

Examples from the Book of Acts

Notice what people were told about how to become a Christian and what they did in obedience to the commands.

Acts 2:38, 41—*Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

Acts 8:12-13—¹² *But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³ Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.*

Acts 8:35-38—³⁵ *Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.*

Acts 16:30-33—³⁰ *He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.*

Acts 18:8—*Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.*

Acts 22:14-16—¹⁴ *“Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. ¹⁵ You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’”*

- Are you ready to express your faith through repentance, confession and baptism?

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Seeking God

Searching for truth and meaning in the Bible

Study #9: Becoming a Disciple of Jesus

This study will answer the question: So what does a person do who has decided they want to become a follower of Jesus?

- The Bible shows that a person's response includes all these things happening in concert: faith, repentance, confession and baptism.

Faith

Read John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- How is faith or belief more than just something we think?

Read Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because any one who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

- Why is it impossible to please God without faith?

Confession

Read Romans 10:9-10

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

- How do faith and confession go hand in hand?

Read Matthew 10:32

Jesus said, "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven."

- In what ways should we acknowledge Jesus before others?

Repentance

Read Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

- What does it mean for a person to repent?

Read Acts 17:30-31

"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

- Why is repentance so important?

Baptism

Read Acts 2:38-39

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

- What do repentance and baptism accomplish?

Read Mark 16:16

Jesus said, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

- Why does Jesus say that a person who believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned?

Read Romans 6:3-4

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

- How is baptism a burial into Jesus?
- What is significant about the fact that the Greek word *Baptizo* was transliterated to the English word "Baptism" rather than translated to the real meaning of the Greek word which is "to dip, plunge or immerse"?
- What does this suggest about the proper mode for baptism?