



# FOLLOW HIM

Four Lesson Bible Study

The New Birth, Repentance, Baptism, and  
the Gift of the Holy Spirit explained.



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## Special Thanks To:

*Michele Jones*

*For spending hours putting a bunch of red lines through this document so that you would have a fighting chance at understanding what I was trying to convey.*

*J. Stanley Davidson*

*For allowing me to use the concept of "The Two Mysteries" that I learned from him in this study. I learned almost everything I know about the Bible growing up in his church. I highly recommend his book "[The Art Gallery](#)".*

## Dedicated To:

*Troy L. Horton*

*My Grandfather. A Christian. A preacher.  
The reason I know the Gospel.*

# Follow Him

*Living Like Jesus*

## Introduction

Key Verse: Matthew 16:24 (CSB)

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*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and **follow me.**"*

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What is the Gospel Truth?

If someone asked you to explain the Gospel could you do it? The word "Gospel" simply means: "The Good News."

But what is "The Good News"?

Perhaps the best place to find the answer to this question is in the first letter to the Corinthian church. The Apostle Paul explains exactly what the "Good News" is. He tells us about how Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and then was resurrected (1 Cor. 15:3-4). This is truly good news!

Let's Read It:

*(Read 1 Cor. 15:1-4)*

Paul goes on to say that Jesus was seen by many witnesses after His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:5-8). Then Paul teaches that because Christ rose again, we too shall also rise again (1 Cor. 15:22-23). Isn't that good news?

## Response Required

Once you believe in the Gospel, you are compelled to respond. It isn't enough to just hear the Gospel and then continue down the same path that you were heading down before you heard this good news. This is not ordinary news. This is life-altering news. Don't take my word for it. Look at our key verse again in Matthew 16:24.

How can I follow Jesus?

Can I die, be buried and rise again too?

Jesus plainly tells us that if we want to follow Him, we have to deny **OUR**-selves and take up **OUR** cross. Just like He took up **HIS** cross. This Bible Study will show you how to follow Jesus through 4 major intersections in the life of Jesus.

1. Birth
2. Death
3. Burial
4. Resurrection

### Followers in Name Only

Jesus doesn't expect us to take up a physical cross and die a physical death in order to follow Him. This is a spiritual thing. There are many "followers" of Jesus that are followers only in name. They acknowledge the Gospel, but they do not take up their own cross to follow Him. Why not? Because to do so requires one to die to his old sinful life: to change and become more Christ-like. Many people are not willing to do this, so they talk the talk, but they don't walk the walk.

In the next 4 lessons I'll show you how to properly **respond to the Gospel** and what it truly means to **"Follow Him"**. We're going to start with His birth and emulate the life of Jesus each step of the way. We will find out what it means to take up our cross and **live like Jesus**.

### Truth vs. Tradition

It is very important to understand what the source for this Bible Study is before we get much further. It may seem obvious that the source is the Bible. However, there are some Bible teachers that will intermingle traditions and customs into their Bible teaching. This Bible Study will not do this. Whenever scripture is in conflict with a tradition, it is scripture that should always prevail. There is no creed, statement of faith, church bylaw, prophecy, or sermon that can overrule what the Bible says.

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*Ga 1:6-9 I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! 9 As we have said before, I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him! (CSB)*

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### Reading the Bible in Context

One common mistake in studying a particular subject of the Bible is to take one verse out of

context without considering any other scripture about the same subject. For example, if one verse says that you need to love one another, and another verse in a totally different book of the Bible says that you need to love God, then it would be wrong to teach that you only need to love God and no one else.

This may sound simple, but I've seen many teachers make this same mistake when it comes to the subject of salvation. It is common to use John 3:16 to teach that a person needs to believe in Jesus to be saved, but then totally disregard Mark 16:16 where Jesus said that if you believe and are baptized you will be saved. To teach salvation properly, you need to use both John 3:16 and Mark 16:16 together along with all other scripture on this subject.

## Lesson One: The Birth

Our first step in following Jesus starts at the beginning of life. Around 2000 years ago Jesus was born miraculously to a virgin named Mary. If you're hearing this then I suspect you were born one day too. You probably celebrate that birthday every year. In this lesson, we are going to talk about another kind of birth. This birth is not a natural birth; it is a spiritual one. You may also hear this referred to as "the new birth" or as being "born again".

What is this "New Birth"?

Is it required?

How is it accomplished?

I will answer these questions and more in this first lesson. Make no mistake about it. These are some of the most important questions you could ever ask.

Let's start by reading John 3.

*(Read John 3:1-16)*

### Spiritual vs. Natural Birth

When Jesus first talks to Nicodemus about being born again, Nicodemus is confused. I don't blame him. Being born again was a novel concept, so it is not difficult to see how Nicodemus might think Jesus was referring to a natural birth. This was the only kind of birth there was up until this point.

Nicodemus asked if he could go back into his mother's womb a second time to be reborn, which was a clear indication that he was thinking about a natural birth and not a spiritual one. Jesus responds in John 3:5-6 to clarify that he is referring to a spiritual rebirth.

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*John 3:6* **Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.** (CSB)

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### Why We Need to be Born Again?

Our natural birth came from the first man Adam and the first woman Eve. Way back in the book of Genesis, you'll find that Adam and Eve committed the first sin in paradise when they ate the forbidden fruit. A result of that sin was a set of curses. The man, woman, Earth, and the serpent were all cursed. Every person born since that time has been subjected to these curses. Every person except Jesus. David said it best:

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*Psalms 51:5* **Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me** (CSB)

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The Garden of Eden was a perfect place with everything that Adam and Eve needed. They were allowed to eat from any tree in the garden: any tree except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It would have been simple for God to just not create that tree, but then why create man? Because a man with no free will is almost the same as an angel. God already had angels that had no choice but to worship Him. God longed for a relationship with someone, and since relationships are built on choice, God created you and I with free will. He also created us to desire relationships just like He does. We were made in His image after all.

You can't force a relationship to happen. It must be mutual, or it isn't a relationship at all. That's why **the tree had to be there. The tree was mankind's other choice.**

The moment Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, their eyes were opened. They were no longer innocent. They lost their immortality. They severed their relationship with their creator. Fortunately, God made a way for us to regain all that was lost...if we **follow Him.**

### Lost Innocence, Immortality, and Relationship

Three things were lost in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve Sinned.

1. Innocence – They knew they were naked.
2. Immortality – They no longer lived forever.
3. Their relationship with God – They had to leave the garden, and the presence of God.

The first thing Adam and Eve lost was innocence because of their sin. Eating the forbidden fruit was a blatant act of rebellion against God and a deliberate act of disobedience. This is called sin. When sin entered this world, Adam and Eve lost their innocence, and all mankind inherited the curse of sin. As a result, no person except Jesus has ever lived without sin.

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*Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; (CSB)*

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Anyone who decides to follow Jesus Christ must first understand that they are a sinner. We can find some comfort in knowing that we are not alone in this. Every person on Earth is a sinner and we all have fallen short of God's glory. We have all tasted that forbidden fruit. Once you accept that you have a sin issue, the next step is taking care of the issue.

The Bible tells us that sin comes at a cost. The second thing Adam and Eve lost was their immortality when they sinned. Likewise, every time we sin, we deserve death.

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*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (CSB)*

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This is a cost that no one can actually pay. If you had to die every time you sinned, you wouldn't be here. No one would. Thankfully, there is One that could pay this price for us: Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins.

The third thing Adam and Eve lost in the Garden was their relationship with God. The Bible tells us that God walked with Adam often in the Garden. Yet, after Adam sinned, God came looking for Adam and could not find him. How is this possible? God is all-knowing. He is omnipresent. How did he "lose" Adam? When Adam sinned, he completely severed his relationship with God. Likewise, when we sin, we are not connected to God either.

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*2 Corinthians 6:14 ...For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? (CSB)*

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*Romans 8:6 Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not*



*submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (CSB)*

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This is perhaps the greatest thing that mankind lost. This was the whole reason for our creation; To be in a relationship with our Creator. If you want this back, you must follow Jesus. The gate is straight, and the road is narrow, but the destination is worth it.

## The New Birth

Now that we've fully explored the natural birth from Adam and the sin that came with it, let's dive deeper into the new birth, the spiritual birth. For this, we need to go back to the story of Nicodemus in John chapter 3.

According to Jesus, to be born again a second time, you **MUST** be born of the water and the Spirit. This is so important that Jesus uses the word "must" in verse 7. He also says that if you want to **see** or **enter** the Kingdom of God (Heaven), you must be born again in verse 3 and verse 5.

Being born again is not optional. Jesus said we **MUST**.  
Being born again requires **water** and **Spirit**.  
What does that mean?

Let's look at what else Jesus says about this topic a few chapters later, and then we will see how the disciples executed this teaching.

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*John 7:38 The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him." He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified. (CSB)*

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So, Jesus tells the disciples that after He is Glorified, the disciples will be able to experience rivers of living water, which John says is referring to the Holy Spirit. This experience could not happen until after Jesus was glorified.

Let's break this down some more.

Jesus was glorified when He ascended to Heaven after his resurrection -- meaning He received a Glorified body. One that is no longer subject to death and decay from age or disease. The Bible teaches us that we will also have a glorified body when we get to Heaven.

To fully understand what Jesus was talking about in John 7:38, we need to see what His instructions to the disciples were right before He was glorified.

*(Read Acts 1:1-12)*

In verse 4, Jesus promises the disciples that they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days. They stood and watched Jesus ascend to Heaven, and then were commanded by two angels to go to Jerusalem just like Jesus told them to do in verse 4. So, they did just that. They went to Jerusalem and waited for about 10 days. Then, just as Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came after he was glorified.

*(Read Acts 2:1-4)*

On the Day of Pentecost (50 days after Passover when Jesus was crucified) the Holy Spirit fell on 120 people who were praying in an upper room and waiting for Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit to come. When the Holy Spirit fell on them, the Bible says that they all spoke in languages that they could not have learned, and it was the Spirit of God that gave them that ability. This is often referred to as "speaking in tongues." We will talk more about this experience in Lesson 4, but the important thing to recognize is that everything happened just like Jesus said it would; the Holy Spirit came after Jesus was glorified.

When the Holy Spirit fell, a crowd started gathering and questioning what was happening. The Bible says that Peter stood up and preached a message about Jesus. He first explains to them that what they were seeing, and hearing was a fulfillment of an Old Testament prophecy in Joel 2:28, in which God said that He would pour out His Spirit on all flesh.

Peter then preached the Gospel message just like we read it earlier in 1 Corinthians 15. He told the people about how Jesus came, did miracles, was crucified, and then was resurrected from death. Peter then told them that Jesus was the son and heir of David, and that God had made Jesus both Lord and Christ. Christ is a Greek word meaning Anointed One. It is the equivalent of the Hebrew word Messiah. The Jews had been waiting for the Messiah for hundreds of years. So you can imagine the devastation they must have felt when Peter told them that not only was Jesus the Messiah they had been waiting for, but that they had crucified Him.

Let's read what happens at the end of this marvelous message.

*(Read Acts 2:36-37)*

Acts 2:37 says that they were "pierced to the heart," and they asked Peter, "What shall we **DO?**"

Remember, the Gospel requires a response. You can't just hear about Jesus and how he died for your sins, believe in that truth, and then simply acknowledge that it is a great story. You need to ask, "What should I **DO** with this information?" It should move you to a response.

The people who witnessed the Holy Spirit fall, and then heard Peter's sermon about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, did not ask, what shall we say, or what shall we think, or what shall we believe. They asked:

### What shall we **DO**?

Now, at this point in time the disciples had full authority from God to say anything in response to that question, so it is just as important to recognize what Peter did not say they should do as what he did say they should do. Peter didn't say, "simply believe what I've told you." He didn't say, "repeat this sinner's prayer after me." He also didn't say, "raise your hand and acknowledge that Jesus is your personal Lord and Savior." All of those are good things, but it wasn't what Peter said to do when you hear the Gospel. Here's what he said.

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*Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (CSB)*

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In short, Peter said the proper response to hearing the Gospel is that you should:

1. Repent,
2. Be Baptized in Jesus' name, and
3. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

The two elements from John 3:5 were **water** and **Spirit**. Jesus said that if you are not born of the **water** and the **Spirit**, you can't see or enter Heaven. Peter then preached that everyone needed to be baptized in **water** and filled with the **Spirit** once they hear the Gospel and repent.

Some will say this experience in Acts chapter 2 was not for everyone. I beg to differ. Read Acts 2:39 to see this lie disproved.

### Conclusion

To truly follow Him, we must first experience the "New Birth." The New Birth (i.e. being born of water and of the Spirit) is an important step in following Jesus. However, before we can be reborn, we must first die. I know that may sound scary, but we are not talking about a natural



## Lesson Two: The Death

The death of Jesus is undoubtedly the most well-known event in the history of the world. All 2.4 billion Christians know about it, and almost everyone that is not a Christian has heard about it too. There is a reason for this. God planned this before the world was formed.

### Two Mysteries

In order for us to follow Him, we too must die to our old sinful life. To understand how we must do this, we will first look at two mysteries: the mystery of **iniquity** and the mystery of **godliness**.

#### The Mystery of Iniquity

The mystery of iniquity is mentioned in 2 Thessalonians 2:4. Paul tells us about how Satan will inhabit a man called the Antichrist and plans to do what he has always tried to do. Be God.

The very first sin was when one of God's angels called Lucifer tried to lift himself up to be greater than God. Because of this sin, Lucifer and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all the angles were cast out of Heaven. The next time we hear about Lucifer, he has taken the form of a serpent in the Garden of Eden. He then tries to get God's creation to do the same thing he tried to do – become like God. Let's read it.

*(Read Genesis 3:1-5)*

Notice the promise that the serpent makes to Eve. He tells her that she will be like God. This is the mystery of iniquity: man sinning and disobeying God's commands in order to be his own God. Iniquity is another word for sin, but it means lawlessness. Iniquity in its simplest form is disobeying God's laws or commands.

God told Adam and Eve not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. When they broke that law to become like a god, they were partaking in the mystery of iniquity. Lucifer tried this in Heaven, and he will try it again one day on Earth in the last days. Until that happens, he tempts each of us to do the same: to forsake God's laws and be our own god – The mystery of iniquity.

#### The Cost of Sin

We mentioned in the previous lesson that sin comes at a price.

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*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (CSB)*

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When Adam and Eve sinned, the Bible tells us that God made coats of skins for Adam and Eve because they were now able to see that they were naked, and they were ashamed. This was the first blood that was shed to cover sin. From this point forward, there would always need to be a substitute sacrifice required to pay for mankind's sins. This is because it was God's law that the payment for sin was death. The problem was the blood of animals was not sufficient to break the curse of sin forever. It was only a temporary solution.

*(Read Hebrews 9:13-15)*

The Mystery of Godliness

Since the blood of bulls and goats was only a temporary solution, God became the ultimate sacrifice to give us eternal life. God did this by becoming a man.

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*1Timothy 3:16 And most certainly, the mystery of godliness is great: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. (CSB)*

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The mystery of iniquity is when **man tries to become God**.

The mystery of godliness is when **God became a man**.

This was God's plan all along. I'll show you in John chapter 1.

*(Read John 1:1-4)*

The word "Word" in this passage means a plan, idea, or thought. So, you can read it as, God had a plan in the very beginning and that plan was a part of everything He created (John 1:3).

What was this plan?

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*John1:14 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (CSB)*

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In other words, Jesus was the plan. Remember in verse 1 that the Word was with God and the Word was God. Then in verse 14, the Bible tells us that the Word became flesh, meaning the

Word became a man, Jesus. Just like in 1 Timothy 3:16 how we read that the mystery of godliness is when God manifested himself in the flesh.

This was God's plan from the beginning, even before Adam and Eve ever sinned. The book of Revelation tells us that Jesus was the Lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world. God had this plan in mind before he framed the worlds with His words.

### God's Plan of Redemption

Now that we know the mystery of godliness is God becoming a man. Why did he do it? Why would he become a man?

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*Hebrews 2:9 But we do see Jesus—made lower than the angels for a short time so that by God's grace he might taste death for everyone—crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death. (CSB)*

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God became a man so that he could pay the price for our sin that we could not pay ourselves – the price of death. As an eternal, invisible, all-powerful Spirit; God cannot die. So, He had to take on the form of a man so he could “taste death for everyone.”

But, still, why? Why would God do this for us?

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*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life... (KJV)*

---

God made himself a little lower than the angles and became the man Christ Jesus so that He could die for our sins and give us eternal life with Him. And He did it because **He Loves us**.

The wages of sin are death, but it is a price that we could never pay. We needed a substitute that was without sin; we needed Jesus. So, God made a plan from the very beginning that He would make himself a man in order to sacrifice himself for our sins.

So, how do we follow Him in death? If Jesus died for us, then we are set free from our obligation to die for our own sins. Jesus paid the price for our sins with His life. However, Jesus tells us that we must pick up our own cross and follow Him somehow.

## How Do We Follow Jesus in Death?

Paul says in Colossians 3:1-2, that since we have been “raised” with Christ (we will get to this more in Lesson 4), we should set our minds on things above and not on earthly things. Paul then says we need to “put to death” this earthly nature and what belongs to it. He goes on to talk about what those earthly things are:

- Sexual immorality
- Impurity
- Lust
- Evil desire
- Greed
- Idolatry
- Anger
- Wrath
- Malice
- Slander
- Filthy language
- Lying

Then in Colossians 3:9-10 Paul says:

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*Colossians 3:9-10 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator. (CSB)*

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So, before we can be “raised” with Christ, we must first “put to death” that which belongs to our earthly nature. By doing this, we are putting off the old self and its practices and putting on a new self. We are literally exchanging our earthly nature for the one we will have when we get to Heaven (i.e. the things above). This “death to earthly things” comes through repentance.

Paul explains this concept in even more detail in the book of Romans:

- Romans 2:4 tells us that God is leading us to repentance.
- Romans 3:10-12 tells us that we have all “turned away” from God.
- Romans 5:20 tells us that when sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more.
- Romans 6:1 tells us that we should not continue in sin just because God’s grace can cover our sin.
- Romans 6:6 tells us that our old self is crucified with Christ so that the body of sin might be destroyed.



- Romans 6:4 tells us that we are buried with Him in baptism into death. We will cover this in more detail in the next lesson.

In short, repenting of our sins is how we follow Jesus in death. Repentance is our old sinful nature “dying.” Repentance is how we “carry our cross” before we are buried in baptism.

### How Do We Repent?

The word repentance is a Roman military term that means “about face.” When this command is given to a soldier, their response is to turn completely around. In the same way, you were heading in one direction, following the mystery of iniquity, but now you need to turn completely around in order to follow Jesus. So, repentance means to completely turn away from sin toward God.

In Matthew 4:17 Jesus started his preaching ministry on this subject of repentance. Before Jesus, John the Baptist also preached for people to repent of their sins. In Acts 2, after the people believed the Gospel message that Peter preached to them, the first thing Peter told the people to do was to repent of their sins. John, Jesus, Peter, and Paul all taught that people should turn away from sin (i.e. repent).

### What are the Elements of True Repentance?

1. **Confessing Your Sins:** 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.
2. **Godly Sorrow:** 2 Cor. 7:10: For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be regretted: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.
3. **Turn to God and Do Good Things:** Acts 26:20: Instead, I preached to those in Damascus first, and to those in Jerusalem and in all the region of Judea, and to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works worthy of repentance.
4. **Forgive Others:** Matthew 6:14-15: For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don’t forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses.

### Conclusion

- We are all sinners.
- The wages of sin are death, and we could not pay it ourselves.
- We needed a substitute to die for our sins.
- In the Garden of Eden God provided a substitute for Adam and Eve’s sin by clothing them with animal skins, but animal sacrifice was only a temporary solution.
- Their sin was the same sin that Lucifer attempted in Heaven and that the Bible prophesied Lucifer will do again on Earth in the last days. It is the mystery of iniquity: when one tries to become God.

- God had a plan all along. He knew we would sin, and he made a way for us to be redeemed before He even created us, through Jesus Christ. This is the mystery of godliness – when God became a man; when the Word was made flesh.
- God became the man Jesus, who died for our sins, as the perfect sacrifice.
- God did this because he loves us.
- God wants to have a relationship with us, but he gives us the choice of whether or not to have a relationship with him.
- To have a relationship with God, we must first believe the Gospel that Jesus came, did miracles, was crucified, and then was resurrected from death.
- Once we believe the Gospel, we must respond to it.
- We respond to the Gospel message by repenting and being born again.
- Repentance happens when you die to your old sinful ways.
- You die to your old sinful ways by confessing your sins to God with Godly sorrow, turning to God and doing good things, and forgiving others.
- Once you have repented of your sins, you can experience the new birth.
- The new birth is when you are baptized with water and the Holy Spirit.

Once we have followed Jesus to the cross and died to our sin through repentance, how do we follow Him to the grave? In Lesson 3, we will explore how we are buried with Jesus in water baptism.



## Lesson Three: The Burial

If you've ever attended a graveside service, you know that it isn't a very happy place to be. It is a solemn place. A place of grief. A place of mourning. When Jesus' friend Lazarus died, he was in a tomb for four days. The Bible says that Jesus wept even though He knew He was going to raise Him from the dead.

The situation was no doubt the same when Jesus was in the tomb for three days. I'm sure his followers were mourning. However, when we look back at this story now, it does not bring us sorrow. It brings us joy because we know that Jesus did not remain in that grave.

A natural death brings sorrow. However, being "crucified with Christ" brings joy. Why? Because we know we are going to be resurrected with Christ. Paul speaks about this joy in the same chapter that he talks about godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7). Yes, it is godly sorrow that brings us to repentance, but we should have joy after we repent.

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*Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. (KJV)*

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So, after we follow Jesus to the cross, allowing our old self to die in repentance, how do we follow Him to the grave?

Let's Read Romans 6:1-6

The Apostle Paul teaches us that after we are crucified with Christ, we must also be buried with him in baptism. This is reiterated many places in the Bible. See Colossians 2:12:

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*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. (KJV)*

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The Word of God makes it clear that baptism is how we are buried with Christ. But just remember you shouldn't be buried alive! You must repent and die to your sins before you are baptized.

## The Purposes of Baptism

There are 3 important purposes for baptism:

1. **Baptism is for the Remission of Sins** (Luke 24:47, Acts 2:38). Jesus tells the disciples that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name in Luke 24:47. Then after the Holy Spirit fell a few days later, Peter got up and preached:

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*Acts 2:38 ...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. (KJV)*

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Remission means forgiveness, but more than this, it means ABSOLUTE forgiveness in the original language of the Bible. So, Jesus said repentance and remission of sins should be preached together. In Luke 24:47. Peter then marries those together in Acts 2 when he says repentance **AND** baptism in Jesus' name are for the remission of sins. You can't have repentance alone; you must have repentance AND baptism in order to receive remission of your sins. If repentance is our old self dying, baptism is how we bury our old self.

There is an Old Testament example of this concept in the story of the Red Sea crossing. In the Old Testament there is much foreshadowing that occurs of events to come. Bible scholars call these "types" or "shadows." The Hebrews escaping slavery in Egypt by crossing the Red Sea is a perfect example of a type or shadow of repentance and baptism. Egypt was a "type" of sin. Paul even teaches that before we came to Christ, we were slaves to sin just like the Hebrews were slaves to Egypt. After 10 plagues, the king of Egypt (aka. Pharaoh) finally believed in God's power and let the Hebrews free from slavery. Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt (i.e. Repentance) and came to the banks of the Red Sea. Shortly after this, Pharaoh chased after the Hebrews with his entire army to bring them back to Egypt and back into slavery. If Moses and the Hebrews had stopped short of crossing the Red Sea (i.e. Baptism), they would have been captured and taken back into slavery. This is the same thing that happens if we repent without being baptized. So, just like you shouldn't bury someone alive who hasn't died to their sins yet, you also need to give a dead person a proper burial through baptism.

Don't repent and stop there. You need to be buried with Jesus in baptism!

When the Hebrews passed through the Red Sea on dry land, their enemy tried to follow them. However, the sea came down on the Egyptians and the Hebrews were saved. They were no longer in fear of being sent back into slavery. They were truly free. Their enemy was left in a watery grave. Paul equates this event to baptism:

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*1 Corinthians 10:1-2 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; (KJV)*

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They would not have been saved if they stayed on the banks of the Red Sea. They had to go through the water of the Red Sea just as we must be baptized in water in order to be buried with Christ.

2. **Baptism marks the start of a covenant relationship with God.** The Old Covenant God had with the Hebrews was through the faithfulness of Abraham and all of his sons keeping the covenant of circumcision. The New Covenant of water baptism is not limited to just the Hebrews. It is for everyone who is baptized in Jesus' name.

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*Colossians 2:11-12 You were also circumcised in him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, when you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him up from the dead. (CSB)*

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3. **Baptism is essential for salvation.** This is a somewhat controversial statement, even amongst Christians. Some believe that baptism is only symbolic. Some say it is optional. Some say it is just a tradition. While others think it is merely a public display of belief that solidifies your membership to a local church.

However, baptism is **ESSENTIAL** for salvation.

How do we know this is true?

First, Jesus said it was. Not only did Jesus Himself get baptized as an example for us, but He also told us that we must do it too. In John 3:5, we read in our 1<sup>st</sup> lesson about the New Birth and how Jesus told Nicodemus that you **must be born of the water** and the Spirit to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus later says in Mark 16:16:

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*Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned (csb)*

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In Acts 2:37, after a crowd of Jews had heard the gospel and believed, they asked, “What shall we do?” Peter responded to repent and be baptized EVERY ONE of you in the Name of Jesus Christ. He made it clear that this was a command for everyone. The argument cannot be made that he was only talking to the people standing directly in front of him because he follows up this command by stating that this is for their children and all that are afar off (Acts 2:39). It wasn’t limited by genealogy or geography. Some say this was only for the Jews, but in Acts 10, Peter baptized the first gentile (i.e. a person who is not a Jew) and half-Jews were also baptized in Acts 8.

In 1 Peter 3:19-21, Peter compares water baptism to the Great Flood in the days of Noah. Peter explains that the water saved Noah and his family during the flood, just how baptism now saves us.

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*1 Peter 3:19-21 ...when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared. In it a few—that is, eight people—were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you... (CSB)*

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The apostle Paul taught the same concept as we mentioned earlier. Just like Moses and the Hebrews were saved by the water, so are we.

### What Baptism is Not

When we are baptized, we are not just performing some initiation or participating in a church tradition, we are putting on Christ. When we do this, we are no longer who we used to be. This process helps transform us and we are reborn as a member of His family and heirs to all the promises God made to Abraham.

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*Galatians 3:27-29 For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. 28 There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, heirs according to the promise. (CSB)*

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Also, baptism is not just done as a public display of faith, as some claim. Just look to the story of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-40. Here you will find that the Ethiopian was alone in the middle of nowhere when Philip baptized him. If baptism was meant to be a public confession of faith just for show, then Philip would have had him wait until they got to town to baptize him. However, we see in this story that Philip did not wait to baptize him. Instead, they found the closest pool of water and Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch right then and there (Acts 8:38).

## How is Baptism to be Performed?

The word “baptism” itself means to submerge. This means you must be completely covered by the water. Therefore, you cannot be baptized by a sprinkling of water on you. When Jesus was baptized, it was in a river and the Bible says, “he came up out of the water,” showing that Jesus was completely submerged in the water when he was baptized (Matthew 3:16). If you have any questions about this, I can go into the history of how the tradition of sprinkling water on people came about.

*Note: Skip this if you or your student has no questions about sprinkling. I recommend studying the history of this before teaching it. Here is a short summary. Sprinkling was developed by the Catholic church because of two other false doctrines/practices. They started baptizing babies because of an unbiblical teaching that if the child died before being baptized, they would go to an imaginary place called purgatory. If your child went to purgatory, the church would charge you a fee to get them out. When people started baptizing their babies to avoid purgatory, the church started also charging a fee for those infant baptisms. You paid either way, but the baptism was cheaper. Turns out, dunking infants in water can lead to some accidental drownings. Hence the need to just sprinkle them arose. The entire practice was based on a lie. Purgatory is not real. Your child will not go there if you can't afford a baptism from a priest. I don't think you should pay for a baptism at all.*

*In addition to this practice, there was also a false teaching that arose stating that if you sinned after baptism, those sins would not be covered. So, many people would live a life of sin and asked to be baptized on their death bed. This caused issues when someone was dying so fast, they could not get to a river, or if they were so old and frail, they couldn't either. So, they started sprinkling water on them right before they died. Again, this was all built on a lie. You can't live a life of sin only to have a few water droplets save you at your last dying breath. After you are baptized, you simply need to repent anytime that you sin. Don't wait for your deathbed.*

What should be spoken when you are baptized?

When you are baptized, you must be baptized in Jesus' name. Read the examples below of people getting baptized in the Bible. It is important to see that every example that we have in the Bible shows that people were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Luke 24:47

Acts 2:38

Acts 8:16

Acts 10:48

Acts 22:16

Acts 19:1-5

Acts 4:10, 12

Mathew 28:19 sometimes causes confusion in people because in this verse Jesus instructs his disciples to baptize, “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” However, right after the disciples hear this command and put it into action, they baptized people in Jesus' name, not by saying the words, “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” This shows that Jesus did not intend for the disciples to say the exact words



that he said in Matthew 28:19 when they baptized people, but to understand the He was the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Notice that in Matthew 28:19 Jesus told the disciples to baptize in one singular **name, not names**. Furthermore, Father is not a name, it's a title or a descriptor. I'm a father, but that is not my name. Son is not a name. Again, I'm a son, but that is not my name. Holy Spirit is also not a name. What is the name of these 3 titles?

I'll show you have Jesus is the **name** of the Father, Jesus is the **name** of the Son, and Jesus is the **name** of the Holy Spirit. The apostles understood this. That is why when Jesus told them to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, they baptized in the name of Jesus.

Here are just a few examples, but the Bible has so many more:

**Jesus is the Father:**

Isaiah 9:6 – Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be the Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

John 14:9 – Jesus told Philip, “if you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.”

**Jesus is the Son:**

Matthew 1:21 – An angel tells Joseph that Mary would have a “Son” and his name would be “Jesus”.

**Jesus is the Holy Spirit:**

John 14:26, 28 – Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would come in His name, and then says that He (Jesus) would come.

If you would like to learn more about the name of Jesus and the Oneness doctrine, I have a whole Bible Study on this subject that will be available on my website soon. There are dozens of more examples showing that Jesus was the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, there's one verse that really sums it up.

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*Colossians 2:9* *For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ.* (csb)

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Remember the mystery of godliness? God became a man. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16). Not just some of God, but the entire fullness of God's nature. That's why we baptize in Jesus' name.

*Read Acts 4:7-12*

In this passage, the disciples healed a man, and were questioned – “By what name have you done this?” They answered in Acts 4:10 that it was in Jesus’ name, and then in Acts 4:12 they said there is salvation in no other name, but the name of Jesus.

Justin Martyr was the first “pastor” to baptize using the titles Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This was around 150AD, which was 120 years after Peter preached to be baptized in Jesus’ Name. Justin Martyr admits in his own writings that what he was doing was not popular or widely accepted by other Christians. He also said that he started baptizing by saying, “Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit,” because every person he baptized without saying “Jesus Christ” was told to be rebaptized by other Christian pastors. It wasn’t until late in the 4<sup>th</sup> century that the government-controlled Catholic Church forced people to be baptized in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit titles. They also started burning people at the stake for being baptized in Jesus’ name or preaching that this was how people should be baptized. Despite this, many people continued to baptize in Jesus’ name in secret. We know this because we have written proof of people being caught and punished for it throughout the centuries.

All of this is why we baptize in Jesus’ name.

What should I do if I was baptized another way?

- Sprinkling of Water: If you were baptized by sprinkling, you should be baptized again, being fully immersed in water and in the name of Jesus Christ.
- As a Baby or Small Child: If you were baptized when you were a baby, or even as a small child without understanding what baptism meant, you should be baptized again. Mark 16:16 says, “he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,” showing that belief is a key component to salvation. We’ve also learned that repentance should come before baptism. Therefore, a baby or a young child doesn’t need to be baptized unless and until they understand enough to believe and to repent of their sins first.
- In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit/Ghost: If you were baptized in the titles of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit or Ghost, then you should be baptized again in the name of Jesus. This was how the apostles baptized. It was how the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> century churches baptized. And it is how everyone should be baptized.

There is Biblical evidence of people being rebaptized once they had a better or fuller understanding of salvation. For example, twelve of John the Baptist’s followers were rebaptized in Jesus’ name by Paul in Acts 19:1-6.

## Conclusion

In order to follow Jesus to the grave, we must first believe in the Gospel and die to our sins. Once we have died to our sins, we can be buried in water baptism. Water baptism is essential to our salvation and acts as a new covenant with God. It also is for the remission or forgiveness of our sins. When you are baptized, you should be completely submerged in water and baptized



## Lesson Four: The Resurrection

When we die to our sins and are buried with Christ in water baptism, we don't stay dead. Just like Jesus, we must follow Him out of the grave. Jesus was only in the tomb for three days. On the third day he rose again. We have way more evidence that the resurrection of Jesus occurred than we do of many other historical figures that no one doubts existed. There were over 500 eyewitness testimonies to Jesus' resurrection. Jesus was seen alive by hundreds of witnesses for forty days before he ascended to Heaven. But He didn't leave forever. His body may have been glorified, but He is still here... in Spirit.

### God's Spirit in Us

*Read John 14:15-19*

Notice how Jesus says the Spirit is **WITH** you, but will be **IN** you. Then he tells them that he is that same Spirit when he says, "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you." He then ties this to the resurrection by saying that because, "I live, you will live also".

*Read Romans 8:7-11*

In this passage we can confirm two things that are supported by other scriptures we have already read in this Bible Study:

1. You must have God's spirit in you. Romans 8:9 says you don't even belong to God if you don't have His Spirit in you.
2. When we have God's Spirit in us, we are resurrected just like He was. (Romans 8:11).

So, we are crucified with Christ through repentance, we are buried with Christ through water baptism, and we are resurrected with Christ by His Spirit living in us.

Having the Holy Spirit live in you is essential! Remember John 3:5? You must be born of the water AND the Spirit or you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. If something is so important that Jesus says we **must** do it to see Heaven, I want to make sure I do it.

I know I have repented because the Bible teaches us how to do this. We confess our sins with godly sorrow and a commitment to turn away from sin, while also forgiving others. I've done that.

I know I've been baptized because the Bible teaches us how to do this as well. The word "baptize" means to be submerged, so we know that to baptize we must be fully submerged in water. Jesus taught his disciples to baptize people and when the disciples baptized people, they did it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, showing us that we need to be baptized in Jesus' name. I've done that too.

But how do I know I've been filled with His Spirit? To find out, we need to go back to the beginning of the church. Back to the first out pouring of the Holy Spirit. I want to see how they knew they were filled with God's Spirit.

What is the Sign?

Most Christians agree that you must receive the Holy Spirit to be saved and have eternal life in Heaven. However, many disagree about the manner in which the Holy Spirit is received. More specifically, the sign that someone has received the Holy Spirit.

The Day of Pentecost that immediately followed the resurrection of Jesus Christ, marked a significant event in the history of the church. It was the birthday of God's true church. Without a doubt this day was filled with a miraculous event to signify its importance. As hundreds of people received the Holy Spirit for the first time, they spoke in several languages that they didn't know previously. This is was a significant event. However, many people disagree as to how significant this was. Some claim that this was a one-time miraculous event that was not meant for people to experience today. Others claim that this miraculous outpouring of God's Spirit using the sign of speaking in other languages was meant only for the Jews in Israel at that time. However, the Bible shows that neither of these things are true.

The book of Acts makes it clear that the events on the day of Pentecost were not just a one-time occurrence. It also makes it clear that the events were not limited to the Jews, or even to one geographical place. Furthermore, every time someone received the Holy Spirit in the Bible, it was always accompanied by an outward sign to show that they had in fact received the Holy Spirit. It would be illogical for God to give us multiple different signs that someone had received the Holy Spirit because it would lead to confusion. Therefore, God gave us only one sign that a person has received the Holy Spirit: speaking in a language unknown to the speaker as the Holy Spirit gives them the ability to do so. This is also known as speaking in tongues.

## Examples in Acts

### The Day of Pentecost

About 2000 years ago Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead. He was then seen alive by many witnesses for approximately 40 days. During this time, He left very important instructions for His closest followers. One of the last things that He told His disciples can be found in the first chapter of the book of Acts. We looked at this in lesson 1, but let's read it again.

### *Read Acts 1:1-8*

In Acts 1:4, Jesus tells the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father. Jesus then elaborates on what that promise is in Acts 1:5 stating, "...you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." So, in Acts 1:1-5, we find the real theme of this book:

baptism with the Holy Spirit. This theme is further detailed in Acts 1:8 when Jesus gives an outline of how the Holy Spirit will spread throughout the world. The writer of Acts uses Acts 1:8 as an outline for the whole book. In that verse, Jesus says that the disciples will begin to witness about Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit in, “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.” (Acts 1:8, King James Version). This demonstrates how the Holy Spirit was meant to spread throughout the world and to all people. It was not meant to happen only once in Jerusalem, and it was not meant to be a gift only for the Jews.

*Read Acts 2:1-4*

In Acts 2, we find the initial occurrence of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that Jesus told His disciples to wait for in Acts 1. The supernatural sign that let them know that they were being “baptized with the Holy Spirit” was the fact that they all spoke in tongues. (Acts 2:4). This means they all spoke in another language other than their own. Notice the conjunction “and” in this verse, which links being filled with the Spirit **and** speaking in tongues. These two things occurred simultaneously because speaking in tongues was given as a sign that a person had received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4 explains that it was the Holy Spirit that gave them the “utterance.” According to the Oxford dictionary, the word utterance means, “a spoken word, statement, or vocal sound.” So in other words, God was giving them the ability to make the sound of words from another language as they received the gift of the Holy Spirit. This supernatural sign is the only sign that is given by scripture to signify someone being baptized by the Holy Spirit as we will see in later events that occur in the book of Acts.

*Read Acts 2:5-17*

The commotion of 120 people being filled with God’s Spirit was so loud that it could not be contained within the walls of the upper room that they were praying in. There were people outside that began to gather, and wonder what was going on (Acts 2:6). Peter then stood up to address the crowd and expel any doubts about what was happening (Acts 2:14). The crowd asked how and why the people were speaking in many different languages and Peter answered them by saying that what they were hearing was the fulfillment of Joel 2:28, which states, “...I will pour out my Spirit on all humanity...” (Acts 2:16-17). When Peter said “this is that” it proves that speaking in tongues is the sign of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Question:** “What does this mean?” in Acts 2:12.

**People’s Assumption:** “They must be drunk”

**Peter’s Answer: “This is That” Acts 2:16**

**This** = 120 people speaking in many different languages that they could not have learned.

**That** = God pour out His Spirit on all humanity (fulfilment of Joel 2:28)

Peter went on to explain that when you receive the Holy Spirit, you can **see** and **hear** it happen (Acts 2:33).

Peter then explained that they had crucified Jesus, who was the Lord and messiah, but that God had raised him up again and he was seen alive by many witnesses, proving he was the messiah. When the people heard this, the Bible says that they were, “pierced to the heart,” and they asked Peter what they should do. Peter responded that if they repent and are baptized in Jesus’ name, they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit too (Acts 2:38). Peter emphasized that the gift of the Holy Spirit is a gift for everyone, everywhere (Acts 2:39).

### The Samaritans

In Acts 8, the revival of the early church was beginning to spread outside of the full-blooded Jews, just as Jesus had foretold in Acts 1:8. We can learn many things from the outpouring of the Spirit on the Samaritans, who were half Jewish.

#### *Read Acts 8:14-20*

Some people teach that you receive the Holy Spirit automatically when you are baptized in water. However, Acts 8:15-16 clearly refutes that teaching. When the apostles heard that Phillip was baptizing the Samaritans in Jesus’ name, Peter and John went to lay hands on and pray for the Samaritans so that they would receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:15-16, specifically states that although the Samaritans had all been baptized in Jesus’ name, none of them had received the gift of the Holy Spirit yet. Even though they all believed in Jesus and had experienced water baptism, it was not until Peter and John laid hands on them that the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17-19).

In Acts 8:17-19, Peter and John laid hands on the Samaritans and they received the Holy Spirit. Although speaking in tongues was not explicitly mentioned here, as it was in Acts 2:4 and other accounts of people receiving the Holy Spirit in the Bible, it is clear that some visible sign occurred by the reaction of Simon the sorcerer. The Bible does not specify what exactly Simon sees when the apostles lay hands on the Samaritans and they receive the Holy Spirit, but we know that there must have been an **outward physical sign**. We know this because he offers the apostles money for the same power that they had to lay hands on people so that they would receive the Holy Spirit. Many people teach that they have the Holy Spirit simply because they believe in Jesus or because they have joy in their hearts. However, this passage with Simon the sorcerer shows that when a person receives the Holy Spirit, it is not some invisible thing that happens inside someone’s heart. Otherwise, how could Simon the sorcerer **see** people receiving the Holy Spirit and be so amazed by it that he would want to buy it? How can you see that someone believes in Jesus or has joy?

Every instance of someone receiving the Holy Spirit in the Bible either explicitly or implicitly states that there was an outward physical sign that occurred to show that the person or people

had received the Holy Spirit. Whenever the Bible explicitly states an outward sign occurred, the sign given was that the people spoke in other tongues.

### Cornelius' House

*Read Acts 10:1-2 and Acts 10:44-48*

The conversion of Cornelius' house is a key moment in church history that revealed who could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 10:44, the Holy Ghost fell on the Gentiles, or non-Jews, for the first time. It is stated in Acts 10:45 that the Jews were amazed by this because up until this point they had never seen a non-Jew receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. How did the Jews know they receive the Holy Spirit? The answer is in Acts 10:46. When the Gentiles spoke in tongues, this showed the Jews that receiving the Holy Spirit was for everyone, not just them. There was no doubt that the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit because of the outward sign of speaking in tongues, which was the same way the Jews had received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:45-46). God gave us one outward physical sign to show that a person has received the Holy Spirit: speaking in tongues. Peter's comment immediately after the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit also shows that water baptism is a separate and distinct event from Spirit baptism (Acts 10:47-48).

### John's Disciples

*Read Acts 19:1-6*

This passage provides the last key piece of the puzzle regarding the evidence of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. Paul asks some of John's disciples if they had received the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:2). Paul then dispels the mistaken belief that simply believing is evidence of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit by asking John's disciples if they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed (Acts 19:2). If you automatically receive the Holy Spirit when you believe, Paul would not have even asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit. It would have been presumed that they had since they were all believers.

Paul then goes on to distinguish water baptism from Spirit baptism (Acts 19:5-6). Paul rebaptizes John's disciples, but they do not automatically receive the Holy Spirit at that point either. It is not until Paul lays his hands on them that they received the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues and prophesy. Again, we see in Acts 19:6 that there was the clear outward sign of speaking in tongues that accompanied the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we see from this example that simply believing in Jesus or being baptized in Jesus' name is not the same as receiving the Holy Spirit and that receiving the Holy Spirit is a distinct event that is always accompanied by the outward sign of speaking in tongues.



## Conclusion

The evidence is clear. In every case of God pouring out His Spirit in the book of Acts, it either directly or indirectly verifies that speaking in tongues is the sign that one has received this gift. It could not have been an inward only sign like joy or belief, because the scriptures shown have eliminated those possibilities. Jesus even says that one of the signs of a true believer is speaking in tongues (Mark 16:17). There is a clear separation between water baptism and Spirit baptism. It is evident that the outpouring of the Spirit was not limited to any one people, place, or time. This supernatural gift is freely given to all who are hungry for it and to all that are a far off.

The Holy Spirit is a gift that was promised to you. If you repent and are baptized in the name of Jesus, you can have this gift. It will happen just like it did on the day of Pentecost many years ago when God first poured out his spirit.

Now you have heard the Gospel and about how you must follow Jesus in birth, death, burial, and resurrection. Remember, the Gospel requires a response?

Will you be **born** again?

Will you **repent** of your sins?

Will you be **baptized** in Jesus' name?

Will you accept the gift of the **Holy Spirit**?

## Will You Follow Him?

