
“Come, Let Us Reason Together” About the Bible
Understanding Life’s Greatest Questions Through the Bible
Bible Study Series

“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.—(Isaiah 1:18)

LESSON SEVEN

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

Estimated time to read this lesson: 20 minutes

Friend, I’ve been thinking about something really important lately—something I wish more people would talk about openly and from the heart. You know how sometimes life makes us pause and think about what really matters? What is my purpose, where did I come from, and ultimately, where am I going when I die? At the core of all that is this simple but soul-deep question: **“What must I do to be saved?”**

It’s not just a passing thought—it’s the most important question you can ever ask. And thankfully, God didn’t leave you guessing. He gave us His Word, full of guidance, truth, and hope. Let’s talk about it together, like two travelers trying to make sure we’re on the right road.

God’s Plan From the Beginning

Salvation wasn’t an afterthought. Even before the world was formed, God had a plan to redeem mankind, to restore man’s relationship with God. Back in the Old Testament, God gave hints and promises about this plan. Through the prophet Isaiah, God foretold the coming of a Savior:

“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

Isaiah 53 is such a moving picture of Jesus—the one who would suffer in our place. That chapter shows how much God loves us and how far He would go to bring us back to Him.

Jesus: The Fulfillment of God’s Promise

When Jesus came, He didn’t just preach good morals. He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). He made it clear that salvation comes through Him:

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

He said: **“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”** (Mark 16:16)

Jesus wasn’t being harsh—He was being honest. He wants everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), but we must come to Him in the way He laid out.

What Must I Do?

Let's break this down the way the Bible teaches it. Salvation isn't based on feelings or family traditions—it's based on hearing, believing, obeying, and trusting God's Word.

1. Hear the Word of God

Salvation starts when the message of Jesus is heard. You can't believe in what was never heard.

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

This isn't just passive hearing—it's really listening, letting God's Word sink in and opening your heart.

2. Believe His Word

Hearing leads to belief. We must believe that Jesus is who He said He is—the Son of God who died for our sins and rose again.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

“If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” (John 8:24)

Faith isn't just intellectual—it's trust, commitment, and confidence in Christ.

3. Repent of Sins

Once you believe, you begin to realize you've been walking the wrong direction. Repentance means turning around—changing your heart and your life.

“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.” (Acts 17:30)

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...” (Acts 3:19)

God is patient, but He calls for a change of heart—not out of guilt, but because He wants something better for you.

4. Confess That Jesus Christ Is the Son of God

You must openly confess faith in Jesus—not just once, but as a continued way of life.

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32)

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

A beautiful example is the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. When he saw water, he asked what hindered him from being baptized. Philip told him, ***“If you believe with all your heart, you may.”*** And he replied:

“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (Acts 8:37)

5. Be Baptized (Immersed) for the Remission of Sins

This step is so clearly taught in the New Testament. Baptism is where you come into contact with the blood of Christ and receive the forgiveness of sins.

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38)

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

It’s not just a symbol—it’s obedience to God’s command. In baptism, ~~we are~~ one is buried with Christ and raised to walk in newness of life:

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death... even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)

6. Live Faithfully Unto Death

Salvation isn’t just about starting the journey—it’s about staying the course. God calls us to live faithfully, trusting Him day by day.

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10)

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:12)

Living faithfully doesn’t mean being perfect—it means being devoted and obedient to His word. When we stumble, we get back up. We keep walking with Jesus, leaning on His grace, praying, worshiping, serving, and growing.

Baptism: A Saving Act, Like Noah’s Ark

Peter makes a remarkable comparison between baptism and the story of Noah. In that Old Testament account, Noah and his family were saved through water—not by the water itself, but by obeying God’s instructions and entering the ark. That story foreshadowed something greater:

“...when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...” (1 Peter 3:20–21)

Did you catch that? Peter doesn’t say baptism is just a symbol—he says it *“now saves us.”* Just like Noah’s salvation from the flood came through trusting God and obeying, salvation comes when trust in God is enough to do what He says. Baptism is the proper response to His command with a “good conscience”; entrusting yourself to Christ.

Baptism: A Burial and Resurrection

Paul also uses a vivid image to describe baptism: it's a **burial**. Just as Jesus was buried in a tomb for three days and then rose again in victory, so we are spiritually buried in baptism and raised to walk a new life.

“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:3–4)

This is incredibly rich. When you are baptized, you are united with Jesus in His death. Your old sinful self is buried, and you rise up cleansed, reborn, and spiritually alive—just like Jesus rose from the grave.

Paul says something very similar to the Colossians:

“Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12)

Notice: it's not just water—it's *“faith in the working of God.”* God is at work in baptism. He's the one who cleanses us. Baptism isn't a work you do to earn salvation—it's an act of obedient faith through which **God does the saving**.

Baptism: Into Christ and Into His Body

Another important truth: baptism is how you enter *into* Christ. It's not just about joining a church—it's about entering a relationship with Jesus where salvation is found.

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27)

You can't be “in Christ” without baptism. That's where the new life begins. It's like changing clothes—you put off the old man of sin and put on the new man of life in Christ.

And being baptized also brings you into **His body**, the church:

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Baptism and the Forgiveness of Sins

One of the clearest truths taught in the New Testament is this: **baptism is not something one does after sins are forgiven—it is what God commands in order for your sins to be forgiven**. Many today have been taught that baptism is just an outward sign, a symbol of something that has already happened in the heart. But when you look at the Scriptures carefully, something very different becomes apparent.

Consider what Peter told the crowd on the Day of Pentecost, after they were convicted of crucifying the Son of God:

“Then Peter said to them, **‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;** and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 2:38)

Peter did **not** say, “Be baptized because your sins have already been forgiven.” He said baptism is **“for the remission of sins.”** The word “for” in this verse translates the Greek word *eis*, which means “in order to obtain” or “with a view to.” In other words, **baptism is the God-ordained point at which a person receives forgiveness.**

This is seen again in the conversion of Saul (later known as the apostle Paul). After meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul was told to wait in the city for further instruction. Three days later, he was still fasting and praying when Ananias came to him with this urgent command:

“And now why are you waiting? **Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins,** calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

If Saul’s sins had already been forgiven the moment he believed or prayed, Ananias would have had no reason to say this. But the inspired instruction was clear: **baptism was still necessary—his sins had not yet been washed away.**

This truth matters because it lines up with everything else the New Testament teaches about the role of baptism. In baptism:

- One is **buried with Christ** and **raised to walk in newness of life** (Romans 6:3–4).
- One is **baptized into Christ** and **puts on Christ** (Galatians 3:27).
- One is **baptized into one body**—the church (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- One is **saved through baptism**—not by the water itself, but by God’s working through our obedient faith (1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12).

To say that baptism is unnecessary is to misunderstand God’s plan for salvation. Baptism is not a human work to earn anything; it is the **moment of obedient faith** in which **God forgives our sins and makes us new.**

So, if you’re wondering when and how you receive the forgiveness of sins—the Bible makes it unmistakably clear: **it happens when you are baptized into Christ, for the remission of sins.**

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

Why This Matters

Some today may say baptism is just an outward symbol, or that it’s optional—but the Scriptures speak plainly. Baptism is where God draws the line between the old life and the new. It’s when your sins are washed away (*Acts 22:16*), when you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:38*), when you are added to the church by the Lord Himself (*Acts 2:41, 47*), and when you come into contact with the blood of Christ.

Friend, this isn't about being "picky" or legalistic—it's about being faithful. If Jesus died for us, and He said **"He who believes and is baptized will be saved"** (Mark 16:16), why would you delay?

Baptism is not the end of faith—it's the beginning of a new life. Just like Noah stepped into the ark and was saved from a world of sin and destruction, when you step into the waters of baptism in faith, God saves you and -adopts you into His family.

Baptism: The Urgency Seen in the Ethiopian Eunuch

In Acts 8, God sends Philip, a gospel preacher, to a man traveling along a desert road—an official from Ethiopia who had come to Jerusalem to worship. As the eunuch is reading the prophet Isaiah (specifically Isaiah 53, which speaks about the suffering of the Messiah), he's confused about who Isaiah is talking about.

Philip joins him in the chariot and explains:

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him." (Acts 8:35)

What happens next is remarkable. As they're traveling, they come across some water, and the eunuch speaks up immediately:

"Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?'" (Acts 8:36)

That's the right question! Philip doesn't tell him to wait, think it over for a few weeks, or go home and pray about it. He simply answers:

"If you believe with all your heart, you may."

And the eunuch replied, **"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."** (Acts 8:37)

Then what did they do?

"So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him." (Acts 8:38)

Friend, this man had just heard the good news. He saw the water. He didn't wait. He didn't say, "Maybe next Sunday." He didn't ask for a crowd to be present. He didn't worry about having a robe or dry clothes. He *acted—immediately*. That's because he understood what was at stake: salvation, forgiveness, a new beginning.

Why Wait to Be Baptized?

That same question echoes down today: **"What hinders me from being baptized?"**

Why wait to be baptized?

Why put off the moment that washes away your sins (Acts 22:16)?

Why delay putting on Christ (Galatians 3:27)?

Why walk another step outside the ark of salvation, when the door is open?

The eunuch shows us how *urgency* and *obedience* go hand in hand when the heart is convicted.

“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Tomorrow isn’t promised. Salvation isn’t something to schedule—it’s something to seize.

Do It Now!

So if you're thinking about being baptized, or if your heart is stirred by God's Word—don't wait. Let's do it now.

That water of obedience isn't magical—but what God does through it is miraculous. He forgives. He adds you to His church. He makes you new.

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” (Acts 2:41)

They didn't delay. Neither should you

So, what hinders you? Here is water. ~~Let's~~ Do it now.

Heaven is too good to miss—and the journey starts when you step into Christ through baptism.

Heaven Will Be Too Good to Miss

Friend, I know life gets busy. But don't let this question slip to the back of your mind. Heaven is real—and so is eternity. The Bible says:

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Can you imagine it? A place with no pain, no death, no sorrow—just the presence of God, joy beyond words, and reunion with the faithful.

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:4)

I want to be there. I want you to be there. And the good news is—you can be. The invitation is open. Jesus is calling. Will you answer?

Walk this road together with the saved.—Hold fast to what's true. And one day, meet with fellow Christians around God's throne, in a place too good to miss.

Questions to Confirm Understanding

Estimated time to answer these questions: 10 – 15 minutes; with scripture lookup: 45 minutes

Answer the following questions by circling True / False. Look up the scripture references given to determine the answers, or refer to the discussion. An answer key with explanations of the correct answers is provided below.

1. Hearing the Word of God is necessary to develop faith. (Romans 10:17) – **True | False**
2. A person can believe in Jesus without hearing the gospel. (Romans 10:14) – **True | False**
3. God commands all people to repent. (Acts 17:30) – **True | False**
4. Repentance is the same as just feeling sorry. (2 Corinthians 7:10) – **True | False**
5. Belief in Jesus Christ is optional for salvation. (John 8:24) – **True | False**
6. Faith is required to please God. (Hebrews 11:6) – **True | False**
7. Salvation can be found in someone other than Jesus. (John 14:6) – **True | False**
8. Confessing Jesus as the Son of God is part of being saved. (Romans 10:9–10; Acts 8:37) – **True | False**
9. The Ethiopian eunuch confessed his faith before being baptized. (Acts 8:37) – **True | False**
10. Baptism is described as necessary for salvation. (1 Peter 3:21) – **True | False**
11. Baptism is symbolic only and not connected to forgiveness of sins. (Acts 2:38) – **True | False**
12. Paul was told to be baptized to wash away his sins. (Acts 22:16) – **True | False**
13. Baptism unites us with Christ in His death and resurrection. (Romans 6:3–4) – **True | False**
14. Baptism is like when Noah and his family were saved through water. (1 Peter 3:20–21) – **True | False**
15. The Ethiopian eunuch delayed baptism until he returned home. (Acts 8:38) – **True | False**
16. Baptism puts us into Christ. (Galatians 3:27) – **True | False**
17. A person becomes part of Christ’s church through baptism. (Acts 2:41, 47) – **True | False**
18. Jesus never said anything about baptism and salvation. (Mark 16:16) – **True | False**
19. Baptism must be delayed until someone knows the entire Bible. (Acts 8:35–38) – **True | False**
20. God adds the saved to His church. (Acts 2:47) – **True | False**
21. Being baptized is the final step; faithful living is not required. (Revelation 2:10) – **True | False**
22. We must remain faithful to Christ until death to receive eternal life. (Revelation 2:10) – **True | False**

23. Christians are promised a crown of life if they endure trials. (James 1:12) – **True | False**
 24. The steps to salvation in the New Testament are: hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized, live faithfully. – **True | False**
 25. A person can be saved without repenting or confessing Christ. (Acts 17:30; Romans 10:9–10) – **True | False**
 26. The Bible teaches there is urgency in responding to the gospel. (Acts 22:16) – **True | False**
 27. Salvation should be accepted with urgency, not delayed for convenience. (Acts 8:36–38; Acts 22:16) – **True | False**
 28. Confession must be made publicly before baptism. (Acts 8:37; Matthew 10:32) – **True | False**
 29. A faithful Christian must continue learning and growing in Christ. (2 Peter 3:18) – **True | False**
 30. Heaven is a promised reward for those who obey and remain faithful. (Revelation 2:10) – **True | False**
 31. Baptism is where God grants the forgiveness of sins—not after, but during the act of obedient faith. (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16) – **True | False**
 32. Peter taught that people should be baptized because their sins were already forgiven. (Acts 2:38) – **True | False**
 33. Saul (Paul) was told to pray for forgiveness instead of being baptized. (Acts 22:16) – **True | False**
 34. Baptism is part of God’s plan, not a human work to earn salvation. (Colossians 2:12) – **True | False**
 35. According to the Bible, baptism is not necessary in order to have sins forgiven. (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16) – **True | False**
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 **Answer Key**

Estimated time to read the answers: 10 – 12 minutes; with reflection and contemplation: 25 – 30 minutes

1. Hearing the Word of God is necessary to develop faith. – **True**
“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)
Faith begins with exposure to the message of Christ.
2. A person can believe in Jesus without hearing the gospel. – **False**
“How then shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?” (Romans 10:14)
No one can believe in something they haven't heard about.

3. God commands all people to repent. – **True**
“God... now commands all men everywhere to repent.” (Acts 17:30)
 Repentance is a universal command—not optional.
4. Repentance is the same as just feeling sorry. – **False**
“Godly sorrow produces repentance...” (2 Corinthians 7:10)
 True repentance includes action and change, not just emotion.
5. Belief in Jesus Christ is optional for salvation. – **False**
“If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” (John 8:24)
 Faith in Jesus is essential to avoid spiritual death.
6. Faith is required to please God. – **True**
“But without faith it is impossible to please Him...” (Hebrews 11:6)
 No one can come to God without believing in Him.
7. Salvation can be found in someone other than Jesus. – **False**
“No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)
 Jesus is the only way to eternal life.
8. Confessing Jesus as the Son of God is part of being saved. – **True**
“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus... you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)
 Confession is required for salvation.
9. The Ethiopian eunuch confessed his faith before being baptized. – **True**
“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (Acts 8:37)
 Confession preceded his baptism.
10. Baptism is described as necessary for salvation. – **True**
“There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism...” (1 Peter 3:21)
 Baptism is directly connected to salvation.
11. Baptism is symbolic only and not connected to forgiveness of sins. – **False**
“Be baptized... for the remission of sins.” (Acts 2:38)
 It is the moment sins are forgiven.
12. Paul was told to be baptized to wash away his sins. – **True**
“Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins...” (Acts 22:16)
 Baptism was the moment of cleansing.
13. Baptism unites us with Christ in His death and resurrection. – **True**
“We were buried with Him through baptism...” (Romans 6:4)
 It pictures a burial and resurrection.
14. Baptism is like when Noah and his family were saved through water. – **True**
“...eight souls, were saved through water... baptism now saves us...” (1 Peter 3:20–21)
 Noah’s story is a type of Christian baptism.

15. The Ethiopian eunuch delayed baptism until he returned home. – **False**
“They went down into the water, and he baptized him.” (Acts 8:38)
He responded immediately.
16. Baptism puts us into Christ. – **True**
“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27)
We enter Christ through baptism.
17. A person becomes part of Christ’s church through baptism. – **True**
“And that day about three thousand souls were added...” (Acts 2:41, 47)
God adds the saved to His church through baptism.
18. Jesus never said anything about baptism and salvation. – **False**
“He who believes and is baptized will be saved.” (Mark 16:16)
Jesus included baptism in the salvation process.
19. Baptism must be delayed until someone knows the entire Bible. – **False**
“Beginning at this Scripture, [Philip] preached Jesus...” (Acts 8:35–38)
Understanding the gospel was sufficient.
20. God adds the saved to His church. – **True**
“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)
It is God's action, not man’s doing. You do not “join” the church.
21. Being baptized is the final step; faithful living is not required. – **False**
“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10)
Ongoing faithfulness and obedience to His word is required.
22. We must remain faithful to Christ until death to receive eternal life. – **True**
“Be faithful until death...” (Revelation 2:10)
Faithfulness brings reward.
23. Christians are promised a crown of life if they endure trials. – **True**
“He will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised...” (James 1:12)
Endurance is part of Christian living.
24. The steps to salvation in the New Testament are: hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized, live faithfully. – **True**
Various passages
All are biblically supported steps toward salvation.
25. A person can be saved without repenting or confessing Christ. – **False**
“Repent... Confess with your mouth...” (Acts 17:30; Romans 10:9)
Repentance and confession are essential.
26. The Bible teaches there is urgency in responding to the gospel. – **True**
“Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized...” (Acts 22:16)
Salvation is too important to delay.

27. Salvation should be accepted with urgency, not delayed for convenience. – **True**
“Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’” (Acts 8:36)
“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins...” (Acts 22:16)
 Both the Ethiopian eunuch and Paul were baptized without delay. The New Testament repeatedly emphasizes responding to the gospel immediately because salvation is too important to postpone.
28. Confession must be made publicly before baptism. – **True**
“Whoever confesses Me before men...” (Matthew 10:32)
 Public acknowledgment is part of obedient faith.
29. A faithful Christian must continue learning and growing in Christ. – **True**
“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord...” (2 Peter 3:18)
 Growth is part of living faithfully.
30. Heaven is a promised reward for those who obey and remain faithful. – **True**
“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10)
 Heaven is the reward for the obedient and faithful.
31. Baptism is where God grants the forgiveness of sins—not after, but during the act of obedient faith. – **True**
“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38)
“Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins...” (Acts 22:16)
 Scripture shows forgiveness comes **in baptism**, not before.
32. Peter taught that people should be baptized because their sins were already forgiven. – **False**
“...be baptized... for the remission of sins.” (Acts 2:38)
 Peter taught that baptism is **for** (in order to receive) the forgiveness of sins—not because it has already occurred.
33. Saul (Paul) was told to pray for forgiveness instead of being baptized. – **False**
“Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins...” (Acts 22:16)
 Though Saul prayed for three days (Acts 9:9,11), he was still in sin until he was baptized.
34. Baptism is part of God’s plan, not a human work to earn salvation. – **True**
“...through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12)
 Baptism is an act of **faith** in what **God** is doing—not a work of merit by man.
35. According to the Bible, baptism is not necessary in order to have sins forgiven. – **False**
“He who believes and is baptized will be saved.” (Mark 16:16)
“Repent and be baptized... for the remission of sins.” (Acts 2:38)
 God’s word consistently teaches that **baptism precedes forgiveness**.

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