

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

(Note: This answer is not meant to be a substitute for the word of God. It is our prayer that you will refer to the Bible to make sure that the things in this article are true to the word of God.)

There is no doubt that God loves us. Jesus told us about that love on numerous occasions. He said, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16). He also said, *“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends”* (John 15:13). It is because of the love that God has for us that He sent His Son into this world to die on the cross.

It is also because of this sacrifice that we know of the grace of God. *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, {12} teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, {13} looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, {14} who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works”* (Titus 2:11-14). It is only through the love and grace of God that we can have the hope of eternal life.

However, in order to be saved, we must also obey His commands. It does not matter how much love God has for us or how much grace He is willing to show us, if we do not obey His commands we will not be saved. Jesus tells us that the one who will *“enter the kingdom of heaven”* is the one who *“does the will of My Father in heaven”* (Matthew 7:21). To do the will of the Father requires obedience to His will.

Jesus also says, *“If you love me, keep My commandments”* (John 14:15). John talks about the kind of love that we should have for God. *“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. {4} He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. {5} But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him”* (1 John 2:3-5). If we love God, we will obey Him. Without being obedient to God, we will not have eternal life. Jesus is *“the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”* (Hebrews 5:9).

In our obedience to God, we must know what God wants us to do. Romans 10:17 says, *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* We hear the word of God when we read and study it for ourselves. We cannot rely on what man teaches, but we must rely on what God teaches through His word. It is only then that we can know what God wants us to do.

In our obedience to God, we must believe in Him. We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God (*“for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins”* – John 8:24). We must also believe that Jesus died on the cross, and that God has raised Him from the dead (*“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your*

heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” – Romans 10:9). We must have faith in Jesus.

In our obedience to God, we must repent of our sins. Jesus said, *“Unless you repent you will all likewise perish”* (Luke 13:3). Paul also tells us that God wants us to repent (Acts 17:30). To repent means that we turn from our sins and begin to follow after Christ. We stop doing what is wrong, and start doing what is right.

In our obedience to God, we must confess His great name. Jesus said, *“Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. {33} But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven”* (Matthew 10:32-33). To confess Christ means that we publicly proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God. We are acknowledging to all around that we are putting our faith in Him.

In our obedience to God, we must also be baptized for the remission of sins. Again, Jesus said, *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned”* (Mark 16:16). On the Day of Pentecost, Peter says to the multitude, *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 2:38). Baptism is essential to our salvation (see also – Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 1 Peter 3:21).

Even after all these things, we must remain faithful to God. We cannot become a Christian and then go back to the sins of the world. Jesus said that if we are *“faithful until death,”* He will give us *“the crown of life”* (Revelation 2:10). Paul warns us on numerous occasions about becoming unfaithful and losing the salvation that we have obtained (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 10:1-12). It is up to us to continue studying the word of God and growing in Christ so that we can be assured of our salvation (2 Peter 3:18).