

What is Salvation?

Being saved from eternal death.

Being saved from eternal separation from God.

Being saved from eternal punishment.

Being saved from spending eternity in hell where Jesus said, there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth where the fire is never quenched and the worm dieth not.

There are three steps in God's salvation.

Apostle Peter first reveals the three steps of salvation on the day of Pentecost in the book of Acts 2:38

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 **you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

Step 1...repentance

Step 2...baptism in Jesus name

Step 3...receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost

This evening I want to speak to you about the importance of **step 1** of the **plan of God's salvation.**

What is **repentance?** Asking God to **forgive** you of **all** your sins. For if we do not do the first step then step 2 water baptism in Jesus name will not have any effect on you, because you **failed to do step 1.** You **failed to die out to sin** through repentance therefore God does not recognize your baptism nor will He, "God" fulfill His promise of step 3 of filling you with the gift of the Holy Ghost; which is the gift of Eternal Life in Him.

So we see Step 1; repentance is all important!!!!

Church God has commandments that we must obey in order for Him to accept our repentance.

Jesus spoke and commanded in the book of **Matthew 6:9-15** **After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.**

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

After this manner therefore pray, forgive us our debts or sins as we forgive our debtors; or those who have sinned against us or wronged us.

For if you forgive men their trespasses against you then your Heavenly Father will also forgive you your trespasses against Him.

But if you forgive not men their trespasses against you then neither will your Heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses or sins.

So you see, true repentance also includes your forgiving everyone else their sins against you.

This is an unchangeable commandment that God requires of you to be saved! If you refuse to do this from your very heart, sincerely, then doing step 2 in God's plan of salvation will be in vain to you. God will not honor it and you will never receive step 3 God's gift of the Holy Ghost—and you will die in your sins and you will wake up in hell, and you will be punished and separated from God's love for all eternity!!

But beware Church! For when you *think you stand* lest you fall. In order to remain saved we all as Christians must continue to obey God's Word lest we fall short of the promise.

Mark 11:25-26 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Jesus commanded His followers, “ And when you stand praying, forgive” We are commanded by God to “Forgive” or else God will not forgive us that we have committed after being saved.

Matthew 5:23-24 reads, Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar;

1. Our gift of repentance
2. Our gift of thanksgiving
3. Our gift of praise
4. Our gift of worship
5. Our gift of love

And there we remember that a brother or sister has--ought against us—not that we have anything against them, Jesus still command us as Christians to leave our gift at the altar and seek out our brother and sister and be reconciled to one another, forgive one another—then come and give your gift to God.

Galatians 5:14-15 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

(Verse 14) The law is fulfilled in this thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

(Verse 15) But if you bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed (destroyed) one of another.

Finally Church; Jesus Himself gives us His own example.

Jesus never asks anymore of us than He Himself was willing to give or do!

Luke 23: 33-34 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

34 Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Jesus cried, Father forgive them for they know not what they do!

Even as they were killing Him, Jesus forgave them.

God will accept no less from YOU!

Do you want to be saved?

Do you want to stay saved?

Then repent and forgive one another!!!

