

Believing Requires Action

“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.”
(Acts 8:12)

In the Bible there was a definite course of action that was followed when someone believed. Let us take a closer look at this course of action. It is here that we will understand God’s plan for man.

Personal Action Plan for Believers

- ❑ 1. Hearing the Gospel.
- ❑ 2. Accepting and having faith that Jesus is the Savior.
- ❑ 3. Accepting that I am a sinner; hopeless without help.
- ❑ 4. Repenting of my evil ways. Turning toward God and away from sin.
- ❑ 5. Being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
- ❑ 6. Receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
- ❑ 7. Continually obeying God’s commandments and Word. I become a “Doer” of the Word.

Believing through... Hearing the Gospel.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...” (Romans 1:16)

“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said...” (John 7:38)

“...And they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.... Many believed in his name...” (John 2:22-23)

“...Should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us...But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.” (Acts 15:7-8; 11)

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1:22)

Believing through...

Accepting that Jesus is the Savior.

“The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.” (John 1:7)

“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.” (John 3:16) In John 3:15-18, words with the root word “believe” are used five different times. Prior to these verses you will note that Jesus instructed Nicodemus concerning the necessary action of entering the kingdom of God. “...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5)

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.” (John 11:25)

“...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.” (John 8:24)

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Here we see that we not only believe in God, but diligently seek him.

“...Through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.” (Acts 10:43)

It is so important that we believe correctly about Jesus Christ. If we believe wrongly, we reject Him. To reject Jesus Christ is to reject “Truth” itself. (John 14:6)

**Believing by...
Accepting that I am a sinner.**

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.” (Psalm 51:5)

**Believing by...
Repenting of my evil ways.**

If we believe that Jesus is the Savior and we are a sinner, we will turn from sin towards God. The initial message of both Jesus Christ and John the Baptist was simple; "Repent." (Matthew 3:2; 4:17) Jesus also said, "...Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)

The disciples were instructed to preach repentance. "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:47)

The Apostles obeyed this command in the Book of Acts. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." (Acts 17:30)

"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; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you." (Acts 3:19-20)

"And how I kept back nothing...and have taught you...repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:20-21)

Believing by...

Being baptized in the name of Jesus.

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16)

"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." (Acts 8:12) (Did you notice what happened WHEN they believed?)

"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." (Acts 18:8) By the way, did you notice what happened when they believed?

The devout man, Cornelius (and others) received the Holy Ghost and immediately commanded to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ by the Apostle Peter. (Acts 10:47-48)

The Philippian jailer believed and was immediately baptized. (Acts 16:31,33)

Paul explained to the believers at Ephesus that the Holy Ghost was promised to them that believe in the name of the Lord Jesus.

"When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 19:5)

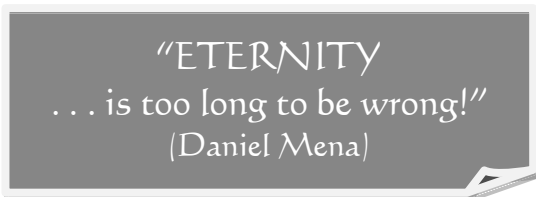
Explain

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The Apostle Paul (Saul) became a believer on the road to Damascus when he had a blinding encounter with the Lord. Yet, Ananias said, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16) It is at water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ that we call on the name of the Lord Jesus.

**Believing by...
Receiving the baptism of the
Holy Ghost.**

"...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" (John 7:37-39)



"Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ..." (Acts 11:14-15; 17)

"...Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?..." (Acts 19:2) The literal translation of this question reads, "Having believed, did you receive the Holy Spirit?"

Study Questions

1. List the seven parts of the "Personal Action Plan for Believers." By taking a close look at the lesson, provide Scriptural references for each.

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

- 4) _____

- 5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

2. What was the first message of both Jesus Christ and John the Baptist? _____

3. What happened when the Samaritans believed? _____

4. What happened when Saul believed? _____

5. What did Ananias tell Paul (Saul)? _____

6. What did Peter command Cornelius and his household to do after they had received the Holy Ghost? _____

7. What is the literal translation of Acts 19:2? _____

It is a fearful thing to walk down a dark passage way and to find that there is no door at the end.

**Jesus said, "I am the door..."
(John 10:9)**