

Building Your Relationship With God

What Does The Bible Say?



1

This lesson is entitled “A Few Minutes With Someone Who Loves You.”

By: J.T. Bristow. Published By the Rocky Mountain Christian Institute 11/7/07.

There are two reasons for this title, First, only a few minutes are required for this study; Second, I am sincerely interested in your soul.

Important Subject

This lesson is valuable to every person because it deals with things eternal, We will be talking about our souls and where we will spend eternity.

Open Mind – Open Bible

Within a few minutes we can learn enough from God’s word to be saved eternally. It is important to approach this study not only with an open mind, but with an Open Bible so that we can permit God to talk to us about these matters.

The Bible Is The Inspired Word of God



READ: 2 TIM 3:16-17

Since There Is No Other Inspired Revelation From God To Man (Gal 1:8-9), The Bible Is Our Only Source Of Religious Authority.

ISNT THIS TRUE?

2

Let's begin by reading from God's word. 2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. NIV

Bible is God's Word

This tells us that all which we read in the Bible is God's Word. I believe the Bible is the inspired word of God --- Do you?

Wait for answer. The answer will tell us two things we need to know before we continue. 1. Does he believe in God? 2. Does he believe the Bible is God's Word. If not, we might as well quit this study right here, and try to convince him of the existence of God, etc.

Can't Change, Add or Subtract

The Bible says in Gal 1:6-9

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel- 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! Since the Bible is God's inspired word, and there will never be any additional revelations from God, it is our only source of religious authority. If we want any questions answered concerning religion, the Bible is the only place to find the answer. Isn't this true?

We must get a "Yes" here so that, as we progress in our study, "feelings and opinions" cannot be taken as religious authority.

As we study this lesson, we will test every point by going to God's word, so that we may be sure that each point is true.

Reference:

John 12:48 – Words shall judge

John 17:17 – Word is truth

1 Cor 2:9-13 – From God, word by word

Eph 3:1-3 – Written down

2 John 9 – Abide in doctrine

Rev 22:18-19 – Don't add or subtract

There Are Two Natural Divisions



READ: 2 TIM 2:15

The Holy Bible (Word Of Truth) Should Be "Rightly Divided" As We Study, Shouldn't It?

Should We Obey Everything In Both The Old And New Testaments In Order To Be Saved? Should We Build An Ark? Should We Offer Burnt Sacrifices? Should We Make Three Annual Trips To Jerusalem?

3

Marriage Law

Rom 7:1-4

Do you not know, brothers-for I am speaking to men who know the law-that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? 2 For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. 3 So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man. 4 So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. NIV

Notice, in verse 1, Paul indicated he was speaking to the Jews. It was the Jews who knew the law of Moses. They studied it constantly.

Compare Old Testament to Marriage

The diagram shows what Paul is saying. He says being under the law is like being married. If a woman is married to a second man, while her first husband is still living, this constitutes adultery. In order for a woman to be married to a second husband, the first husband must be dead. Then she is free to marry another.

Paul says being under the law is like this. If the Jews, who were married to or subject to the first law, were to become subject to the second written law (which is the New Testament) while the Old Testament still lived, the law of Moses first had to die before the Jews would be free to marry (become subject to) Christ.

Reference:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 – God promised a new law

Matt 5:17-18; John 19:28-30 – Jesus fulfilled the law

Rom 6:15 – Not under the law

2 Cor 3:1-16 – Old versus the new

Gal 3:16-25 – Not under the law

Gal 4:28-30 – Cast out

Eph 2:14-16 – Law removed

Col 2:14-16 – Law blotted out

Heb 8:6-13 – A new law

Heb 9:15-16 – Began at Christ's death

Exodus 20:10 – Seventh day is Sabbath

Det 5:15 – Why did they keep Sabbath

When Did First Written Law Die?

OLD TESTAMENT



Law Died At The Cross

NEW TESTAMENT



Christian Law Now In Force

READ: Romans 7:4; Colossians 2:14

"Dead To (First) Law By The Body of Christ" Rom 7:4

"Handwriting of Ordinances Nailed to the cross" Col 2:14

Note: There was no other written Law at the time of the Cross other than the Old Testament.

GOD SPEAKS TODAY BY HIS SON! HEB 1:1-2

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Read References

When did the first written law (Law of Moses) die? The answer is found, again, in our source of religious authority. Rom 7:4, Let's read it.

4 So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. NIV From Col 2:14 we read: 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. NIV

Dead To Law By Body

In the first passage we learn the Jews became dead to the law by the body of Christ, who died on the cross. In the second passage it is stated plainly that the handwriting of ordinances (or Law of Moses) was nailed to the cross. These ordinances had to be the Law of Moses because at the time Christ was nailed to the cross the New Testament wasn't written.

Nailed To Cross

Since the ten commandments of Moses were among the ordinances nailed to the cross, we are not obligated to live by them today. Christ's commandments are sufficient to govern us in all the moral principles contained in the ten commandments of Moses.

Death of Testator

The New Testament didn't come into force until after the testator (Christ) died (Heb 9:16-17). The Hebrew writer tells us that God speaks to us today by his Son! (Heb 1:1-2). If we are looking for the plan of salvation today, we don't build an ark like Noah or worship like the Jews. We become obedient to the laws of the New Testament.

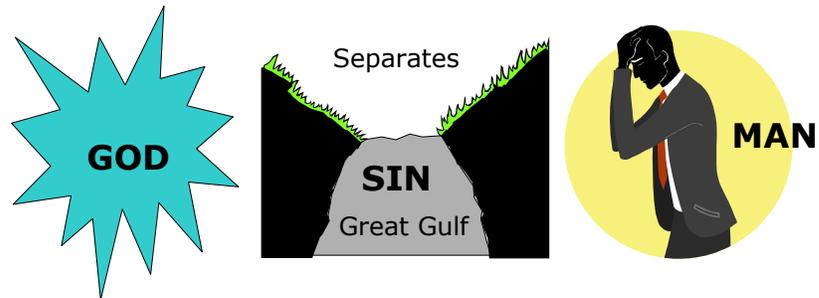
Value of Old Testament Now

This does not mean that the Old Testament has lost its value for us today. We still need to study the Old Testament for our learning and for our admonition (Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:6,11)

Reference:

Eph 2:14-16 – Died to remove the old

Our Great Spiritual Problem



READ: Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities (sins) have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

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Sin, A Problem Of All

Sinless in the Beginning

Sin Separated

The great spiritual problem which all men have today is sin. It was sin which brought about the need for Christ as man's savior. In the beginning, man was sinless. Being sinless, man could have fellowship with God. He walked and talked with God in the garden of Eden. Then man sinned. After sinning, man was separated from God. Since then all men have sinned and their sins have separated them from God. Isaiah says, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you, that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)

What is Sin?

Since sin is our great problem today, then we need to know what sin is. We will study God's word for the definition of sin.

Reference:

Consequences of Sin

Rom 6:23, James 1:14-15 – Death

Adam's Sin – Gen 3

Gen 6:3-7 – Flood came because of sin

Matt 25:41 – Hell prepared for sinners

John 8:34-44; Rom 6:16 – Sin is sinner's master

1 John 3:8 – Sinner is of the devil

Children Not Depraved

Ecc 12:7 – God gave Spirit

Ezekiel 18:20 – Not guilty of father's sin

Matt 18:3; 19:14 – Children fit for heaven

Acts 17:29 – Offsprings of God



The Bible Defines Sin

READ: 1 John 3:4; James 4:17

- SIN IS “Breaking God’s Law”
 - Such As: Murder-Stealing-Immorality-Adding to God’s Word
- SIN IS “Not doing what we should”
 - Such As: Not Feeding The Hungry, Not Worshipping God, Not Loving Our Neighbor, Not Obeying The Gospel or Taking From God’s Word
- ALL HAVE SINNED (Rom 3:23)

I REALIZE I HAVE SINNED – HAVEN'T YOU?

6

Let's Read 1 John 3:4

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. NIV

The first passage tells us sin is breaking God's law, or transgressing his law. God says not to murder, steal, or be immoral. If we murder, or steal, or become immoral, or practice something not authorized in the Bible – We sin! We have broken God's law.

Don't Do's and Do's

The second passage tells us we do not need to be immoral or commit horrible deeds in order to sin. We can sit at home and be good to our family, be good neighbors, and be clean, moral people; yet die as sinners! Why? Because sin is also not doing what we should! There are some things God commands us to do. He wants us to feed the hungry, worship him, love our neighbor, obey the gospel, etc. If we do not feed the hungry, we sin! If we do not love our neighbor, we sin! If we are not baptized in obedience to the gospel, we sin!

Now that we understand what sin is, we can understand why Paul said in Rom 3:23-24

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. I know that I have done things that God said Don't Do – Haven't you?

Pause for answer.

I Have – Have You?

Therefore, I realize I have sinned – Haven't you?

Pause for answer

Reference:

Rom 14:23 – The doubter

Heb 3:13 – Deceitful

1 John 5:17 – All unrighteousness

1 John 1:8-10; Rom 5:12 – All are sinners

Some Religious Acts Are Sinful

Matt 15:1-9

Matt 7:21-23

Gen 4:5 – Cain's sacrifice

Lev 10 – Nadab and Abihu

Saul of Tarsus – A Religious Sinner

Zealous for God – Acts 22:3; Acts 23:1

Persecuted Christians – Acts 9:1-2; Acts 22:4; Acts 26:9

WHY DID CHRIST DIE?



ROMANS 5:8

FOR MY SINS!

FOR MY FORGIVENESS!

7

Wages of Sin Is Death

When I recognize that I am a sinner I can better understand why Christ died. The wages of sin is death. I know then that I deserve spiritual death, but God so loved me that he gave his son to die in my place so I could be saved. He died because I am a sinner! He died because I need forgiveness of sins!

Christ Died For Me

The Bible says, But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8

God's Plan of Redemption

Not only did Christ die for my sins, but he left a plan of salvation or forgiveness of sins that is easy to be understood.

Prophecies of Christ's Death

Isaiah 53

Psalms 22:1; 13-18

Matt 16:4; 20:17

The Crucifixion

Matt 26 and 27

Mark 15

Luke 23

John 19



The Plan For Forgiveness

- Believe – John 20:31; Heb 11:6
- Repent (Change Mind) Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30
- Confess – Rom 10:10; Acts 8:37
- Be Baptized – Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Mark 16:15-16

8

Christ's Plan For Forgiveness of Sins

One, We must **BELIEVE** in Him as the Son of God – John 20:31 and in Again in Heb 11:6. To believe is to trust God and Christ completely. I can't believe unless I am willing to accept and obey all that he has commanded. This is part of believing.

Two, Jesus says we must **REPENT**. The word "repent" means change our minds about sin and quit sinning. I must resolve to make my will the same as God's will. Luke 13:3 and Acts 17:30

Three, we must be willing to **CONFESS** our faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Rom 10:10 and Acts 8:37

Four, we must be **BAPTIZED** for the remission or forgiveness of our sins. Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16.

Christ's plan of redemption is just this simple!

However, many people are in doubt about what baptism is, because of the various doctrines being taught today. For example, here are three different doctrines that one might hear if he attended three different denominations.

Write these points down on a scratch pad as follows:

1. Baptism is sprinkling – not for the remission of sins
2. Baptism is burial – not for the remission of sins
3. Baptism is burial – is for the remission of sins

Since all of these doctrines differ, they can't all be right. However, they may all be wrong. The only way we can know which is right is to validate these doctrines by using God's word. We know the Bible is right, because it is inspired.

We just read in Acts 2:38 that baptism is for the remission of sins. The first two statements could not be right, because they do not agree with God's word.

Get Commitment Here

Now, before we turn to the next chart and find out if baptism is a sprinkling or a burial, I would like to ask; Have you been baptized?

At this point get all details on his/her baptism so that a comparison can be made between his/her baptism and the baptism we read about in the New Testament.

Baptism?

- **WHAT IS IT?**
 - A burial in water – Acts 8:38; Rom 6:4
 - Pictures Christ’s Death – Burial – Resurrection Rom 6:4-5
 - Couldn’t Be A Sprinkling, Could It?
- **WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?**
 - Remission of Sins – Acts 2:38; 22:16
 - It is The New Birth – John 3:3-5; Rom 8:16-17
 - Places One In Christ – Gal 3:27; (Salvation Is In Christ – 2 Tim 2:10)
 - Places One In The Church or Body – Eph 1:22-23; 4:4 (Christ Will Save The Body – Eph 5:23; 1 Cor 12:13)



HAVE YOU BEEN BURIED IN WATER FOR THESE PURPOSES?

See Acts 19:1-5

Read Acts 8:38

What is Baptism?

This passage tells us two men went down into some water. One of them, called Philip, did something to the other, called the Eunuch, which is termed baptized him. What did he do to him in the water when he baptized him? We read Rom 6:4-5. It shows that baptism is a burial! We are buried with him by baptism. Philip buried the Eunuch in the water. Then raised him up out of the water. This pictures Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. It just couldn’t be a sprinkling, then, could it? Baptism, then, is a burial and is for the remission of sins.

Purpose

But, what is the purpose of this burial in water? What does it do for the person who obeys? Actually, there are several wonderful things which take place as a result of baptism.

First, our sins are washed away. We read this in Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16.

Second, baptism is the new birth. At baptism, we are born into the family of God. Jesus spoke of this to a man named Nicodemus as recorded in John 3:3-5. Jesus said we must be born again. Not in a fleshly way, but of water and of the Spirit. When we are baptized in water, in obedience to the Spirit as a result of faith in Christ and a penitent ear. Then, we are born again. We become children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Gal 3:27 and Rom 8:16-17.

Third, baptism places one in Christ, Gal 3:27 Why should we want to be in Christ? 2 Tim 2:10 – Salvation is in Christ. If salvation is in Christ, I want to be in Christ, Don’t you?

Finally, baptism places one in the Church or body of Christ. Eph 1:22-23 Here we learn that the body is the Church, and Christ is its head. He controls, rules, governs the Church or body. Eph 4:4 There is one body. Since the body is the Church, there is one Church. This means that people all over the world who are governed by Christ are members of one Church. Eph 5:23 tells us he is going to save his body or Church. If Christ is going to save his body or Church, I want to be in it. Don’t you?

How do we get into his one body or Church? 1Cor 12:13 We are baptized into it.

The vital question at this point is, have you been buried in water for these purposes? If there is any doubt, the safe thing is to be baptized the way Christ commands. Acts 19:1-5

Reference:

Burial	No Infants	Not Holy Spirit Baptism	Purpose
Matt 3:16 – Jesus	Ezekiel 18:20	Eph 4:5 – One baptism	Mark 16:16
John 3:23 – Much water	Matt 18:3	Acts 8:15-16 – Baptized but	Rom 6:3-6
Col 2:12 – Buried	Matt 19:14	not received spirit	I Pet 3:21
	Acts 2:41 – Received Word	Acts 8:36-39 - Water	
	Acts 8:36 – If you believe	Acts 10:47 - Water	

WHAT CHURCH WERE THEY ADDED TO?



Building



Body of Christ

Matthew 16:18 --- Acts 20:28 --- Ephesians 1:22-23

THIS IS THE ONE I WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF - DON'T YOU?

10

Read

Acts 2:41-47 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. NIV

What Church?

To what Church were these people added?

Christ's Udenominational Church

Of course, the answer is obvious. There were no denominations in that day – just the Lord's Church. Jesus said, in Matt 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. In Acts 20:28 we find that he bought it with his own blood. In Eph 1:22-23 we learn that it is his body and he is the head. In Eph 5:23 Jesus says he is going to save his Church or body. This Church is the undenominational body of Christ.

If Jesus is going to save his body or his Church, this is the one that I want to be a member of – Don't you?

Wait for an answer. There is no answer which can be given except the Lord's Church, or God's Church or Christ's Church. Denominations were unheard of at that time.

Reference:

2 Thes 2:14 – Called out	John 17:20-22 – No divisions
Acts 2:47 – The saved	1 Cor 1:10-13
Rom 16:16 – Church of Christ	Eph 2:14-16
Heb 12:23 – Church of firstborn	Eph 4:3-6
2 Tim 3:15 – House of God	Acts 11:26 – Called Christians



CHRISTIANS ARE BOUGHT

- Christians Belong To God –
1 Cor 6:19-20
- Christians Must Worship –
Heb 10:25; Acts 20:7
- Christians Must Work – Titus 3:1;
1 Cor 15:58
- Christians Must Be Dedicated –
2 Cor 8:5; Rev 2:10; Gal 2:20

BAPTISM IS JUST THE BEGINNING!

11

Solemn and Sacred Decision

Becoming a member of the Lord's Church involves a very sacred and solemn decision to give our lives to Christ. Church membership involves dedicated service to a Master.

Some of the responsibilities involved in Church membership or Christianity are list on the chart.

Bought With A Price

First, members are bought with a price. 1 Cor 6:19-20 Bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. We should seriously consider that once we become Christians we are no longer our own, but we belong to Christ who purchased us with his blood.

Worship Regularly

Second, Christ requires members of his Church to worship regularly. In Acts 20:7 They met on first day of week. This passage indicates that the early disciples came together on the first day of the week, or Sunday to break bread or partake of the Lord's supper. Assembling together for such worship is so important that the Bible says in Heb 10:25 Do not forsake the assembly. When there is an assembling of Christians the Lord wants every Christian to be there.

Christian Service

Third, The Lord wants his disciples to be actively involved in serving him. We read in I Cor 15:58 Abounding In the work of the Lord and in Titus 3:1. Be ready to do every good work.

Dedicated Lives

Finally, The Lord expects members to live dedicated lives. Rom 12:1. Living sacrifice. Paul expressed this kind of personal dedication in Gal 2:20 Crucified with Christ.

Baptism Just the Beginning

From all of these passages we conclude that baptism is just the beginning of the Christian life. At the point of baptism one really begins to live for Christ with the promise of living with Christ eternally!

Reference::

Self Sacrifice

- Matt 6:33 – See first
- Matt 16:24-26 – Deny self
- Matt 22:37-38 – Love Lord
- Rom 8:17 – If we suffer
- 2 Cor 8:5 – Gave selves

Work For The Lord

- Col 1:10 – Bear fruit
- Titus 2:14; 3:1 – Every good work
- 2 Pet 1:5-10 – Christian graces
- Matt 20:28 – Not to be ministered to
- 1 Cor 3:9 – Co-laborers with God
- Gal 5:6 – Faith works
- Gal 6:10 – Do good to all men

Die To Old Way

- Rom 6:6-8 – Old man
- 1 Cor 15:31 – Die daily
- 2 Cor 5:17 – Old things passed away
- Gal 2:20;6:14 - Crucified
- Phil 2:21 – To live is Christ
- Col 2:20 – Died with Christ



When Should One Be Baptized?

- READ:
- Acts 2:41 – Same Day
- Acts 8:35-39 – As Soon As Taught
- Acts 16:30-33 – Same Hour

Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments."

John 14:15

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When Should One be Baptized?

Read:

Acts 2:41 – Same Day

Acts 8:35-39 – As Soon As Taught

Acts 16:30-33 – Same Hour

Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15

When

Now that we understand the importance of baptism and the seriousness of living the Christian life after baptism, we ask the question "When should one be baptized?"

Pentecost – Same Day

In Acts 2:41 we see that these people had been taught by Peter and the other disciples and they were baptized the same day.

Eunuch – Soon as Taught

Another example is found in Acts 8:35-39. Notice that the Eunuch was baptized just as soon as he was taught!

Jailer – Same Hour

Finally, let's consider the example of the Philippian prison keeper. Read Acts 16:30-33. Notice this man was baptized the same hour of the night – even though verse twenty-five of the same chapter tells us it was after midnight!

WHAT'S THE HURRY?

Life Is Uncertain

(James 4:13-14)



We see & know of death daily.

Christ Is Coming Again

(2 Thes 1:7-9)



I am the way the truth and the life, no man comes to the father except by me – John 14:6

He will come in the clouds
Acts 1:9-11

13

Life Uncertain

What's the hurry? The answer is simple, life is uncertain! We don't know if we will live to see the light of another day. Death is all around us. We see and hear of automobile accidents, heart attacks, and untimely deaths of all kinds. James puts it in this way: James 4:13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. NIV I have watched steam rise from boiling water and suddenly it is gone. So is life. We see each other for a short time – then we are gone like a vapor. Life is uncertain.

Christ Coming Again

What's the hurry? Life is uncertain – and Christ is coming again! We don't know when, but if we believe the Bible we must believe that Christ is coming again! We read in 2 Thess 1:6-9 6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power NIV Christ is coming again! We are told in Acts 1:9-11 that he will return in the same way in which he went. We will see him coming in the clouds of heaven!

What's the hurry! That's it ... Life is uncertain and Christ is coming again. We need to be prepared!.

Reference:

Death

1 Chron 29:15 – A shadow
Job 8:9; 14:1-2 – Shadow, flower
Psalms 39:4 – Frail
Psalms 102:3 – Smoke
Heb 9:27 – Must die
James 4:14 – Vapor

Second Coming

Matt 25:31 – Come to judge
John 14:1-4 – Come and receive you
Acts 1:10; Matt 24:30 – Come in clouds
1 Thess 4:13-17 – With a shout
2 Pet 3:1-10 – End of world
Rev 20:12 – Books opened
Rev 6:14-17 – Many unprepared

FORGIVENESS IS THIS SIMPLE FOR YOU



Do You Believe That Jesus Christ Is The Son Of God?

Do You Want Him To Be Your Savior And Master?

Would You Like To Be Baptized Right Now?



References for Plan For Forgiveness (Chart 8)

SAVED BY FAITH

John 3:16 – God so loved
John 5:24 – Believer has eternal life
Acts 10:43 – Believe for remission of sins
Acts 16:31 – Believe and be saved
Acts 15:9 – Purified by faith
Rom 5:1; 10:9-10 – Justified by faith
Gal 3:26 – Children by faith

NOT FAITH ONLY

Matt 7:21-23 – Obey
John 6:29 – Faith is work
Gal 5:6 – Faith works
Heb 5:8-9 – Obey
James 1:22-15 – Doer, not hearer
James 2:19-24 – Devils believe

EXAMPLES OF FAITH

Heb 11

REPENTANCE

Matt 3:1-2 – John
Matt 4:17 – Jesus
Luke 13:3 – Repent or perish
Acts 2:37-38 – Jews
Acts 17:30-31 – Commanded
2 Pet 3:9 – All sinned

CONFESSION

Matt 10:32-33 – Before men
John 12:42 – Some would not
1 John 4:15 – God abides in