

WHAT IS MY NEXT STEP?

Understanding God's Plan of Salvation



YOU HAVE
DISCOVERED
THE TRUTH.

NOW WHAT
WILL YOU
DO WITH IT?

Acts 2:37

"Men and brethren,
what shall we do?"



GOD'S INVITATION. YOUR RESPONSE. ETERNAL IMPACT.



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WHAT IS MY NEXT STEP?

Introduction

Perhaps no question is more important than this one:

What is my next step with God?

People ask many questions in life.

What career should I pursue?

Who should I marry?

Where should I live?

How can I be successful?

Yet none of those questions are as important as this one.

One day every person will stand before God.

The question then will not be:

How much money did you make?

How popular were you?

How successful were you?

The question will be:

Did you respond to the gospel call?

The good news is that God has not left us guessing.

The Bible gives a clear answer.

1. THE QUESTION THAT CHANGED THOUSANDS OF LIVES

After Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, the Apostle Peter preached the first gospel message on the Day of Pentecost.

As the people listened, they became convicted.

They realized they needed God.

They realized they needed forgiveness.

Then they asked the most important question ever asked.

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?"

Notice what they did not ask.

They did not ask:

"What church should we join?"

"What denomination should we choose?"

"What traditions should we follow?"

They simply asked:

"What shall we do?"

2. PETER GAVE A CLEAR ANSWER

Peter did not tell them to wait.

He did not tell them to pray about it for several months.

He did not tell them to invent their own path.

He gave a direct answer.

Acts 2:38

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

This was the answer given by the apostles.

It remains the answer today.

3. REPENTANCE: TURNING TOWARD GOD

Repentance is more than feeling sorry.

Many people regret consequences.

Biblical repentance is a change of heart that leads to a change of direction.
It means turning away from sin and turning toward God.

Acts 3:19

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

Repentance is the first step toward God.

4. BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Peter instructed believers to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Why?

Because Jesus is the Savior who died for our sins. Throughout the book of Acts, believers were baptized in the name of Jesus.

Acts 4:12

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

Baptism is not merely a religious ceremony.

It is an act of faith and obedience to God's Word.

5. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST

God does more than forgive our sins.

He comes to live within us.

Acts 2:38

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

The Holy Spirit gives power to live for God.

The Holy Spirit changes us from the inside out.

The Christian life was never meant to be lived by

human effort alone.

God provides His Spirit to help us.

6. THIS PROMISE IS FOR EVERYONE

Some people assume salvation is only for certain people.

The Bible teaches otherwise.

Acts 2:39

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

The promise is for:

- Men and women
- Young and old
- Rich and poor
- Every nation
- Every background

God's invitation is open to all.

7. SALVATION IS NOT EARNED

No one can earn salvation.

No one can deserve salvation.

We are saved by God's grace.

Ephesians 2:8

"For by grace are ye saved through faith..."

Salvation is God's gift.

But like any gift, it must be received.

God offers salvation freely, but He tells us how to receive it.

8. THE EARLY CHURCH OBEYED THIS MESSAGE

The book of Acts records what happened when people believed the gospel.

They repented.

They were baptized.

They received the Holy Ghost.

This pattern appears again and again throughout the New Testament.

God's plan has not changed.

9. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

The people in Acts 2 did not merely hear the message.

They responded to it.

Acts 2:41

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized..."

Knowledge alone does not save.

A response is required.

The same question asked on the Day of Pentecost remains today:

What shall we do?

And the same answer remains:

Repent.

Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Conclusion

God loves you.

Jesus died for you.

Jesus rose again for you.
Now God invites you to respond.

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."

The question is no longer:

"What is my next step?"

The Bible has already answered that question.

The question now is:

"Will I respond?"