

Salvation Summary (Part 2)

What Belief (or Faith) Is NOT

1. **BELIEF IS NOT A POWER ITSELF:** "Faith" is well-*used* but equally well-*abused* because people misunderstand what "faith" means. *Belief (or "faith") is not a power itself; only but trust in God's power.*
2. **BELIEF IS NOT SOMETHING BEYOND AFFIRMING THE TRUTH:** Many try to divide conversion into 3 steps to cover the intellect, emotions, and will.
3. **BELIEF IS NOT SOMETHING THAT IS MEASURED:** The issue is whether or not you believe God's promise (*qualitative*) – yes or no, I do or I don't, *light on or off* – rather than if you have enough belief for it to be counted (*quantitative*). It is one's response to the claims that is the issue. (1 Jn 5:1)

The Necessity to Believe

1. Belief is commanded (Acts 16:31)
2. Belief is obeying the gospel (Rom 1:5;10:16; 2 Thes 1:8-10)
3. Belief is the responsibility of each individual (John 3:16,18)

Baptism Is not Required to Be Saved

1. The Bible clearly teaches that belief alone in the promise of God is required for salvation.
2. Passages suggesting baptism is required are easily explained within this.
3. The "for" in Acts 2:38 can mean "because of," as in Matt 12:41. Also, Acts 2:38 must fit within salvation by belief, since Jesus, Peter, Paul, and others teach salvation by belief alone over and over again.
4. The Bible clearly teaches that baptism is observed after one believes (is saved) (Acts 8:12-13; 16:30-34; 18:8).

Is Repentance Required for Salvation?

1. Repent means "to change one's mind."
2. When "repent" is used, it is used almost always in place of "believe."
3. Repenting is not a separate step from believing.
4. The Acts 2:38 combination of commands occurs nowhere else in Scripture.
5. Peter uses the term "believe" often in Acts in place of "repent."
6. Whatever "repent" means, it cannot contradict the overwhelming number of passages that speak of salvation as coming through believing as the single "step" or requirement for salvation.
7. Whatever "repent" means, it has to relate and not contradict very clear passages that speak of salvation through belief/faith alone.

8. We cannot expand the meaning of repentance to mean something beyond what Scripture says or how it is used in Scripture.
9. We must use "repent" Scripturally. Nowhere, for example, are unbelievers commanded to "repent of their sins" for salvation*, a phrase used often in conjunction with evangelism today by many.

Do I Need to Work to Be Saved?

All verses suggesting this need to be interpreted in line with the clear salvation teachings of Scripture, not added to a list of "steps" one must keep to be saved.

1. I do not have to endure to the end to be saved.
2. I do not need to overcome to be saved.
3. I do not need to enter a narrow gate and walk the narrow way to be saved.
4. I do not need to take up my cross to be saved.

Salvation is instantaneous, not a process. Salvation is given, not earned.

Lordship Salvation (Works Involved) versus Free Grace (Wholly of God)

- Three views: Arminianism / Calvinism / *Free Grace* (*not of works)
- Salvation is different than sanctification. Do not confuse the two.
- Lordship salvation cannot answer many questions.
- At least 46 things are true the moment of salvation (which go against LS).
- Romans 10:9-10 must be understood in context of the Bible, Romans, Deuteronomy 10 (and other quoted passages), and cannot ignore the clear salvation teachings in the Word of God. It must relate either to sanctification or possibly corporate salvation of ethnic Israel at a later date.
- Any interpretation must align with the rest of Scripture, not contradict it.

Calling on the Name of the Lord Is for the Saved, not the Unserved

1. Because "call" is often used as a synonym for "pray."
2. Because "who call(s)..." is used as a metonym for believers.
3. Because of the clear teaching in the context of Romans 10.
4. Because Romans 10 teaches salvation by belief alone.
5. Because the context of Romans teaches salvation by belief alone.
6. Because Scripture overwhelmingly teaches salvation by belief alone.