bible Study with Strong's Numbers

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? • THE APOSTLES' OWN ANSWER (ACTS 2:38)**

*Foundational Biblical Doctrine — the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

### IN PLAIN WORDS

*God made you, and God loves you. Every person has done wrong, and wrong cuts us off from God. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus never did wrong, but He died to pay for our wrongs. Then God raised Him from the dead, and He is alive now. Here is what you must do. Believe this good news with all your heart. Turn away from your wrong ways — the Bible calls this repentance. Be baptized — go down under water in the name of Jesus Christ — and God will forgive your sins. God will give you His Holy Spirit to live inside you. Then keep following Jesus every day, together with others who believe, until the end of your life. He will keep you, and He will give you life that never ends.*

### OPENING WORD

*Friend, the most important question anyone can ask was asked on the day the Church was born. People who heard the truth were cut to the heart, and they cried out, what shall we do? They were not told simply to feel something, or to say a prayer and then go on living as before. They were given an answer with a doorway in it, and the doorway had a step to cross. Believe — with all your heart — that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose from the dead, because faith comes by hearing the word of God. Repent — turn away from your sin with your whole heart. Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins — buried with Him, and raised to live a new life. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit — because anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. Then do not stop at the doorway: keep going in the apostles' teaching, the breaking of bread, and the prayers; stay joined to Him the way a branch stays joined to the vine; and endure to the end — because salvation begins in the truth, continues in the truth, and ends in the truth. A prayer is a good beginning, and you can pray it this very hour; but listen to everything the apostles answered, and do it, and you will be saved. This is the way in. Study it for yourself, and walk it.*

## THREE QUESTIONS THIS STUDY ANSWERS:

1. When the people were cut to the heart and cried out, what shall we do, how did the apostles answer?
2. What does it mean to believe in the heart and confess with the mouth, and what does baptism into the name of Jesus Christ do?
3. Is salvation only a beginning, or must a person also continue, stay joined to Christ, and endure to the end?

### I. THE QUESTION — MEN AND BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO?

**Acts 2:36** Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. (37) 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?

**THEY WERE PRICKED IN THEIR HEART → MEN AND BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO?**

### II. THE GROUND — CHRIST DIED, AND HIS BLOOD WASHETH FROM SIN

**A. Romans 5:8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS → CHRIST DIED FOR US.**

**B. Revelation 1:5** And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed [G3068 *louo*] us from our sins in his own blood,

**THE FAITHFUL WITNESS + THE FIRST BEGOTTEN OF THE DEAD → HIM THAT LOVED US → WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD.**

**C. Ephesians 1:7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

**IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD = THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

*(My personal thoughts — redemption and the forgiveness of sins are IN HIM. This is why we are baptized INTO Him: the blood that washes us, and the forgiveness it buys, are found in the very One we are baptized into.)*

**D. Isaiah 52:14** As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

**HIS VISAGE WAS SO MARRED MORE THAN ANY MAN → AND HIS FORM MORE THAN THE SONS OF MEN.**

**E. Isaiah 50:6** I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

**I GAVE MY BACK TO THE SMITERS + MY CHEEKS TO THEM THAT PLUCKED OFF THE HAIR → I HID NOT MY FACE FROM SHAME AND SPITTING.**

**F. Psalm 22:14** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. ... (16) For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. (17) I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. (18) They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

**ALL MY BONES ARE OUT OF JOINT → THEY PIERCED MY HANDS AND MY FEET → THEY PART MY GARMENTS + CAST LOTS UPON MY VESTURE.**

**G. Isaiah 53:4** Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (5) But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed [H7495 *rapha*].

**HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS + BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES → WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.**

**H. Matthew 27:28** And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. (29) And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee

before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! (30) And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

**A CROWN OF THORNS UPON HIS HEAD → THEY SPIT UPON HIM + SMOTE HIM ON THE HEAD.**

**I. Luke 22:44** And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

**HIS SWEAT WAS AS IT WERE GREAT DROPS OF BLOOD FALLING DOWN TO THE GROUND.**

**J. John 19:34** But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

**A SPEAR PIERCED HIS SIDE → FORTHWITH CAME THERE OUT BLOOD AND WATER.**

*(My personal thoughts — read it slowly, and know that it was for YOU. The face that made the stars was disfigured beyond recognition. The back that holds up all things was laid open by the whip. The hands that healed the leper were driven through with iron. His bones stood out to be counted. The sweat fell like blood before a single nail was set. He was not overpowered: He gave His back willingly; He did not hide His face. Every stripe was your sin laid on Him, every wound your wrongdoing, every drop your debt. And when it was finished, blood and water ran out of His side — the blood to wash you, and the water to bury you into Him. So when you are told to repent and be baptized, you are not being asked to do something hard. You are being asked to receive, on your knees, what cost Him all of that.)*

### **III. BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST — AND CONFESS HIM WITH THY MOUTH**

**A. Genesis 15:6** And he believed [H539 aman] in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

**HE BELIEVED IN THE LORD → HE COUNTED IT TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**B. Romans 4:3** For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

**ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD → IT WAS COUNTED UNTO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**C. Numbers 21:8** And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. (9) And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

**EVERY ONE THAT IS BITTEN, WHEN HE LOOKETH UPON IT → SHALL LIVE.**

**D. John 3:14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: (15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth [G4100 pisteuo] in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**AS MOSES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT → EVEN SO MUST THE SON OF MAN BE LIFTED UP → WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.**

*(My personal thoughts — set these two side by side and let them teach. In the wilderness, dying people were not told to earn a cure. They were told to look, in faith, at what God lifted up on a pole — and they lived. Jesus says that pole was a picture of His own cross. Believing is the look. Before a person repents of anything, or obeys anything, he must first look with his whole heart at the One lifted up, and trust Him. And notice Abraham: he believed, and God counted it to him for righteousness — before the law, before any ceremony. Faith is where it all begins. But watch how quickly faith moves to obedience in the next verses — the same night, the same hour.)*

**E. Romans 10:8** But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; (9) That if thou shalt confess [G3670 homologeo] with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**CONFESS WITH THY MOUTH THE LORD JESUS + BELIEVE IN THINE HEART THAT GOD HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD → THOU SHALT BE SAVED.**

**F. Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD → SHALL BE SAVED.**

**G. Romans 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**FAITH COMETH BY HEARING → AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.**

**H. Acts 16:29** Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, (30) And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? (31) And they said, Believe [**G4100 pisteuo**] on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. (32) And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. (33) And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

**SIRS, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? → BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST → AND WAS BAPTIZED, HE AND ALL HIS, STRAIGHTWAY.**

*(My personal thoughts — only twice in the whole Bible is this exact question asked out loud: here in the jail at Philippi, and at Pentecost in Acts 2. Set the two answers side by side. The crowd at Pentecost had already heard and already believed — that is why they were cut to the heart — so Peter began at the next step: repent, and be baptized. The jailer knew nothing yet, so Paul began at the first step: believe — and then spoke the word of the Lord to him, and the same hour of the night the man was baptized. Two beginnings, one road. Believing is not a rival to baptism, and baptism is not a rival to believing; faith is the heart that obeys, and the same hour is soon enough.)*

**I. Hebrews 11:6** But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

**WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM → HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS.**

#### **IV. THE ANSWER — REPENT, BE BAPTIZED, RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST**

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent [**G3340 metanoeo**], and be baptized [**G907 baptizo**] every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [**G859 aphesis**] 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.

**REPENT + BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS → YE SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST.**

#### **V. REPENT**

**A. Acts 3:19** Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

**REPENT + BE CONVERTED → THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE BLOTTED OUT.**

**B. Luke 13:3** I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

**EXCEPT YE REPENT → YE SHALL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH.**

**C. 2 Corinthians 7:10** For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

**GODLY SORROW WORKETH REPENTANCE TO SALVATION → THE SORROW OF THE WORLD WORKETH DEATH.**

*(My personal thoughts — do not think this is a small word, said once and finished with. Repent, and words like it, sound through the whole Bible one hundred and twelve times — forty-six in the Old Testament, and sixty-six in the New. From the prophets crying turn, turn, to John crying repent, to the Lord Himself, to the apostles, to the risen Christ writing to the churches — one call runs from Genesis to Revelation: TURN. God has never once stopped calling people to it. And no one may stop doing it.)*

#### **VI. BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS**

**A. Acts 22:16** And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized [**G907 baptizo**], and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

**ARISE, AND BE BAPTIZED, AND WASH AWAY THY SINS → CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD.**

**B. Romans 6:4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**BURIED WITH HIM BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH → EVEN SO WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.**



**C. Colossians 2:12** Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

**BURIED WITH HIM IN BAPTISM → RISEN WITH HIM THROUGH THE FAITH OF THE OPERATION OF GOD.**

**D. 1 Peter 3:21** 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:

**BAPTISM DOTH ALSO NOW SAVE US = THE ANSWER OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD.**

*(My personal thoughts — it is not the water that saves. It is the answer of a good conscience toward God: the blood applied to the conscience through the obedience of baptism, and the person raised to a new life.)*

**2 Kings 5:10** And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean [**H2891 taher**].

**GO AND WASH IN JORDAN SEVEN TIMES → THY FLESH SHALL COME AGAIN, AND THOU SHALT BE CLEAN.**

**2 Kings 5:13** And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

**IF THE PROPHET HAD BID THEE DO SOME GREAT THING, WOULDST THOU NOT HAVE DONE IT? → HOW MUCH RATHER, WHEN HE SAITH, WASH, AND BE CLEAN?**

**2 Kings 5:14** Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

**HE DIPPED HIMSELF SEVEN TIMES IN JORDAN → HIS FLESH CAME AGAIN LIKE UNTO THE FLESH OF A LITTLE CHILD, AND HE WAS CLEAN.**

*(My personal thoughts — here is the same truth pictured long ago. Naaman was a great man, and a leper; and he was told to do a small thing: go wash in the Jordan seven times, and be clean. He was angry, and expected some grand gesture, and thought the rivers of his own country were better than the waters of Israel — just as people still stumble over such a simple command. But it was never the water of the Jordan that healed him; it was obeying the word of God in the water God named. He went down and dipped seven times, and his skin came back like the skin of a LITTLE CHILD. That is how a person is born again: not by some great effort of their own, but by going down in obedience, and coming up a new child, and clean.)*

**E. Mark 16:16** He that believeth and is baptized [**G907 baptizo**] shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

**HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED → SHALL BE SAVED.**

**F. John 3:5** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born [**G1080 gennao**] of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

**EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN OF WATER AND OF THE SPIRIT → HE CANNOT ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

**G. Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as have been baptized [**G907 baptizo**] into Christ have put on Christ.

**AS MANY AS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST → HAVE PUT ON CHRIST.**

**H. Titus 3:4** But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, (5) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

**THE KINDNESS AND LOVE OF GOD OUR SAVIOUR APPEARED → NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS → ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US, BY THE WASHING OF REGENERATION.**

**I. Ephesians 2:8** For by grace [**G5485 charis**] are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH = THE GIFT OF GOD → NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST → WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS.**

*(My personal thoughts — hold these two truths together; and there is no fight between them. Grace is the gift; faith receives it; and baptism is not a work that earns anything, any more than Naaman earned his healing by dipping in a river; or the dying earned their lives by looking at the brass serpent. God provided everything; the person only obeys and receives. The man coming up out of the water has nothing to boast of — he was buried, and God raised him. It was said above of 1 Peter 3:21, and it is true here too: it is not the water; and it is not the works of our own hands. It is grace, received through the obedience of faith. And the very next verse says what the works are for: not the ground of salvation, but its fruit — we are God's own workmanship, made new in Christ Jesus so that we would walk in the good works He already prepared for us. No one who obeys the command has earned the gift, and no one who calls it earning has understood the command.)*

**J. 1 Timothy 1:13** Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

**A BLASPHEMER + A PERSECUTOR + INJURIOUS → BUT I OBTAINED MERCY.**

*(My personal thoughts — notice WHOSE sins were washed away by this obedience. Saul of Tarsus persecuted the way of Christ to the death. He arrested men and women and dragged them to prison, a blasphemer and a persecutor of God's people. The Lord Himself met him on the road, struck him to the ground, and spoke to him from heaven. And STILL, three days later, Ananias was sent to say: get up, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord. If the light on the road to Damascus did not wash Saul's sins away, but the water of obedience did, then let no one imagine his own sins are removed some easier way than God gave to the worst of sinners.)*

## **VII. RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST**

**A. Acts 19:5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (6) And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

**BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS → THE HOLY GHOST CAME ON THEM.**

**B. 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.

**IF ANY MAN HAVE NOT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST → HE IS NONE OF HIS.**

**C. Acts 2:39** 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.

**THE PROMISE IS UNTO YOU + TO YOUR CHILDREN + TO ALL THAT ARE AFAR OFF.**

**D. Ephesians 1:13** In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (14) Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

**YE WERE SEALED WITH THAT HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE → WHICH IS THE EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE.**

**E. 2 Corinthians 1:22** Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

**HATH SEALED US + GIVEN THE EARNEST OF THE SPIRIT IN OUR HEARTS.**

**F. Ephesians 4:30** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

**GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD → WHEREBY YE ARE SEALED UNTO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION.**

*(My personal thoughts — the Holy Spirit is not a reward for a select few. He is the SEAL of the King on those who are His own, and the DOWN PAYMENT — the first part of the inheritance paid in advance — that you belong to Him until the day of redemption. So the question stands plainly, and it must be asked: have you received the Holy Spirit? Because the word says it clearly: anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. A letter without the seal is not the King's letter. A person without the Spirit is not yet Christ's. Seek Him until you have Him.)*

## **VIII. CONTINUE STEADFASTLY — THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE, FELLOWSHIP, BREAKING OF BREAD, PRAYERS**

**A. Acts 2:41** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (42) And they continued stedfastly [**G4342 proskartereo**] in the

apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD WERE BAPTIZED → THEY CONTINUED STEDFASTLY IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE + FELLOWSHIP + BREAKING OF BREAD + PRAYERS.**

**B. Acts 2:46** And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, (47) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**CONTINUING DAILY WITH ONE ACCORD → THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY SUCH AS SHOULD BE SAVED.**

**C. 1 Corinthians 11:23** For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: (24) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. (25) After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. (26) For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

**I HAVE RECEIVED OF THE LORD + THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU → THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME → YE DO SHEW THE LORD'S DEATH TILL HE COME.**

**D. John 6:54** Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

**WHOSO EATETH MY FLESH, AND DRINKETH MY BLOOD, HATH ETERNAL LIFE → I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY.**

**E. 1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS → HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US, AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**F. Hebrews 3:13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

**EXHORT ONE ANOTHER DAILY → LEST ANY OF YOU BE HARDENED THROUGH THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN.**

*(My personal thoughts — notice how often the word says DAILY. They continued daily. They broke bread from house to house. They encouraged one another daily. This is not a religion of one hour on Sunday, and one hour in the middle of the week — a seat warmed twice, and the rest of life a person's own. The first church lived it every day, together; and the Lord added to them daily those who were being saved. A faith set aside until the next meeting is a faith that hardens through the deceitfulness of sin. He is not asking for a visit. He is asking for a life.)*

## **IX. ABIDE IN CHRIST — CONTINUE IN THE FAITH**

**A. John 15:4** Abide [G3306 meno] in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

**EXCEPT YE ABIDE IN ME → WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.**

**B. Colossians 1:23** If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

**IF YE CONTINUE IN THE FAITH GROUNDED AND SETTLED → BE NOT MOVED AWAY FROM THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL.**

**C. 2 John 9** Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth [G3306 meno] not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

**HE THAT ABIDETH IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST → HE HATH BOTH THE FATHER AND THE SON.**

**D. Romans 11:22** Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

**BEHOLD THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD → IF THOU CONTINUE IN HIS GOODNESS → OTHERWISE THOU ALSO SHALT BE CUT OFF.**

**E. Revelation 3:15** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. (16) So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

**NEITHER COLD NOR HOT → BECAUSE THOU ART LUKEWARM → I WILL SPUE THEE OUT OF MY MOUTH.**

*(My personal thoughts — notice what the Lord does with the lukewarm. Not only the cold, but the lukewarm — the one who has just enough religion to be comfortable, and not enough to be alive — that one He will spit out of His mouth. To stay joined to Him is not to hang on by a thread, warm on Sunday and cold all week. It is to burn. Better hot, He says, or even cold, than that middle thing that makes Him sick. Stay in Him, and let Him keep you burning to the end.)*

## **X. ENDURE TO THE END**

**A. Matthew 24:13** But he that shall endure [**G5278 hupomeno**] unto the end, the same shall be saved.

**HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END → THE SAME SHALL BE SAVED.**

**B. Revelation 2:10** Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

**FEAR NONE OF THOSE THINGS WHICH THOU SHALT SUFFER → BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH → I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN OF LIFE.**

**C. 1 Corinthians 11:28** But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

**LET A MAN EXAMINE HIMSELF → AND SO LET HIM EAT OF THAT BREAD, AND DRINK OF THAT CUP.**

**D. Proverbs 24:16** For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

**A JUST MAN FALLETH SEVEN TIMES, AND RISETH UP AGAIN.**

**E. 1 John 2:1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

**IF ANY MAN SIN → WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS.**

**F. Hebrews 7:25** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

**HE IS ABLE TO SAVE THEM TO THE UTTERMOST → HE EVER LIVETH TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR THEM.**

**G. Psalm 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

**AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST → SO FAR HATH HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US.**

**H. Hebrews 8:12** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

**THEIR SINS AND THEIR INIQUITIES WILL I REMEMBER NO MORE.**

**I. John 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: (28) And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (29) My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

**MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE + THEY FOLLOW ME → NEITHER SHALL ANY MAN PLUCK THEM OUT OF MY HAND.**

**J. Ezekiel 18:24** But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

**WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS TURNETH AWAY FROM HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS → IN HIS SIN THAT HE HATH SINNED, IN THEM SHALL HE DIE.**

**K. Proverbs 26:11** As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

**AS A DOG RETURNETH TO HIS VOMIT → SO A FOOL RETURNETH TO HIS FOLLY.**



**L. 2 Peter 2:20** For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. (21) For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. (22) But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

**AGAIN ENTANGLED THEREIN, AND OVERCOME → THE LATTER END IS WORSE WITH THEM THAN THE BEGINNING → THE DOG IS TURNED TO HIS OWN VOMIT AGAIN + THE SOW THAT WAS WASHED TO HER WALLOWING IN THE MIRE.**

**M. Matthew 7:22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

**LORD, LORD, HAVE WE NOT PROPHESED IN THY NAME? → I NEVER KNEW YOU: DEPART FROM ME, YE THAT WORK INIQUITY.**

*(My personal thoughts — a baby in Christ may reach for the flame even after the Father has said no. That is the stumble of a child who is still learning, and the Father knows it. A grown son or daughter should know better. But here is the mercy of it: even when we sin, we are not thrown away. We have an Advocate — Jesus Christ the righteous — who is always alive and always speaking to the Father on our behalf. So we get back up. A just man falls seven times and rises again. We examine ourselves, confess what we did, turn from it, and go back to our Father's business, leaving the past behind — because God has already removed our sins as far as the east is from the west, and He remembers them no more. But do not turn this mercy into an excuse. Ezekiel gives the other side: a righteous man who turns away from his righteousness and dies in his sin will not be saved by the righteousness he once had. Peter shows the same picture in the New Testament, and he quotes the old proverb to do it: a dog going back to its vomit, a washed pig going back to the mud — someone who escaped the filth of the world through knowing the Lord, and then turned back into it, worse off at the end than at the beginning. And Jesus says to those who worked evil in His name, "I never knew you." Now hold both edges of this sword, and do not blunt either one. The Lord says no one can snatch His sheep out of His hand — no enemy, no power, no man. That safety is real, and it is His grip that holds, not ours. But look at how He describes those sheep: they hear His voice, and they follow Him. The word never shows a sheep torn from His hand; it shows the washed one turning and walking back to the mud, of his own will. Scripture holds both of these — the hand that cannot be broken open, and the warning not to turn away — and it does not melt them into one easy formula, so neither will we. Do not despair when you fall: the Advocate is real, and the road home is open. Do not presume you can turn back freely: the warning is real too. Fall, but rise. Rise, and endure to the end.)*

## **XI. TAKE HEED — HEAR THE MESSENGERS, AND BEWARE ANOTHER GOSPEL**

**A. 1 John 4:6** We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

**HE THAT KNOWETH GOD HEARETH US → HEREBY KNOW WE THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH + THE SPIRIT OF ERROR.**

**B. Galatians 1:8** But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (9) As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

**THOUGH WE, OR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN, PREACH ANY OTHER GOSPEL → LET HIM BE ACCURSED.**

*(My personal thoughts — mark it well: if what we believe does not agree with what the messengers preached, then WE are wrong, not them. They saw Him, and heard Him, and were sent by Him. Whoever listens to God listens to them. To put a teacher above the apostles is to listen to the spirit of error.)*

**C. Jude 3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. (4) For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

**CONTEND FOR THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED → CERTAIN MEN CREPT IN UNAWARES.**

**D. 2 Peter 2:1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and

bring upon themselves swift destruction.

**FALSE TEACHERS SHALL PRIVILY BRING IN DAMNABLE HERESIES → DENYING THE LORD THAT BOUGHT THEM.**

**E. 2 Corinthians 11:13** For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

**FALSE APOSTLES, DECEITFUL WORKERS → SATAN HIMSELF IS TRANSFORMED INTO AN ANGEL OF LIGHT.**

*(My personal thoughts — even in the apostles' own day, people slipped in and twisted the teaching. How much more in our own time, when so much of what is taught is new, has no root in the old word, and is not handled correctly. Something is not true because many people believe it, and not because it is old in the mouths of men. It is true only if it agrees with what the messengers delivered.)*

**2 Timothy 4:3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

**THEY WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE → AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS SHALL THEY HEAP TO THEMSELVES TEACHERS, HAVING ITCHING EARS.**

**1 Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

**IN THE LATTER TIMES SOME SHALL DEPART FROM THE FAITH → GIVING HEED TO SEDUCING SPIRITS, AND DOCTRINES OF DEVILS.**

*(My personal thoughts — and this is exactly that hour: people who will not put up with sound teaching, but gather teachers for themselves by the crowd — as many as will feed the itch of their ears, and tell them what they want to hear. A person can build a whole house of teachers, every one agreeing with him, and every one wrong. The truth was never proven by a majority, never made true by the number who believe it, and never bent to please the ear. Turn away from the truth, and you are turned — the word says it — to fables.)*

**F. 2 Timothy 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**STUDY TO SHEW THYSELF APPROVED → RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.**

**G. Matthew 4:4** But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

**MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE → BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.**

**H. Proverbs 30:5** Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. (6) Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

**EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE → ADD THOU NOT UNTO HIS WORDS.**

*(My personal thoughts — we are not free to pick and choose among God's words, keeping the easy ones and leaving the hard ones. A person lives by EVERY word. To add to it, or to take from it, is to be found a liar before the God who spoke it.)*

## **XII. THE EXAMPLE OF THE THIEF UPON THE CROSS**

*(My personal thoughts — here is the one stone many people rest their whole argument on: the dying thief was saved, they say, and he was never baptized; therefore baptism is not necessary. Let us weigh it now in the light of the word, and see what it really stands on.)*

**A. Luke 23:40** But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? (41) And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. (42) And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. (43) And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

**WE RECEIVE THE DUE REWARD OF OUR DEEDS → LORD, REMEMBER ME → TO DAY SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN PARADISE.**

**B. Matthew 3:5** Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, (6) And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

**JERUSALEM + ALL JUDAEA + ALL THE REGION ROUND ABOUT JORDAN → BAPTIZED OF HIM, CONFESSING THEIR SINS.**

**C. Mark 1:4** John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. (5) And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

**ALL THE LAND OF JUDAEA + THEY OF JERUSALEM → WERE ALL BAPTIZED OF HIM IN JORDAN.**

**D. Luke 7:29** And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. (30) But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

**ALL THE PEOPLE AND THE PUBLICANS WERE BAPTIZED → BUT THE PHARISEES AND LAWYERS, BEING NOT BAPTIZED, REJECTED THE COUNSEL OF GOD.**

**E. Matthew 21:32** For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

**THE PUBLICANS AND THE HARLOTS BELIEVED HIM.**

**F. John 4:1** When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (2) (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

**JESUS MADE AND BAPTIZED MORE DISCIPLES THAN JOHN.**

*(My personal thoughts — now weigh the thief in this light. The word never once says he was not baptized. That is something people assume, and then build a whole doctrine on their own assumption. But listen to what the word DOES say: Jerusalem, and ALL Judea, and all the country around the Jordan went out and were baptized, confessing their sins. The common people and the tax collectors were baptized. The prostitutes believed. Only the Pharisees and the lawyers refused, and were not baptized. The thief was no Pharisee — he was one of the people, a criminal, exactly the kind who crowded to John's baptism of repentance. And on the cross he did the very thing baptism was for: he confessed his sin — we are getting what our deeds deserve. Add to that the fact that the Lord's own disciples baptized even more people than John, all through that land, over more than three years. So the truth is the opposite of the excuse: the word does not lead us to a thief who was never baptized, but to one who almost certainly WAS baptized with the rest. Those who lean on him have leaned on a man who was already washed.)*

**G. Hebrews 9:16** For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. (17) For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

**A TESTAMENT IS OF FORCE AFTER MEN ARE DEAD → OF NO STRENGTH AT ALL WHILE THE TESTATOR LIVETH.**

*(My personal thoughts — and suppose the very worst, that he was never baptized at all: even then he is no rule for you. He died before the new covenant took effect. A will has no force while the one who made it is still alive, and the LORD had not yet died. So the thief was received the way people were received in the old days, before the door of this new covenant was ever opened. And he was nailed to a cross, hand and foot, and could not come down to be baptized. God requires obedience from a person in what they are able to do. What a dying man COULD not do is no excuse for a living man who CAN. You are not nailed to a cross; you can obey.)*

**H. Matthew 7:26** And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: (27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

**HEARETH AND DOETH NOT → BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON THE SAND → AND GREAT WAS THE FALL OF IT.**

*(My personal thoughts — so the whole excuse hangs on an assumption the word never states. It stands against the plain evidence the word does give. That is a house built on the sand, and its fall will be great. But the command stands on the rock, and it has not moved: repent, and be baptized, every one of you.)*

*(My personal thoughts — yet hear even this with reverence, and not with a careless assumption that you already understand it all. Many have assumed, and been wrong. And we who bring you these words do not claim to know everything. We are still learners, and ready to be corrected by the word and by those who were sent. But we dare not change what the messengers plainly said. So examine it for yourself: if we have been wrong, let the word correct us. But be careful that you are not led astray by listening to the voices of men above the voice of the apostles of the Lamb. We look at this particular question in such detail as one example of how you can still believe something even when the Bible seems, on the surface, to be pushing hard the other way. We must rightly divide the word: we cannot add to it, and we cannot take away from it.)*

## THE PRAYER TO RECEIVE HIM

*O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. I have heard the truth, and my heart is cut, and I ask you: what must I do? I believe with all my heart that Jesus Christ died for me and rose again, and I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. I repent — I turn from my sin to you with all my heart. I will be baptized into His name for the forgiveness of my sins, and buried with Him, to live a new life. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, because without the Spirit of Christ I do not belong to you. Keep me: help me continue in the apostles' teaching, the breaking of bread, and the prayers; help me stay joined to Christ as a branch to the vine; help me endure, faithful to the end. Save me, O Lord, and lead me all the way. Amen.*

## 7 QUESTIONS

1. **Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said —**
  - a) Why tarriest thou?
  - b) Men and brethren, what shall we do?
  - c) Shall he live?
2. **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for —**
  - a) the remission of sins
  - b) the answer of a good conscience
  - c) the due reward of our deeds
3. **He came trembling, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. And the same hour of the night he —**
  - a) was sealed unto the day of redemption
  - b) continued in the temple daily
  - c) was baptized, he and all his, straightway
4. **Naaman dipped himself seven times in Jordan, and his flesh came again —**
  - a) as white as snow
  - b) like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean
  - c) after he washed in the rivers of Damascus
5. **Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ —**
  - a) hath not God
  - b) hath both the Father and the Son
  - c) shall receive a crown of life
6. **If any man have not the Spirit of Christ —**
  - a) he is sealed unto the day of redemption
  - b) he shall be baptized with the baptism of John
  - c) he is none of his
7. **A testament is of force —**
  - a) while the testator liveth
  - b) after men are dead
  - c) when the word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth

**ANSWER KEY: 1-b · 2-a · 3-c · 4-b · 5-a · 6-c · 7-b**



*RABBIT-TRAIL — Galatians 3:27 ("baptized into Christ") opens onto the seed of Abraham: "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29).*

*RABBIT-TRAIL — Ephesians 1:14 ("the earnest of the Spirit") opens onto the redemption of the purchased possession — the inheritance itself, and the day the down payment is paid in full.*

*This answer does not rest on one writer's voice alone. Moses, David, Solomon, Isaiah, and Ezekiel stand in it beside Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, and Jude, with Hebrews beside them — twelve witnesses across the Old Testament and the New, all saying the same thing.*

## CLOSING

**Revelation 2:10** Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

**BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH → I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN OF LIFE.**

## GREEK KEYWORDS

**“believe”** — **G4100 pisteuo** — to have faith; to trust; to commit unto

*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved — faith in the heart, before any step is taken.*

**“confess”** — **G3670 homologeo** — to say the same thing; to acknowledge openly

*With the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

**“repent”** — **G3340 metanoeo** — to turn the mind; to repent

*The turning that begins it — not sorrow only, but a mind made new toward God.*

**“be baptized”** — **G907 baptizo** — to wash; to be buried in the water and raised again

*The first act of obedience: buried with Him, and raised to walk in newness of life.*

**“washed”** — **G3068 louo** — to bathe; to wash the whole person

*Washed us from our sins in his own blood.*

**“remission”** — **G859 aphesis** — a sending away; a letting go; forgiveness

*Baptized in the name of Jesus Christ FOR the remission of sins — the sins that are past sent away.*

**“born”** — **G1080 gennao** — to beget; to be born

*Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

**“grace”** — **G5485 charis** — favour; a free gift

*By grace are ye saved through faith — it is the gift of God.*

**“continue steadfastly”** — **G4342 proskartereo** — to continue in; to wait on; to give oneself continually

*The four the first church continued in: the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers.*

**“abide”** — **G3306 meno** — to abide; to remain; to dwell; to continue

*The branch produces fruit only while it remains in the vine.*

**“endure”** — **G5278 hupomeno** — to abide under; to bear up; to endure

*The one who remains faithful to the end will be saved.*

## HEBREW KEYWORDS

**“believed”** — **H539 aman** — to trust; to be firm; to be faithful — the root of the word "amen"

*Abraham believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*

**“clean”** — **H2891 taher** — to be clean; to be pure

*Wash, and be clean — Naaman's flesh came again like the flesh of a little child.*

**“healed”** — **H7495 rapha** — to heal; to make whole

*With his stripes we are healed.*