

The Son of God expressed His intention to build a church.

We are currently living in this so-called “Church Age.” Unbelievers view the church as a confusing assortment of private, personal dogma, ideas, convictions, traditions, etc. In the United States of America alone, there are approximately 35,000 different flavors of so-called “Christianity.” Of course, we refer to them as denominations, movements, sects, religious communities, fraternities and orders. While Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane over 2,000 years ago, He asked the Father for unity among the brethren. Something went awry down through the past 20 centuries.

I should like to attempt a purely Scriptural, rational and logical examination of how Jesus intended for an unbeliever to become a believer and disciple.

Down towards the end of His ministry, He instructed His 12 disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for an experience from God. He was aware that there would be 17 different nationalities congregating in Jerusalem for the Jewish feast of *Shavuot*, known as Pentecost among the Gentiles. The men did not know what to expect and probably reflected on many of the sayings Jesus imparted over the past three years - such as when He blew on them and told them to receive the Holy Ghost. Nevertheless, there must have been curious expectation as they gathered in that upper room for the feast.

An overall general consensus in the so-called church world points to the feast of Pentecost as the birthday of the early church. Dr. Luke penned his sequel (*The Acts of the Apostles*) to his biography of Jesus Christ (*The Gospel According to Saint Luke*) as a historical account for the early development of the church. Hence, the very instructions, delineations, commands and teachings of the apostles, regarding entrance into this church, are exclusive to this historical document.

Wikipedia states: *Charles Grandison Finney (1792-1875) was a prominent American Presbyterian minister and evangelist, particularly known for his role in the Second Great Awakening. He was a key figure in the revivalist movement, emphasizing free will and using innovative "new measures" to encourage conversions. He also served as the president of Oberlin College, which was notable for its progressive policies regarding race and gender. Finney, initially a lawyer, experienced a profound religious conversion in 1821 and dedicated his life to ministry.*

I introduce this gentleman as an example. The Book of the **Acts of the Apostles** records 10 accounts of Biblical conversions. Using logic and intellectual honesty it is easy to see a pattern of repentance, baptism in Jesus Name and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost	City of Samaria	Ethiopian Eunuch	Paul	Lydia and her household
Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy	Acts 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip... 14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:	Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.	Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus... hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. <i>PAUL RECOUNTS:</i> Acts 22:12 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, 13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. 14 And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One,	Acts 16:13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. 14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.	15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.		and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. 15 For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. 16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. <i>Paul speaks of repentance:</i> Heb. 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,	15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.
Conviction, Repentance	Faith	Faith	Faith and Repentance	Faith
Baptism in the name of JESUS Remission through Baptism	Baptism in the name of JESUS	Baptism in Water	Baptism and Remission of Sins	Baptism (all)
Holy Ghost with Speaking in Tongues	Holy Ghost		Holy Ghost	

Cornelius and his household	Jailer and his household	Crispus and the Corinthians	Apollos	Disciples in Ephesus
Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished... because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. <i>PETER RECOUNTS:</i> Acts 11:15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. 16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.	Acts 16:30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.	Acts 18:7 And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. 8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized. 9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:	Acts 18:24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.	Acts 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul... came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? 18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.		10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. 11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.		6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.
Repentance, Faith	Conviction, Faith, WORD OF GOD	Faith in JESUS	God's Word is Known	Faith, Repentance
Water Baptism in the Name of the Lord	Baptism (Immediately)	Baptism	Baptism	Baptism in the Name of the Lord JESUS
Holy Ghost with Speaking in Tongues	Joy	Further Teaching	Holy Ghost	Holy Ghost with Speaking in Tongues

Over the past 20 centuries, a myriad of men and women have introduced their shortcuts, traditions, new terminology, private interpretations and innovation. When pouring over the biographies and accomplishments of many of these notable revivalists, believers, evangelists, etc., the first question that arises is **if they were actually converted according to the Book of Acts**. I have found many who, instead of applying and practicing these elementary, fundamental and easy-to-do acts of obedience, resorted to a fashionable, socially-acceptable alternative mode of “conversion.”

For the past century, the convenient and practical mode has been to ***accept Christ as personal Lord and Savior***. Naturally, this cannot be found in the Book of Acts. This is a new development. Mr. Finney was not baptized in Jesus name, but unabashedly constructed “new measures” which were blindly embraced and deemed Scriptural. Again, Wikipedia affirms: *The phrase “accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior” is not attributed to a single individual. It’s a concept that has evolved within “Christian” evangelism and discipleship, emphasizing the idea of a personal, individual relationship with Jesus for salvation. The phrase itself is not found in the Bible, but the idea of Jesus as Lord and Savior is a central tenet of Christian belief.*

Why would a searching soul want to accept an evolved concept from the past century when the Scripture plainly gives us all the Bible examples we possibly need (19)? To emphasize the idea of a *“personal individual relationship with Jesus for salvation”* becomes completely subjective and arbitrary. The sad news is that it has indeed become a central tenet of the pseudo-Christian belief. It cannot be Christian if it is not Biblical.

A simple perusal through a concordance of the words, *save, saved, saving and Savior*, will teach us **every** aspect of the salvation the Lord is expecting us to follow. Jesus did not expect us to cherry-pick Scriptures, passages or words to mystically and allegorically tailor-make our own private, so-called salvation. Instead, He chose apostles and sent them to Jerusalem to receive the promise of the Father and to become converted (His way). They all applied and practiced that same saving mode of conversion (i.e. Acts 2:38) until the end of their lives. The following generation also continued in the apostle’s doctrine. There is an original and there is a counterfeit.

SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

Hebrew: yashuw` ah: 1) salvation, deliverance; 1a) welfare, help, prosperity;

1b) deliverance; 1c) salvation (by God); 1d) victory. Psalm 3:8a

The state of “being saved” has been an intensely debated subject since the expression first came into prominent use several centuries ago.

The following Scriptures are intended to show what salvation means in the New Testament.

SALVATION IS IN JESUS CHRIST

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

// Timothy 3:15

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.

Hebrews 2:3

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. *Matthew 1:21*

For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. *Matthew 18:11*

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. *John 3:17*

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. *Romans 5:9*

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. *Romans 5:10*

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? *Romans 8:24*

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. *1 Timothy 1:15*

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Thessalonians 5:9*

Jesus' message is a message of salvation, or, as other translations render it, of being saved. His intention was to establish a movement of believers which He called the church (Greek: ecclesia = the called-out ones). This church was inaugurated in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost in A.D. 33. JESUS Himself sent His believers and hearers to Jerusalem so that they might become part of this undertaking. The chosen apostle Peter was the spokesman at this initial event. His answer to the inquiring hearers includes part of the concept of salvation.

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 10:22

When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

Matthew 19:25

And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

Mark 10:26

Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved?

Luke 13:23

And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved?

Luke 18:26

But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

John 5:34

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 10:9

And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

John 12:47

The disciples were astonished by the exactness and narrowness of the LORD'S expectations. They noticed that He repeatedly referred to the concept of salvation. At the same time, JESUS left no doubt that He was an instrument appointed by God the Father with this divine message, which did not originate with man.

FAITH AND BAPTISM

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Mark 16:16

Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

Luke 8:12

And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

1Peter4:18

In these verses the LORD shows a direct connection between faith and baptism and "being saved." Therefore, any contrary claim carries the implication of condemnation. A true believer is baptized.

EXCEPTIONS?

And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace. *Luke 7:50*

This incident took place during the age of the Law (under the Law).

The church did not yet exist at that time.

And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. *Luke 18:42*

This event not only took place under the Law,

but it refers more directly to the man's eyesight than to his soul.

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. *Acts 2:21*

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. *Romans 10:10*

Here again we find additional information on this comprehensive subject. The reader is repeatedly reminded that these verses do not exclude all the other references to the plan of salvation. It is of divine design and includes a large number of aspects and characteristics given by the Savior. *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.* *Hebrews 7:25*

WHICH BAPTISM?

... did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2:46-47

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2:47

To understand this verse, the entire passage must be read. The chapter begins with the outpouring of the Holy Ghost (also called the promise of the Father), followed by its effect upon the spectators and hearers. The apostles were speaking to a crowd of feast-goers who had asked a simple question.

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? His answer adds three new points.

³⁸*Then Peter said unto them, **Repent...***

(For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of.

// Corinthians 7:10)

*... and **be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins ...*

(To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins.

Luke 1:77)

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

The baptismal factor in the previous references to the Gospel has already been explained. Concerning the name used in the baptismal formula, the apostles provide additional information. The singular form used is noteworthy. Later the apostles supplied the reason for it.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. *Acts 4:12*

It is interesting that salvation is mentioned twice in the same verse in direct connection with the name JESUS.

Since it has just been observed that the name is applied in baptism, it follows that baptism in the name of JESUS is a matter connected with salvation. This name likewise reminds us that baptism is *for the remission of sins*.

... which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us—not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God—by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:20-21

SALVATION DOES NOT CHANGE

In the following verses the apostle makes clear that this part of the salvation message has universal application. *39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation!*

Here it becomes evident that, with regard to God's will in salvation, there is more involved than carrying out a simple A-B-C method, ritual, or ceremony.

The hearers accepted the answer without discussion: *41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.* The salvation message became doctrine in the early church. The fact that this message was not changed by the early church, but was consistently practiced, is significant: *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

Acts 2:42

The following is noteworthy: a "believer" is someone who practices and holds fast to this doctrine. The fellowship of believers implies that they all believed the same thing. Their attitude toward Acts 2:38 demonstrated steadfastness. *(Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. I Timothy 4:16.)* Compromise with human traditions is excluded here.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. *Jude 1:3*

SALVATION OF THE GENTILES

Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

Acts 11:14

Here we have the same apostle Peter who had so much to say on the Day of Pentecost: *And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation!*

Acts 2:40

To understand this verse fully, one must examine the context and consider the hearers' response to the apostle's instructions. It must always be remembered that not every verse mentions every part of salvation. Each occurrence must be accepted, and the elements of salvation must be added to one's own faith through obedience to the Word that has been read—just as those in the previously mentioned chapters did.

In the eleventh chapter of Acts, Peter tells how GOD directed him to preach salvation to the Gentiles. He establishes that their salvation is identical to that of the Jews. It can safely be assumed that this salvation message did not differ from the original salvation message he received from GOD and preached at Pentecost.

¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.
¹⁶Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. ¹⁷Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

The Gentiles received the Holy Ghost and believed on the LORD.

¹⁸When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life! Repentance was still included in the original plan.

But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Acts 15:11

GRACE

While the apostle was reporting this very experience to the council of apostles in Jerusalem, he revealed another aspect of salvation. He attributed the common salvation to grace. A useful definition of grace would be: *"The desire and the power to do the will of God."* This harmonizes with what he said on the Day of Pentecost: ... even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved).

Ephesians 2:5

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

Titus 2:11

FAITH PRODUCES ACTION

And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

Acts 16:30

³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Here in Philippi, we find another aspect of salvation. Salvation comes first through an action and a response of the soul. *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

James 2:14

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Philippians 2:12

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.

Hebrews 5:9

One is not saved merely by mental assent. Obedience must follow spiritual instruction. The initial response was faith. It is plainly the first step (among many) toward obtaining salvation. Under no circumstances can it be concluded that this is the complete action required to secure salvation. This conclusion is evident in verse 32. ³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. ³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

This is nothing unusual, for exactly the same thing had happened previously: Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

Acts 11:14

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Acts 2:40

As a result of further instruction, it can only be assumed that faith was an initial response to grace and that there were certainly further instructions to be followed. GOD expected more.

The appearance of baptism later that same evening is no coincidence.
And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. *Acts 16:33*

Connected with the initial faith, baptism is the normal consequence of “calling upon Him.” *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.* *Romans 10:9*

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. *Romans 10:13*

When someone is convicted through his own conscience, through God’s love and grace, and believes the Gospel and GOD, this leads to an audible expression: ... *for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.* *Luke 6:45*

Again, it can be seen that the Gospel encompasses a multitude of factors involving obedience to God’s call. It is by no means an end in itself. It is a means to an end.

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. *James 1:21*

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. *1 Corinthians 1:18*

The apostle explains salvation to the Corinthians. Point by point, he shows the connection between the death, burial and resurrection of the LORD JESUS CHRIST and the Gospel of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures. *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*

Just as omitting any one of these steps would run contrary to the purpose of the Son of GOD, so would a deliberate refusal to obey any one of the three points in Acts 2:38 frustrate the salvation process.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. *Acts 2:38*

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved). *Ephesians 2:5*

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

Ephesians 1:13

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

I Corinthians 1:21

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

II Timothy 1:9

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Titus 3:5

Here the apostle repeats the elements of salvation for his young pastor. Just as mercy is mentioned, the work of the Holy Ghost is also presented as cleansing the soul.

But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. ¹⁵And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on. ¹⁶Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

Acts 13:14-16

As Paul continued his sermon and reviewed the history of Israel, he repeatedly inserted references to salvation. Noteworthy are his references to repentance, baptism and resurrection as he spoke of the will of God and salvation. Faith and justification are also included.

²² ... he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. ²³ Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: ²⁴ When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁶ Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

³⁰ But God raised him from the dead.

³⁴ And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead...

³⁷ But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption. ³⁸ Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: ³⁹ And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

⁴⁷ For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

Acts 28:28

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Romans 11:11

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

// Thessalonians 2:13

Even the devil recognized that the message Paul preached was the message of salvation, although there is not a single verse in Scripture that offers a compromise regarding all the components of salvation!

The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

Acts 16:17

Anyone who follows Paul through the Scriptures and accepts **all** of his references to salvation can recognize God's will concerning the serious subject of **salvation**.

CONCLUSION

What, then, does **salvation** involve? Scripture reveals clear facets of it:

Calling	Confessing	Obedience
Holy Ghost	Renewal	Sanctification
Holy Scripture	Repentance	Grace
Mercy	Continuance	Faith
Preaching	Baptism	Faithfulness
Receiving the En- grafted Word		
Works	Heeding the Doctrine	Gospel

I watched Billy Graham speak to thousands of spectators. At the end of his sermon, he read Scriptures about *believing, calling* and *confessing*. He mentioned Acts 2:37 where the people asked Peter what they needed to do *to be saved*. I was not expecting his answer - a quote from Paul in the Philippi prison where the apostle Paul told the jailer to believe!

That was disingenuous and misleading, but is actually a classic example of contemporary pseudo-Christianity. They pick and choose and fabricate a hermeneutically-unsound formula for people who do not want to *search the Scriptures daily to see whether those things be so*. Why wouldn't he mention **repentance, baptism in Jesus name and receiving the Holy Ghost**? Why didn't he let Peter answer? More than likely, because at the end of the chapter Dr. Luke endorsed Peter's answer by referring to it as **salvation**.

YouTube is filled with documentaries about famous, so-called evangelists from the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Their presentation of these men is tainted with contemporary guidelines and advice commonly used in so-called evangelical groups. After watching all the films and documentaries, reading the commentaries and catechisms from the past two millennia, the bottom line is the exclusive, New Testament, apostolic example of the indigenous church. Why wouldn't a searching soul want to know exactly what Jesus and the apostles taught and practiced? Why would God give us all these conversion examples when we could simply contrive our own - 2,000 years later?
