

## TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE A PERSON MUST MEET GOD'S CONDITION

A person must cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction and allow the Spirit to bring that person to saving faith in the Gospel of Jesus.

People today are so lacking in Bible understanding that they must hear the Gospel many times before they comprehend.

The Gospel (good news of Jesus) is that God sent His Son to die a sinless death, killed by our sin, so that He would rise from the grave with authority to free us from our bondage of sin by making us a new creation in Christ. Jesus was victorious over sin and the grave. In Jesus, born of the Spirit, we will have victory over sin and the grave. Not that we will be perfect in this life, but we will learn to sin less and enter heaven totally sinless and totally righteous.

All people who cooperate with God with readiness of mind to turn to Him and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior will be saved. Whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

In Jesus, a person will enter Heaven victorious over sin and the grave.

1 John 5:4 For whoever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. Who is he that overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

To overcome the world means that we are victorious over sin and the grave.

No person is saved until he meets the condition.

The question is, how can we help people hear the gospel of Jesus Christ? It is the gospel that saves people by the power of the Holy Spirit. We may be one person out of 20 who must share the gospel before a person is saved.

What are the ways we can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

A short testimony: I realized that sin had caused brokenness in my life. I learned that Jesus is the only one who can change my life. I called upon Jesus to enter my life, save me from sin, and help me live life by His design. Quote John 3:16; Romans 10:13 Have you ever done this?

## REPENTANCE AND FAITH IN JESUS ARE REQUIRED FOR BEING BORN AGAIN

Repentance as a condition for salvation is a turning from going my way and a turning to going God's Way through Jesus Christ. Lost men cannot turn from their sins (their wickedness) until after they are born again and are indwelled with Holy Spirit power for repenting from their sins. After a man is born again, then he can repent of his sins as he cooperates with the Holy Spirit and chooses to do right. Repenting of sins, meaning individual sins, cannot be effectively accomplished before the new birth. We should not tell a lost man that he must turn from a particular vice in his life as if it is a condition for salvation. He has no power for doing that until he cooperates with the Holy Spirit's conviction and is born again. The only sin the lost man is required to repent of is the sin of not believing that Jesus is the Christ and that Jesus is able and willing to save him from his sin.

Repentance in Scripture is mostly directed to the Pharisees who have a zeal for God but not according to correct knowledge. Pharisees must turn from the works of the law and turn to Jesus to save them.

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out. Repentance for receiving regeneration is a turning from a works based faith to a Jesus based righteousness. Turn to and believe in Jesus and receive Him (be born again) so that you can turn from your sins.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

The Holy Spirit is convicting all people of their sin, their need for righteousness, and the fact of judgment. God is patient in giving people time to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and let the Spirit bring them to saving faith in Christ. To reach repentance means that a person has cooperated and come to understand that the way of works based faith fails to achieve God's mercy, and that faith in Christ alone is the only way to the Father's mercy and grace. Believing in Jesus as LORD is the Way of salvation. After believing and receiving Jesus, the indwelling Holy Spirit guides us to repent of our sins. Setting aside the weight that so easily besets us is to repent by turning from our sins and to acts of righteousness produced by the fruits of the Spirit in us. Repenting of sins can only be accomplished by the power of the Spirit in the life of a born again believer.

**Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Matthew 3:8** Bearing fruit can only happen in a regenerate person. Repentance in this verse is the turning from a works based faith to faith in Jesus alone for salvation. The Pharisees had a religion based on works and not on faith in God's promise.

**Luke 13:3** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

This is repentance from a work based faith to a faith in Jesus. All religions are works based faith.

**Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Only born again believers can turn from their wicked ways and motives. Jesus did not preach to the unsaved of humanity to repent of sins. Jesus preached to turn from your works based faith and believe in Jesus for regeneration so that you can receive the power of the Spirit to help you turn from your wicked ways. Repenting of our sins happens after we are saved to a new life in Christ.