

Embracing Holiness

Unlocking the Basics of Salvation



By Minister CR Hamilton - A Sanctified Life Book

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Introduction: God's Will for Salvation

In the journey of faith, repentance, water baptism, and the receiving of the Holy Ghost hold significant importance. These three elements mark the beginning of a transformative relationship with God and signify a sincere commitment to a life of righteousness. Let's dive into the King James Version of the Bible for scriptures that shed light on the importance of repentance, water baptism, and receiving the Holy Ghost.

Repentance; Turning Towards a New Path:

Repentance is an essential step towards receiving salvation and experiencing spiritual growth. The Bible emphasizes the need to acknowledge and turn away from our sins, seeking God's forgiveness. Let's explore some powerful scriptures that highlight the significance of repentance in the Christian journey:

Acts 3:19 - "Repent ye, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

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."

James 4:8 - "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

Water Baptism; Symbolizing New Life:

Water baptism is an outward manifestation of an inward transformation, symbolizing our identification with Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It signifies a commitment to leave our old ways behind and walk in newness of life. Let's look at some scriptures that speak on the importance of water baptism:

Matthew 28:19 - "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Mark 16:16 - "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Luke 3:21 - "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,"

Receiving the Holy Ghost; Empowering Presence of God:

Receiving the Holy Ghost is an ongoing experience that empowers believers with guidance, strength, and spiritual gifts to fulfill God's purpose in their lives. This divine encounter brings about a deeper intimacy with God and a sensitivity to His voice. Let's explore scriptures that highlight the significance of receiving the Holy Ghost:

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."

Acts 8:17 - "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

Jude 1:20 - "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"

Once a person has done all the will of God for salvation, repentance, water Baptism and receives the Holy Ghost, they must sanctify themselves for the Lord. They must leave the world and the things of it and set themselves aside for the purpose of God's use.

Understanding the Biblical Concept of Sanctification.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." - Romans 12:1.

Sanctification is a fundamental concept in the Bible, often misunderstood or overlooked. It refers to the process of becoming holy or set apart for God's purposes. In essence, it involves the transformation of a believer's character and conduct to align with God's standards.

The journey of sanctification begins when a person receives the gift of the Holy Spirit and afterward individuals are empowered to live a life pleasing to God. This transformative process goes beyond mere outward actions; it encompasses the renewal of the heart, mind, and soul.; Throughout Scripture, God calls His people to be holy (1 Peter 1:15-16), reflecting His character and reflecting His love to the world.

Sanctification involves cooperating with the Holy Spirit, actively pursuing righteousness and being obedient to God's Word. It is a daily commitment to surrendering one's desires

and allowing God to have control. When a person can see God work in their lives each day, that means they are truly walking with God.

Sanctification is a lifelong journey, marked by progress rather than perfection. It requires discipline, self-reflection, and a heart that seeks after God's will. As believers continue to grow in sanctification, they experience the joy and freedom that comes from living in alignment with God's purpose, and are no longer bound by the strongholds and lust of the world.

Understanding the biblical concept of sanctification is crucial for every believer. It is not a one-time event but an ongoing process that shapes our character and conduct. The goal of sanctification is to become more like Christ, reflecting God's holiness and bringing Him glory. May we all find encouragement and strength in our pursuit of sanctification, knowing that God is faithfully working in us.

Sanctified Life: Ways to Set Yourself Apart for God;

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;” 1 Thessalonians 4:3,4.

In our fast-paced and ever-changing world, it can be challenging to stay grounded in our faith and maintain a deep connection with God. However, as followers of Christ, it is essential to set ourselves apart from the world and dedicate our lives to serving Him. Here are some practical ways to embrace holiness and separate ourselves from worldly influences.

1. Cultivate a life of prayer: Prayer is not just a religious ritual; it is a direct line to God. By dedicating regular time to converse with Him, we open ourselves up to His guidance and align our hearts with His will. We begin walking in the Spirit alongside God.

2. Study and meditate on God's Word: The Bible is more than just a book; it is a roadmap for living a life that pleases God. Regularly immersing ourselves in Scripture helps us understand His teachings and apply them to our lives. Remember, the Holy Ghost will bring all things to our remembrance that He has said.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26

3. Foster a community of believers: Surrounding ourselves with like-minded individuals who share our commitment to God helps us stay focused on our faith and encourages personal growth. It also keeps us from the temptations and distractions of the world and from people who seek to bring us down.

4. Serve others selflessly: Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. By seeking opportunities to help others and meet their needs, we display the love of Christ, making a visible difference in the lives of those around us. We become a blessing to others.

5. Guard your mind and heart: In a world filled with distractions, it is crucial to protect our minds and hearts from influences that contradict our faith. This includes being discerning about the media we consume, the friendships we pursue, and the activities we engage in.

Setting ourselves apart for God requires intentional effort, but the rewards are immeasurable. As we cultivate a closer relationship with Him and commit ourselves to holy living, we become vessels that bring glory to His name and reflect His love to a world in need.

Repentance

The Meaning of True Repentance Towards God;

Repentance is a concept that holds significant importance in many religions and spiritual practices. When we talk about repentance towards God, it refers to the act of acknowledging our wrongdoings, feeling remorseful, and making a deliberate decision to turn away from our sinful ways. But why should people repent? Let's delve into this topic and explore its significance.

2 Corinthians 7:10 - "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

First and foremost, repentance is a fundamental step towards true spiritual growth and transformation. It allows us to take responsibility for our actions and seek forgiveness from a higher power. By repenting, we acknowledge that we have transgressed against God's laws and against other people we may have offended or unintentionally hurt; and we seek to align ourselves with His will.

Moreover, repentance serves as a catalyst for personal change and growth. It requires us to reflect on our behaviors, motivations, and values, enabling us to understand the impact

our actions have on ourselves and others. Through repentance, we can make amends and strive towards living a more virtuous and righteous life.

Repentance offers us the opportunity to experience divine forgiveness and mercy. When we genuinely repent, we open ourselves to the boundless grace and compassion of God. It allows us to let go of our past mistakes and start anew, fostering spiritual healing and inner peace. When we have mercy on others, God will have mercy on us when we need it.

Ultimately, repentance is a powerful tool for restoring our relationship with God and realigning our lives with His divine purpose. It reminds us of our fallibility as human beings and provides us with a path towards redemption and salvation.

Finally, repentance towards God holds immense significance for individuals seeking spiritual growth, personal transformation, and reconciliation with a higher power. By embracing repentance, we acknowledge our shortcomings, seek forgiveness, and strive towards living a more virtuous life. It is a powerful process that enables us to experience divine mercy and healing, empowering us to walk in harmony with God's will.

Understanding the Purpose of Water Baptism

Water baptism is an essential practice within the Christian faith, symbolizing a profound spiritual journey of transformation and obedience to God. It holds deep significance and is a public declaration of an individual's faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:4 - "Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Baptism as a Public Declaration of Faith

When a person decides to be baptized, they are making a visible statement to the world that they have chosen to follow Jesus. Water baptism serves as a tangible representation of their belief in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. And we must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ or in the Lord Jesus' name, not the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost. For they three are one, who is Jesus the Messiah.

Showing Obedience to God's Command

Baptism also signifies a heartfelt response to God's command. Jesus Himself was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, setting an example for believers to follow. By

obeying God's command, individuals are acknowledging His authority in their lives and demonstrating their willingness to submit to Him.

The Symbol of Dying and Rising with Christ

Water baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As believers are fully immersed in water, it represents dying to their old sinful nature and being raised to a new life in Christ. It signifies a willingness of a spiritual rebirth and the beginning of a transformed life.

Cleansing and Forgiveness through Baptism

Baptism is a powerful symbol of cleansing and forgiveness. It signifies the washing away of sin and the reception of God's forgiveness. In baptism, believers are reminded of God's grace and mercy, as they experience the freedom and renewal that comes from surrendering their lives to Him.

“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.

The Spiritual Transformation in Baptism

Water baptism is not simply an outward ritual; it is a spiritual transformation that takes place within the believer's heart. It represents the inward change and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who empowers individuals to live a life that is aligned with God's will.

Identifying with the Body of Christ

Through water baptism, believers identify themselves with the body of Christ, which is the universal church. They become part of a larger community of believers who share the same faith, values, and mission.

Receiving the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Baptism leads to the reception of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. It is through the Holy Spirit that individuals are empowered to live a life that is pleasing to God, filled with His love, joy, and peace. Many people receive the Holy Ghost during baptism and many receive days or weeks after.

Strengthening One's Commitment to Follow Jesus

Baptism serves as a powerful reminder of a believer's commitment to follow Jesus throughout their lives. It reminds them of their identity as a child of God and encourages them to remain steadfast in their faith and walk with Him, even in the face of challenges and difficulties.

Water baptism symbolizes cleansing, forgiveness, and identification with Christ and His body. It strengthens a believer's commitment to follow Jesus and demonstrates obedience to God's command. It is a powerful and transformative spiritual journey that marks the beginning of a new life in Christ.

Understanding the Holy Ghost

The Holy Ghost, also known as the Holy Spirit, is a significant concept in many religious traditions. In Christianity, it is considered one of the three persons of the Godhead, alongside God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son.

The Holy Ghost is often described as a guiding and empowering force that dwells within believers. But why do people need the Holy Ghost in their lives?

Acts 1:8 - "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Mark 16:17,18.

Many bible scholars and theologians refute the above passage and claim these words should not be in the Bible, that it was disannulled from further study of men in earlier times. Nevertheless, the words are the very power of the Holy Ghost when a person receives the words sincerely in faith. Afterward, the believers are truly empowered with the gifts it promises.

The Need for the Holy Ghost

Guidance: Life can often be filled with uncertainties and challenges. The Holy Ghost serves as a divine source of guidance and wisdom, helping individuals navigate their way

through life's complexities. With the Holy Ghost's guidance, people can make well-informed decisions and find peace in their choices.

Comforter: During times of sorrow, loneliness, or despair, the Holy Ghost brings comfort to those who seek solace. It provides a sense of reassurance and support, bringing inner peace and strength to individuals in their moments of need. And it protects the heart from hurtful people and all evil that seeks to discourage us.

Conviction: The Holy Ghost helps in discerning right from wrong. By working in one's conscience, it can convict individuals when they go astray, reminding them of their moral obligations and guiding them towards righteousness.

Powers and Benefits of Receiving the Holy Ghost

Spiritual Transformation: When a person receives the Holy Ghost, they experience a spiritual transformation within themselves. An inward enlightenment. The Holy Ghost works to purify hearts, helping individuals develop qualities such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Empowerment: The Holy Ghost empowers individuals with spiritual gifts and abilities. These gifts can range from wisdom, knowledge, and faith, to healing, prophecy, and speaking in tongues. Through the Holy Ghost's empowerment, individuals can serve others, contribute positively to society, and fulfill their unique purpose. Although they will be misunderstood by the world.

Unity and Fellowship: The Holy Ghost creates a sense of unity and fellowship among believers. It encourages individuals to come together, support one another, and work towards a common goal. The Holy Ghost enables people to experience a deeper connection and communion with God and fellow believers.

Strength and Resilience: With the Holy Ghost's power, individuals become resilient in the face of challenges. The Holy Ghost strengthens believers, empowering them to persevere through trials, overcome obstacles, and grow in faith. It provides the courage and determination needed to face life's adversities with grace and resilience.

The Holy Ghost plays a pivotal role in the lives of believers. It offers guidance, comfort, and conviction, helping individuals navigate life's uncertainties while upholding moral values. Receiving the Holy Ghost leads to spiritual transformation, empowerment, unity, and resilience. It empowers individuals to serve others, live purposefully, and grow in their

faith. The Holy Ghost is a divine gift that brings immense blessings and benefits to those who seek it. It is real.

Conclusion

Repentance, water baptism, and receiving the Holy Ghost are foundational elements of the Christian faith, each marking a significant step towards a life dedicated to Christ. The scriptures from the King James Version of the Bible inspire and guide believers on this transformative journey of seeking redemption and living in alignment with God's will.

Embracing these sacred practices opens doors to a more profound relationship with the Almighty and equips us to walk in the fullness of His purpose. Let us continually seek repentance, embrace water baptism, and receive the incomparable gift of the Holy Ghost to experience God's grace and guidance in our lives; and to receive the everlasting salvation of God.