

THE FAILURE TO IDENTIFY TRUE SALVATION

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Far too many people are incorrectly identifying bible salvation from false belief or emotional preferences... the bible has already revealed what is true and what is false... let's take a look.

*The following scriptures reveal what **SALVATION ISN'T!***

ACT 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of **Samaria** (Jews despised Samaritans because they were part Jew [Northern Kingdom captives] and part Assyrian [Gentile] around 720BC), and **preached Christ** unto them. **6** And the **people with one accord** gave heed unto those things which **Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles** which he did. **7** For **unclean spirits**, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were **healed**. **8** And there was **great joy** in that city. *They had been considered as half castes or 'dogs' up to this point.*

9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: **10** To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. **11** And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

12 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**. **13** Then Simon himself believed also: and when **he was baptized**, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the **miracles and signs** which were **done**.

At this point most uninformed people would consider that all these people including Simon, were Christians... but they would be misinformed!!

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that **Samaria had received the word of God**, they sent unto them **Peter and John**: *This is very revealing as to what the difference between repentance and salvation really are. Repentance and salvation are distinct actions... one from and the other from God.*

List of observations that were **NOT scripturally classed as salvation...**

- 1... *United in believing the gospel and its power.*
- 2... *Experiencing healings and blessings.*
- 3... *They were full of great joy.*
- 4... *They all individually believed the gospel.*
- 5... *They believed in Jesus Christ.*
- 6... *They were all baptised in water.*
- 7... *They **all had faith** to receive the healings and the faith to be baptised... **but none were saved.***

The next step.... **15** Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might **receive the Holy Ghost**: **16** (For as yet he was **fallen upon none of them: only** (alone) they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**.) *At this stage the people had demonstrated unity in purpose v6, great joy v8, believed the gospel message, were baptised in water v12, were partakers of miracles and signs v13, **but as yet, none were saved!!** This revelation relating to **what salvation isn't**, makes it easier to pinpoint scripturally defined salvation... the following verses are of great help and reveal God's ways of both identifying and avoiding false doctrine.*

This verse qualifies true salvation, confirming why the Samaritans needed to do more. **ROM 8:9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the **Spirit**, if so be that the **Spirit of God** dwell in you. Now if any man have not the **Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his. *This verse draws the line and offers clarity instead of confusion. The following verse establishes scriptural reality... not religious beliefs. As revealed in this one verse... The Holy Spirit, Spirit of God and Spirit of Christ are all one and the same... not 3 separate entities.*

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they **received the Holy Ghost**. *How did they know?* **18** And when **Simon saw** (something different was now happening that Simon was able to identify) **that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given**, he offered them money, (what happened that was different than before?) **19** Saying, Give me also this **power** ('dunamis'... considering all the other powerful signs already observed, Simon noticed a different miracle than before. He saw an observable manifestation of the Spirit which he considered was a sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit, by the laying on of hands... not some sort of emotional or spiritual feeling of faith), **that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost**. **20** But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

*What was the difference that Simon saw that is not detailed here, but is consistent with scriptural evidence? **Tongues** (the common sign that can be heard and seen), is the only remaining sign that could identify the indwelling Spirit and salvation as described here. **This is detailed in Acts 2 and acts 10&11.***