

SIMPLE, PART THREE

Isaiah 35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

The gospel message is SIMPLE! Getting saved is SIMPLE!

1 John 5:6-8 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

Paul said that the gospel has THREE ELEMENTS ...

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ **died** for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was **buried**, and that he **rose again** the third day according to the scriptures:

Therefore, the ORIGINAL ALTAR CALL of the New Testament Church contains ALL THREE ELEMENTS of salvation (blood, water, Spirit) ...

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

REPENTANCE is a “**turning around**” or an “**about face**” – an inward change of **attitude** leading to an outward change of **action**. When I repent, I apply the **DEATH** of Jesus Christ to my life.

BAPTISM is the “legal application” of God’s **COVENANT** to my life, where I have the **NAME OF JESUS** invoked over me. When I am baptized, I apply the **BURIAL** of Jesus Christ to my life.

Colossians 2:11-12 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 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.

Galatians 3:27-29 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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.

This is why there is no such thing in your Bible as a Christian who was not baptized. This is why there are no “delayed baptisms” in your Bible. And this is why baptism in Jesus’ name is ESSENTIAL for salvation!

- In the Old Testament – no circumcision, no covenant!
- In the New Testament – no baptism, no covenant!

ONCE ISRAEL CROSSED THE RED SEA, PHARAOH AND THE ARMIES OF EGYPT COULDN'T GET THROUGH THE WATER!

- The devil cannot LEGALLY bring up your past.
- God declares that He has FORGOTTEN your past.
- Only YOU can choose to go back to your past!

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the **cloud**, and all passed through the **sea**; And were all baptized unto Moses in the **cloud** and in the **sea**; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

There were TWO BAPTISMS for Israel – a BAPTISM BY WATER (“through the sea”) and a BAPTISM BY SPIRIT (“under the cloud”). Both baptisms were necessary – for THEM and for US.

John 3:3, 5 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God ... Jesus answered, 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.

Baptism puts me in Christ – the Holy Ghost puts Christ in me!

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Man is a three-part being ... **BODY, SOUL (MIND) AND SPIRIT** ... and **DEATH** entered all three parts of man when we fell into sin in Eden.

- The **SPIRIT** lost its connection with God’s Spirit – it was **EMPTY**
- The **SOUL (MIND)** became subject to sinful passions and lusts, and was left in control by default with no “spirit connection”
- The **BODY** became subject to sickness and pain, just a tool to act out the passions and lusts of the **MIND**, and ultimately to **DIE**

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

This is another reason there are THREE STEPS in God's salvation plan – because every part of man's being must come back into obedience and relationship with God, reversing the effects of sin.

- The SOUL (MIND) makes the decision to REPENT
- The BODY submits itself to BAPTISM
- The SPIRIT is filled with the HOLY GHOST and reconnected to God's Spirit – no longer empty, because God is living in us!

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today we want to talk about this final step in God's salvation plan. It is different than the first two steps, because repentance and baptism are something YOU DO because of your faith and obedience. Receiving the Holy Ghost, however, is something GOD DOES in response to that.

WHEN I RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST, I APPLY THE RESURRECTION POWER OF JESUS CHRIST TO MY LIFE.

The first time anyone ever received the Holy Ghost was on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, but it was prophesied long before that ...

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.

PROPHESIED BY ISAIAH:

Isaiah 28:11-12 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

ISAIAH CONFIRMED BY PAUL:

1 Corinthians 14:21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

PROPHESIED BY JOEL:

Joel 2:28-29 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

JOEL CONFIRMED BY PETER:

Acts 2:16-18 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

PROPHESIED BY JOHN THE BAPTIST:

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

JOHN THE BAPTIST CONFIRMED BY JESUS:

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

PROPHESIED BY JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF:

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 14:16-18 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:7-8 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

JESUS CONFIRMED BY PETER ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST:

Acts 2:32-33 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

THE HOLY GHOST IS FOR EVERYONE! IT IS FOR YOU!

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.

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.

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

THE EVIDENCE OF RECEIVING THE HOLY GHOST IS THAT YOU WILL DO SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL – SPEAKING IN TONGUES!

Every Christian in your Bible received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and spoke in other tongues at the moment of their infilling (“initial evidence”):

- When the church began on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).
- For our dear Catholic friends, both Peter and Mary the mother of Jesus were in the Upper Room and spoke in tongues (Acts 1:13-14).
- Simon the Sorcerer saw “evidence” when the Samaritans received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost by laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-20).
- Cornelius’ household, who were gentiles, spoke with other tongues when they received the Holy Ghost (Acts 10:44-48).
- Paul had this experience (Acts 9:17-18), for he spoke with tongues more than anyone in the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 14:18).
- Believers who had only experienced John’s baptism were re-baptized and spoke with tongues (Acts 19:1-6).

Remember that it is IMPOSSIBLE for God to fill people with His Spirit when they refuse to YIELD. No one can be filled with SELF and GOD at the same time. Neither can two languages be spoken at once. Since God will not take your vocabulary away, you must VOLUNTARILY yield yourself to His control. **GOD does not speak in tongues – PEOPLE speak in tongues as His Spirit gives the words.** What an incredible experience it is to surrender completely to God and let Him fill us!

FIRST BELIEVE ... THEN RECEIVE! It really is that SIMPLE!

Acts 19:2 Have ye **received** the Holy Ghost since ye **believed**?